

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Church of the Epiphany

Volume 3 Issue 1



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

Outreach Team Members

Karin Zundel – *Chair*

Dorothy Thomson – *Treasurer*

Robin Bolton – *Scribe*

Tom Corston

Gwen Crosdale

Mary Donato

Katherine Quesnel

Catherine Rousell

Meetings are held every 4–6 weeks, September through June. Come join us!



REACHING OUT FOR OUTREACH MEMBERS

As your Outreach Committee, we continually strive to provide practical assistance to our local, national, and international neighbours and increase the parish's awareness of these outreach issues and opportunities. But we need new ideas and new perspectives, and you may have them! This is a wonderful opportunity to share your ideas, energy and action to help bring forth the kingdom of God in our community and in the world.

Currently we are involved in a project that improves healthcare in Mozambique, and one that offers opportunity for youth in the Diocese of Moosonee. We participate with other groups in our own community to help our neighbours in the downtown core. And we can do so much more with your help!

Our mission as Christians is clear. We are to see in our neighbour, the face of Jesus. In Matthew's gospel we are told:

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me.”

(Matt 25:40 NIV)

The Church of the Epiphany outreach team currently meets one weekday a month, from September through June, for an hour at noon (but we are flexible!) to plan and organize informative Lunch and Learn events, as well as our role in community projects. Please consider joining our team. Speak with a member of the outreach team for more information.

LOCAL OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Our support of local organizations is growing thanks to the addition of local outreach to the annual Parish contribution. As reported in our last newsletter, we used the funds to send a family from the Louis Street community to Camp Manitou for a week. We plan to send another family this summer, as well as continue our support of other organizations that support our downtown community (see page 4).

OUT OF THE COLD DINNERS HOSTING LARGE NUMBERS OF GUESTS THIS WINTER



Volunteers getting ready for guests to arrive to dinner.

Out of the Cold (OOTC) Dinners continue to be served by Church of the Epiphany throughout the cold winter months thanks to an amazing group of volunteers. Three dinners have been hosted thus far, with the fourth and final being held on March 16, 2018. Our cooks this season – Jessica and Ralph Linton – come to us from All Nations Church. They’ve adapted well to our kitchen and we are very grateful for their expertise and eager willingness to help out. Thanks also to several folks from Christ the King, Laurentian University, and University of Sudbury who have offered their help this year.

Out of the Cold Dinners hosted by several churches serve from 150 to 250 guests every Friday night between November and April. It’s a lovely way to help offer our downtown neighbours a delicious meal and a special evening out. If you are interested in helping at an OOTC dinner please respond to the call for volunteers in the ETW as well as announcements in church as each meal approaches.

LUNCH & LEARN SESSIONS WELL ATTENDED AND VERY INFORMATIVE

We hosted several Lunch and Learn events throughout the year. In the fall, Donna Scott, community chaplain at Correctional Services, made a presentation about the concept of Restorative Justice. Also in the fall, our very own Norm Blanchard spoke about the Maison McCulloch Hospice and the work that he does there as Manager of Supportive Care and Grief Services. The hospice is a vital part of the Sudbury community and Norm spoke passionately about the services offered, the population it serves, and encouraged us to consider volunteering in any capacity.

Our most recent Lunch and Learn gave us all an opportunity to learn more about addiction problems affecting our community. Doctor Michael Franklyn is a Sudbury doctor who has spent nearly 15 years working with people suffering addictions. He spoke to us about the problems we are facing due to powerfully addicting drugs that have entered our community. Opioids can lead to addiction in some people from the first prescription, he said. Extremely dangerous drugs such as fentanyl are being added to street drugs, and can kill instantly. This is all very scary, but we can help by being caring and aware.

“Working on poverty and homelessness is absolutely critical.”

– Dr. Michael Franklyn

Franklyn is one of three doctors working with the Rapid Access Addiction Medical Clinic. They concentrate on patient-centred treatment, helping to reduce the use of addictive drugs with an anti-craving drug called suboxone. At the Managed Alcohol Program (currently a day program located in the old police station) people dependent on alcohol are carefully weaned off it. He pointed to these programs as not only life-saving and life-changing, but also a good use of resources. Addiction accounts for a large number of arrests and emergency room visits in our city.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS: FROM MOOSONEE TO MOZAMBIQUE!



*From PWRDF website.
Photo: Zaida Bastos*

We continue our support of the PWRDF's Solar Suitcase initiative in Mozambique. Because the government contribution program has ended for this project, our help in this area is more important than ever. With the parish contribution, plus book sale proceeds and monies given through our annual PWRDF appeal we hope to be able to purchase one entire solar suitcase to provide a clinic with reliable, sustainable electricity for years to come.

The Diocese of Moosonee Youth programs continue to thrive thanks to contributions from the parish budget and proceeds from our book sale. The LivingRoom after school program is well attended each Wednesday and the youth enjoy many crafts, snacks, and recently – a Foolsball table!



BOOK SALE CONTINUES TO BE A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER FOR OUTREACH

The annual book sale in January of this year brought in a crowd of book bargain lovers to roam through the stacks. Opening day Friday, was the busiest as no one wanted to miss their chance to get the best books for just a dollar each!

Even with ebooks at our fingertips, “people continue to enjoy a hard copy of a book,” Evelyn Fillier, chair of the sale, said. “Our supporters appreciate what we are doing with the money raised, so wish to continue to support us. The price is right, and the quality is excellent.”

More than 25 people volunteered with the sale: advertising, setting up, putting out books, sales, clean up and transporting leftover books donated to local organizations like the John Howard Society and the local diabetes association.

Funds from the book sale are directed to outreach projects locally, nationally and internationally. Last year's money raised helped fund solar suitcases for Mozambique through the Primate's World Relief Development Fund, as well as the Diocese of Moosonee youth programs. Locally, we sent a family to Camp Manitou, and supported other projects.

The book sale is Outreach's biggest fundraiser, bringing in over \$2800 this year. With books priced at \$1 apiece, that's a lot of books! We will be able to continue to help our neighbours through your generosity.

Remember to store your books throughout the year and bring them in the week of the book sale.

The next book sale will be held January 25- 27, 2019.



