



Rejoice

February 2017

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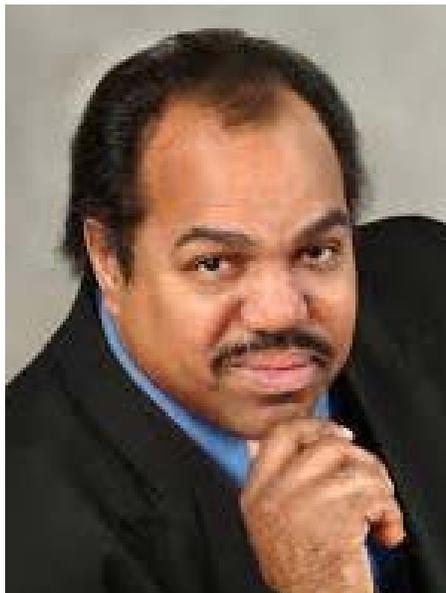
Meet Our February Guest Forum Speakers: Rev. Melanie Mullen and Daryl Davis

Daryl Davis is a musician, actor, author, and lecturer. He earned his Bachelor of Music Degree from Howard University and is an accomplished blues, rock'n'roll, country and jazz musician, performing regularly with his own Daryl Davis Band. He has worked extensively with the Legendary Blues Band and Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley's Jordannaires, Percy Sledge, and Sam Moore, among other.

After a performance in a country music bar, a man told Daryl he'd never seen a black man play piano like Jerry Lee Lewis. Daryl explained, both he and Lewis learned from black blues and boogie woogie pianists. The man didn't believe in the black origin of the music, but became a regular fan of Daryl's. Turns out, he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. This experience led to Daryl becoming the first black author to travel the country interviewing KKK leaders and members, all detailed in his book, *Klan-destine Relationships*.

Over the next thirty years, Daryl's work as a reconciler has allowed him to develop close friendships with numerous KKK members. Accidental Courtesy is the name of a documentary about Daryl Davis and his work in race relations. On Sunday, February 5, he will share his unique story with us in the Meade Room at 9:00 a.m.

On February 12, we are delighted to welcome back the Rev. Melanie Mullen who served as our seminar-

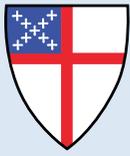


ian for two years in 2010–2012. Since her ordination, she has been shaking things up in Richmond where she serves as Downtown Missioner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Working under rector, Wallace Adams- Riley, another Christ Church alum, her ministry has been to live and work in the downtown area, designing creative approaches to address the needs of the poor and disenfranchised. Most recently Melanie was instrumental in organizing a march called Virginia Inter-faith Day on the capitol in downtown Richmond. Melanie was integrally involved in planning and facilitating the conversation about race and St. Paul's Confederate history in the summer and fall of 2015. She will preach at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00a.m. services and share their story with us at the forum.



Vestry Election

The Vestry met with its new members at the end of January: Nancy Carson, Kelley Brooke Hostetler, Steve Humphrey, and Sandra Thomson, and Ken Knapp, new treasurer. Emily Bryan was elected as senior warden and Dave Riggs as junior warden. Please hold them in your prayers as they take on this ministry of leadership and service to the parish. We thank Janet Osborn, senior warden, and Susan Davis, Brian Shannon, and Janet Zavrel for their extended service on the vestry.



Rejoice is the official monthly publication of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia, an Episcopal church in the Diocese of Virginia.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston
Thirteenth Bishop of Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff
Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. (Ted) Gulick, Jr.
Assistant Bishop of Virginia

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Emily Bryan, Senior Warden

Dave Riggs, Junior Warden

Abigail Arms, Nancy Carson,

Geoffrey Giovanetti, Susan Hahn,

Kelley Brooke Hostetler, Steve Humphrey,

Jim Lafley, Betsy Powell, Anne Shine,

Sandra Thompson, Janet Zavrel

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Rector

The Rev. Ann Gillespie,
Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Heather VanDeventer,
Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Richard Jones
Parish Visitor

The Rev. Dr. Diane Murphy,
Priest Associate

Director of Music

M. Jason Abel

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, wherever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith.

The *Rejoice* deadline is the third of the month preceding publication.

Please email proposed articles to mbracco@historicchristchurch.org.

Those accepted are subject to editing for length and content. Susan Hahn edits *Rejoice* while Craig Keith provides design and layout. Carol Donlan gives her time and talent as an advisor. Meredith Bracco is the staff liaison.



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Join us for Mission Sunday February 26

Mark your calendars for February 26 when Christ Church will celebrate Mission Sunday in new ways as we highlight our long-standing commitments to Our Little Roses home and school for girls in Honduras, the Diocese of Renk in South Sudan and Mengo Hospital in Uganda. Guests representing these mission partners will take part in the 10:00 a.m. service, where our guest preacher will be from Our Little Roses and some of the music will reflect parts of the world touched by our mission projects. The Forum at 9:00 a.m. will feature a panel discussing how mission work strengthens our faith and transforms our lives and the lives of those we serve.

Francis Guzman, our guest preacher on Mission Sunday, is a graduate of Our Little Roses home and school for girls. She grew up at OLR with her two older sisters. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Education at the university in San Pedro Sula and is a kindergarten teacher in the same school she attended. Francis is writing her thesis on using the Montessori teaching method with special needs children. Frances has been a recipient of scholarships from La BECA founded by parishioners Anne Reed and Kris Amundsen to benefit intelligent, motivated girls like Francis. This will be her first trip to America.

Fowler House 20th Anniversary In April

By Nancy Carson, Vestry Member

Christ Church's bustling Sunday School, the New Neighbors program for English training, our excellent choirs and our teenagers all share one great resource: Fowler House. In April, we will mark 20 years from the decision to acquire the "Ross Building," which has transformed many ministries and enabled new directions.

The property suddenly came onto the market, and clearly there would not be another opportunity for such an extraordinary expansion. In March of 1997 the Vestry voted in secret to personally guarantee the funds for an escrow deposit. The Vestry took this leap of faith, because, as Steve Humphrey said, "God calls his people." On April 6, 1997, the proposal was submitted to the congregation. After much discussion and prayer, the congregation voted unanimously to proceed. In particular, people wanted more and better space for programs for youth.

On that day of jubilation and commitment, no one knew that a major lawsuit would delay the purchase and add expense and difficulty. Once the property was secured, a major gift came from Henry and Trudye Fowler. (Henry Fowler had been Secretary of the Treasury from 1965 to 1968.) The Fowlers were devoted members of Christ Church, and they were joined by many other members to generate the necessary capital.

Discernment, discussion, debate and other planning components took some time. The space was dedicated and occupied on January 7, 2001.

"All the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." Ezra 3:11

Learn more about this history from the framed text at the entrance to the Fowler House. Information on the commemoration will be available closer to the time.

Moving Together Toward Serving The Least

By *The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector*

I have a friend, an Episcopal priest, who grew up Southern Baptist in a sweet, sleepy southern town in South Georgia. A former actor, he's exceptionally good at impressions and if you get him in the right mood, he will do a fantastic impersonation of his childhood pastor giving a sermon during football season. It always starts with something like, "You know, this life is kinda like the end of the second half, all tied up and our man Jesus has the ball..." These impersonations always have us howling with laughter. They are absurd. Because, of course, life is not like football.

Last week, for example, shortly after the Falcons had secured a place in the Super Bowl, Adam Oliveri, HR Manager, and I, had this email exchange:

Me: It's the Dirty Birds' year. PATS ARE GOING DOWN.



Adam: Pats are SO gonna win it this year!

Me: COME ON. We haven't had a super bowl since 1998. SHARE THE LOVE.

Adam: It should be a great game!! This is clearly not "real" life. I say that because in the last few months, it seems like very few exchanges in "real" life are ending with smiling faces and good-natured nudges. Ev-

erywhere we are, on social media, on the news wire, at gatherings of friends and family, stakes feel very high, as do tempers and emotions. It is becoming easier and easier to lash out and walk away than it is to be in community, to sit through hard conversations or to disagree with respect. We could strive to make life more like football, where rivals are friends again when the game is over, but that's not quite the right answer either.

Over the next month, we will be hearing from a series of people who will be offering their stories and theories of hope in this time of deep division in our world. It is my intention that these stories and witnesses will help inspire Christ Church to be a beacon of faith and gentleness of spirit, listening deeply to each other and finding ways to move together toward serving the least, the lost and the lonely.

Christ Church Demonstrates for Inclusion, God's Love for All

By *Nancy Carson, Vestry Member*

Members of Christ Church and many others including Meade Memorial and Commonwealth Baptist joined in peaceful protest on Sunday January 29 in front of the Alexandria townhouse at King and Henry Streets where Richard B. Spencer, Leader of the National Policy Institute, lives and works. The National Policy Institute (NPI) is an organization dedicated to "the heritage, identify and future of people of European descent" in the US. Spencer takes credit for coining the term 'alt-right.'

The arrival of the NPI, generally characterized as a White supremacist group, in Alexandria came as a shock to local merchants and elected officials. Several businesses along King Street display signs reading, "No Vacancy for Hate."



The purpose of the demonstration, organized by David Hoover and Rev. William Roberts, along with clergy, was to make clear opposition to attitudes that degrade any group of people. "God Loves All" was a sign seen in several hands. Passing motorists at the busy intersection honked and

waved in support. Nearly 100 demonstrators sang, chanted and cheered for about one hour.

The demonstration was covered by the online *Alexandria News*. You can read that story here: <http://www.alexandrianews.org/2017/01/alexandrians-march-to-protest-alt-right/>

Update on Outreach Activities

By Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach and Mission

Outreach efforts in the City of Alexandria are off to a great start in 2017. I wanted to share with you a few changes for the new year. Changing leadership roles in the church allows us to share responsibilities, gain new perspectives and prevent burnout. Our thanks to all those who are stepping down this year and welcome those coming on board.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Nancy Carson hired me two and half years ago and she has been my rock ever since. There's nothing she doesn't know about the church, its history, and the community. She is filled with rich ideas and always willing to lend a hand. We are fortunate to have Nancy transitioning onto the vestry and sharing her skills there. I fully recognize she will still be my rock when I need one. We are welcoming Elizabeth Trigg to the role of co-chair of the Outreach Committee. Elizabeth will serve alongside Kristen Moore. She has worked with me on several projects and possesses the skills, enthusiasm and patience this role requires.

ALIVE!

I would like to thank Anne Carver for being our ALIVE! representative. Our partnership and commitment as an ALIVE! congregation are essential to the health of outreach in the Alexandria community. Being an ALIVE! congregation requires a representative who speaks up on behalf of Christ Church and offers guidance and support as they plan their budget and programming. Rawles Jones will be assuming the ALIVE! Representative role and is excited to do so. He has been our ALIVE! representative

in the past and is actively recruiting folks to move furniture on our ALIVE! Saturdays.

BAG LUNCH AT MEADE MEMORIAL

I would like to thank Megan Kesling who has been the leader of the Bag Lunch Ministry at Meade Memorial Church. Seven or eight weeks of the year, Christ Church makes lunches for our homeless neighbors and this requires much coordination and planning. We welcome Mary Dixon Hutcheson to this role. She too has been involved in the past and is coming full circle back to a ministry she has been involved with long ago.



GLEANING AT OLD TOWN FARMERS' MARKET

I would like to thank Susan Hahn for being our dedicated gleaning volunteer coordinator during the months of May through November at the farmer's market in Old Town. Susan has coordinated volunteers for three years, which has resulted in us receiving hundreds of pounds of produce that would have otherwise been discarded for our Lazarus food pantry. Stepping into this role is Stephanie Roberts. Stephanie will be coordinating the farmers' market gleaning and taking the lead with Trader Joes and Panera Bread with the donations they give to us each week for the Lazarus food pantry.

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

Our hearty thanks to Tim Oliver for his dedication and service to the Lazarus Food Pantry over the years. Tim's quiet, unglamorous ministry of picking up more than 350 pounds of food at the Capital Area Food Bank in Lorton on a rotating basis, then driving north on I-95 at 8:30 am to get to the church in time to unload and serve at 9:30 am has benefitted more families than we can even imagine. Outreach in our community ministries could not function without the dedication of Christ Church parishioners through your time, talent, and treasure. You touch many lives in Alexandria.



Meet One of the Saints Among Us, Carter Land

By Andrea McNicholas

The word “saint” is used in the New Testament to speak of all those who have faith in Christ and are a part of His Body, the Church. Each one of us then can be counted as a saint. Since very early in the life of the Church, certain men and women have been recognized, after their deaths, as having lived exemplary Christian lives, worthy of emulation by those of us still running the race. Here at the parish there are some living saints among us whose actions are worthy of our notice and recognition.

One of them is long time Lazarus ministry volunteer Carter Land, who was kind enough to answer some questions. Carter has been a member of Christ Church for thirty-five years, and a volunteer with the Lazarus Ministry since it was founded more than twenty-five years ago. He has served as a financial counselor, and in recent years, he has worked with the Thursday morning food distribution.

How have you seen the Lazarus Ministry change or the guests at Lazarus change and what has stayed constant over the years?

Over the years we have seen an increase in the number of people who come to Christ Church in need



of assistance. Also, we have had more Latino clients and more people who come from various foreign countries. What is constant is that the need for Christ Church to be a source of assistance and healing is always there. The Lazarus Ministry is an important part of the spirit of Christ Church and what we do.

Why do you continually do this Ministry week after week, year after year?

Serving as a Lazarus volunteer has become an integral part of who I am. It is important for me to get out of my routine and give back to God

and God’s people. As has been said many times, I get as much out of my participation as those who come looking for help.

Can you tell us one of your favorite stories from your ministry?

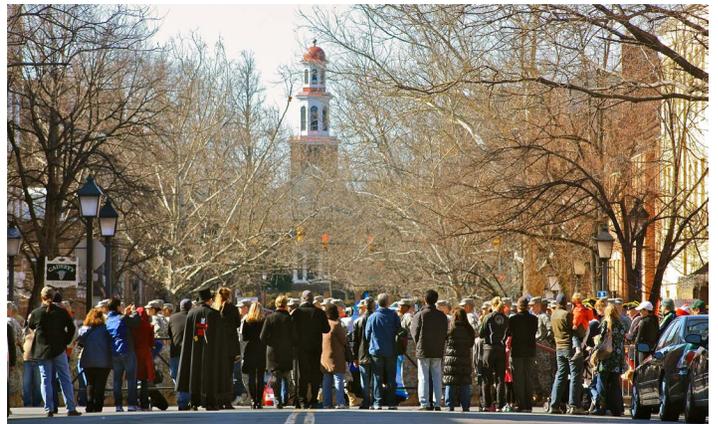
One of our Thursday volunteers in the food pantry is Evangeline. She is confined to a wheelchair but comes every week and is a real presence. Before we bring the clients in to shop we hold hands and someone offers a prayer. Sometimes after the prayer Evangeline breaks out in song and sings for us, acapella, a few verses of a spiritual. It is amazing and sets us up for the day!

How has this ministry impacted and shaped your faith?

Taking part in the Lazarus Ministry helps me break through the noise, worries and fears of day to day life. God shows God’s face to me through my interaction with our guests and the other dedicated volunteers. Sometimes I drag myself to Christ Church and come away with a renewed spirit and a renewed desire to answer the Gospel call to serve others.

Join in the Parade

The George Washington Birthday Parade, that is, held on Monday, February 20! We will gather at Jefferson Court, near the intersection of Wilkes and Pitt streets. Fellowship from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. Parade line-up at 12:30 p.m. and it begins at 1:00 p.m. Children, youth, and kids at heart of all ages are invited and encouraged to participate. Let us know that you want to march by emailing the Rev. Heather VanDeventer, hvandeventer@ccalex.org. See you at the parade!



Diocese of Virginia Convention Update

By Susan L. Hahn, vestry member

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia's 222nd Convention was held at the Hyatt Reston the last weekend of January, attended by Christ Church delegates, tellers and registered visitors.

Among key resolutions, "Health Care for the Poor" endorsed "legislative efforts to guarantee adequate health care and insurance for all people of the United States", particularly urging the Legislature and Governor of Virginia "to extend wider health care coverage in Virginia through Medicaid and other appropriate measures, especially to people of limited means." This resolution specifically referenced both Scriptural commands to care for the poor and the sick and previous resolutions on this topic by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. A second key resolution passed requests updating Virginia guidelines for maternity and family leave which had not been revised for more than 25 years. The update advocated broadens family leave benefits including paid leave for adoption as well as birth, for secondary care takers of new children, and for family in aging and illness and to extend the benefits equally to clergy and lay employees employed by the Episcopal Church in this diocese. In addition, the resolution directs a letter from the Virginia Convention to

the Church Pension Group, the Episcopal Church's insurer, requesting this change. The resolution also requested the newly elected Virginia Deputation to the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church to frame a resolution embodying the same ideas for consideration at the next Virginia Diocesan Convention (November 4, 2017, Richmond) for presentation to the 79th General Convention to be held in July 2018. While the original sponsors of the resolution desired directing the implementation of such a program of benefits, such a change can only come through change of Virginia Canon (church law) and not by resolution and must proceed through a different process. The original resolution included sending a letter to the Virginia legislature embodying the same ideas. At the Resolution Committee's request, this action directed to bodies outside the Episcopal Church, was placed in a separate resolution for action. Both resolutions passed definitively.

In other action taken at Convention, Christ Church parishioners Cindi Bartol and Russ Randle were re-elected as deputies to national triennial Episcopal General Convention, which will occur next year, will be held July 5-13, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Janet Osborn, our immediate past Vestry Senior Warden, was elected to be on the slate of candidates for consideration as a member of the Trustees of the Funds, which manages the investments held on behalf of the Diocese and many parishes.



Rites of Passage

BIRTH

- Felix Denson

DEATHS

- Michael Bryant Hughes
- Hazel Spencer
- Jackie Bartholomew
- Dotty Dodson
- Carrie Fisher
- Tricia McCauley
- Susan Byrd
- Mark Frankena
- Lucinda Beckmann
- Mamie Woodford Denison
- Kim Greene
- Danny Woody
- Becky Hamill
- William "Ryan" Owens

WEDDING

- Hana Beckerle & Robert Pickle

BAPTISMS

- Sally Elizabeth Bailey
- Charlotte Walker Nguyen
- Harper Alicen Slifka
- Samuel Lloyd Bartlett
- Jane Page Jenkins
- Zoe Allen Merrifield
- Rowan Patrick O'Gara
- John Norman Khawam
- Alina Lillian Kinder
- Anya Marie Kinder
- Christopher Hawkins Lorenz
- Jacob Pearson Kelly

What are Your Dreams?

By Tom Hahn,
Chair, Stewardship Committee

The 2017 pledge campaign began last fall with a letter from Noelle. It forwarded a brochure highlighting just some of Christ Church's many ministries. We were then treated by ten parishioners ranging from long time members to youth who stood up at worship services to share their stories and dreams for an even more vibrant Christ Church. Their generous stewardship acts of contributing time and talent personally energized the campaign by sharing what Christ Church means to them, is doing for them and through them, and what their dreams are for our parish. They significantly endorsed the campaign's invitation to *Take a Step*.

Most specifically annual pledge campaigns invite us into the thankful stewardship act of prayerfully discerning a proportional amount from our God given treasure to be returned to spread the kingdom. When we report that amount with a submitted pledge

card we are being responsible stewards because we've: identified for our own budgets the amounts we've discerned to return for God's work; and also identified our portions of a total amount Christ Church can budget to affect the spreading of God's kingdom. These are reasons why we return treasure to God's church and why we submit pledges.

This year's campaign theme, *Take a Step*, very significantly encompasses a special call, which has been witnessed by our fellow parishioners'

sharing's. This special call asks for our dreams for taking Christ Church into being an even more vibrant Christian community. What are your dreams and what more can you contribute for those dreams?

Currently the campaign is not done because we know we've not received all of your pledges. Please submit them now. Take a Step. Then thank those who stepped up and inspired, including also Adrienne Wegner, Laura Rose, and Stratton Edwards who were particularly instrumental for this year's campaign.



TAKE A STEP

Sign Up Now for your Favorite Shrine Mont Camp

It's time to register for your favorite Shrine Mont Summer Camp. Choose from among a number of new and traditional options. Among the new options, you campers can express themselves at **Art Camp** working on projects in a variety of media. Campers are encouraged to express their individuality and creativity and learn how creativity can bring us closer to God while also enjoying all the usual camp activities—camp fires, swimming, games, singing and worship.

Music and Drama (MAD) is a high-energy camp focused on the preparation of a biblically based musi-

cal that features the unique talents of each performer. Campers make the musical their own by learning songs and movements and creating sets and costumes. In addition, we swim, hike, play games, worship and make life-long friends. The oldest session of high schoolers takes their show "on the road". Campers tour around the Shenandoah Valley performing their show, meeting enthusiastic audiences, and seeing a professional musical.

Enjoy the outdoors at **Explorers Camp!** Take time to explore the world around you; play in the dirt,

go hiking, camping, swimming, and canoeing! Learn how to take care of God's creation at camp and at home. Campers take time to look at everything a little closer, to see God in all they do. Campers also learn camping and outdoor skills—and have fun doing it all! Spend time outside and discover the world around you and the spirit within you!

Learn more about all the options and register for the one that fits your camper perfectly - there's even a **Family Camp**. Check it all out online at <http://www.shrinemontcamps.net/camp-descriptions.html>.

West End Lazarus Food Pantry Program Receives Bishop's Outreach Award

*Excerpt from the Award Nomination
Submitted From Region IV*

The West End Lazarus Food Pantry Program, which opened its doors at Church of the Resurrection on October 24, 2016, received the 2017 Bishop's Award for Outreach at the Diocesan Convention January 26. The Rev. Jo Belser of Church of the Resurrection and the Rev. Heather VanDeventer of Christ Church accepted the award on behalf of all those who make the new program possible.

The program provides food to hungry people in the West End of the City of Alexandria through the collaborative effort of all eight City of Alexandria Episcopal Churches, especially Christ Church, Grace Church, St. Paul's, and Church of the Resurrection, under the umbrella of Hunger Free Alexandria (HFA), with direct assistance from Alexandrians Living Ecumenically (ALIVE!) and Rebuilding Together Alexandria.

The food pantry hours of operation, Mondays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., is timed to compliment food pantries in other parts of the city and to provide food at a time when those who are employed can come by after working hours. In the nine weeks during 2016 that this new food pantry has been in operation, it fed 555 people in 161 families and the numbers continue to grow each week!

The volunteer hosts' mission is, "Feeding God's People." The food pantry is staffed by five teams of six people each from churches of three denominations: the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Community, and First Christian Church of Alexandria. The trained volunteers listen to the guests' expressed needs and the pantry's shoppers from Church of the



*Melanie Gray, Christ Church, Carolyn Abshire, St. Paul's and Goodwin House, Katie Noe, Goodwin House, Lynn Rohr, Grace Church, Julie Duke, Christ Church, Pierre Shostal, Immanuel on the Hill and Goodwin House, Julie Bruns, Immanuel on the Hill
Some of the financial counselor for West End Lazarus Ministry*

Resurrection work to obtain those items. As this ministry matures, its vision is to involve direct hands-on volunteers from other churches and Goodwin House to allow for an expansion of the program to additional days and times. Resurrection also expects to begin a community vegetable garden to support the pantry.

The establishment of the program responded to an analysis commissioned by the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network on food hardship in the City of Alexandria. It found that one in five Alexandrians, disproportionately children, are living in households struggling to make ends meet. Further, Alexandria was behind in organizing improved access to food assistance by both nonprofits and the local government.

A consortium of 30 local community leaders, churches, and nonprofit organizations created Hunger Free Alexandria (HFA) which meets monthly to strategize and act collaboratively to end hunger in Alexandria. Despite a number of food pantries in the City of Alexandria, the West End had no food assistance, yet the West End is the home of many of the City's low-income seniors and

immigrant families.

The pantry was established at Church of the Resurrection, the only church in the Beauregard Corridor on the West End of Alexandria, when space became available there due to relocation of the church's preschool. The church's priest moved a freezer into the space and began to ask its members to pray about what else would be needed to begin a food pantry there. HFA donated \$2,000 to initially stock a food pantry and moved a refrigerator to the space. The National Capital Area Food Bank pledged an initial grant of \$2,500. Christ Church designated the \$1,010 proceeds of a Music for Food Youth Concert benefitting HFA to the food pantry. Needed volunteers with expertise emerged and a training program was established for them. Significant donations to support the pantry service have poured in from a number of churches that hosted creative fund raising efforts including Fairlington United Methodist Church Preschool, Church of the Resurrection, Christ Church Alexandria, First Christian Church, a significant memorial gift to Church of the Resurrection and even a local Girl Scout Troop.