

Minutes of the St. Christopher's Outreach Committee Meeting
Sunday, May 1st, 2022

1. The Outreach Committee met at noon on Sunday May 1st 2022. Present in person were Don and Lynn Knox, Chris Lane, Katy Dunlap, AJ Dodson, Niki Purkoski, Kayla Evans, John Olsen, Margaret Kirk, Alice Mary and Norbert Hymel, Hap and Carey Conners, and John Quinn. Participating via Zoom were Gail Ritchie, Janet Bush and Janet Quinn.
2. John Q opened the meeting with a reading from the Book of Matthew, in which on Judgment Day God rewards those who in life served the poor, the hungry and other needy, and also condemns those who failed to do so. The way in which you treated the least of your brothers and sisters in life, says God in this passage, is also how you treated me. John also read excerpts from our Baptismal Covenant, in which we agreed to serve Christ in others, and to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of all people. With renewed energy and focus, the group then turned to the business at hand.
3. After reviewing the list of ministry champions, partners, and committee members, the group briefly reviewed the Outreach monthly plan for the year. The group then reviewed the draft Outreach Committee Charter, which John Q indicated would be a living document, open to revision as needed. There was consensus that this document appropriately reflects the objectives and intent of the Committee going forward. John said he would like to submit the charter for Vestry approval at the meeting on May 16th, and asked that any suggested changes be shared and discussed by Committee members ASAP.
4. Following the meeting agenda, the group then heard updates from the champions of St. Christopher's seven principal outreach ministries. Key takeaways were:
 - a. The Bi-monthly Meals Preparation for the Homeless ministry is thriving, thanks to Janet Bush's leadership, Niki Purkoski's assistance, and the volunteering and in-kind support provided by St. C parishioners. The next meal preparation will be on Thursday, June 23rd.
 - b. The Outreach Garden continues to amaze, thanks to Marifran Bustion's leadership and help from a host of parishioners. Produce, in particular carrots planted last fall, is already being harvested and being delivered to feed the hungry! **This ministry can use lots of additional help**, and lends itself well to people who would like to work on their own schedule. Master Gardener Marifran can break it down for you in to tasks you could perform with 1 or 2 hours a week of work. Please contact her! The Outreach Committee agreed that the Outreach Garden should have a sign placed nearby, celebrating for the world to know the wonders of what is accomplished there. Please share ideas for the sign wording with the Committee. We'll try to get the sign up by July.
 - c. Kayla Evans has stepped up to coordinate the One-Month Food Collection for ECHO. John Olsen will be Kayla's partner in this ministry. St. Christopher's designated month for concerted food collection is June, 2022. Please stand by to hear from Kayla and John O about what items are needed and how you might be able to help.
 - d. Lynn and Don Knox briefed the status of the Backpacks and School Supplies ministry. Regrettably, there will be no school physicals effort this year as there has been in past years, but Fairfax County is finding workarounds to meet this need. Happily, St. C will still collect much-needed school supplies for the children in three nearby elementary schools, namely Garfield, Crestwood and Lynbrook. In addition to the traditional paper, pens and notebooks, etc., some schools need donation of child-size undergarments. Lynn will look into adding this need to the St. Christopher's effort. Don and Lynn will continue to coordinate the effort this year, with the help of Rosemary and Chas Henry. Requests for

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support will begin in late June, with purchases beginning in mid-July, when major retailers offer discounts.

e. Mike Snyder will continue to coordinate the December Toy Drive, which will be held in concert with the Living Nativity and the visit of Bishop Nicholas of Myra.

f. In December St. Christopher's plans to collect food for students who receive free or reduced-price lunches while school is in session, to tide them over during the Christmas/ New Year holiday period. A champion or champions for this ministry are needed. Further information will be forthcoming.

g. Katy Dunlap briefed the Committee on the Hypothermia Prevention Program. During the last hosting season, FACETS served 235 individuals, most of them on multiple days and at multiple locations, using paid FACETS personnel to staff the overnight shifts at the various faith communities. Katy mentioned that most of the dinners were casseroles, to minimize the actual cooking needed in the kitchen. Mother Carey noted that a casserole-centric menu may enable children at home to contribute to the Hypothermia Prevention effort. Due to Covid uncertainty, there are very few details currently available about how FACETS will conduct the program during the 2022 – 2023 Hypothermia season. We might begin to get some clarity in October or November. It looks likely that St. Christopher's assigned week will be in January 2023.

h. The Committee also discussed the ongoing ministry of food delivery to ECHO, and possibly other food distribution centers, throughout the year. John Olsen has also stepped up to take on the role of collecting and delivering things from the ECHO box. A partner for John in this ministry is being sought.

Mother Carey noted that all of the various tangible donations, of food, school supplies, toys, vegetables or anything else, could be blessed during Sunday services. The Committee enthusiastically agreed. **The Outreach Committee will work with the Worship Committee to make this happen.**

5. John Q briefed a potential new outreach ministry, namely to support the Edu Futuro organization in providing computer literacy training in the St. Christopher's auditorium for about 8 Thursday late afternoons beginning in mid-May. The Committee supported the idea, provided an appropriate buildings-use agreement could be worked out. John also invited members to share with each other any promising community volunteer opportunities of which they become aware.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will take place in July 2022.

John Quinn
Outreach Commissioner