

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Church of the Epiphany

Volume 2 Issue 1



Outreach Team Members

Karin Zundel – *Chair*
Dorothy Thomson – *Treasurer*
Robin Bolton – *Scribe*
Tom Corston
Gwen Crosdale
Mary Donato
Catherine Rousell
Louise Visneskie

If you would like to become involved in *any* way, please contact any of the above!

Meetings are held every 4-6 weeks.



OUR PURPOSE AND GOALS

We begin each Outreach meeting with this small prayer:

Loving God, let your love and wisdom direct us as we work to increase within our parish the awareness of, and the commitment to, the community beyond our walls, whether in our own neighbourhood and city, our country, or beyond.

We strive to do this on your behalf through support of our local, national and international projects. Read on to hear about how we support health care in Mozambique, youth programs in the Diocese of Moosonee, local organizations that care for our downtown population, and more.

Our purpose is to “initiate and support mission and outreach activities on behalf of the Parish.”

LOCAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES

The Outreach team supports local organizations in a number of ways. For example, we collect items throughout the year and also for White Gift Sunday for The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY), and two of our members sit on their board. We have participated for the past two years in ELEVATE Sudbury, an effort spearheaded by the Christian community in Greater Sudbury “to cultivate love, unity and service in a manner that is imitative of Jesus Christ.” We host several Out of the Cold Dinners each winter, providing a warm welcome and a hot meal to members of the downtown community. And within our own parish we host the occasional ‘Lunch and Learn’ event with speakers from groups or organizations from the city (or sometimes from our national or international project).

We are also planning to support the Community Hub – a drop-in resource centre to be located at St. Andrew’s. This initiative of the Downtown Churches group is being championed by many community partners to cover rent for the facility over the next three years. We have put forth a motion to add financial support toward this cause to the Parish budget. We are excited to add a defined local outreach project like this to our current national and international projects.

OUT OF THE COLD DINNERS (OOTC)

Some new folks are at the helm at the Epiphany Out of the Cold Dinners as long-time coordinators Mary Donato, Catherine Rousell, and Jane Kivisto take a well-deserved step back from the action (although they remain *very* active behind the scenes – much to the appreciation of the new coordinating team!). Don and Marika McDonald are the new team coordinators, with Hazel Ecclestone expertly overseeing the meal production and Karin Zundel corralling the volunteers.

We have hosted three dinners so far this winter and our next is scheduled for March 17th. If you're able to help in any way, please respond to the call for volunteers in early March!



Action in the kitchen – Dinner December 16, 2016

UPDATE ON PARISH OUTREACH PROJECTS

Contributions from the parish budget towards our outreach projects in 2016 were \$1000 for bicycle ambulances in Mozambique and \$1000 to the Diocese of Moosonee Youth programs. The Outreach Team raised additional funds at its 2016 book sale and we were able to forward an additional \$1200 to PWRDF for the bicycle ambulance program and another \$1000 to the Diocese of Moosonee! We were also able to provide funding for a local family with young children to attend Camp Manitou in July (see page 4).



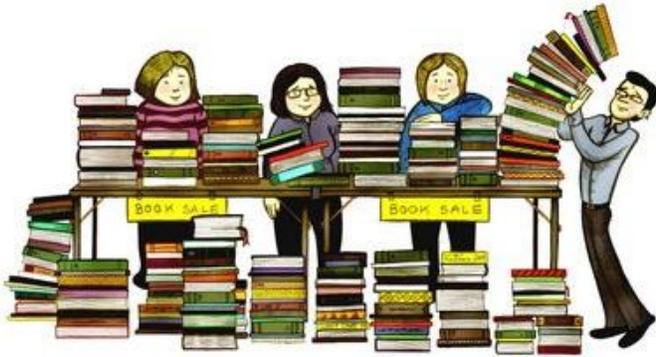
Installing solar suitcases in rural health clinics in Mozambique (source: PWRDF)

Support of bicycle ambulances in Mozambique has been a very successful project at Epiphany and we have contributed many ambulances over the past few years. Pending Vestry approval, we are planning to shift our support of healthcare in Mozambique to “solar suitcases” in order to provide portable power for medical and communications devices and lights, allowing babies to be delivered safely at night. This focus fits well with our international outreach goal of supporting healthcare in Mozambique and we feel that this shift will reinvigorate our PWRDF appeals for donations.

“Women in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa face a range of challenges during childbirth. One of the most significant is a lack of electricity that powers critical equipment—a loss that can strike at the most critical moments.” ~ Anglican Church of Canada.

Each solar suitcase contains two 20 watt solar panels, a 14 amp-hour lithium ferrous phosphate battery, a 15A charge controller, two rechargeable LED headlamps, a phone charger, a AA/AAA battery charger, and a fetal Doppler.

OUR ANNUAL BOOK SALE JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!



Our recent book sale, always held on the last weekend in January, was a great success. We brought in more than \$3000 which we will put toward continued support of national, international, and local outreach initiatives. A special thank you to Barb Bolton for overseeing the sale for so many years and to Evelyn Fillier, her able co-coordinator this year. Evelyn will be coordinating the sale next year and Barb has certainly left it in good hands.

Leftover books were distributed to several local organizations, including the Diabetes Association, Better Beginnings, The Sudbury Women's Centre, the Crisis Centre, Foyer Notre Dame, Elizabeth Fry Society and the John Howard Society.

DOWNTOWN CHURCHES GROUP IS GROWING, AND ACTIVE!

During the past year Epiphany, St. Andrew's and Christ the King have welcomed three new churches to the group - All Nations, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran and Ste. Anne des Pins.

Activities included another successful BBQ outside Epiphany for downtown passersby, participation in ELEVATE Sudbury planting gardens in the Louis Street community (and support for their afterschool program) and the Coldest Night of the Year walk in support of the Samaritan Centre. During Advent the downtown churches either collected food for the Sudbury Food Bank (the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative) or provided backpacks of personal items for street people and selected agencies. Bishop Tom Corston developed a prayer chain that began during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that will see all downtown churches praying for each other using a published schedule during our weekly intercessions.

Various members of the downtown churches continue to be involved with such organizations as APANO (Aboriginal Peoples Association of Northern Ontario), the Elgin Street Mission and SACY (Sudbury Action Centre for Youth) and several others.

Representatives of various organizations are invited to address the group and inform them of developments and programs for the downtown core. Gale Spencer from the City of Greater Sudbury and Cindy Rose, from the "Off the Street" program will be speaking about the newly opened cold shelter and supervised alcohol reduction program.

The group continues to feel that downtown churches have a unique mission to reach out to our downtown community and to provide support and compassion.

CONNECTING WITH THE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS GROUP

The Outreach Team hosts a get together two times a year for the learners and staff of the LINC program. The language instruction classes are held downstairs at Epiphany and we enjoy getting to know newcomers and welcoming back familiar faces. Our last event was held in November and we were pleased that a few members of the Parish Council and other parishioners were able to join us. Please look for the announcement of our next get together in the upcoming months and consider dropping in – it is always an interesting and enjoyable time!



IODE NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS



Several members of the Outreach team helped with the IODE City of Lakes Neighbours Helping Neighbours event this past June by managing the book sale component of the event. Proceeds of the huge yard sale support IODE initiatives

(like Fresh Start Buckets for Genevra House, back packs for Foyer Notre Dame) as well as various community groups including the Sudbury Women's Centre, the Samaritan Centre and the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth.

LUNCH & LEARN

We were happy to have Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Administrator for the Diocese of Moosonee, as our guest speaker at our November Lunch and Learn. Deborah filled us in on where our support of the diocesan youth programs goes. One project that benefits from our continued support is The LivingRoom – an afternoon drop-in centre for youth of all ages. Our donations go towards ongoing expenses, such as snacks, as well as bigger items like a big screen TV for the group.

A FAMILY GOES TO CAMP FOR FIRST TIME



Thanks to the success of our book sale we were able to sponsor a family to attend Camp Manitou in August. Better Beginnings, Better Futures recommended a family for us and the people at Camp Manitou were most helpful and cooperative. The two children and their mother enjoyed

the week immensely with the children making many new friends. The family has expressed their sincere appreciation for this opportunity.

CORNER CLINIC LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

The Outreach team is responding to a recent call for donations from the Corner Clinic, which offers primary health-care services to the homeless and those in need. They are currently seeking the following female related hygiene items: unopened packages of sanitary pads, tampons, new underwear, bras, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo.

We will be setting up a collection box in the guest cloakroom and will be putting out a call for donations in upcoming ETW's and bulletins.

DID YOU KNOW...?

... Every Wednesday 25-50 hungry children pass through the door of the LivingRoom drop-in ministry in Schumacher. Our parish helps feed them through donations to our National Project.

... some of the books left over from our annual book sale help stock the shelves of the John Howard Society library for inmates. One former inmate said that "*books saved my sanity while in jail*".

... the Samaritan Centre offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner 7 days a week as well as laundry facilities, showers and baths, clothing, warmth, spiritual direction and counselling.

... we would love to hear from you! If you have any ideas for *Lunch and Learn* speakers or topics OR if you are interested in joining the Outreach Team, please speak to any member.

