



## Alexandria Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia News October 2019 Region Council Contributes to Ministries, Selects Youth Representatives to Convention

The Alexandria Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia has approved expenditure of \$5,000 for three outreach ministries in the City of Alexandria, and affirmed two youth to represent the Region at the upcoming 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia being held in Arlington November 12-14.

- At its late September quarterly Region Council meeting, following the recommendation of the Region Outreach sub-committee, the council approved a contribution of \$2,000 for the **Meade Memorial Church Bag Lunch** program which provides lunch to a range of 28 to 50 people, including children, six days a week. The number of people served is higher during the winter since a heartier meal is provided. Volunteers make the bagged lunches at various churches, including Christ Church, about every six weeks and take them to Meade for distribution by two volunteers. The program has a significant financial impact on the Meade church, including utility costs and cleanup.
- A total of \$3,000 was allocated, for this program year, to the **Refugee Ministry** and the **West End Lazarus Ministry**. The Region also approved the recommendation that Melanie Gray, Christ Church Outreach and Mission Director, who oversees these programs, be given the authority to decide how to split the total allocation between the two ministries.
- The Region Council is sending two Alexandria high school seniors to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia: **Julie Cizek** of Grace Episcopal Church was affirmed as the Region youth delegate; and **Juls St. John** of Christ Church Alexandria was affirmed as the alternate youth delegate. Julie Cizek is the daughter of Betty Mills and Saul Cizek and a life-long member of her parish. Juls St. John is the daughter of Stephanie and Jay St. John and a life-long member of her parish. Each has served their respective parishes in a number of ministries and mission trips.

The Rev. Jo Belser, Rector of Church of the Resurrection, noted at the meeting that the Region is blessed to have two outstanding young people contributing in the governance area of the diocese. Youth delegates and alternates have the opportunity to serve as a representative of both their parish and region, attend workshops at Convention, and will prepare to debrief and share their experiences.

- The Region Council also allocated \$300 to the upcoming **Region Fall Youth Event**, a **“Bonfire and Pumpkin Extravaganza”** to be held at the Immanuel Church on the Hill Pumpkin Patch on Sunday evening, October 27. Details of the youth event will be announced as available. Immanuel on the Hill is hosting its 26th annual Pumpkin Patch fundraiser all month, benefiting their more than 20 outreach ministries in the City of Alexandria. The pumpkins are sustainably grown on the Navajo Indian Reservation near Farmington, New Mexico. The pumpkin patch offers all sizes of pumpkins from small hand-held “spookies” to very large pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns.
  - Rev. Belser also informed the Region Council that its Vice President, **Betsy Faga**, has been appointed by the Alexandria City Council to serve a three-year term on the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee as the representative for the faith community.
- For additional information and events that may be taking place at any of the eight Episcopal churches in our region, please go the web site: <http://alexandria.thediocese.net/default.asp>