



Volunteering to help LGBTQ Youth

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church steps up - how about you?

Dear Friends,

I was thrilled to be invited to spend time with the members of [Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church](#) this past weekend - to speak to their very special LGBT community group, "The Word is Out" on Sunday, and to spend Saturday making kits for [LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness](#).



What did we put in the kits? Some things you would expect: new socks, energy bars, hygiene items...but there are two that I think are THE most important.

One day a homeless LGBTQ youth said to me: "You know, everything I had is gone. God is all that I have left." That broke my heart then - as it does now, and that is part of the reason that every kit we give has a blank

journal and sharpies. Every youth of the hundreds of homeless youth I have ministered with over the years kept a journal with poems, drawings, letters about their life and their faith in the God who is "what they have left." On the one hand - heartbreaking - and on the other - wow. To have faith like that!



And second: each kit contains a handwritten note from the person who packed it. The note says something simple and profound, from that volunteer to that homeless LGBTQ youth. It always includes: "God loves you."

Because God does.



The Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen, shown here with Thomas Pak, was on hand to discuss the crisis of homelessness among queer youth. Marian is executive director of our mission partner Parity.

Want to do a volunteer event at your church, business, local library? If you would like, I will come and talk and tell stories about the youth I have met over the years. I promise you will laugh and cry and be inspired. And the kits you make can share your love with some youth who dearly need more love in their lives. It seems like a small thing, but you know what? Sometimes a little love is just what a person needs.

[Email me](#), let's set up a date. I'll help every step of the way.

Wishing you deep peace and a steadfast heart,

Marian

Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen
Executive Director, Parity