



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — June 22, 2022

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## Stories from Our Congregations

### Diocese of Newark represented at D.C. March For Our Lives

*By Chris Whitaker*

On Saturday, June 11, members of the Diocese of Newark attended the March For Our Lives in Washington D.C. It was an inspiring day with incredible people – young and old – people from around the country supporting an end to gun violence in our schools and our communities.

The group from the diocese traveled with more than 70 Lutherans and Episcopalians from throughout the state. The event was coordinated by Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry of NJ (LEAMNJ).

Churches represented were Christ Church, Short Hills; St. Stephen's, Millburn; Christ Church, Bloomfield & Glen Ridge; Redeemer, Morristown; and St. Peter's, Morristown. Bishop Hughes' husband, David Smedley, also participated.

*Chris Whitaker is Director of Communication, Outreach and Youth at Christ Church, Short Hills. He organized the Diocese of Newark's participation in this March.*

### Reflections on Newark's Rally Against Gun Violence

*By the Rev. Deacon Diane Riley*

Moved by sadness, anger and a feeling of helplessness, my husband Elven Riley and I got up the morning of Saturday, June 11 and joined over 100 advocates from the surrounding area for the March for Our Lives event held at Military Park in downtown Newark. We learned a lot and left inspired.

We heard from the Mayor of Montclair, Sean Spiller, who spoke about his very real fear for his two young children and their safety. As a teacher he also shared his concern for colleagues, his students, and the new and ever-present anxiety that comes with the everyday activity of going to work and school.

I was proud to be from New Jersey, where elected officials like Senator Robert Menendez and Congressman Donald Payne Jr. have a commitment to and a long history of sponsoring and voting on legislation to curb gun violence. I could not help but say "Amen" to Senator Menendez's comment "Every single mass shooting is the result of a policy failure. It's time we go beyond thoughts and prayer."

Even as New Jersey has some of the strictest gun laws in the country, I know we need to do more so I asked Congressman Payne what we could do. His advice was a little surprising but very sound: Align yourself with a national organization that is

working in other states, especially those surrounding New Jersey, with less restrictive laws and work to support that organization's efforts in any way you can. Sounds simple, but not what I expected.

Young people are our future. Remember when you believed you can change the world. High school student Maylyn Rodriguez knows that the groups of young advocates she works with will change the policies that will drastically reduce gun violence. In a passionate speech she spoke about holding elected officials across the country accountable. From her point of view, they cared more about who she loved and what she could or could not do with her body than protected her from harm.

Wear a bright and identifying tee shirt and you will make new friends. That is how we met Emily Barker from St. Paul's in Jersey City. We did not feel so alone. We left hopeful and energized by the commitment of people and their dedication for change and felt part of the change too.

*The Rev. Deacon Diane Riley and her husband Elven Riley are members of Grace Church in Madison.*

## Diocesan Announcements

### Convention offering to aid Cross Roads and Ukraine

The offertory collection from the 148th Annual Diocesan Convention held at Calvary Church in Summit was split equally between our camp, Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, and Episcopal Relief and Development's efforts towards the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Diocesan Council voted to designate these two recipients prior to Convention. The total offering collected was \$5,548.21. Two checks of \$2775 are being delivered to these two organizations this week.

## Clergy ministry transitions

### Ordinations

- **June 14: The Rev. Danielle Baker** to the Priesthood

### Arrivals

- **June 12: The Rev. Sharon Hausman** Priest-in-Residence, St. John's, Boonton

## Episcopal House summer closings

**Summer Fridays:** From July 1 through Aug. 26, Episcopal House will close for the weekend at 1 PM on Fridays.

**Independence Day:** Monday, July 4 is a Federal holiday and Episcopal House will be closed in observance.

**Week before Labor Day:** All members of the Bishop's staff are using their vacation time to take off the week of Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, closing Episcopal House until Tuesday, Sept. 6.