

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

A Charge from the Vestry to the Outreach Committee

In November of 2020 a group of St. Andrew's parishioners with a heart for outreach and social justice gathered to begin the process of answering the Vestry's call to develop ways in which St. Andrew's might leverage its resources, power and privilege to make a significant difference in the racial disparities that exist here in Madison and in Dane County.

Answering that call, Casey Reiser, Shevanthi Hettiarachchi, Leanne Puglielli, Donna McDowell, Bonnie Tompkins, Heidi Ropa, Anne Keller, Pat Size, Becky Otte-Ford, Julia Stanley, Toritseju Blagooee, Penelope Johnson, and Judy Mills set to work.

In the months since, this group has worked to balance the gifts and passions of our community with the needs of the African American Community in Madison, looking for a good fit, a place where we might bring our strengths to the table in a way that will make a real difference.

After a period of discussion and discernment, the group has turned its attention to issues around the creation of wealth in the black community through home ownership. A list of potential partners was vetted on behalf of the African American Council of Churches, by The Honorable Rev. Everett Mitchell of Christ the Solid Rock, Baptist Church, and we have now met with two potential partners, either of which would love to have us come alongside to support them in their work.

The Committee is meeting on Monday the 22nd to prepare a recommendation for the December 8th Vestry meeting!

The charge that the Vestry gave the Outreach Committee is included at the end of this report. Please take some time to read it. It represents years of study and partnership and is a sign of the growth and vitality of this parish!

The Monthly Outreach InGatherings

In this past year, as we have worshiped via zoom, pre recorded liturgies, live streamed services, and now in person celebration of the Eucharist, our outreach efforts have centered St. Andrew's gift of generosity and the monthly InGathering. Here is a summary of those efforts for the last year.

THE TENANT RESOURCE CENTER

September 2020 – January 2021

May – June 2021

September 2021

This past year saw multiple attempts in the the courts to overturn the moratorium on evictions put in place to protect people whose livelihoods had been impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic. The ongoing threat that people who have been struggling on the margins might find themselves, and their families, on the streets called forth a response from the people of St. Andrew's that was truly remarkable!

From September 2020 through January of 2021, St. Andrew's gave \$30,000 to help people whose lives have been upended by the economic impact of the Covid - 19 Pandemic by supporting the Tenant Resource Center! That is a truly remarkable gift! This level of giving is a clear sign that the issue of homelessness, of eviction in the midst of the turmoil created by the pandemic, is something extremely important to the community at St. Andrew's.

MADISON WEST HIGH AREA COLLABORATIVE

February – March 2021

In February collected \$2,594 to support the work of our neighbors at the Madison West High Area Collaborative. Organized by several social workers at West High School, the Collaborative is working to provide food relief and rental assistance to families in west-side schools.

CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND

April 2021

November 2021

In April and November our InGathering went to the Clergy Discretionary Fund, which enables Fr. Andy and Mtr. Melesa to respond to the needs of our community and neighbors with financial support. Past use of these funds have included helping families in need with food, providing rent assistance and shelter, assistance with medical bills. The Total collected for the two months, and through other donations to this fund in 2021 have totaled \$6,391 to date

THE JULY AND AUGUST INGATHERING

July – August 2021

In July and August we raised \$3,659 in an effort to help build economic stability for a young, Black entrepreneur and community leader as he launches a new barber shop on Madison's East Side. Harry Bernard III, is a member of Life Center Church Madison, Madison Metro School

District (MMSD) alum, and a young, Black entrepreneur who is launching a new barbershop, *Life Style Hair Care*.

SEPTEMBER INGATHERING - THE TENANT RESOURCE CENTER

In September we raised an additional \$1,279 bringing our total over 13 months to \$31,279!

OCTOBER INGATHERING: TRIANGLE COMMUNITY MINISTRY

In October, St. Andrew's raised \$1,479 for the Triangle Community Ministry.

Triangle Community Ministry (TCM) serves over 300 residents living in the Triangle Neighborhood of Madison (the area bordered by W. Washington Ave., Regent St. and Park St.). Most of the residents are challenged by chronic mental, emotional, physical and/or developmental disabilities. TCM is dedicated to the development of personal dignity, self-empowerment and community building among its residents. TCM encourages and supports participation within the broader community, provides holistic health services at no cost and is an inclusive ministry that does not discriminate. TCM is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors (including St. Andrew's member Judy Mills) and develops relationships with generous donors to support vulnerable members of the community.

NOVEMBER INGATHERING - CLERGY DISCRETIONARY FUND

see above

From September of 2020 through November 18, just a little over 13 months, Saint Andrew's has given \$45,402 to support our neighbors here in Madison. We are a community with the gift of generosity!

A Charge to the St Andrew's Outreach Committee

Here is the document that the Vestry gave to the Outreach Committee:

We, the Vestry, believe that St Andrew's is ready, and eager, to leverage our resources, our power, and our privilege, to make a significant difference in the fight to address the racial inequities that exist here in Madison and Dane County.

We are extending this charge to the people who have demonstrated a heart for outreach and social justice work, and to the broader congregation, in the hopes that, together we can

coalesce a group of people who will function as a formal Outreach Committee

develop and vet opportunities for the people of St Andrew's to participate in the work of racial justice

develop and present to the Vestry a focused project, as described in the attached charge

work towards the goals of the specific project, even as we work towards a more just and fair society here in Madison and Dane County

Meeting this challenge, adopting this charge and the work it describes, will mean some changes to the ways that we have worked together in the past. It will require lay leadership, a spirit of cooperation and dialog, the incorporation of new people who will be inspired by this opportunity and the investment manifest in the charge, and the ability and desire to follow the lead of leaders in the black community, supporting and not reinventing the work that they are doing.

The Charge

“Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

Book of Common Prayer, Baptismal Covenant

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

There is a strong desire on the Vestry and among other parishioners at St. Andrew's that we become more deeply engaged with issues of racial justice in Madison, and the Vestry has identified the Outreach Committee as a natural place for that work to originate.

The Vestry recognizes that individuals and small groups in the parish are already working in this area, and short-term fundraising efforts have supported a variety of social justice efforts in the Madison community. In this moment, the Vestry is aiming for something larger: a focused outreach project that will disrupt our complacency and require us to prioritize racial equity over our own comfort and financial security; and which has the potential to transform St. Andrew's in the process of supporting deeply necessary work in the greater Madison community.

The Vestry is asking this group to define and implement this project, with our support.

Project parameters:

We don't want to reinvent the wheel or impose our own ideas of what is necessary to address racial injustice in Madison on those most directly affected by it. Instead, we want to draw on the values, strengths, and assets of the St. Andrew's community, following the leadership of Black organizations in Madison, to support the work that is already being done in this city. This work will require the Outreach Committee and the St. Andrew's community to actively listen and receive ongoing guidance and direction from these groups.

To kick-start this effort, the Vestry has designated a total of \$10,000 from the Jesse Crane Endowment funds and from the Designated Outreach fund to be used as seed-money for further fundraising or in other ways recommended by the Outreach Committee. The Vestry welcomes additional requests from the Outreach Committee for other ways we can support the work.

Project goals:

The Vestry sees this as an opportunity to create a long-term partnership with an African-American organization in Madison. We hope it will engage our whole church body in active, difficult conversations about racial injustice and educate us about our responsibilities for combating it. While publicly naming the power and privilege held by many of us at St. Andrew's, we want to use our resources to address the systems that have granted us that power and privilege while withholding it from others.

The Vestry recognizes the knowledge and passion present among the members of the Outreach Committee, and we hope this group will see our charge as a challenge and opportunity. We ask the Committee to consider what resources we have at St. Andrew's, what we're good at, and how we need to grow in order to live into our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all people.