Note from Canon Missioner Rev. Hamlin

As Canon Missioner of the Washington National Cathedral, it is my great honor to work with so many wonderful people. The Cathedral ministries and leaders have continued their outreach through another challenging year. The passionate and committed leaders remain committed and focused on raising up and supporting our neighbors. I want to thank the ministry and staff leaders, most especially our Outreach and Social Justice co-chairs Carol Cropp and Shanda Cooper, for their leadership, and Margaret Rawls in her numerous coordinating efforts. Without these good and faithful servants, so much of this work would not have been accomplished.

Far too many persons live lives of quiet desperation. They feel as if they are trapped by circumstances of the pandemic and circumstances of life and are seeking support, compassion, and assistance. The past year has presented both a challenge and an opportunity to not just reflect upon the current reality but to act and participate on ways that provided a great witness of faith and provided a step up for individuals, families, and communities. Each day of life is a new opportunity and another possibility to be embraced. This past year the ministries of the National Cathedral sought to press forward and reach higher heights. We must as it is stated in Latin, “Carpe Diem” (Seize the day). There are new territories and victories each of must be prepared to attain as well as assisting each other in the process. I am thankful for the support that has been provided, the work that has been achieved and invite others to join with others in the call to serve and love our neighbors.
Note from co-chairs – Carol & Shanda

The Washington National Cathedral brings together people from diverse backgrounds to the nation's house of prayer. Bound together in faith, the Outreach and Social Justice (OSJ) ministries of the Cathedral reflects the beautiful mosaic of God's children working together in service to be instruments of peace, bearers of justice and builders of a beloved community rooted in service and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and the world.

The members of the Outreach and Social Justice Ministry are called and act within the Holy Spirit. Moved by the refugee crises in Afghanistan and Haiti, a group of OSJ members developed a new ministry, Neighbor to Neighbor, to welcome the strangers in our community.

In July 2021, the Cathedral reopened its doors to the public. While the world opened and closed depending on waves of infection, our ministry meetings remained virtual dedicated to the steadfast work needed in the community.

As co-chairs of the Outreach and Social Justice Ministry, it is a gift to work with the many congregation members who organize, facilitate and execute our outreach projects and missions. Below, you will find reports from our ministries detailing what they have accomplished in the past year.

As the world shifts from a pandemic to an endemic, our community remains fixed on what is unseen. As you read about what we have accomplished in the past year, we hope you fix your eyes to see more than just numbers and reports. We hope you see the lives touched and changed by this important work.

We will continue to live our mission of empowering Cathedral members and the community beyond to serve and support as we “Do justice; Love mercy and Walk humbly with God.” We hope you will join our community.

In faith,
Carol Cropp & Shanda Cooper
Co-Chairs, Outreach & Social Justice Ministry
friendship place

Description: Friendship Place is dedicated to ending homelessness and rebuilding lives throughout the D.C. metro region. The Cathedral Congregation participates in the annual November Walk on the Mall to End Homelessness and partners with Friendship Place for our outreach drives and missions. More information at friendshipplace.org

Ministry Leader: Chris Cannedy

2021 Impact/overview: The Cathedral Congregation donated 350 $50 Giant grocery store gift cards for Thanksgiving and 75 $50 Target gift cards for Christmas ensuring Friendship Place families could have meals and gifts. Additionally, 160 boxed meals were donated for La Casa on Christmas Eve.

knitting ministry

Description: The Knitting Ministry gathers twice a month to craft hats, scarves, mittens, socks, and some larger items for area children through organizations such as Bright Beginnings and Beacon House. The Knitting Ministry meets regularly the first and third Sunday of each month.

Ministry Leader: Ludmila Michael

2021 Impact/overview: 250 blankets, scarves, hats, mittens, sweaters, booties and more were donated in 2021.

gun violence prevention

Description: The Gun Violence Prevention Ministry is committed to working with its partners to end the scourge of gun violence by educating at the local, state, and national level effects of gun violence; providing advocacy opportunities; coordinating with other houses of worship; and offering prayers and programs to support victims of gun violence.

The GVP group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Ministry Leader: Trudy Scott

2021 Impact/overview: The ministry provides education through guest speakers, circulation of important news and policy trends, and opportunities for action.

- June 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day – The cathedral façade was lit orange and the Bourbon Bell tolled 120 times to commemorate the average number of people killed in America by gun violence each day.
- Held 6 guest speaker events in 2021 including a moderated panel discussion with Christian Heyne (Brady: VP of Policy & Legislation) and Jonathan Lowy (Brady: VP of Legal), Rob Wilcox (Everytown); Lisa Gordan (Moms MD); Emma Hellman (Mom’s MD); Hazel Monae (Office of the Bishop); David Bowers (Co-founder of “No Murders D.C.” and a member of the D.C. “Comprehensive Homicide Task Force”); Bradford Seaman (formerly of Prince George’s County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative).
- Targeted administrative support was given to Alliance of Concerned Men
- Co-sponsored the film series “Perceptions: Exploring Gun Violence” Two films were viewed virtually followed by a discussion: ‘One Philadelphia’ and CNN’s ‘The Price of Freedom’.
**LGBTQIA Alliance**

**Description:** The LGBTQIA Alliance promotes the inclusiveness of the Episcopal Faith and the Cathedral's message of, "All are Welcome," by helping people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and faith backgrounds find their place in the church. The Alliance holds regular social hours and programs.

**Ministry Leaders:** Matt Klaus, and Chris Cannedy

**2021 Impact/overview:** The LGBTQIA Alliance met 6 times in 2021 for conversations around content including PBS' The Black Church Episode 2; The Ally In LGBTQIA With Guest Billy Curtis; Everybody’s Talking About Jamie; and My Name is Pauli Murray: Film Screening and Panel Discussion.

**martha’s table**

**Description:** Martha’s Table is a community service organization in Downtown D.C. that assists the homeless and others in need to break the cycle of poverty. Cathedral Congregation members and others from the wider community donate an average of 1,000 sandwiches and 500 pieces of fruit on the third Monday of every month.

During the pandemic, collections are the 3rd Monday of the month in the Cathedral bus garage from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Ministry Leader:** Sher Sandusky

**2021 Impact/overview:** Every night, McKenna’s Wagon rolls out to serve hot meals, fresh fruit, trail mix, and 1,000 sandwiches to hundreds of neighbors who may be experiencing hunger and housing insecurity. Our ministry provides sufficient sandwiches and healthy snacks to meet these needs one evening per month. In 2021 the Cathedral community donated an estimated:

- 12,250 sandwiches
- 7,300 servings of fruit
- 2,400 snack size bags of trail mix
prison ministry

Description: Over the years numerous Cathedral Congregation members have participated in programs organized by Kairos Prison Ministry International. Currently, members are most closely aligned with Maryland’s only women’s prison, in Jessup, and with one of the two men’s prisons in Jessup. Since the COVID entry restrictions began in March 2020, all Maryland prisons have barred outside visitors and volunteers and active Kairos programs have been suspended.

The Kairos model is based on intensive three-day retreats in the prisons, followed by monthly reunions, and weekly prayer and share sessions organized by the residents. We are hopeful that we can resume these activities later in 2022.

Ministry Leaders: Lisa and Bill MacBain

2021 Impact/overview:

- Kairos is maintaining readiness to return to active programming, once the restrictions are lifted.
- The advisory committees associated with each of the eight Maryland prisons we serve have continued to meet regularly, mostly by Zoom.
- The committees for the Jessup prisons have set up monthly Zoom meetings among volunteers to pray and share experiences, much as we encourage the residents to do.
- Kairos volunteers state-wide have been able to send over 2,000 generic letters of encouragement to residents, both those who have participated in Kairos programs and others.

racial justice task force

Description: The mission of the Racial Justice Task Force is to be inclusive, accepting, and embracing of all of God’s children, and to build understanding, healing, and harmony amongst all races. The RJTF sponsors a book club, author discussions, programs, and field trips.

Ministry Leaders: Edward Drolet and Sandra Proctor

2021 Impact/overview: Monthly meetings addressed core topics including Black History Month and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, a discussion of the Baldwin-Bucky debate, policing and violence against African Americans, and hosted at least six films and/or book conversations addressing various facets of racial justice.
**samaritan ministries of greater washington**

**Description:** Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization composed of 64 Episcopalian Churches and Schools in the greater metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. Samaritan provides short- and long-term housing to residents in need along with GED, financial literacy and job skills courses.

The Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington helps those who are homeless or near-homeless gain self-sufficiency. The group sponsors awareness and fundraising activities, including the annual Next Step Breakfast each spring. The Cathedral is a long-time partner with SMGW.

**Ministry Leader:** Anna Scrimenti

**2021 Impact/overview:**
- The Cathedral donated 25 Giant grocery store gift cards for The Samaritan Thanksgiving drive
- Members of the Cathedral Congregation participated in a joint walk with St. Albans and Columba’s to raise awareness for those living on the edge of homelessness in Cathedral heights and adjacent neighborhoods
- The Cathedral contributed $5,000 to Samaritan

---

**sanctuary ministry**

**Description:** In the face of hate and discrimination, we are committed to showing love, compassion, and hospitality. The sanctuary movement is growing rapidly in congregations across the United States—and it is working. Monthly meetings often feature special guests and information on local actions that need our help.

The Sanctuary Ministry regularly meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

**Ministry Leaders:** Dora Currea and Claudia Russell

**2021 Impact/overview:** The Sanctuary Ministry shifted from a posture of resistance to an anti-immigrant policy framework towards more active and targeted support. Although the political landscape changed, it did not change enough to legalize pathways to justice and citizenship for our immigrant brothers and sisters. Our work now is critical in the face of these injustices as well as new challenges at our borders and the arrival of the refugees from Afghanistan. We saw that our past work was in preparation for the work at hand — welcoming those who will become neighbors from every part of our world making a truly Beloved Community. We follow the framework of Learn/Pray/Do with monthly speakers and 24 Action Alerts in 2021.
neighbor to neighbor ministry (sub to sanctuary)

Description: In 2021, a subgroup of the Sanctuary Ministry members formed the Washington National Cathedral Neighbor-to-Neighbor team to provide direct support to asylum-seeking families. The N2N was trained by Episcopal Migration Ministries and vetted through the Safe Church program to prepare them to welcome the stranger.

Ministry Leaders: Carol Cropp and Martin Dickinson

2021 Impact/overview: After months of training and planning, in December, our group was paired with a family from Honduras seeking asylum. We mobilized to provide boxes of food and find English as Second Language classes. Members of the Cathedral Congregation donated winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, hygiene items, gift cards, and a new laptop computer. We will be providing support for this family, including financial assistance, for six months.

season of giving/cathedral close cares

Description: Each year the Cathedral Close family comes together to support children and families across the D.C. metro area for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In years past we have assembled 1500+ baskets of groceries from Thanksgiving and delivered hundreds of Christmas gifts. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to support our neighbors with gift cards for meals and gifts.

Ministry Leaders: Robert Strassburger, Anne Stubbs, Kathy Deal

2021 Impact/overview:
- Support 1,500 families at Thanksgiving
- Provide means for gifts for 400 children at Christmas
get involved

To learn more about these ministries and the Cathedral’s outreach programs, email congregation@cathedral.org