

**Diocese of Virginia
Arlington Region - Region 3
October 2017 Annual Report**

There are seven Episcopal parishes and two Hispanic missions in the Arlington Region [Region III]. Each congregation is individually involved in a wide variety of community and outreach activities. It should be noted that there are approximately 60 churches in Arlington County and, with porous borders in this small geographic county, there are even more churches and congregations in nearby Alexandria, Fairfax and across the Potomac River in Washington, D.C.

Two Arlington Country/Region III events stand out in 2017:

St. George's hosted a Refugee Ministry Group meeting on Saturday, March 18. Over 200 folks were in attendance and learned about the rigorous screening, vetting and issues of documented refugees, which are quite different from the undocumented immigrants which we hear more about.

On March 25, 2017 parishes and missions in Arlington came together at St. Peter's/Arlington for a combined food packaging event with the Raleigh-based global headquarters of the RISE AGAINST HUNGER organization, formerly STOP HUNGER NOW. This was the second year in which Region III staged the event; more than 75 volunteers packed 10,000 individually-sealed packets containing long-grain fortified rice, high fiber soy and dehydrated vegetables, including a package of vitamins and minerals. Arlington Region will repeat this effort at least once in 2018, and may increase its participation to two separate events.

Other Arlington Region supported community events include the hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive every two months, which was last held at St. Peter's on October 10, and will be held at St. Andrew's on December 5.

Many Arlington Region congregations support and contribute to local organizations such as AFAC [Arlington Food Assistance Center] which serves Arlington residents. In addition to regular multiple-parish donations of canned and packaged foods to AFAC, St. Andrew's maintains a large garden tended by parishioners; each year it produces over two thousand pounds of fresh vegetables for AFAC. Related to AFAC food contributions, Sinclair Farm in Mt. Jackson [near Shrine Mont] sets up its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) facility at St. Andrew's each Thursday for CSA members from other Arlington parishes and community come to pick up weekly food shares; Sinclair Farm contributes excess produce to AFAC each week.

Finally, two other Arlington Region activities in which several of our parishes participate are (1) the five-times-a-week Meal-on-Wheels prepared meal delivery to over 175 clients in Arlington County, and (2) support for the Haiti mission.