

Gateway Interview Continued

2. Have there been any new initiatives or developments in the ministry to Gateway over the last year?

Rich: We have been so blessed over the last year. Ms. Joann Telfair at Gateway is extremely passionate about providing as much access as ethically possible to the residents in spreading the Good News of our Lord. We are given access to visit anytime for any event or meeting. We have led prayer for Gateway's New Year's Eve all day speaker event. We have baptized congregants in front of all the residents in moments that are filled with the Holy Spirit. Leanne Boyle (Good Shepherd) started bringing crosses with the Lord's Prayer and they are gone within minutes.

I mentioned the overwhelming request for Bibles from Gateway to my mentor, Barbara Stevenson. The very next time I saw her, she had a car filled with Bibles that Fr. Charlie Holt had donated from St. Mark's, Jacksonville. Our Christmas Day Service was packed with joy. It was the day that I first became a Godparent and Sponsor for a young lady who chose to be baptized by Fr. Allison.

3. I understand some of the ministry team to Gateway commits to a monthly Sunday service. I understand also that you have started committing to Gateway on a weekly Sunday basis. How were you led to step up your commitment to Gateway?

Rich: Initially, our ministry consisted of a once-a-month church service. We routinely received requests for a weekly service. Once a month was a tough commitment at the beginning, but as the strength of our group grew due our learning and participation in the Bishop's Institute along with our other ministries including being Lay Eucharistic Visitors, we started to consider doing more.

As I waited to discuss our progress with Ms. Telfair the Administrator in August 2023 at Gateway, I had a surprising encounter with a friend that inspired me to commit to a weekly as opposed to a monthly church service--- which I did that day. Since that time, all of our volunteers have led the service. We have also been asked to pray for individuals before and after the service. It is hard to truly explain how glorious some of these moments are that we have all shared. We never know when they will happen, but they happen.

4. What are some of the needs for this ministry that we can all support, e.g. money? Bibles? Literature? Man hours?

Rich: Bibles and crosses are constant requests. We are producing a unified Gateway Church Service bulletin. We have placed requests for new clothes and hygiene items in the bulletin at Good Shepherd and the response was overwhelming going into the holidays. We would love it if other churches in the Diocese would do so as well. I am happy to be contacted for more information.

5. More specifically about prayer: any specific intercessory prayer requests focused on Gateway we could be included in as we all and each say our prayers or as a request to intercessory prayer groups in our church?

Rich: The Gateway church service was restarted and has grown based on answered prayers. We are grateful for all prayers for our partners at Gateway and our congregants.

Bishop Scott Benhase, preaching at Deacon Teri Calinao's recent wonderful Ordination, mentioned the need 'to receive in order to give to others'. Deacon Teri had served at Gateway too before my time. In a way, I feel I am carrying the torch she gave me per the bishop's sermon. So, there are two specific prayer requests that I have for our ministry. One is for the healers. I pray that they may receive Godly guidance, serenity and love in their mission of healing. The second request is for each person in our congregation to receive in their hearts the grace that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gives us. As we sing at the end of our church service, His Grace is Amazing.

Peace and Love,

Rich