

MANY RIVERS MINISTRY

Many Rivers Ministry has the goal of addressing the effects of injustice and poverty in the world around us, and in so doing be the "face of Christ" in our community. The group is a further development of our parish's response to the Baltimore riots back in 2015. The name was chosen to indicate there are many ways in which our congregation can address the social needs of our community and the larger community around us, all in the context of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. This will be done using a three-pronged approach:

1. **Educate ourselves to the issues, with follow-on discernment as to appropriate actions to take.** This will start with a series of six Adult Forums from October 7 through November 11 (Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall – nursery available). The Forums will educate parishioners on the problems being experienced by residents of Anne Arundel County. The aim will be to give a broad view of the facts and show where the issues are most prevalent, and to find out what people would particularly like to be involved in. *Contact: Bill Thomas, willyumsp@yahoo.com*
 - Forum I: Introduction
 - Forum II: Demographics of Poverty in AA County.
 - Forum III: Housing & Homelessness
 - Forum IV: Health & Mental Health
 - Forum V: Substance Abuse
 - Forum VI: Integrate info and discern next steps for planning and action

2. **Take action in various ways:**
 - We will support legislative initiatives recommended by the Diocese. Planning will start in the fall. *Contact: Kris Chappell, chappell251@gmail.com.*
 - We will participate in a new local chapter of the Industrial Areas Foundation, a group that brings existing church, community, and non-profit organizations together to bring the power of numbers to bear on issues of common concern. The new chapter will be in place starting in October. *Contact: John Cullinane, jcullinane@jcaia.com.*
 - Other actions will be planned as a result of discernment during and after the Adult Forums.

3. **Continue to develop our ongoing relationship with our brothers and sisters at St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Annapolis.** St. Phillips is a traditionally black congregation, and they were kind enough to respond when we reached out in 2015 to try to establish real, person-to-person relationships that might help bridge the gap between the races. We have participated in the Diocesan anti-racist training course with them, and have had three book study groups: *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah, *Uprooting Racism* by Paul Kivel, and *Between The World And Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. There are more than 40 St. Martins parishioners who have participated in at least one of these activities. Plans are ongoing for more in the fall. *Contact: Wamahdri (Wadi) Williams, wwilliams@waeus.us.*

For further information:

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