



EPISCOPAL LUTHERAN ALLIANCE

ELA

Tough Times, Tough People
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



We believe that collaboration is critical to community redevelopment.
We believe in sustainable economic development.

We provide programs, resource mobilization, and community organizing
that help strengthen and empower our communities.

We are helping fight economic inequality
as we focus on the least, the lost, and the left out!

7507 Kelly Street Homewood South Pittsburgh, PA 15208
elallianceinc.org staff@elallianceinc.org
412.242-8660

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| Letter From the President/CEO..... | page 4 |
| Letter From the Chair of the Board of Directors..... | page 5 |
| ELA Impact..... | page 6 |
| ELA Donors..... | page 13 |
| ELA Community Partnerships..... | page 15 |
| ELA Board of Directors..... | page 16 |
| ELA Financial Report..... | page 17 |

Tough Times, Tough People
Serving the Community TOGETHER



7507 Kelly Street
Homewood South
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

website: elallianceinc.org
email: staff@elallianceinc.org
Phone: 412-242-8660



Tough Times, Tough People

Dear Friends:

We began the year 2020 with expectations of honoring 145 years of ministry for the Church of the Holy Cross. Celebrations were planned, ministry programs activated, community events were underway, and then in March 2020, everything came to a complete halt as we were thrown into a pandemic that swept the world. We were attacked by that deadly coronavirus called Covid-19. Our daily lives and routines came to an abrupt stop. Businesses were shuttered, schools and churches closed, people lost jobs, were hungry and homeless; and hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters around the world lost the lives to the invisible terrorist.

This year's annual report could be entitled "ELA: The Pandemic Years and How We Survived." As a 501c3 non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization, the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance was founded to assist the Historic Holy Cross Episcopal Church with community and grassroots organization. In less than one year, in the midst of a global pandemic and with limited staffing, ELA and her donors were blessed to provide ministry opportunities and assistance for the membership Holy Cross and the Homewood community.

ELA's mission is simple – to rebuild communities, one block at a time and to build bridges of Hope as we serve both Lutheran and Episcopal churches; helping them with grassroots and community organizing. The Covid-19 pandemic threw us headlong into providing "A New Hope" for our community that now lives day-to-day in the uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring. But we still endeavor to face trials and tribulations with hope and to advance the community spirit of Homewood and beyond; and to capture the social justice ideals undergirding the partnerships established by the Historic Church of the Holy Cross.

This Annual Report provides a look at the continued impact and progress we have made together, even in the midst of a global pandemic. As our gracious donors, volunteers, and sponsors, you have helped to make these accomplishments possible. We are grateful to have such supportive partners, and we are thankful for the financial and moral support you have given to ELA.

Notwithstanding the continuing challenges we face, we are confident, with the continued support of our partners we will succeed in carrying out our mission. Tough times create tough people.

Rev. Torrey O. Johnson
President and CEO, Episcopal Lutheran Alliance

7507 Kelly Street
Homewood South
Pittsburgh, PA 15208



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Dear Friends of ELA,

Holy Cross has a strong history of overcoming challenges with grit and fortitude recalled in my book: *Climbing Mountains, Crossing Rivers*. Holy Cross' way of providing for ministry during tough times is well-documented and in this ELA annual report you will see the tenacity of this faith community bearing witness to our history of met challenges.

As a secular based organization, the mission of ELA is:

"To be a visible sign of the holy, to rebuild a sense of community, break down barriers that separate people, and to enable all to experience the hope of a more promising and more equitable future."

In living out our purpose statement, ELA responded to the tremendous challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, by implementing three funding efforts to meet the intensifying needs of a community already distressed:

- ▶ received a grant to raise awareness about economic/income inequality by creating a mobilization campaign featuring virtual meetings at locations in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to engage participants in a discussion of economic inequality and its effects on the quality of life of certain ethnic groups;
- ▶ wrote a grant proposal to address food insecurity and purposeful land grant usage, creating an Urban Farm Initiative;
- ▶ developed policy on benevolence to address anonymity of program recipients – the act of receiving and hand-up, not a hand-out.

Sincerely,

Leon L. Haley

Leon L. Haley, Ph.D.
Chair, ELA Board of Directors



Tough Times, Tough People The Impact

The outreach ministry of ELA seeks to reflect – in action and service – the compassion and love of God to those in need and who must be empowered to engage in the process of community development. Despite living through the Covid-19 pandemic, ELA implemented and sponsored over 10 community outreach programs and initiatives which were featured throughout social media, print media and television coverage, serving over 400 persons – youth and adults.

★ Be the King: Gun Buy Back Event

We honored the Apostle of Non-Violence the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1st Annual Homewood Community Gun Buy Back. Be: The King Event! – in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, Police Chief Scott Schubert, the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance, and Homewood Ministries.

“Be the King: Annual Gun Buy Back Day – Practicing Non-Violence is Priceless” event featured music, refreshments and the buy back of firearms up to \$100 per gun surrendered – no questions asked! There was overwhelming participation and the event ran out of funds just 45 minutes into the event. Even after the money was gone, people were still streaming in the doors to drop off their firearms and others came to the church with money to give toward the gun buyback. There were almost 150 guns surrendered, including 104 handguns and 42 rifles – two of those were AR-15s.



★ OnCyber4Christ Media Ministry

During the pandemic, the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance contributed substantial resources to enable the Church of the Holy Cross to expand its virtual ministry – OnCyber4Christ – investing in audio/video technology to provide livestreams of vital worship opportunities including: Sunday worship services, Bible studies, Compline prayer services, funerals and memorial services all made available online through our website, Boxcast and ZOOM. We are viewed in more than 23 states and four countries with over 10,130 total views of 1,341 are unique individual households. We are technically unmatched by any other parishes in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

★ New Hope Rising Radio 1630AM

We installed an AM radio tower – “New Hope Rising Radio 1630AM broadcasting within 15 miles of Holy Cross; far exceeding the original range of 5 miles within Homewood.

Online and Virtual Ministry Opportunities Supported by OnCyber4Christ Resources

TUNE IN SUNDAY MORNING @ 10:30am

CHURCH ONLINE

FROM ON CYBER4CHRIST historichcpa.org

Bible Conversations

Join the Study Weekly
Saturdays @ 11:30am
on ZOOM

Thursday evening @ 7:30pm
New Hope Rising Live
historichcpa.org

EVENING COMPLINE PRAYER

A Caravan of Giving
THE STORY OF THE MAGI

ADVENT 2020 BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
MICROSOFT TEAMS

★ AYB Online Summer Enrichment Program

We successfully conducted an online summer enrichment program featuring classes in music (steel drums and harmonica), video and website development, drone flight operation, home and community gardening and civic engagement with local leaders, and with the United States Air Force Thunderbirds (a first time, online event for them in the black community). We safely delivered breakfast and lunch to all students at their homes (no other local summer program personally delivered meals to the youth and their families).



★ Annual Movie on the Lawn



Attendees were invited to celebrate the life of the late actor Chadwick Boseman at Movies on the Lawn. The comedy "Uncle Drew" was also screened on the lawn in a socially-distanced event. Snacks were made available with safe, car-side service.



★ Share the Bounty Community Garden

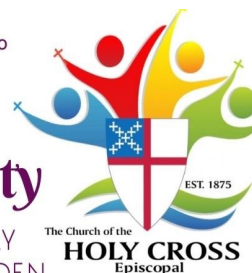


We instituted "Share the Bounty" offering free, fresh vegetables every Friday – grown in the Holy Cross garden – delivered in a safe curbside system, on a first-come, first-served basis.

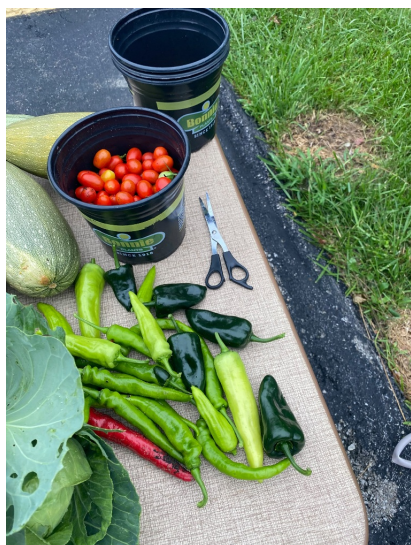
"And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." - Luke 3:11

Share the Bounty

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY GARDEN



Every Friday, 9AM - The Church of the Holy Cross, located at 7507 Kelly Street, Homewood, will share its community garden weekly crop pull with our neighbors! Please visit our curbside sharing table. One bag per person, while supplies last.



The Church of the Holy Cross
Rev. Torrey O. Johnson, Priest In Charge
7507 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh PA 15208
(412) 242-3209
Visit Us! www.historichcpa.org



★ Annual Festival of Lights/Caravan of Giving Christmas Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway

In partnership with the Homewood Ministerium, Rodef Shalom Congregation, Pittsburgh Police Department Zone 5, and the Church of the Holy Cross presented its 4th Annual Tree Lighting and Toy Giveaway. The virtual tree lighting was webcasted and featured music and a Hannukah presentation by Rabbi Aaron Bisnos of Rodef Shalom Congregation in Pittsburgh.

The Drive Thru Toy Giveaway had holiday-decorated vehicles traveling through the streets of Homewood — delivering toys to deserving families in the community.
<https://www.facebook.com/100023836085520/videos/pcb.880300679441127/880299619441233>



MEDIA COVERAGE

ELA community service projects and events were published in local Pittsburgh local newspapers, featured on local radio, and in numerous appearances on local, national and international television outlets.


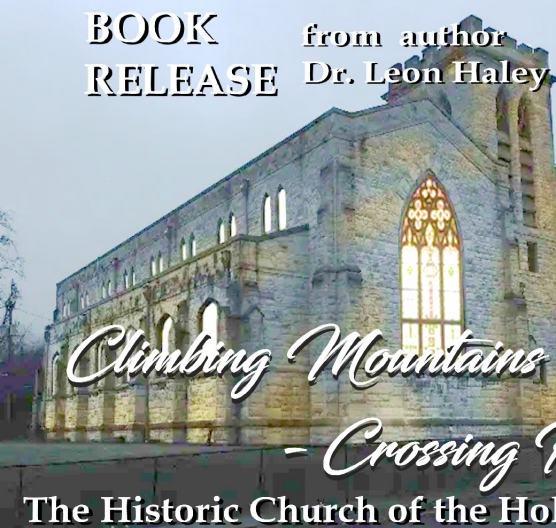
^{NEW}
Pittsburgh Courier



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



BOOK RELEASE from author **Dr. Leon Haley**

*Climbing Mountains
- Crossing Rivers*

The Historic Church of the Holy Cross

A beautifully written narrative of the 145 year history of The Church of the Holy Cross. The author details the church's beginning as a small mission in the Hill District called St. Cyprian's to its current parish location in Homewood. The book captures the evolution of the church from the Post-bellum period, Great Depression years, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and even the current pandemic.

\$25
per person donation

Reserve your autographed copy today! All proceeds benefit Holy Cross

Call 412-242-3209

CELEBRATING 145 years

In Celebration of Black History Month

SOUNDS OF SOUL WINTER CONCERT

with
Howie Alexander and the Jazz Trio

**Saturday
February 29
4pm to 7pm**

\$25
per person donation



**An Evening of
Fun Food Fellowship**

Church of the Holy Cross
7507 Kelly Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
historichcpa.org 412-242-3209

CELEBRATING 145 years

Summer Enrichment Program for Youth Ages 13 -18
June 29 - August 7, 2020
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 2:00pm

ACT YOUR BEST

FREE Online Enrichment Activities Include:

- Aviation and Drone Craft Instruction
- Music Instruction (Harmonica & Steel Drums)
- Video Production
- Environment Projects: Urban and Home Gardening
- Civics
- Mentorship
- Youth Peer Ministry
- Daily Breakfast and Lunch Delivery

Register Today – Enrollment is Limited to 20 youth
Call: 412-242-3209 www.elallianceinc.org

The Church of the Holy Cross
7507 Kelly Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

ACT YOUR BEST Enrichment Program is sponsored by

ELA

CELEBRATING 145 years

Join us Virtually @ historichcpa.org/new-hope-rising-live
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020

The Historic Church of the Holy Cross

Family and Friends Day



CELEBRATING 145 years

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Watch Night and Prayer Service

ON OUR KNEES

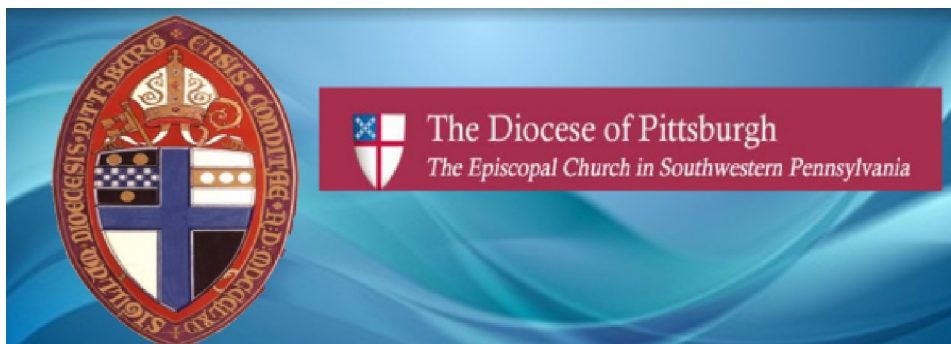
DECEMBER 31 11:30PM IN ZOOM

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR





Tough Times, Tough People The Donors



MAJOR DONORS

The Right Rev. Dorsey McConnell - Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

The Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow - Bishop, Southwest Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

The Church of the Holy Cross, Episcopal

Calvary Episcopal Church

Representative Edward Gainey

State Senator Jay Costa

POISE Foundation

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Rev. Torrey O. Johnson

School Board Member Sylvia Wilson

Martha Shelby

Dr. Leon Haley, Sr.

Dr. Leon Haley, Jr.

Glenda Mayo

Rev. Jared and Cynthia Jackson

Dr. Wayne Walters

Prof. Dave Walker

Donalda Booker

Eunice J. Obeng

Linda E. Few

2020 ELA Community Partnerships

The Food Program Division of Citiparks—GrubUp Pittsburgh
After-School Feeding Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Afro American Music Institute, Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Zone 5 Police Department

2020 ELA Community Engagement Proposals and Inquiry Submissions

University of Pittsburgh's Community Engagement Center
in Homewood

Pittsburgh School Superintendent Office

Heinz Endowment

PNC Bank Community Foundation

SWPA Ethel Verney Foundation

ELCA Hunger Grant

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

PACE (Program to Aid Citizens Enterprise)

ALCOSAN

Boy Scouts of America



Tough Times, Tough People

Board of Directors

Dr. Leon L. Haley, Sr.
Chair of the Board

Dr. Leon Haley Sr. is the past President of the Urban League of Pittsburgh. He serves as Professor Emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh where he has taught Non-Profit Management for over two decades.

Rev. Torrey O. Johnson
President & Chief Executive Officer

Rev. Torrey O. Johnson is the Priest-in-Charge of the Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal, He is an ordained ELCA Lutheran pastor and is Chaplain Major serving in the U.S. Air Force with the 911th Air Wing in Pittsburgh.

Martha Shelby
Secretary

Martha Shelby is the Assistant Vice President of Key Bank. Throughout her banking career, she has managed over \$200 million in business assets. She is a member of the Church of the Holy Cross Vestry serving as Junior Warden.

Glenda Mayo
Treasurer

Glenda Mayo is a Pittsburgh retired educator, who with her husband, the late Dwight Mayo, started the first logistical transportation company owned and operated by African Americans in Pittsburgh.

Oliver T. Jackson

Oliver Jackson is a retired Port Authority driver. Since 1990, he has been owner of OT Jackson Realty. Oliver is a member of the Church of the Holy Cross Vestry.



Tough Times, Tough People Financials

Every step and every dollar matters. In 2020, ELA raised \$60,198 in support of community outreach initiatives and benefitted from over 7,000 hours of volunteer community service hours. In accordance with IRS reporting requirements, ELA's annual report is published after all IRS requisites have been met and accepted.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenses | |
| Administration | \$17,206.00 |
| Sponsored Programs | \$37,512.00 |
| | \$54,718.00 |
| In-Kind Service Donations | |
| Priest-in-Charge | \$15,000.00 |
| Thrivent | \$500.00 |
| Senior Warden | \$4,200.00 |
| | \$19,700.00 |
| Donations | |
| Diocese Grants | \$20,000.00 |
| Parish Donations | \$5,498.00 |
| Community Grants | \$15,000.00 |
| | \$40,498.00 |

Net Donations for 2020: \$60,198

Financial statements prepared by:
Henry K. Mitchell, CFE CPA

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Financial Policy: Benevolence
Adopted: April, 2018

Benevolence Policy of the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance

This policy seeks to affirm all who are marginalized and are given to the social conditions of economic inequality. In the Bible and in historic Christianity, almsgiving was the act of filling a material need for someone less fortunate, usually by giving money. God incorporated the concept of alms into the Mosaic Law when He ordered land-owners to leave to the poor the corners of the fields (Leviticus 19:9-10), and every seventh year, leave the entire field (Exodus 23:10-11). In churches today, "alms" often go by the name love offering or benevolence fund.

Giving money directly to the poor is an old and respected tradition. In Acts 10, the Gentile Cornelius's faithful almsgiving brought him to the attention of God who sent Peter to share the gospel with him. In Matthew 6, Jesus warns against giving alms ("giving to the needy") for the purpose of getting attention, as it is an act of worship to God. As such, and in this vain, it is ELA's principle of providing for a non taxable gift/honorarium to the least, the loss, and the left out. Those who receive benevolence from ELA will, in return, be asked to provide for some form of community service or volunteerism within ELA's various community outreach programs. This will be seen as an outward sign of God's affection and grace. Further, this benevolence practice to those who are marginalized and impacted by the injustices of financial insecurities will find themselves feeling like they have been given a hand up and not a handout. In context of the above, community service will therefore not be seen as a punishment or condition of servitude but only as a guide and standard practice by this body.

