

A Changed World

The Rev. Tommy Rogers, Executive Director

I am certainly glad I cannot predict the future. If I could have predicted what would happen in 2020 with COVID-19, I might have decided to find another job outside healthcare and run for the hills with my anxiety getting the best of me. Instead, this was a year that Bishop Anderson House and I made the commitment to bloom where we are planted. We have been in the Illinois Medical District for 72 years and we made the decision to go where we could have the greatest impact. We chose to lean into the stress, anxiety, and fear that healthcare workers on the front lines were experiencing and to truly be there for them by giving them space to process what they were experiencing.

One patient, whom I will never forget, stood out in my mind. This young man had just been diagnosed with cancer. He was way too young to have this diagnosis, let alone face it alone without his family or girlfriend at his bedside. As we were talking, I noticed a number of cards that his girlfriend had made for him and asked admitting staff to deliver to his room. Because he was too weak to be able to hold his iPhone and Facetime with his family or friends he requested daily chaplain visits. It was an honor and privilege to journey with him during his hospitalization and to help with some of the loneliness he was experiencing.

2020 was also a year of pivoting by moving live events to virtual events and 2021 looks to be much of the same. We transitioned our live spring fundraiser to a number of smaller Zoom sessions so our supporters could visit informally and connect

with one another. Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program in 2021 will be 100% virtual, with live Zoom retreats, followed by students participating in the seven classes on the learning management system. We also had a number of support Zoom calls for alumni of our Spiritual Care Visitor Training. Three professional organizations I belong to have already announced that rather than having live face-to-face events that they will be having virtual events in 2021, so we are in good company and learning more and more how to be effective in this new virtual environment.



In the midst of this challenging year, there was a beacon of hope for me, namely, the incredible work our board of trustees did this summer engaging the topic of racism. This felt like important work because in our context, healthcare, we saw COVID-19 hit black and brown communities much harder than white communities. We saw firsthand the devastation of systemic racism and

healthcare disparities and knew as an organization we had to take a stand.

I invite you to join me in making a year-end gift to Bishop Anderson House so we can continue to be a beacon of hope to all the healthcare workers serving on the frontlines during this pandemic. Join us as we support alumni of our Spiritual Care Visitor Training, educate the next generation of chaplains and spiritual care givers, and provide chaplaincy services at Stroger Hospital of Cook County at a time when the changing world means our work is needed more than ever.

The Rev. Rose Cicero
Chaplain to Stroger Hospital

As the coronavirus took its hold on Chicago in March, my role as chaplain at Rush University Medical Center changed from my usual visits to women and children to pager coverage exclusively. What struck me most during this period at Rush was the dedication and compassion of medical professionals caring for their patients, especially those afflicted with COVID-19.

Providing spiritual care for COVID-19 patients was challenging as a chaplain and one patient comes to mind as I reflect back to the beginning of the pandemic. She was a woman on an ECMO machine, a life-saving intervention that allows heart and lungs to rest. A nurse held the phone for her as I stood outside the door for our visit. She could get a glimpse of me through the window of the door but eye contact was difficult as her head needed to be forward. She was so scared. She talked about her family, her faith, and her hope of being well again. I spoke through my own mask, listening, comforting,

being with her in her fear and pain. We prayed together at the end of our visit and she thanked me. I don't know if she recovered. As I left, I felt this tremendous loss of not being able to be physically by her side, a loss of not being able to see each other mask free, and the loss of human touch. So many things in my world that were previously taken for granted changed without notice or preparation.

While I was assisting at Rush, Chaplain Micheal and The Rev. Carol Reese, Chaplain/Violence Prevention Coordinator were at Stroger Hospital paving the way for me to begin my work in August. I am thrilled to be able to continue Dianna's Teddy Bear Ministry and to serve as chaplain in the units for women and children. The time I spent at Rush providing care for women, children, their families, and staff prepared me well for the needs at Stroger. I am excited to be able to work with Stroger medical staff and Chaplain Micheal to develop systems of care that will benefit staff, patients, families, and the community. I look forward to bringing comfort to those in most need and feel blessed to be able to serve in this way.

A Changed

Rev. Dr. Micheal Smith
Chaplain to Stroger Hospital

This past April I experienced a momentary pause while reading an on-line article entitled, "Chaplains and Parish Clergy: COVID-19 has Just Declared Your Ministry Non-Essential." The article correctly stated that the challenges posed by COVID-19 had prompted numerous hospitals to prohibit visitors and limit access to COVID-19 patients; yet, the usage of tele-chaplaincy (i.e., smartphone and tablet applications) was introduced long before 2020. However, the article failed to appreciate that my work is not limited to patients and their families. The need for spiritual care and support of the medical and administrative staff of the hospital has only been heightened. When the initial weeks of the pandemic fostered a concern for resource allocation, the scope of my hospital ministry expanded when I was invited to serve on an ethics subcommittee tasked with reviewing COVID-19

cases, and collaborate with a wellness team to offer a weekly zoom "Chat with a Chaplain" to support medical and support staff. In the last several months more than 50 snack baskets have been provided and replenished throughout medical units and patient floors. All while continuing the daily check-in/rounding with patients and medical staff. In facing the challenges presented with the COVID-19, the ministry of Bishop Anderson House has never been more essential!



Spiritual Care Week



Chaplains Complete the Picture

The theme for Spiritual Care Week 2020, was wonderfully demonstrated by Chaplains Rose and Micheal when they presented the Stroger Hospital Labor and Delivery Department with a digital camera and printer so photos of a child can be given to parents. They also delivered 30 self-care books for families who experience a fetal demise. Our chaplains have committed to expand the collection of resources that can be provided for mothers, fathers and siblings after a death.

World

Kim Lessner
Associate for Administration and Registrar for Spiritual Care Visitor Training

One of my go-to sayings is "the only constant in life is change," and how true that has been for me personally in 2020. In January - change one - farewell to a job after almost 15 years of service to embark on a new journey. Three weeks later - change two - the start of my new job here at Bishop Anderson House. Six weeks later - change three - a remote work environment due to COVID-19. Five weeks later - change four - an added work responsibility of bookkeeping. Four weeks later - change five - adapt the Spiritual Care Visitor Training retreat to a virtual setting via Zoom. Those are just the high level changes easily marked by time. And throughout all the changes, my constant has been my spiritual connection and development. That constant has kept me in a place of peace and contentment despite the



craziness of the world that we live in today. Taking words of wisdom given to me by trusted mentors - be adaptable and remember to stay present in the moment, not going to "what if" scenarios. I've tuned into a higher awareness of the simple joys in life - listening to the wonderful concerts provided by nature and enjoying the beauty of the skies. By making these healthy choices for my physical, emotional and mental health, I've also been changed as a person. I pray you find ways to connect with your peaceful center and you are changed as well.

A Beacon of Constancy

Ann Ryba
Associate Executive Director

When Tommy suggested the theme “A Changed World” for this annual report, all the changes in my life came rushing through my mind, too many and too varied to number. But then I pondered the flip side of the change coin; what hasn’t changed in my Bishop Anderson House world?

What strikes me most strongly is that you, our stakeholders, have remained our steadfast partners. Letters, notes and emails of concern and care have graced all of our inboxes. You have sent boxes of prayer shawls and squares and Teddy Bears to fill our shelves. And, remarkably, in the midst of a pandemic, you have remembered us financially, understanding that our work is more crucial than ever before, even as COVID-19 swirls amongst us.

My changed world includes an even deeper passion for and commitment to providing professional chaplaincy to Stroger Hospital. These months have underscored the necessity of compassionate and qualified chaplains to encourage and sustain the spirits of not only the sick, but their caregivers, the hospital personnel whose desire to heal the patient overrides concern for self.

CHAPLAINCY • EDUCATION • WELLNESS • SPIRITUALITY & RACIAL JUSTICE

2020 Financial Snapshot

Several key factors kept Bishop Anderson House on solid financial footing in 2020.

- **Even though we were unable to hold our annual fundraising event, generous donors still raised their paddles and donated \$49,055 in support—keeping us just \$4,000 shy of our budgeted goal. THANK YOU!**
- Our loyal cadre of congregations continued to support us at 2019 levels, ensuring stability.
- The strategy of pursuing grants from a wide variety of foundations began to pay off, as we received several grants funding our work at Stroger Hospital.
- Very generous unbudgeted memorials given in memory of loved ones are giving us a cushion to weather the pandemic.

As for expenses, we initiated a concerted effort to cut costs. A one-third time reduction for Associate Executive Director Ann Ryba, combined with rolling bookkeeping into Associate Administrator/Registrar Kim Lessner's responsibilities, ensured all programming remained constant.

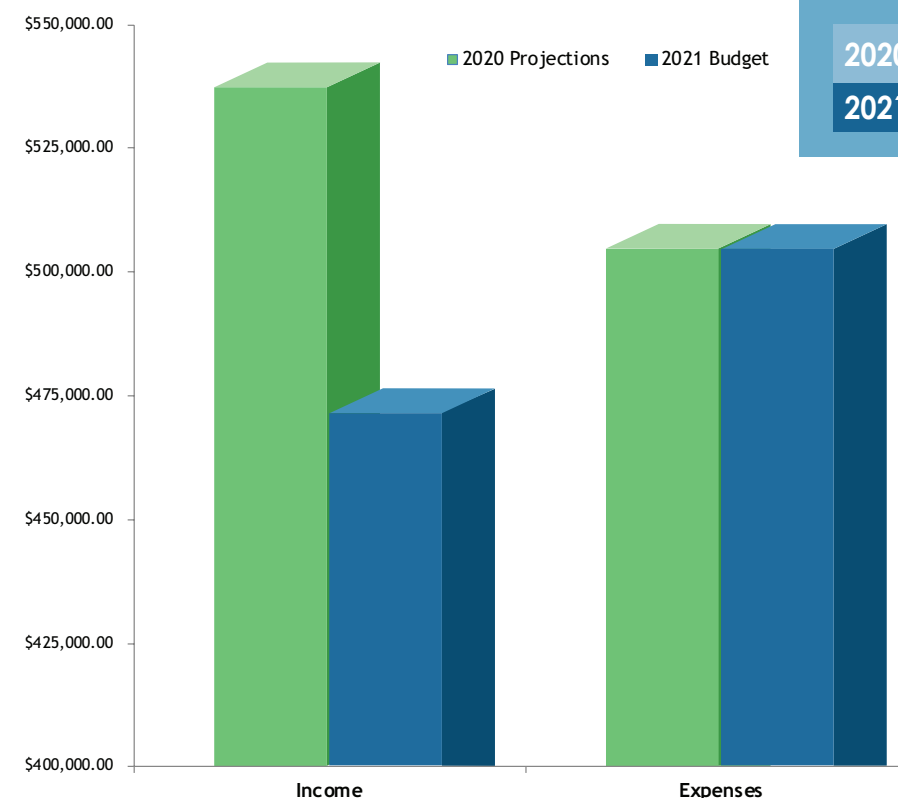
Zoom Workshop for Spiritual Care Providers:

From Friendly Visits to Pastoral

Details at www.bishopandersonhouse.org

Healing **ONE** Healing the **WORLD**

Virtual Fundraiser
Save the Date — **May 2, 2021**



A Look to the Future

Of course, the question upon each of our hearts and minds is what will 2021 bring. As we ponder the new year's budget, several concerns weigh heavy upon us.

- An annual \$50,000 grant has been fulfilled. This is the primary funding source for the professional chaplain at Stroger.
- Predictions for COVID-19 protocols indicate we cannot host an in-person spring benefit.
- Congregations and individuals will be under increased financial hardships.
- Foundations and corporations face a barrage of funding requests.

The Part YOU Play

Committed individuals such as you have ensured that Bishop Anderson House could weather hardships for nearly 75 years. We have accompanied thousands on their spiritual journeys, and we won't quit now.

The single-most important way you can help us in 2021 is to become a recurring donor.

Converting your annual gift to a monthly donation ensures income stability all year long.

It's as easy as ordering a take-out meal!

- When you make your donation, **check the recurring donation box** on the envelope. OR,
- Go to <https://www.bishopandersonhouse.org/donate/> and click the recurring gift box on line 3 OR,
- **Text the word CARING to 243725** on your cell phone and click on the monthly box.

Alumni Face New Worlds



Daniel Dorman

Little did I know when I registered as a student in the Spiritual Care Visitor Training program at Bishop Anderson House, that my world was about to change. I entered the cohort that started just before the COVID-19 outbreak, and the pandemic took hold of my world. You see, I am very fortunate in that my vocation in the world is that of a Registered

Nurse, and it allows me to minister to those I serve in a variety of ways. As I worked through the modules, I gained greater insight into the importance of active listening and presence when one is engaged in a visit. By mid-March and into April, we experienced a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 patients at the hospital. I transitioned to a dual role as a staff nurse/unit manager. As you can imagine, this added a great deal of stress for me, but it was the right thing to do.

I have never experienced death and dying as I witnessed during the peak of the disease in April. My Spiritual Care Visitor Training equipped me to serve on the frontlines of this pandemic in ways that I never imagined. I had the privilege to be present and represent the Church as I helped others who were experiencing one of the worst points in their lives while at the same time dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on my own life. Saying yes to enrollment in the program resulted in a changing world, and I am excited to see what more God is gently nudging me to do. I have also gained an appreciation for self-care through my experience. One must care for self to minister effectively to others.

Toni Daniels

One thing I know for sure, the world (my world) is always changing. Having resigned from a non-life-giving position, I was in search of God's call. I knew I wanted to serve the people of God, but not within the structure of the church. As a member of the Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese, my rector asked me to gather information on healthcare chaplaincy for a parishioner. While the parishioner was not interested, I reviewed the material, which included a link to Bishop Anderson House. I thought the Spiritual Care Visitor Training (SCVT) was intriguing and the answer to my prayers. Not!!! The program created an avalanche of questions. The essence of the program spoke to me and only made me want more. How can I turn spiritual visiting into a full-time ministry? I only knew I was ready to be present with those who suffer, focus on God, observe, listen, be curious without judging, and stand in solidarity with those facing physical challenges. I was not able to articulate this call when I finished SCVT, but I felt the holy longing to move forward.

This longing landed me in my current status as a Master of Divinity student at Loyola University, Chicago, focusing on becoming a Board Certified Chaplain (health care). It is this program where I learned to articulate God's call to me. I had no idea the short, Saturday, certificate course at Bishop Anderson House would completely change my life. I certainly had no intention of returning to graduate school. But by being open to God's call, I could hear, "...my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

After completing two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and two years of academics, I investigated the partnership between Bishop Anderson House and Rush University Hospital, which offered community-based CPE. As a polio survivor, I was a patient at The Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (SRALab). Through extensive conversations with the Chaplain Manager, Beth Reece, we developed a shared dream for me to serve the population of the Abilitylab. This first three-way collaboration between Rush,

Bishop Anderson House, and SRALab, grew out of this dream, and I was proud to be the impetus. My first CPE unit in this high acuity rehabilitation facility offered me a new understanding of the mind-body connection through meditation, aromatherapy, and group therapy. On March 15, 2020, I joyously completed the fall unit and was in great anticipation of returning for my final unit. However, COVID-19 turned the world (my world) on its axis. Because of my medical history, I was deemed high-risk and "benched" from serving in the hospital. Through a joint conversation with my academic advisor, Tommy Rogers, Chaplain Reece, and my priest, we devised a strategy. I will spend the next year focusing on academics, specifically human behavior studies, and virtually support the pastoral needs of my congregation, to return to the Abilitylab in fall 2021.

And so, here I am, in my sure state of change, awaiting the next episode.



Friends of the House

Jon Wes, Kerri Callahan, Co-Chairs

In January, a group of young professionals joined together to develop an associate board for Bishop Anderson House. Quickly, we formed professional and personal connections with a desire to affect change and impact the West Side and Medical District communities. Early on we focused our energy on objectives and strategic planning to launch what is now known as the Friends of the House. Along the way, we've adapted and evolved our group in the face of a global pandemic. Like many of you, we spent the good part of seven months triaging - our own lives, businesses, families, but also maintaining this new bond between the seven of us. We came

up with ideas for cards, ways to support Bishop Anderson House, but most importantly each other.

Through everything, we were able to clarify our mission to form an associate board and voted in our bylaws to ensure the longevity and strength of the group. Today is just the beginning, but we are already so proud of the team that has helped us envision our future. We came up with ideas for cards, ways to support Bishop Anderson House, but most importantly each other--sharing stories of life, protesting, and how to make a connection to the human spirit.

Exciting News!

We are overjoyed to share that the United Thank Offering (UTO) of the Episcopal Church is funding the creation of a Spanish language, ethnically sensitive version of Spiritual Care Visitor Training. By training members in LatinX communities, we will be reaching out to those people who are particularly affected by COVID-19 yet so often fall through the cracks of our healthcare system. We are grateful to the UTO for endorsing our vision of spreading effective, healing, nurturing and reconciling spiritual care to people who are struggling, especially in these tumultuous times.



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1653 W. Congress Parkway, JEL 64
Chicago, IL 60612

