

Pastoral Care Program Summary: January – September 2020

All numbers listed reflect year-to-date ministry provided as of September 30, 2020 unless otherwise indicated.

Flower Bouquets Delivered: 33 (through mid-March; see comments)

Active Eucharistic Visitors: 9 (this includes our newly trained EVs; see comments)

Total Eucharistic Visits: 14 (through mid-March; see comments)

Individuals and Families Receiving 1+ Booklets from the Grief Book Series: 55

Total Grief Books Sent: 130

Received Pet Loss Care Packet: 19

Prayer Shawls (& Baby Blankets) Given: 4 (distribution suspended mid-March; see comments)

Total Cards Sent: 566 (see comments)

Cards Sent During the Course of Our Normal Pastoral Care Ministries: 336

Cards Sent to Help Maintain Community During Pandemic Closure: 230

Individuals Receiving Cards on a Regular Basis: 40

Caring Call Volunteers: 16

Caring Calls Made: 493 (see comments)

Meals Delivered: 30 (ordered from commercial kitchens after mid-March; see comments)

Care Given: Immeasurable

Love Shown: Impossible to Quantify

Blessings: Boundless

Hours Dedicated: We lost count quite a while ago!

Comments

- Five new Eucharistic Visitors were trained in mid-February: Diana Bates, Amy and Jeremy Hudson, Elaine Laing and Catherine Thornton.
- In August, our Pet Loss Care Packet ministry was transitioned from clergy to lay leadership. I want to offer a special thank you to those volunteers who stepped forward. Several already participate in at least one other pastoral care ministry.
- Several ministries were and remain suspended due to pandemic-related safety concerns generally, as well as guidance from public health officials and the Diocese of Upper South Carolina specifically.
 - The flower ministry has been suspended. It will remain suspended until care facilities can safely and fully re-open.
 - The Eucharistic Visitors' ministry is currently suspended, not only due to the closure of both hospitals and care facilities but also because of diocesan guidance.
 - Though they are no longer being distributed, prayer shawls and baby blankets are still being created by our talented stitchers. These will be stored in the pastoral care office until they can be safely distributed.
- Though the pandemic necessitated the temporary suspension of several ministries, others which can be done without face-to-face contact continue. Some existing ministries even expanded. Two new ministries were established in response to the pandemic.
 - In late March, the Meal Ministry transitioned from providing homemade food items to food prepared in a commercial kitchen. This change was made to ensure the safety of both volunteers and ministry recipients.

- The card ministry not only continued but expanded. Under normal circumstances, there are two categories of cards sent on behalf of the church. Those with special pastoral need receive a card on a regular basis. Those with a short-term pastoral need, such as surgery, also receive a card. In addition to these “regular” categories, a group of dedicated volunteers sent cards to strengthen our connection during the physical separation necessitated by the pandemic. Over two hundred cards were sent with only this community-building purpose in mind.
- Another group of dedicated volunteers offered to serve in the *Caring Calls* ministry. Almost five hundred calls were made. These calls were not only to check in with our older and otherwise medically vulnerable parishioners but with every family on our roster. Many members received more than one call.
- In July, Reverend Erin began hosting a *Virtual Coffee Hour* twice a month. While this time is designed more for social connection than to address pastoral concerns, it is an opportunity for clergy to become aware of pastoral needs. If you are interested in hosting an additional coffee/chat hour, please let me know. A paid, church-sponsored Zoom account is available to support this ministry.
- Many, many thanks to our dedicated volunteers. A number of you serve in more than one pastoral care ministry. All of you have many demands on your time. I am deeply grateful for your willingness to serve. Please know you are a blessing to our ministry recipients and to me, as I hope we are to you.

Prepared by: Erin Rath+ on October 8, 2020