



PROGRESS REPORT

FIVE YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2013—2018

Five years ago, the congregation engaged a process called “Nominate Your Causes” to discover what our community engagement priorities should be at St. Martin’s. Through a process of polling the congregation and conversations at Parish Forum, we landed squarely on three top priorities which would direct our community engagement efforts:

1. hunger
2. education
3. climate change

Below, you will see what the community engagement committee and other sub-committees have done in the last 5 years to address these concerns you identified. We take seriously that we work on behalf of the parish community. We are guided by periodic check-ins with you and by the aspirational values of the parish which relate to engagement ministry:

- community engagement and social justice
- Becoming a racism-free and diverse community that reflects the city where we worship.

We also report on our work in Guatemala, with refugee resettlement, and on anti-racism through Becoming Beloved Community, all of which are vital and ongoing ministries.

HUNGER

SUPPER

The SUPPER program is celebrated its 7th anniversary this February. From its start at St. Martin's, SUPPER has offered a free, healthy, community meal for every neighbor. In addition to alleviating food insecurity, SUPPER also breaks the isolation of seniors and individuals living on their own, and gives busy families a mid-week opportunity for fellowship. SUPPER now operates at three other sites in Mt. Airy, Germantown, and Roxborough. At all sites, SUPPER served meals to 20,066 people between 2012 and 2018, engaged 75 SUPPER crew volunteers, and attracted the attention of the Episcopal Church as a model for community engagement. SUPPER was featured in four videos presented at the last General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2018. In addition, SUPPER was recognized in 2018 by the Chestnut Hill Community Association with an award for "outstanding service that promotes or achieves understanding and cooperation among the people of our community." *For more information or to get involved with SUPPER, contact Debra Roberts at debradroberts@comcast.net.*



EDUCATION

Friends of Jenks Program Partner

To advance our concern for equity in education, St. Martin's partnered with Friends of JS Jenks from 2013 to 2016. Volunteer and financial support went to three after-school programs: soccer club, equine club, and music club. Funding also supported Jenks to participate in First Tee Golf and to send students to the NASA Space Camp. Other funding helped the school wire one classroom for computers and another classroom for a biology lab. We also experimented with a partnership between Jenks and the REACH mentoring and literacy program founded by Mark Hecker. Other support included hosting the annual fundraising party for Friends of Jenks and the Firebolt 5K run and walk. This three-year partnership ended in 2016.

Jubilee School Program Partner

With the assistance of St. Martin's, Jubilee School has continued to refine and improve their operations over the past five years.

The school added a pre-k program in partnership with the City of Philadelphia, and they have added an advisory board of prominent citizens, including many related to the University of Pennsylvania. Members of the church have helped Jubilee with their student gardening program and teams from St. Martin's have helped to clean

up the front yard garden of the school. The students of Jubilee formed their own publishing company last year. Through this project they learned book-keeping and marketing skills. Jubilee is forming a team made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to explore ways to work together and learn from each other. In addition, a new homework policy will engage parents by requiring their participation. It will give parents ideas for questions to ask their children about what they are learning in school. Susan MacBride continues to spearhead this effort for St. Martin's with help from Lyn Buchheit. *For more information or to get involved with Jubilee School, contact Susan MacBride at mainerocks@aol.com.*



Howard Goldstein works with Jubilee students in the garden.

St. James School Program Partner

Over the past five years, the St. James School, a middle school in the Episcopal tradition, has served 85 students, 52 graduates, and over 500 family members. Now, in their 8th academic year, St. James School has added 4th grade. Fifteen new 4th graders entered this fall in a newly renovated classroom. A notable aspect of St. James School is that the Graduate Support Office works with and engages students even after they move on to high school. They are now tracking 52 graduates from four graduating classes. Members of the first class of graduates are currently in the midst of their post-secondary education planning. Some of these students will enroll in 4-year



Joe Khan and Alan Windle help decorate St. James School for the fall.

colleges/universities, while others will attend 2-year colleges/certificate programs and workforce training programs. Some alumni are also learning carpentry in the new woodshop; these students are designing, building, and selling wood crafts. Each week, St. James welcomes 25 volunteers to help in classrooms, lead enrichments, staff the front desk, and fulfill additional needs. St. James students are also connected with 18 Drexel mentors. Throughout the year, 25 groups volunteer to help St. James School meet its goals. From St. Martin's specifically, David Adams and Laura Sibson are weekly volunteers with Laura also serving on the Advancement Committee. In addition, George and Ronna Tyndall are board members and have been involved with many aspects of fulfilling the St. James mission. *For more information or to get involved with St. James School, contact Laura Sibson at laurasibson@gmail.com.*

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Action Team

St. Martin's Climate Action Team has focused on the ways our faith response calls us to weave climate considerations into many of our ministries in both spiritual and practical ways. Each year we start with a retreat to reflect on current needs in our community, and to discern how the gifts of our team will enable us to respond. Projects we tackle are led by a "champion" who shepherds each project to completion. This structure allows busy individuals to be as involved as they are able. Over the past five years, projects have included: Buttercup Cottage clean-ups, solstice walks, decluttering Christmas workshops, Parish Forums on sustainability, energy benchmarking of our properties, support for sustainable initiatives in the Feasibility Study for the Church property, Earth Hour celebrations, advocacy training, reading groups, movie screenings and Earth Day activities. A collaboration with PA Interfaith Power & Light, funded by Community Engagement, is developing a Climate Action Toolkit designed to spread the effective strategies pioneered at St. Martin's to other congregations. *For more*



Sue MacQueen helps clear fallen logs at the site of Buttercup Cottage.

information or to get involved with the Climate Action Team, contact Kathy Greely at kathygreely@gmail.com or Jess Ballenger at jess.ballenger@gmail.com.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Becoming Beloved Community

Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) is the umbrella term for St. Martin's ongoing work of inclusion, transformation, and public witness aimed at undoing racism. Over the past several years, this has focused on racism education, training, and engaging in public action. Since 2015 more than 100 parishioners have been involved in programs such as the BBC five-part training, St. Martin's local sponsorship of Trinity Institute, Mindfulness and White Privilege, and several book study groups. The Becoming Beloved Community process yielded a detailed strategy for the parish's ongoing efforts in education, public witness, and evaluation of our own institutional practices around race and racism. This framework includes a call for all parish ministries, committees, and outreach efforts to employ a lens of racial sensitivity in their planning and practices, and it lays out ways to inform and support that work. The Becoming Beloved Community Team was first formed in 2017 and endorsed by the vestry to create this strategic framework and support its realization. The Rev. Carol Duncan, vestry member Justina Barrett, and staff member Barb Ballenger are the leadership team for this group. *For more information or to get involved with Becoming Beloved Community, contact Barb Ballenger at bballenger@stmartinec.org, Justina Barrett at justinabarrett@yahoo.com, or the Rev. Carol Duncan at carol.duncan8031@gmail.com.*



Guatemala Companion Parish Committee

In the past five years, St. Martin's has granted \$31,200 to the parish of San Marcos in Xela/Quetzaltenango for their health ministry, intercultural education program, women's prison ministry, and accompaniment program for persons with HIV/AIDS. The health ministry trains 10 to 12 health volunteers annually to assist with

healthy and safe childbirth practices, and treatment of basic illnesses. The communities served moved from among the worst in infant and maternal mortality to among the best. 800 individuals are also served with medicine and vitamins in this program and 1,235 children were able to attend the medical clinic through this aid. Other successes include training 15 Mayan women, most with HIV, in forming a chocolate-making cooperative. With the income earned, the women support themselves and 75 family members! The women's prison ministry provides spiritual care and material support to up to 30 women inmates confined in terrible conditions. The HIV program runs a self-help group for 25 people, provides medicines to up to 123 people for diseases related to HIV infection, and offers training in nutrition, life habits, and medical and civil rights. The church sponsored two celebratory walks in Quetzaltenango to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, attended by approximately 200 people. In addition, St. Martin's raised \$74,154 directly from the congregation for the scholarship program at San Juan Apostol parish in Chichicastenango. This sum allowed 20 children to attend school from 2014 to 2019. Several have graduated and earned employment. *For more information or to get involved with Guatemala Companion Parishes, contact Terry Clattenburg at tclattenburg23@comcast.net.*



The 2018 Guatemala pilgrims and their local hosts.

POWER

St. Martin's had engaged with POWER for its voter engagement campaigns, racial justice rallies and school funding effort. In 2014 St. Martin's organized the most successful calling campaign to turn out the vote for the 21st Century Living Wage of \$12 an hour. Delegations from St. Martin's attended marches organized by POWER for full, fair school funding, and in response to the racist march in Charlottesville. We sent 18 people on a bus trip to Harrisburg with POWER to lobby our legislators on full, fair funding for PA



The Rev. Rena Graves at one of POWER's phone bank sessions.

schools. Forty church members attended training to help with get-out-the-vote efforts in the last election, and then staffed a voter registration booth at the Fall for the Arts Festival. POWER works for solutions in the following areas: economic dignity, gun violence and mass incarceration, education funding, and climate justice. *For more information or to get involved with POWER, contact the Rev. Carol Duncan at carol.duncan8031@gmail.com.*

Refugee Resettlement Ministry

The Refugee Resettlement Ministry (RRM) was founded in summer 2016 as a response to the world refugee crisis. The RRM began as part of a coalition of local churches helping to facilitate the resettlement of a young Syrian woman, Samra, who attends LaSalle University on a student visa, and Mohamad, and a young student at Friends Select School, now at Bard College. In October 2016, the RRM began fundraising efforts in preparation to host a refugee family. In December 2016, St. Martin's welcomed the Dahans, a Syrian refugee family of four, to Philadelphia. Over the past two years, a core group of 20 parishioners and community members, supported by untold numbers in the St. Martin's community, have ensured the Dahan family's resettlement through generous donations of time, goods, and services. The RRM has hosted several public and private fundraisers raising over \$30,000, and St. Martin's Committee Engagement committee's operating budget has contributed \$20,000 to Samra's LaSalle tuition. Together, our community coordinated the Dahans' housing and transportation, and supported their access to healthcare, employment, and education. The RRM is currently developing goals for the future in light of the Dahan family's increasing independence and the changed landscape of refugee resettlement in the US. *For more information or to get involved with the Refugee Resettlement Ministry, contact Catherine Martin at CatherineLuceyMartin@gmail.com.*



Parishioners helping the Dahan family move into their new apartment.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ADD UP

Each year, St. Martin's sets aside a tithe (i.e. 10%) of its annual budget, funded by your pledges, for community engagement.

Since 2014, St. Martin's has given \$700,000 in grants to the ministries named above, as well as the following organizations:

- Advocate Center for Culture and Education
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)
- Beyond Borders Haiti
- Center in the Park
- Chestnut Hill Meals on Wheels
- Cradles to Crayons
- Episcopal Community Services
- EMIR (Every Murder is Real)
- The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
- Face to Face Germantown
- Fresh Artists
- Germantown Mennonite Congregation
- Hebron International Resource Network (HIRN)
- MANNA
- New Sanctuary Movement
- Weavers Way Community Programs

For more information or to get involved with the Community Engagement committee, contact Kate Maus at katemaus@gmail.com.



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