Region IV Annual Report for 2017

Region IV includes the eight Episcopal Churches within the city limits of Alexandria. The Regional Council meets four times each year: February, May, September, and November. Business outside of our meetings is conducted via e-mail, telephone and through committee meetings.

Region IV, now to be called "Alexandria," will not be affected by the regional restructuring, unlike most other regions.  For this blessing, we give abundant thanks!

The Rev. David Crosby was our Representative to the Executive Board for most of the year, succeeded on a temporary basis by the Rev. Collins Asonye.  They each reported to the region about the activities/news of the Diocese. Our Dean, the Rev. Chuck McCoart, convenes our regional Clericus group on a regular basis and invites all members of the clergy who live or work in the city to participate. Our President, June Huber, provides overall leadership to Regional Council and attended the Regional Presidents' Retreat and two Executive Board meetings during the past year. Our Representative, Dean and President work well together, and meet for lunch before each Council meeting to discuss and set the agenda.  Our Vice President, Annette Foster, serves as back-up to June. Our Treasurer, Barbie Frank, provides careful stewardship of the regional budget, to which all eight parishes contribute.  Emma Cuddy served as our Youth Delegate and Rebecca Shannon served as our Alternate Youth Delegate. Both attended the Convention in January 2017

Region IV continues to focus on ways to assist those in need in the City of Alexandria, and in the world beyond.  In fact, our region received the Bishop’s Outreach Award for our participation in “Hunger-Free Alexandria,” a program that collects food donations from grocery stores and serves local food pantries. In March, the young people of our region got together at Grace Church and prepared food packages as part of the “Stop Hunger Now” program. Each of our parishes is active in feeding and/or affordable housing programs. We share these ministries with each other and with other denominations and faith communities.

Our active Outreach Committee, led by Betsy Faga, has members from each of the eight churches. Each year we support a hypothermic shelter that operates at the Church of St. Clement during the winter months.  We also provide support to the “West End Lazarus Program” which, as part of providing financial assistance, also provides counseling to assist the clients reach a more independent life for themselves and their families; the Child and Family Network, which serves over 140 children and their families; food and furniture programs with Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically (ALIVE!); and affordable-housing initiatives led by Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE).

Some individual parishes have their own food pantries, support Meals on Wheels, and contribute to a Brown Bag Lunch program hosted by Meade Memorial Church. In the past five years, Meade has expanded its ministry to offer a "Saturday Hot Meal" during the cold season, from October to March. The main course is donated by DC Central Kitchen.  The number of guests has continued to grow, serving 45-65 people. Ten churches, individuals and organizations have signed up for this year.

Region IV’s 2016 Lenten Series, “The Theology of Harry Potter,” was so successful, especially with families, that we followed up in 2017 with “Theological Themes in Star Wars. It was another resounding success -- especially with the “younger set.”

Respectfully Submitted by: June Huber, Region IV President