

Grace Episcopal Church
Outreach Committee
Meeting Minutes
Sunday November 4, 2018

Meeting opened at 9:05 a.m.

I. Attendance

The Rev. Dr. Deborah White, The Rev. Walter Ramsey, Denise Hansen, John Lee, Chandra Damele, Pat Hambly, Connie Towey, Jennifer Sabroe, Leslie Kolesa

Absent: Nate Brooks, Beth Ilog, Dru Grissom

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting – Approved without changes

III. Subcommittee Reports

A) Kindness Kits

- (1) Discussion of this project has been deferred until January (see September meeting minutes).

B) Loaves and Fishes

- (1) Our team from Grace will not be serving on November 21. A corporate group has requested that day.
- (2) There is a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, November 14, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

C) Spirit of Giving

- (1) The project kicked off on October 21. All gift tags have been “adopted” for the 35 family members representing 12 families.
- (2) Deadline to turn in wrapped and tagged gifts is Sunday, November 25
- (3) As the deadline approaches, Jennifer and Dru will put out a call for volunteers to help with inventory, sorting and batching, and delivery to the CCIH office prior to December 2.

D) Downtown Grace

- (1) Victory Church visit. Denise reported on her attendance at an event hosted by Victory Church at the Loaves & Fishes dining room. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening they open the doors to people and participate in worship singing, praying, testimony, and ending with a meal. There was discussion of the value of exploring what other groups are doing to reach out to the homeless in our community, as we think about ways we are called to serve.
- (2) Rev. Deb recommended checking out Sacred Space (Alameda County) as a resource.

- E) Grace Youth Outreach
 - (1) Denise expressed appreciation to all who helped out with the Garden Park resident dinner (CC Interfaith Housing) on October 11.
- F) CORE outreach support
 - (1) The corner of the Narthex is full of CORE donations ready for pick-up. The items to be blessed on Nov. 11 with a pick up scheduled for that following week.

IV. Old Business

- A) Homeless Bocce Tournament, Coat Drive and Dinner. Discussion tabled to future meeting.

V. New Business

- A) Thanksgiving Community Dinner(s) opportunities, as well as food drives, supporting Loaves & Fishes, and Shelter, Inc. Loaves and Fishes is asking for donated turkeys for their Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve dinners. Shelter Inc. is accepting nonperishable food items and grocery store gift cards for families to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.
- B) Planning for 2019. Rev. Deb discussed the need for a central calendar and good communication with other committees (e.g. Vestry, St. Christopher's Guild, Parish Life, etc.) as well as the parish as a whole to support each other, encourage participation, and avoid scheduling conflicts. She suggested a calendar using different colors for each letter of SWEEPS acronym.
- C) St. Christopher's Luncheon, Tuesday, December 4. In response to a question about the money that is raised at the Christmas Luncheon, Mary explained that all funds raised go to various charities in the community, such as Loaves & Fishes, Shelter, Inc., Layette program (county hospital) At the December meeting, St. Christopher's assesses the total funds raised for the year and designates amounts to be paid to the charities, leaving a small amount in their account to start off the new year.
- D) Peace and Social Justice. Rev. Deb suggested looking at other areas of outreach, such as events that speak to environmental, peace, and social justice issues.

VI. Next meeting:

- A) The next regular Outreach Committee meeting will be on Sunday December 2, 9 a.m.

Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Submitted by Jennifer Sabroe