



October 2013
Volume 86 Number 8

From the Clergy Associate

Human Trafficking: A Global as Well as Local Crisis

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4

On **Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 pm**, the League of Women Voters of Ridgewood will present **“Human Trafficking: A Global as Well as Local Crisis” at the Community Center of the Ridgewood Village Hall.**

Over the years organizations such as Anglican Women’s Empowerment, of which St. Elizabeth’s Priest Associate The Reverend Dr. Maylin Biggadike is an integral member, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the Presiding Bishop, have been working to raise awareness of this issue which affects all countries. Suburban communities like Ridgewood are not immune to the problems of human slavery and trafficking, which have reached crisis proportions all over the world.

Last February, The Huffington Post ran an article (“Super Bowl Is Single Largest Human Trafficking Incident in U.S.: Attorney General,” 2/23/13) investigating how the Super Bowl is one of the largest sites of trafficking of young men and women in the U.S. Because New Jersey will be hosting the Super Bowl in 2014, local human rights organizations and faith communities are striving to raise community awareness. In September the Justice Board of the Diocese of Newark joined with the NJ Coalition against Human Trafficking at the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ for training sessions focusing on mobilizing the local hospitality industry, protecting those at-risk, and public awareness and outreach.

At the Ridgewood presentation on October 10th, Kate Keisel, Director of the Polaris Project New Jersey, will be the guest speaker. For 12 years Polaris Project has been the only national grassroots organization which provides networking in order to identify and stop this problem of human trafficking. Ms. Keisel will explain the problems as well as the role of communities in helping to deter human trafficking activities.

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:3-4

The Rev. Joan F. Conley
Clergy Associate