

September – October 2021 Chaplain Report  
October 13, 2021

“In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”  
—Romans 12:5 (NIV)

Serving as a chaplain in the Carlisle community, I am a member of a large group organized by the Cumberland County’s Reentry Program focused on assisting individuals who are re-entering the community from prison. The committee meets by Zoom and there are over 200 individuals on the email invitation. Although not all the members are always on the Zoom meetings, we serve on individual subcommittees (e.g., housing, employment, education, etc.) addressing needs of the individuals who are returning to the community. I serve on the community education subcommittee.

Last week, I completed my year as President of Kiwanis - Carlisle. It was a year of Board and Club meetings, and involvement in the many community projects Kiwanis sponsors for our Carlisle Community—e.g., cranberry and blueberry sales, “Warm the Children,” reading programs for children, etc.

For the next year I will serve as Past President of Kiwanis -Carlisle.

I continue to reorganize G.R.A.N.D.S.—grandparents raising grandchildren because of the opioid epidemic. Our support group is sponsored by Sadler Health Center and the YWCA Carlisle. Thank you to Christian Education Council, Property Council, Consistory, and our Office Administrator Lyndsey for all their assistance to prepare a room for our grandparents to convene their weekly meetings. There is tremendous support for our G.R.A.N.D.S. program from our Carlisle community including the treatment courts, Drug and Alcohol Commission, and the reentry programs—for example, the RASE Project. (I attended an educational program recently convened on Zoom by the RASE Program.) I continue to attend Carlisle Area Religious Council (CARC) Board meetings and will be participating in an upcoming prayer vigil at Memorial Park later this month.

I also wrote a proposal to Christian Education Council for an Adult Sunday School Program on the “trauma and drama” of families in Genesis that was approved. However, after three weeks and no attendees, the class is placed on hold until after Covid restrictions are lifted and church members feel comfortable attending Sunday School in-person.

I am a member of Church and Community Council and attend our meetings and assisted with clean-up after our sponsored meal served at Salvation Army.

I wrote my column for “Keeping on the Sunny Side” for our Church Newsletter that Lyndsey re-established and diligently recruits articles— and prepares columns herself—that are creatively designed and written. Thank you, Lyndsey! 😊

I continue to attend Drug Treatment Court sessions, Maranatha’s and NAMI Board meetings, and NAMI support group meetings. I attended an educational program at Giant—Camp Hill’s meeting room on “Anxiety” sponsored by NAMI, that was presented by a psychiatrist from Hershey Medical Center.

I look forward to the day when Covid “masking” and social distancing restrictions will be “lifted” and the groups and activities I meet will resume “in person” rather than on Zoom as most of them are presently

convened. Until that time, however, I remain grateful for Zoom and ALL the technology that provides us the opportunity to do God's work as "ONE BODY" (Romans 12:5 —NIV).

"Glory be to God"

Chaplain Donna Hale