

## **Saving Lives, Ending Gun Violence Report**

Saving Lives, Ending Gun Violence is a ministry including members from our diocese and beyond seeking to faithfully respond to the epidemic of gun violence in our nation and commonwealth. Our ministry intentionally includes leaders from other faith traditions. We meet once a month via zoom to work together on five areas of focus: prayer, advocacy, formation, liturgy and children/teens.

Prayer Circle: Our prayer circle team faithfully prays for any individual or congregation impacted by gun violence. This ministry is led by Mr. Don Baldwin. If you would like to submit a name for prayer, please contact Don at **[dwbduke74@yahoo.com](mailto:dwbduke74@yahoo.com)**

Advocacy: Through the enactment of sensible and effective legislation, we believe Pennsylvania can take concrete steps to reduce the illegal trafficking of handguns and unsafe use of guns. We recognize that our Commonwealth is a place where many enjoy the recreational use of firearms through hunting, target shooting and gun clubs. We also recognize the choice of many to own handguns out of a sense of personal safety in their homes. Our advocacy ministry supports the key areas of legislative change as identified by the five Episcopal Bishops in their February 23<sup>rd</sup> letter "With One Voice: Seeking Peace in Our Commonwealth" These key areas include:

One Handgun A Month limitations  
Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO)  
Prohibition on sales/possession of assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines  
Prohibition on sales/possession of ghost guns

Advocacy efforts have included meetings with local legislators, letters to the editor and days of action organized at the Capitol. Previous events included a press release with Bishop Audrey at the Capital on March 3<sup>rd</sup> sharing the letter she co-authored with the other PA bishops focusing on shared legislative action to end gun violence. Members of Saving Lives, Ending Gun Violence also attended and supported the March for our Lives event at the Capital on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bishop Scanlan and The Rev. Jennifer Mattson were interviewed together on "The Spark" to discuss these initiatives and the work of the larger committee.

**An upcoming two-day event is planned at the Capital on November 14<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>.** This day of action will include an interfaith prayer service on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a gathering of action and prayer at the Capital on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Rev. Martha Harris serves as the chair of our advocacy ministry. If you would like to learn more or volunteer with this ministry, please email Rev. Martha at **[marthaharris314@gmail.com](mailto:marthaharris314@gmail.com)**

Formation: We seek to support congregations in our diocese who would like to learn more about ending gun violence in PA. We have compiled resources and have leaders

willing to offer presentations and help with formation efforts in congregations. Committee members have spoken with convocation convenors and at convocation meetings about these resources. If you are interested in learning more or would like to receive materials to use in your congregation, please contact The Rev. Anne Flynn at [flynnanner@gmail.com](mailto:flynnanner@gmail.com) or The Rev. Barbara Seras at [maxthecat.bjs@gmail.com](mailto:maxthecat.bjs@gmail.com)

Liturgy: This group seeks to provide liturgical resources and support for worship services and community gatherings. They also provide a prayer to begin each of our meetings. An interfaith service to end gun violence was held last September at the Cathedral. A second interfaith service is planned for November 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating or learning more, email The Rev. Dr. Amy Welin, Dean of the Cathedral, at [adwelin@gmail.com](mailto:adwelin@gmail.com)

Children and Teens: Children and teens are living with the impact of gun violence every day they walk into a school. This group seeks to empower children and teens to co-participate in the effort to end gun violence. Previous events have included a Day of Peace at St. Edward's and a Community Cook-Out for Gun Violence Awareness featuring children's games, music and art. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please email The Rev. Jennifer Mattson at [jennifer.e.mattson@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.e.mattson@gmail.com)