



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT TO 2019 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Episcopal Home

What a wonderful summer we had in Shippensburg!

We have had three Diocesan groups visit – Appalachian Camino, Harrisburg convocation youth, and Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill, Outreach Committee. These visits are good for keeping the Home in the minds and hearts of others in our diocese. The Appalachian Camino group numbered in the twenties, and stayed at St. Andrew's, Shippensburg, and showered at the Episcopal Home. We had a great tie with this group, visiting and experiencing the uniqueness of the EH.

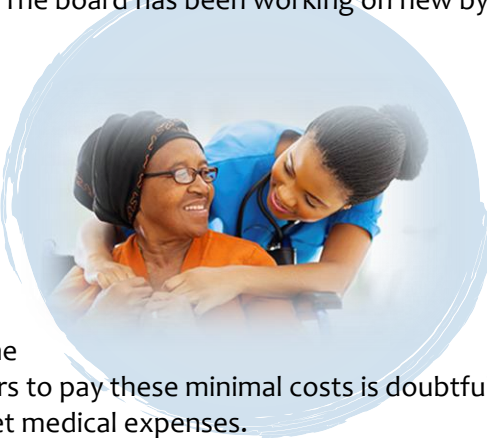


The Harrisburg Convocation Youth participated in aging sensitivity exercises. Afterward, they helped out with chores on the EH property, then celebrated Eucharist and a healing service with Mother Barbara and residents. In the afternoon, they engaged residents in a lively game of table bowling. "I didn't think it would be like this," exclaimed one smiling youth. I took that as a sign of a day well spent. Mt. Calvary's Outreach Committee made quick work of painting a second-floor hallway and ceiling. They were here for two days and seemed to genuinely enjoy their time with us.

We celebrated Episcopal Home Sunday on August 4th throughout the diocese and had a bump up in donations. This worker had the opportunity to speak at St. Stephen, Thompsontown on that day and it was nice to see familiar and new faces. No matter where I go there seems to be a renewed interest in the EH and aging in general.

Board leadership is the best it has been in some time. A clear and concise picture of the work that needs to be done is understood by all the board members. The board has been working on new by-laws and is organized to market and fundraise for the EH.

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is a program offered free of charge as the Episcopal Home has received a grant to provide assistance to aging members and their families who are searching for ways to assist an aging individual to receive care at home. It includes the costs of a trained facilitator who is present during the meeting and the costs of a coordinator to arrange to have all of the necessary people attend and participate in the meeting. The ability for the aging individual and his or her family members to pay these minimal costs is doubtful because disposable income is usually used for out-of-pocket medical expenses.



There are a number of things that make the EH unique. For instance, we provide transportation with out charge for residents needing rides to medical appointments, and we coordinate their medical appointments for them. We also provide rooms to people who cannot pay the full rate, and do extensive fundraising to help defray the costs. In addition, the Home is attached to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. We provide a chaplain to care for residents' spiritual needs.

Please understand that there is no resident at the Episcopal home who could live on his or her own. Their needs are significant, and in some instances, there is no one left in their families to assist them. The Episcopal Home is a resource that is vital to these individual residents. Unfortunately, public sources for funding such as Medicare, Medicaid and SSI help with medical co-pays, but are insufficient to cover the costs housing, personal care, medication, and other out-of-pocket expenses.

This year's resolution is asking you to consider building a relationship with our Episcopal Home residents. A relationship that, with time and genuine interest, will be a benefit to you, the members of our diocese, as well as our EH residents. I guarantee you will not regret your time spent in Shippensburg!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grace Shearer, MSW
Executive Director

