

EPISCOPAL WOMEN IN OUTREACH

What is outreach?

- “the loving outreach of God to the world”

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Hands-on help to those in need
- 3) Monetary charitable donations
- 4) Career change focused on giving of time and talents to others
- 5) Selection of career as a call from God
- 6) Extending warmth and love to all whom you encounter in your daily lives
- 7) Development of assistive technology to those with disabilities
- 8) Online platforms to encounter and offer internet assistance to others
- 9) Concentrating on preserving the Earth’s resources
- 10) Minimizing consumption
- 11) Converting to renewable energy
- 12) Developing national and local governmental policies to reduce homelessness
- 13) Local participation in Habitat for Humanity and Dream-builders
- 14) Working to incorporate refugees and immigrants into our society
- 15) Ministries to Urban Youth,
Helping children of Prisoners or of families affected by drug use
- 16) Visitation to nursing homes and to elderly individuals living alone
- 17) Campus ministries and Summer Camp ministries
- 18) Generating awareness of societal needs via journalism and book publishing
- 19) Volunteer service requirements of school systems
- 20) Telephone ministries such as “Keeping in Touch”
- 21) Mental Health “Hotlines” & visits to those who are depressed or mentally ill
- 22) Educational services for preschoolers, for Non-English Speakers
- 23) Free legal services to low-income families
- 24) Health and preventive medicine services-
provided by County or Private Physician and Dental Practices
- 25) Music compositions and performances
focused on needs of oppressed peoples
- 26) Working to develop productive environments for our Native Americans
- 27) Ministries to patrol the streets to combat gun violence
- 28) Providing food and essential items to those in need
- 29) Mentoring schoolchildren and providing school supplies

Institutions centered on Outreach in the Episcopal Church

- Episcopal Relief and Development-
75% of staff and Board of Directors are Women
- United Thank Offering- since 1922-a women's ministry
- Office of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
- Individual Parishes with Community outreach, national and international
- Episcopal Church Women Grants -food banks throughout the country

Important Women in the Episcopal Church in Outreach

Faith Leaders

Right Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori- Presiding Bishop – international outreach- with past career in Oceanography- climate change and increase in poverty are interconnected

Right Reverend Kelly Brown Douglas-

Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary

-Writer of 5 books on racial issues

- numerous other women, who are on the Faculties of Episcopal seminaries

Leaders in Education- *Barbara Bush* -Family Literacy

Laura Bush-“Reach Out and Read”, “Ready to Read”, funds for public libraries

Leader in Healthcare-

Barbara Bush-“Bright Star” Leukemia Foundation, Board Member of AmeriCares and the Mayo Clinic,

Laura Bush- Advocate for research in Alzheimer's disease and Breast Cancer Awareness

Leaders in Philanthropy- Trinity Wall Street-

Cindy Jay- Chairperson of Witness and Outreach Standing Committee- in 2021 gave \$46 million in Grants

Leaders in Exploring the Universe- Kate Robbins- astronaut/scientist, Stanford and MIT graduate- daughter of a female Episcopal Priest and Married to the

Bishop of Northern California, Rt Rev Barry Beisner. Kate Robins was a microbiologist at USAMRIID and CDC- She sequenced DNA in space

Leaders in Combating Climate Change- Rev Canon Sally Bingham-environmental minister at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco-heads “Interfaith Power and Light” campaign- involves 14,000 congregations in 39 states to reduce use of fossil fuels-

Leaders in Social Justice- Sarah Eagle Heart- CEO “Return to the Heart Foundation”- funds for innovative Indigenous women led projects- focuses on investment in Native American communities

Lynnia Main- the Episcopal Church Representative to the United Nations- advocate for worldwide women’s rights

Leader in Addressing Child Abuse- Laura Bush-creating “Rainbow Rooms”- Providing emergency services to neglected and abused children in Texas, Also established “Adopt-A-Caseworker Program” for Child Protective Services

Leaders in Government-

20 members of the House of Representatives and 6 Senators are Episcopalians (unknown gender distribution) in 2018

In 2013, 8 female members of the House of Representatives were Episcopalians from 7 states

Bernadine Craft- a Wyoming State Senator and educator plus an Episcopal Priest as of 2014. Retired from her political career in 2016

This is certainly a snapshot of ideas and notable women in Outreach in the Episcopal Church. The vast number of people contributing are dedicated, hardworking members of individual congregations throughout the country and are not headlined in the media. (Episcopal parishes numbered 6,897 in 2019.) The largest Episcopal Church in the United States is St Martin’s Church located in Houston, Texas with over 9700 members. I’m certain that there is a substantial Outreach ministry at that parish.

