

## Outreach Report 2021

Cathy Baxter did an outstanding job this year leading the Outreach Committee. This committee is an active, hands-on group. Members are Elaine Barrow, Betsy Howard, Holly McClellan, Melanie Summerell, Linda Pounds, Richie Reid, Rick Wright, Sarah Ross, Mary Soule, Steven Vanderlip, Sean Finnegan, Gavin Dunbar and Martha Sullivan. I also want to thank Heather Harvey for all her help with emails, Facebook, and notifications.

The purpose of our outreach - We cannot earn God's approval by works. Our service must be done out of gratitude that God has met our needs. He met our needs, so we may focus on helping others in their needs. This will strengthen our faith as individuals and make for a healthier congregation that is not inwardly focused. Healthier congregations grow! We must have a strong sense of ourselves and be aware of our wider world. The reason for outreach- We are doing this for God.

St. John's partners with one outreach organization for three years. We are in the second year of partnering with Urban Hope – an after school and summer program that helps at-risk children from 1-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Due to Covid, Urban Hope did not allow for in person volunteering with the children. Melanie Summerell enlisted parishioners to record six devotional videos that were shown to the students at Urban Hope. In July, Richie Reid engaged forty parishioners ranging in age from young children to seniors to 50 back packs full of school supplies for Urban Hope. Lunch was provided and great fun was had by all! Urban Hope has now opened its doors to volunteers, so people interested in tutoring are greatly appreciated. We also hope to bring the students on a field trip to the Green Meldrim House for a scavenger hunt and art project this upcoming summer. Let the outreach committee know if you would like to participate in this summer event, tutoring or if you would like to volunteer at or attend Urban Hope's Chefs & Chocolates Fundraiser on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

P.A.C.K. (People of Action Caring for Kids) was our main focus for in person outreach this year. Volunteers met from 4:00-6:00 on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Betsy Howard coordinated the packing of food bags which were then distributed to schools and community centers for need children. This time was a great time for multi-generational fellowship and is an easy way to meet other parishioners. Several families committed to being at each PACK event setting a

wonderful example for our children and youth. Not only did the youth pack bags, they made inspirational cards to put in the bags. PACK has a clothing closet where foster children, trafficked children and at-risk youth can shop quarterly. St. John's has adopted the girls 6T closet and Elaine Barrow is leading this mission to keep it stocked with outfits. 6T clothing can be donated through her throughout the year. This past November, she created a "Fancy Nancy" Closet event where Steven Vanderlip with the help of many women of the church took the youth to Target to shop for outfits for these six year old girls. Sarah Ross and another group of wonderful ladies helped the children make blue ribbons to award their favorite outfits. They also arranged outfits from clothing previously donated to the closet. We will resume our Wednesday PACKing on January 20<sup>th</sup> and encourage one and all to join us.

Sean and Melanie Finnegan do a wonderful job heading up our quarterly collections which were school supplies, back packs, and winter coats for Urban Hope, snacks for PACK, and linens for the Fresh Air Home (a camp for underprivileged children). Look for these collections throughout the year via email and in the parish paper.

There was also a sewing and knitting outreach group. Martha Sullivan and Nita Ann Klein coordinated a group of volunteers who made pillowcases for the Fresh Air Home and Linda Pounds organized production of warm hats for sick children at Memorial. These ladies also made and distributed masks to our parishioners and to Episcopal school children in the Dominican Republic. If sewing is your passion, please get involved.

In order to stay connected with one another during Covid, Linda Pounds recorded videos of parishioners highlighting their volunteer work in the community. These videos can be found on our church website under the outreach. A few examples are Holly McClellan sharing her experience as a volunteer at Royce Reading Center, Bonnie Humphries speaking on Honor Flight, and David Crowley who spoke about his prison ministry work with Kairos. Because of his video, David recruited a group of volunteers to be a part of a prayer chain during this year's Kairos weekend at the local prison which was meaningful to all who participated. Our parishioners volunteer at many places in our community. We would like to thank everyone who reaches out to help the less fortunate. If you have a

volunteer organization you are involved in and other parishioners could be involved in, please let us know.

St. John's also supports many organizations financially including the Tiny Homes Project and donating 32 hymnals to a new Anglican Church in Canada - St. Thomas. The Women of St. John's supported (LIST ORGANIZATIONS) in 2021.

Cranmer Hall is also used for outreach. It houses The Children's School, a small-class preschool. It also is home to a Saturday morning alcoholic anonymous program.

The Outreach Committee is looking forward to many more volunteer experiences in 2022. Please join us! We post volunteer experiences in our church's weekly email and newsletter as well as post activities on Facebook. We are also open to your ideas. Please contact Cathy Baxter or any of our outreach committee members if you are interested in volunteering.

Martha Sullivan