



Bishop Anderson House

Newsletter • June 2021

Infinitely More

By Tommy Rogers

Within the Episcopal Church's service of Morning Prayer are the closing words "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine . . ." That phrase has resonated with me repeatedly as we experience 2021 in a far different state of affairs than 2020 when many of us were literally scared for our lives. With the advent of vaccines, I have found myself personally shifting out of a "survival" role to being curious how I and Bishop Anderson House can advance.

Because of your amazing generosity at our virtual spring benefit, in September our work in chaplaincy will expand with a community-based chaplain focused on the Near West Side of Chicago. We have experienced a deeper appreciation of chaplaincy at Stroger Hospital of Cook County and our board is actively engaged in building upon this energy and

momentum and perhaps one day our aspirational goal of a Spiritual Care Department at Stroger might become a reality! Our summer Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program is ready to go and our Latinx Spiritual Care Training Program modules are being developed after hearing feedback from the community. It should go live late summer/early fall 2021. Our fifth unit of community-based clinical pastoral education in partnership with Rush University Medical Center begins September 2021.

I am very proud of where Bishop Anderson House is at today and it is doing infinitely more than I could have asked or imagined six years ago when I arrived. Thank you for being a part of making it happen. We truly couldn't be where we are today without your support.

Support

By Ann Ryba

It is no exaggeration to say that I have written hundreds of notes thanking donors for "your support," never looking up the actual meaning: **The act of bearing the weight of or strengthening.** Dear friends, you, indeed, have lived into this definition. By giving generously, you have taken the load on your own shoulders, thereby supporting a strong and vibrant ministry of chaplaincy and spiritual care education at Bishop Anderson House. The "support" of the 2021 Healing One, Healing the World benefit shattered all previous records, raising over \$97,000! Thank you all.

Any successful event has a team of behind the scenes worker bees, and we extend our thanks to the Development Committee and Event Maestro Barry

Benson. Long-time friend of Bishop Anderson House and Spiritual Care Visitor Training alumna Kay Lewis was the inspiring star of the evening, enthusiastically leading the paddle raise to an all time high of \$68,600. We are grateful beyond measure.



Healing One, Healing the World 2021 Supporters — **THANK YOU!**

Rev. Mary Altenbaumer
David & Suzanne Arch
Susan Avila
Rev. Marilyn & Peter Barnes
Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich & Rev. Daniel Schwich
Patty Bergh
Carol Berman
Andrea Billhardt
Donna Brown
Sharon Bullion
Kerri Callahan
Marti Callahan
Nancy Carney
The Rev. N. Luke Back
The Rev. Rose Cicero & Donita Ries
Michael Cleavenger
Judith Cook
Karen D'Angelo
Emil DeJulio & Sharon Spellman
Inez Drayton
Rabbi Dr. Yaacov & Robin Dvorin
The Very Rev. M. E. & Katie Eccles
Michael & Janis Ennis
George & Judy Fitchett
Nancy Flowers & Terry McCabe
John & Mary Frankenthal
Geoff & Virginia Frankenthal
Tonya Freeman
Matt & Lindsay Garrison
Dr. Elizabeth Gobbi
The Rev. Kevin Goodman & Anton Pulung
Greater Reach Consulting / Barry Benson
James & Susan Gullickson
Jim Hironimus
The Rev. Daryce Hoff Nolan
Greg & Lucy Holden
Rev. Christy Howard-Steele
Debrah Jefferson
Laura Jenkins
Richard & Annette Johnson
John Jorgenson & Lyle Bouxsein
Dr. Kimberly Joseph
Michel & Ann Kadinsky-Cade

Ray & Kerry Kean
Michael & Deb Kelliher
Art Kinney
Richard & Jackie Kraus
Mary Kreinbring
Bonnielynn Kreiser
The Rev. Peter Lane
Karren Lee
Jim and Sue Lenz
Michael Leppen
Kim Lessner
Randy & Kay Lewis
Ric & Ellen Lindeen
Richard & Brenda Lotesta
The Rev. Diane & Richard Luther
Elizabeth McLaughlin
Stephen & Linda McMillan
Susan McMillan & Rebecca Roberts
Lido & Anna Mugnaini
Anna-Christine Olson
Rev. Ebony Only
Rob & Adele Osmond
Roxy Pepper
The Rev. Jesse & Katy Perkins
The Rev. Robert Petite & The Rev. Mark Tabbut
Jeff & Michele Phillips
Bruce & Crystal Plummer
Dr. Martha Proctor Gano & Rick Gano
James Pruett
Shelby Pruett
Jeff & Kathy Puskas
John & Diana Raitt
Dorothy Ramm

Harold Rees & Emily Culbertson
The Rev. James & Paula Risk
Betty Rogers
The Rev. Thomas Rogers & Jason Sutton
Rick & Ann Ryba
Dr. Gary Schaffel
The Rev. John Schumacher & Judy MacPherson Schumacher
Dr. Emanuel & Jan Semerad
The Rev. Lisa & Chad Senuta
Nancy Seth
Christine Shillestad
Robert & Lois Shuford
Mike Sirvinskask
Rev. Dr. Micheal Smith
Dr. Nora Smith
Jack Soderlund
Anna Stefaniak & Denise Butera
Dr. Russell & Natalia Strong
Jim & Judy Tammi
Jasmin Taylor
Dr. Mary Kay Tobin & Peter Tobin
John & Maribeth Totten
The Rev. Ron & Debby Valentine
The Rev. Elizabeth & Jay Ward
Danny & Janette Warner
Rev. David Watkins
Joan Weber
Jon Wes
Nike Whitcomb
The Rev. Robert Wyatt & Terri Lackey
The Rev. Sue Youngblood

Healing **ONE** *Healing the*
WORLD



Compassion

By Kim Lessner

Do you feel like you want to make a difference by being present to someone who is going through a transition on their life's journey?

We are excited to announce the next session of our Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program is scheduled to begin via Zoom retreats on Saturdays August 21 (10:00a-12:00p and 1:30p-3:00p/Central Time) and August 28 (3:00p-5:00p/Central Time). After the retreat sessions, you will continue the program by taking seven self-paced modules in an online learning system, complete two verbatim and participate on monthly support calls.

We have recently wrapped up the first successful session of our 100% virtual Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program with seven newly trained individuals in the art of providing a listening ear and a caring presence to those in need in their communities. With the revised retreat experience to the Zoom platform, we can accommodate people from outside the Chicagoland area!

Our new graduates will transition into our Alumni group, led by Chaplain Rose Cicero, who gather on a quarterly basis for either support or continued learning opportunities. How blessed we have been to continue this transformative education experience for people near and far with our redesigned online retreat.



Truth

By Rev. Dr. Micheal Smith

"Did you binge watch (fill in the blank) on Netflix or Amazon Prime this weekend?"

"Did you finish getting your vegetable garden ready?"

"How was your first Mother's Day?"

"What apps are you using to study Spanish?"

"How are you today? I see that Mrs. Johnson passed during the night."

During my three years working in Stroger Cook County Hospital, my daily interactions with medical and support staff have evolved from brief check-ins into relationships which promote meaningful conversations allowing me to not only support the critical care that is provided by each unit but also support and affirm each individual. I am enriched from the unspoken invitations of persons to share in their lives: the joys of hobbies, children, grandchildren, food and movies but also the sadness of the passing of family and friends and the societal ills that affect each of us. As significant is the time spent with patients and their families, my work has always required attention to the numerous care providers who day-in and day-out work under the tremendous demands and stress of providing critical care. Borrowing from a forgotten poet, "good conversations with the right people are priceless." I experience the truth of that statement every day as a chaplain.

Blessing

By The Rev. Rose Cicero

During Nurses' Week 2021, I had the privilege of blessing the hands of nurses on my units at Stroger Cook County Hospital: Labor & Delivery, NICU, and Obstetrics. I carried a bottle of lavender scented oil and a bottle of water, giving each nurse a choice for their blessing; all chose the lavender scented oil. As each drop of oil landed on outstretched palms, I watched nurses inhale the lavender scent deeply as they rubbed their hands together. I felt blessed as I said a prayer for each pair of healing hands and the compassionate hearts that guide them. I remembered how those hands offer loving touch to pregnant women who are afraid, providing reassurance and support. Those hands work tirelessly administering medications, hooking up monitors, and ultimately helping to guide precious new lives into the world. As I said the blessing, I remembered the hands that hold tiny babies born too soon, providing for their every need as they grow strong and thrive. One nurse wanted oil placed on her

forehead so she could be enveloped in the scent throughout the day. Doctors, radiologists, and other hospital personnel were also happy to have their hands blessed. This profound experience filled me with gratitude that I am a chaplain serving these dedicated professionals.

