

Stewardship Article for September Newsletter

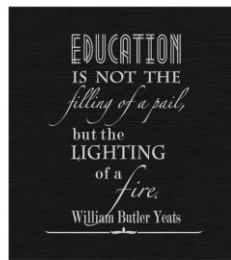
The backpack/school supply drive is complete as of this writing with the exception of blessing the items and delivering them to Mrs. Brooks for distribution to students who need them. Over 100 backpacks are ready, filled with the appropriate school supplies for children at Neabsco Elementary whose families may not be able to provide them. Think of the excitement this will bring to these children who are eager to learn. Nothing better than the wide smiles and bright, shining eyes of children learning new things and working with their own brand-new supplies. Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for the Action Team funding. **Thanks to everyone in the congregation who gave so generously** and also engaged friends and neighbors to help out. This is just one example of making connections-with those around us as we collect the supplies as well as with the school and students and their families. Special thanks go out to the following for extra help in pulling these together, submitting an Action Team application, and sorting/packing the materials: Jo Ann and Roger Rudy, Wilbur Snyder, Colette and Lloyd Lyngdal, Marlies Smith, Randy Beattie, and Tricia Schilder! The team work and enthusiasm were amazing and we have planted seeds that will have an impact well into the future as the student recipients go on to great things.

Pastor Darcy and I were privileged to attend the ribbon cutting event for **the new additional Hunger Prevention Center warehouse building at ACTS on August 15th**. Many community leaders and representatives from various organizations around the county were on hand for the dedication speeches, ribbon cutting, warehouse tour, and fellowship time. The amount of service that ACTS accomplishes with a fairly small staff, great group of volunteers, and the support of generous businesses like Wegmans, Shoppers and other stores and businesses and churches and groups like LCOC is truly amazing. The additional warehouse facility will allow for more food storage and organization thus facilitating the distribution of even more healthy food and daily living essentials to even more of our neighbors in Prince William County. Be sure to stay tuned to LCOC newsletters, our Facebook page, etc. so that you can be part of all the ministries in the works as ACTS and LCOC celebrate 50 years in 2019.

We are preparing for a fun-filled and meaningful **God's Work/Our Hands Day on September 9th** with joint service and luncheon with the Mustard Seed congregation as well as multiple ways to serve. There will be clean-up projects for those who love to be outside and a special indoor project that anyone can help with. This year our indoor, less strenuous activity will be decorating paper bags and filling them assembly-line style with several nutritious snack items. These **snack packs will be delivered to ACTS** for them to distribute to children. Please plan on attending the service, luncheon, and pitching in on the service projects. And, ask someone to come with you and join in on the fun.

Stay tuned for more ways to invite others and offer gracious hospitality and to serve, bless, and be a blessing as we move into fall and beyond with I Walk for ACTS, Operation Turkey, Untrim-a-Tree, Breakfast with Santa, LCOC's 50th Anniversary in 2019, and so much more. All of these are marvelous ways to share with others and grow in our talents, faith, and fellowship while providing opportunities to make new connections towards our goal of 50 new, actively engaged people at LCOC. People want to be part of something bigger and are often just waiting to be asked. Please be part of this! **Feel free to contact me or other council members about joining in a project-no one has to do it all, but as the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work."**

Please continue to share your gifts and talents as the Spirit leads in the variety of ministries provided through LCOC. Thank you also for your generosity in your financial commitment and consider using the Vanco option which can be accessed online at: <https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco> if you haven't already done so. Please consider becoming a Thrivent member as well and if you already are a member and use Thrivent products, make use of the Action Team funds that are available to help fund LCOC's ministry projects. Even if you do not have Thrivent products such as insurance or investments, you can set up an Associate Membership for just \$20 per year and become eligible for one Action Team. This seed money really makes a difference and helps us increase the scope of our service projects.



Let us continue to share our love and gifts and make new connections through the Holy Spirit every day, and everywhere we go.

With love,

Patti Beattie