

Addiction and Recovery Commission 2008

Progress, not perfection! That well-known recovery sentiment is something that the Addiction and Recovery Commission is beginning to understand through our service to the Diocese of West Tennessee. 2009 begins our fourth year as the latest incarnation of the commission, and the progress we are making is coming along nicely. We have celebrated recovery in a variety of ways and have almost doubled the number of people regularly serving on the commission this year.

On April 4th the Recovery Commission celebrated a 12-step Eucharist at Barth House Episcopal Center on the University of Memphis campus with Lucy Owens of Grace-St. Luke's giving the sermon. In May, three members of the Recovery Commission attended The Gathering, which is the national annual convention of the Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church. At The Gathering, held in New Orleans, Shannon Tucker of Calvary was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors representing the Diocese of West Tennessee.

In September we celebrated a 12-Step Evening Prayer service and hosted the Recovery Repertory Theater at Grace St. Luke's. Recovery Repertory Theater is a group of recovering thespians who, although are not affiliated with the Church, have a long relationship of entertaining and enlightening our minds with performances of plays and songs.

Several parishes across the diocese have answered the call to hold a Recovery Sunday this year including The Church of the Holy Communion, Grace-St. Luke's, Calvary and Holy Apostles, and on November 23rd the Recovery Commission held their own annual Diocesan 12-Step Eucharist and reception at St. Mary's Cathedral where The Rev. Andy Andrews preached. In December the commission created an informational pamphlet.

For 2009, we are working to develop a recovery education program to offer parishes in the Diocese. Our hope is to be able to offer a presentation for groups where commission members will talk to Sunday Schools, Youth Groups, Bible Studies and other diocesan organizations. We are continuing to strive for this idea of progress in the Diocese, with the next Recovery Sunday at St. Elisabeth's in the spring of 2009.

The commission is grateful to Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church Inc., who through a grant from the North Conway Institute will donate 50 copies of a booklet titled "Prayers In Recovery" to six state correctional facilities in West Tennessee. 2009 looks to be a growing year for the commission and we are grateful for the support we receive from the Bishop and Diocese.