



Volume 16 ■ Number 1 ■ Summer 2021

HAIRCUTS & BEARD TRIMS

Kathi Blanchard of Chatty Kathi's Hair Salon has been cutting hair for the inmates for over 15 years. A former chaplain, Deacon Tom Skemp, was a client of hers and he asked if she would be able to fill in for the barber who was going to take maternity leave. She's been coming to the jail ever since.

When asked what she has learned throughout the years, here was her response, "I have learned that people are creatures of habit, that most clients in jail don't like the path they've chosen but don't always know the way to change it. That my job is much appreciated there, not just by inmates, but also their families and their legal counsel, even by the jail staff."



Kathi Blanchard
Chatty Kathi's Hair Salon

Kathi treats each inmate/client with respect. Whenever she is cutting their hair or trimming their beard, she will ask them questions about themselves, where they are from, about hobbies, kids, any books they've been reading. She finds it surprises some of them that she doesn't give them a judgmental attitude.

It is valued by the jail staff that Kathi understands and follows all of the procedures keeping everyone safe. She has great skill in what she does and the inmates/clients are always approving of her high quality haircuts and beard trims. Our ministry is sure grateful to have Kathi working for us in providing these services.

LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

Harvey Witzenburg
President

Amy Jo Van Arsdall
Vice President

Marilyn Arndt, *Secretary*

Scott Curtis, *Treasurer*

Don Campbell, *Past-President*

Maureen Freedland
Past-President

Daniel Carlson

Dan Ferris

Sister Karen Flottmeier

Sally Kelsall

Al Louis

Christine Magnuson

Dee Paque

Angie Paul

Sister Nina Shepherd

Pam Squires

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

In 1984 Sister Mynette Gross and Father Bernard McGarty submitted a request to the State of Wisconsin for Articles of Incorporation for a new non-profit which would attend to the needs of inmates and their families. So began a strong La Crosse area tradition of helping inmates of the La Crosse County Jail move from a troubled past to a brighter future.

I am proud to be a part of this tradition. The many La Crosse Jail Ministry Board members over the years have been individuals committed to promoting a compassionate approach to individual dignity and spiritual direction. I thank them for their dedication to this task. As in years past, we have a strong Jail Ministry Board whose mission is to support the great work began in 1984 that has continued to this day.

I want to thank all the agencies and individuals who have given financial, emotional, and volunteer support to the Jail Ministry over the years. The work of the Jail Ministry would not be possible without that support. Thank you!

Harvey Witzenburg
President La Crosse Jail Ministry



WHY I SERVE ON THE LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY BOARD

Having been a volunteer at the La Crosse County jail for the past ten years, I was happy to be asked to be on the Jail Ministry Board. It has been during my volunteer hours that I came to recognize the struggles and pain that many inmates go through during these times in their lives. Their stories remind me of the need to be non-judgmental. I am quick to add, however, that I do not mean a free pass for committing a crime. What I mean is that their stories are often stories of abuse, lack of family, addiction issues, mental illness, and stories of physical and mental pain.

It is my hope that by being a member of the La Crosse Jail Ministry Board I will be able to make others in our community aware of the need to reach out to those in jail by offering some kindness and help, contributing to Jail Ministry, becoming a volunteer, and donating to items that are needed. It will allow me to become part of a group of concerned citizens who are striving to help and understand the dynamics of those who have made negative choices and help to lessen crime in our community.

Thomas Merton wrote: "I am obscurely convinced that there is a need in the world for something I can provide and that there is a need for me to provide it. True, someone else can do it, God does not need me. But I feel He is asking me to provide it."

Dee Paque
Roncalli Newman Church



CHAPLAINS' CORNER

NEW BEGINNINGS

It's hard to see people locked up. It's hard to see people having no control, not knowing where their stuff is or who has it, not being able to see family members that are sick, not being able to see their children or even their newborn babies. It's so hard to see and watch their journeys, journeys filled with so much loss and pain.

Yet our jail is not only helping to keep our community safe, it is providing a service. It is giving opportunities for people to sober up, to consider their actions, to get help, to get on medication, to get education, to get training, to set them up with community services and to connect them to their faith which is why we are here.

I have heard many reconsidering their choices and where they went wrong. I have heard them express remorse over the pain they have caused and are causing others. I have encouraged some with the words that the pain of this moment can be used to help them in the future make different choices. I have prayed with many that this will be a new beginning. I do so believe that the creator of the universe can recreate their lives. Please join me in this prayer for our many inmates.



Thankfully,
Ann Wales
Chaplain



VIDEO TO SHOW TO YOUR

FAITH COMMUNITY

We have created a video that gives a brief introduction to the La Crosse Jail Ministry. This video can be shown to your faith communities during services or other events. This video was created through the generosity, help, skill and expertise of Dan Wiese and the board is very grateful to him. You can find the video on YouTube by searching for La Crosse Jail Ministry.

Inmate Needs:

- Magazines (*hunting, fishing, car, men's health, People, Us, nature, sports, mechanical, technology or science are the most requested*)
- Paperback books only (*fantasy, westerns, post-apocalyptic, super-natural, science fiction, urban fiction, self-help, and non-fiction are the most needed*)
- Puzzles (*boxes and puzzles both have to be made out of cardboard*)

If you are interested in donating, please call or email Chaplain Ann at 608-785-9772 or Lacrossejailministry.chaplain@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

The jail administration has approved the start of Sunday Worship Services. The men will be divided into two services (6:00 p.m. start time) and the women one service (6:30 p.m. start time). Before volunteers will be allowed to serve, they will need to participate in training.

If you are interested in providing services for either the men or the women or both, please email the chaplain at awales@lacrossecounty.org. Include in the email the name of your faith community, the group (s) you'd like to serve and your phone number. The chaplain will then work with you to get you on the training schedule.

LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

P.O. Box 2675

La Crosse, WI 54602-2675

PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LA CROSSE WI
PERMIT NO. 234

Your gift is greatly needed!

Please cut and mail

La Crosse County Jail Ministry Gift Form—Your Support is Welcome!

Please consider helping Jail Ministry with a tax-deductible donation.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

YES, I would like to make a donation to Jail Ministry in the amount of:

_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

This gift is "in memory of" _____

This gift is "in honor of" _____

Plases make checks payable to:
Jail Ministry
P.O. Box 2675
La Crosse, WI 54602-2675