

## **Parish Outreach Ministries Conversation April 10, 2016**

Thirty-three members of the parish gathered to reflect on outreach ministries. The following notes are highlights of the conversations.

### **Brass Rubbing Center:**

Provides a community service by sharing English history and a unique art form in a quality program. Also provides fellowship among St. Luke's volunteers who become connected. and raises money for St. Luke's general fund – currently \$8-10,000 a season. Has brought people to St. Luke's; St. Luke's is known in the community for the Brass Rubbing Center. BR is trying to reach out to different groups, since public schools don't have funds for field trips. This fall will be its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year; a Medieval feast is planned. Fantastic outreach for children and adults. Kids & energy, plus a special art form. Teas are part of the program, providing a wonderful, comforting environment along with education and good food. Brass Rubbing team also takes the program off-site (schools, churches, etc) to provide the experience.

### **Homeless Prayer Ministry:**

Involves opening doors of the church on Saturday mornings to the homeless while they're here for shower program. A welcoming time - for silence, prayer, whatever they want to use time for. Ministry volunteers pray with them, listen & talk to them. A very small ministry; very simple, yet symbolic – to open doors of the church.

### **Shower Program:**

Has been in operation more than 20 years (started by Gail Mutke & John Kagy.) Started small, now has grown to showers for the homeless every Saturday morning. Core committee now doing all they can, although there is more to be done. Need to find resources, with someone to help reach out for resources (ex, shoes were just donated by community connection.) Part of continuum with city of Long Beach, filling a gap in care for homeless. City highly regards what we do. A good thing to publicize.

### **Pre-School (Task Force) Committee:**

Trying to get the school going, meeting weekly, hopefully to open school in fall 2016. Not an easy process. Goal to accommodate 30 kids eventually. Completing licensing process now, making progress, and a director is in place. There is a huge difference between renting space for preschool and running one on your own (and isn't always successful.) Rector involvement is deemed very important. NOTE: Since this meeting this project has been put on hold.

### **African Team Ministries:**

During Black History month (February) this team sells African jewelry and arts & crafts, with proceeds sent to the Diocese of East Africa. Display is set up in the parish hall after church every Sunday throughout the month.

### **GAIA (Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance):**

Raises money to send to Africa for children with AIDS, also for mosquito nets. Money is raised from the Black History Celebration luncheon in February (\$800 this year.) Hope is to also have a mini-fundraiser at another time during the year.

### **Manna Meals:**

Provides hot lunches at St. Luke's for the homeless on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays; St. Luke's team on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, another church (comes to St. Luke's) on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. On 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays sack lunches

are provided by other churches. Program has been in place since late 1970's (?) and is smoothly run with faithful volunteers.

**Health Ministries:**

New ministry in last 1½ years, as outgrowth of need cited by Vestry.

Components include parish nurse, gardens (both mobile & community), recycling, and sustainable produce available for sign-up/purchase. Ministry is growing on its own, though on hold during priest interim period. There is interest in eye care and a health fair. Nurses at St. Luke's are a great resource, believing in community and what gospel calls them to do.

**Legacy Society:**

Provides another way of giving to St. Luke's; not a secret, elite society. When one dies, something can be left to St. Luke's in a will or trust. A meeting is coming up soon.

**Communications:**

Involved with electronic communication and social media. Two audiences targeted: those at St. Luke's and those not yet at St. Luke's. Newsletters to connect those who are here. Connecting via Facebook, as tagging and sharing posts, internally and externally. Need a better picture and story of St. Luke's, highlighting what we're doing. Posting on St. Luke's Facebook page what shower stewardship needs, for example – highlights what we do and might engage others.

**Mobile Gardens:**

Grows fresh produce to be used by Manna Meals or given away.

**Community Gardens:**

Administered by LB Organic; neighbors & parishioners grow produce for their own use.

**Archives:**

Ministry has been in place for about 10 years (2006-2007?) Researched and wrote history of parish. Ministry would like space dedicated to photos of past rectors, and other space for archival items as vestments, photos – a place accessible to everyone. Comment from group, agreed would like to see posting of photos of rectors, bishops – such history is important and part of who we are.

**Wini Carter Scholarship:**

This scholarship pays \$1,000 a year for four years to Long Beach High School graduates who are active in community service. Started by Wini Carter in 2014.

**Ugandan Refugee Program:**

We were directly involved in the resettlement of four Ugandan Refugees this past year.