

## Annual Report 2024 – Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee include the following: Elizabeth Duckstein, St. Paul's, Mt Lebanon; Patricia Eagon Stafford, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Sam Salopek, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, Julie Smith, Chaplain, Caring Hospice Services, Bill Farra, Community of Celebration, Aliquippa; Marilyn Mulvihill, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; Marianne Novy, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, Chair; Wesley Rohrer, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Tom Slater, Calvary, East Liberty; Forrest Kesterson, Church of the Redeemer, and Linda Tardy Wilson, Retired Deacon.

We are committed to promoting service, education, and advocacy regarding social justice issues. We draw on the Episcopal Church's public policy positions and make interfaith and other intergroup alliances to achieve a positive impact in our region.

We arranged a zoom panel, "Refugees Belong Here: How Pittsburghers Are Welcoming Our Newest Neighbors," for Sunday, April 28, at 7 pm. Speakers included our diocesan member Janet Morford, who works long distance at Episcopal Migration Ministries, program coordinators from Jewish Family and Community Services and Hello Neighbor staff, and a volunteer from Congregation Dor Hadash . The panel is available on the diocesan you-tube channel at this link: [https://youtu.be/Frta0N\\_5INM](https://youtu.be/Frta0N_5INM)

Bishop Ketlen accepted our proposal that the diocese cosponsor the Advocacy Day for sensible gun legislation, in Harrisburg Tuesday May 7, and several members of our diocese participated.

We arranged two showings of the film *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code*, which focuses on the many deaths during the 1995 Chicago heat wave and the intersection of global warming with poverty. The first was at St. Brendan's on Sunday, October 6, at 1:15, with speakers responding. The film will also be shown at St. James, Penn Hills, Saturday, November 16, in the evening.

We gave grants of \$500 each to the following parishes: St. David, St. Brendan, Holy Cross, All Saints, and Shepherd's Wellness, for gardens to grow food.

We voted to co-sponsor the diocesan convention resolution condemning censorship proposed by the Commission on Race and Reconciliation, previously endorsed by the General Convention, the Union of Black Episcopalians, and in its basic substance by the American Library Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Novy, Chair