**Alexandria Region Report**

**April 12, 2018**

**Christ Church, Winchester, VA**

Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King

All parishes in the Alexandria Region will hold a commemorative service for the 50th anniversary of the assignation of Dr. King on Sunday, April 8. St. Paul’s Church will hold forums in the following weeks: Racial History in the Diocese of Virginia and The Healing Heart of Democracy.

Examples of Support for Diocesan Priorities

* All parishes operate vibrant youth and young adult formation programs. Resurrection holds a dedicated youth Eucharist at 5:00 on Sundays.
* Christ Church and Emmanuel are actively involved in refugee resettlement with numerous other congregations. St. Paul’s provides support and meeting space for a local Sudanese Episcopal congregation, as well as financial support for Dinka Bible translation.
* “Outreach Beyond Ourselves” will include the following: activism for expanding affordable housing and public housing by Grace, St. Paul’s, and Resurrection; food banks run by Christ Church, Grace, and Resurrection; operational support for a local clinic in Arlandria district by Grace; Christ Church is a focal point for SNAP (food stamp) registration; Mead Memorial offers a five-day-a-week bags lunch for the homeless and elderly; and parishes participating in “Hunger Free Alexandria” include Christ Church, Grace, Mead Memorial, St. Paul’s, and Resurrection.

Parish Key Events

* Rev. Anne Gillispe left Christ Church in March, 2018.
* Emmanuel Church is in the midst of preparing a five-year strategic plan, involving all aspects of parish life and ministry.
* St. Clement’s will vote in May whether to retain the Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Robin Razzino, as the Rector.
* Church of the Resurrection is in the process of acquiring low-income tax credits in support of the property redevelopment project that will include a 113-unit affordable housing property and a new church structure. Completion date is anticipated in Fall, 2020.
* Christ Church will hold an “Outreach Weekend” on April 29 to raise funds for all of it’s outreach activities.

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Collaboration with Other Episcopal Churches and Other Denominations

* **Christ Church**: works with ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) to provide financial assistance, food, clothing, furniture, and transition housing to low-income families. Principal participants include St. Paul’s, Grace, Resurrection, St. Rita’s RC Church, The Presbyterian Meeting House, Alfred Street Baptist Church, and St. Vincent de Paul; coordinates refugee resettlement with Lutheran Social Services, provides monthly dinners at Carpenter’s Shelter, and provides food and manpower for the Mead Memorial Episcopal Bag Lunch program.
* **Grace Church**: active in VOICE (Virginians Organized in Interfaith Community Empowerment) public and affordable housing projects. Twenty-five congregations in the City of Alexandria are involved; Episcopal Relief & Development, fighting malaria in Africa; Haiti Micah Project, providing food for 500 children and supporting an orphanage for 25 children; ALIVE (see Christ Church above); Community Lodging offering transitional housing to families in need with numerous other congregations; and provide manpower for the St. Clement’s hypothermia/overflow shelter.
* **Mead Memorial**: operates a lunch program for the city’s poor, five days a week. Support in the form of funds, food and manpower come from all other Episcopal churches in the region.
* **St. Clement**: collaborated in the Easter Vigil with Church of the Resurrection.
* **St. Paul’s**: operates the Lazarus Ministry in conjunction with other Episcopal churches and Lazarus-like ministries in other congregations. Principal coordinated participants include Christ Church, Resurrection, St. Rita’s RC Church, St. Joseph’s RC Church, The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and Alfred Street Baptist Church. St. Paul’s provides monthly dinners at Carpenter’s Shelter (non-profit) and Christ House (operated by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington). St. Paul’s is active in several organizations that lobby on affordable and public housing issues to include Housing Alexandria, Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, and ALIVE (along with Blessed Sacrament RC Church, St. Joseph’s RC Church, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Washington Street Methodist Church, and St. Rita’s RC Church. St. Paul’s is also active in Hunger Free Alexandria, a consortium of local congregations. St. Paul’s is participating for the second time in Alexandria’s annual giving day, Spring2ACTion on April 25. For this year’s campaign, the church will be splitting all proceeds between six organizations that focus on hunger in our community: Carpenter’s Shelter, Christ House, Hunger Free Alexandria, St. Paul’s Lazarus Ministry, Mead Memorial Bag Lunch Program, and Meals on Wheels.

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* **Resurrection**: active in ALIVE and VOICE (see above), operates on premises a weekly food bank coordinated by numerous congregations and the Capital Area Food Bank in the West End of Alexandria. Resurrection is also coordinating weekly church services with Immanuel-on-the-Hill and VTS, particularly during the impending construction of the new sanctuary and housing units on the church property.

Response to the 223rd Annual Convention Resolutions

* Wage Theft: Programs in place at Resurrection, St. Paul’s, and Christ Church
* Way of Light Liturgy: Resurrection does a Stations of the Resurrection as a formation event but would like an authorized liturgy. St. Paul’s does a Stations of the Cross service on Good Friday.
* Family Leave for Employees: no response.
* Call for Election of Suffragan: all parishes support.
* Implementation of Title III, Canon 1: all parishes have a robust implementation already.
* Support for 2015 Paris Climate Accord: Resurrection says its new buildings will be certified Silver Level energy compliant.
* Inclusion of Transgender Youth: most parishes have addressed the issue and are in compliance, especially those operating day schools and youth programs.
* Support for Triangle of Hope: no response.
* Support for Bishop’s statement on Charlottesville violence: has been read in several parishes to include Grace, Mead, and Emmanuel. Others have disseminated the information.
* Drug Crisis in America: no parish has direct involvement.

Mustard Seed Grants

* Resurrection is waiting to see what their need might be.
* St. Clement has applied for a Peter James Lee Grant to renovate bathrooms and provide new signs for the building. No response has come as yet.

Dates of last and next meeting

Alexandria Region met last on Feb. 7, 2018 and will meet next on May 23, 2018.