



CATHEDRAL *of the* INCARNATION

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND



Wardens Report from Kathaleen Mercer, George Tietjen, and Christine Scott Stewardship Report from Roshni Samuel

Annual Meeting of Cathedral of the Incarnation
June 9, 2019

Good morning, I am Kathaleen Mercer, Senior Warden. This warden's report is from your three wardens: me, George Tietjen, Junior Warden, and Chris Scott. George and I are "retiring," and Chris is your ongoing Senior Warden. Our warden's report will be a reflection on the last four years from George and a vision for the next year from Chris.

We are a House of Prayer for Long Island. We are transforming from an internally focused parish to a parish within a cathedral. What does it mean to be a parish within a cathedral? First, what is a cathedral? Paraphrasing Dean Michael, who quoted Thomas Tweed from *Crossing and Dwelling* in a conversation with the Cathedral Chapter (the financial governing body of the cathedral): *religion can be defined as a place that intensifies joy and confronts suffering by drawing on human and superhuman forces to make homes and cross boundaries*. We are becoming a place where that can happen for anyone across Long Island. We are a place to host diocesan events; a place of investment for innovation; a place to welcome the neighborhood into the joy that we find here; a place to challenge the status quo so that we can confront suffering.

What is a parish? We, all of us here in this room, are the parish. As a parish, we strive to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of each of us. We strive to build and support ministries that foster our spiritual growth and help us to build relationships with people and with a community that celebrate our joys with us and supports us as we deal with disappointment and sorrows.

Our transformation is about bringing together these two aspects of our life, as a cathedral and as a parish. I'll spend a few minutes now talking about the role of the Cathedral Council and communications.

The council has two primary responsibilities: 1) to represent the needs of the parish within the larger construct of a cathedral for Long Island and 2) to support and build our ministries. The Great 50 Days of Easter ministry recognition and council as the committee for the Memorial Day Fair are examples of the changing role of the council in supporting all of us as a parish and all of our ministries. Facilitating communication is a way to represent the needs of our parish.

Communication is a super-highway; we are going 100 miles an hour on it and it never ends. Historically for our cathedral, communication is an individual talking to another individual; it's me talking to you and you talking to me; it's the clergy in their sermons; it's announcements from the lectern. Today, to help us as we are speeding down this highway, we have greatly expanded our communication platforms through the creation of the online newsletter, which is also our Sunday bulletin insert. We have increased our digital footprint and presence in social media through our award-winning Facebook and Instagram accounts. We are working on improving our internal communication using Realm, a digital communication platform.

It will always be important for each of us to communicate our thoughts, joys and concerns to each other, to the clergy, the wardens and the council; to listen with an open heart; and to know and believe that each of these communications will be heard and acted upon with an open heart. I'll now turn the floor over to George.

Good morning everyone. My name is George Tietjen, and I've had the privilege of serving as Dean's Warden and council member for the last four years. When I began worshipping here some twenty years ago it was to follow our daughter, who joined the Girls' Choir; my wife, Pam, joined the choir and participated in many other ministries. I also began participating in various ministries. I want to thank everyone in the congregation for their support during the last five years which included my time on the Dean's Search Committee, as it has helped me build a stronger faith, and to be a better Christian and member of the cathedral congregation.

I would also like to thank my partner in crime, Kathaleen, for our time working together beginning on the Search Committee, and through our time on the council and as wardens.

An area that I would like to cite as one of great progress is the congregation's increasing support of causes outside of the cathedral and within The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. Our support of The INN is one example. We hold many fundraisers to help those who are less fortunate and in need at The INN just a few miles to our south. I take pride that a group of

parishioners, led by Deacon Denise, also frequently serve at The INN facility in Hempstead. Merrick K. Williams also has led efforts for the cathedral to work more closely with the Suffolk Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a fine self-help organization that builds houses for less fortunate. Lastly, and near and dear to my heart, is our growing involvement and support of Camp DeWolfe in Wading River. The camp serves young people in our diocese and was, over the past several years, renovated to provide a stronger and higher quality ministry to them. I proudly serve on the Board of Managers and hope to continue to do so in the years to come.

I will now turn the discussion of the future to my successor and friend Christine. Again, I thank everyone for this opportunity to serve.

Thank you, George. In the next year, the council and I will be focused on becoming a more visible group for all to share their thoughts, joys and concerns so we can continue to be liaisons for our members, our ministries and our clergy. We will help support and grow participation in our cathedral ministries and programs by encouraging and communicating opportunities for each member to experience different aspects of cathedral life, hopefully finding a ministry or an activity to engage in.

Finally, we would all like to express our gratitude to the talented and dedicated clergy. We are so fortunate to serve with a group of people who are so passionate about our ministries here at the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

Now, we'll hear from Roshni Samuel, Interim Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

Report on the 2019 Stewardship Campaign:

We have 137 pledges to date and the total dollar amount pledged is \$288,592 which is a 5.4% increase from last year. We would like to thank everyone who has made a pledge for 2019.

We would also like to encourage those of you who have not made a pledge yet or those who would like to become a first-time steward to prayerfully consider making a commitment to the cathedral.

As we all see, there are many great things going on in the cathedral and your financial support helps sustain the cathedral's mission and programs. With additional pledges, we can meet or exceed our goal for 2019 of \$300,000.

Stewardship forms can be found in the pews or on the Welcome Table. You can also go online to the cathedral's website (www.incarnationgc.org/donate) to find detailed instructions. You can also call Gerry Potter at the cathedral office with any further questions.

Thank you.