

Rector's Note

10.15.26

Last Thursday a few St Martin's folks attended [Need-in-Deed's](#) annual Soirée fundraiser. We saw many of the teachers we have met when observing classes and at the spring Shout Out where students show off their year-long projects. We heard stories from four different teachers about how their students were transformed by their service learning projects. We met others interested in supporting public education. And one of us won a raffle basket!

Need-in-Deed was founded by three St Martin's members. Forty years later, it has grown significantly while staying true to its original mission.

On Monday, I attended the opening of the [Center for Courageous Women of Faith](#), an exhibit housed in the old St Paul's/Episcopal Community Services building on 3rd St downtown. The exhibit tells the stories of the [Philadelphia Eleven](#) and [Bishop Barbara Harris](#). The Philadelphia Eleven were the first eleven women ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church in 1974, two years before women's ordination was authorized by General Convention. The ordination took place at Church of the Advocate, presided over by three retired bishops. Barbara Harris was the first woman ordained as a bishop in The Episcopal Church and also the first woman bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The exhibit took three years of planning by lay and ordained leaders in this diocese, with collected artifacts from several sources. There were several speakers at the opening, including Bishop Gutiérrez, the filmmaker who made a documentary about the Philadelphia Eleven, and a representative from Episcopal Divinity School, where two of the eleven women priests worked as professors for many years.

It has been a week of inspiration from the past and present! We have much to be proud of and reflect upon, as a parish and as a member of this diocese.

If you want to know more about the Center, click on the link in this article. If you'd like to know more about Need-in-Deed and how to get involved, reach out to me or to Barbara Dunden or Nikki Wood.

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