

A Word About Deacons

Each week we will have a submission from a deacon that will explore topics like what a deacon is, what they do, their history, and other stories.

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The Rev. Sandy Turner was ordained a Deacon on May 31, 2006. She currently serves at the Church of Our Savior in Martinez. The process began for Turner when she was teaching EFM. Deacon John Warner was one of her students and he encouraged her to explore the diaconate because she was also running a free clinic in the rural area and was a lay minister active in the church.

Her primary ministry as a Deacon is working with the underserved in inner city Augusta, the Harrisburg Community, but that ministry has taken a number of forms. She ran a free clinic in the community of Dearing for 20 years and, after closing that, offered her supplies to the clinic in Harrisburg. When they needed a nurse practitioner, she began serving in that clinic. Then when COVID hit, all of the doctors had to leave, so she has been there now for 2 years seeing patients herself. She also works with the food ministry through Christ Church in Augusta, which will soon be operating again with Saturday meals and monthly food pantry in Harrisburg neighborhood.



When asked to describe her ministry, Turner notes that she had been working with the underserved as a community health nurse since the 1970's and became a nurse practitioner in the 90's, opening a clinic in an area that had no health care, and mentoring students in that work. She has made ten trips to Peru, taking students to help with women's health. These activities have continued as her ministry and Turner has come to see her patients as peers, who bless her as much as her work blesses them. Offering a comfortable place where people can come with health questions and issues has given her purpose, focus, and fulfillment. She also served as the first Archdeacon for the Diocese of Georgia.

When asked what she would want people to know about being a deacon, Sandy says, "Bringing good to people in the community just means that you are willing to walk into people's lives even for a short time, to meet them where they are and to see them as equals. Many times it is as rewarding for you as it is for the people you serve."