

Minutes for HNC Outreach Committee Meeting, January 2009

Present: Stuart Hughes, George Brown, Esther Gay, Linda McGee, Tom Gee, Linda Wever, John Greenman, Pam Maloof, Bill Teale, Norm Cooper, Rick Garfield, Patty Kipps, Lauren McDonald, Chair, and Michael Smith, Vestry liaison.

Lauren opened with silent and spoken prayer.

The Outreach Committee will be undergoing a discernment process in the next few months, to make decisions about how we will be and act as a group. As the beginning of this process, each person responded to the question: Why am I on the Outreach Committee? Each person gave a personal answer to this question.

Lauren then asked us to state what we each would need to create a safe place for discussion at our meetings. Various answers were

Confidentiality

Transparency

Commitment

Respect

Openness

Creative thinking

One person speaking at a time after being recognized by chair

Praying together

Love.

Lauren then asked us to brainstorm on: what is outreach? Various answers were:

Foreign missions

Leveling the playing field

Benefiting the community

Getting as many Hickory Neckers involved as possible

Sharing the Gospel in thought, word, and deed

“Reach out and touch someone”

Experiencing God’s love and sharing it

Making the Gospel concrete

Serving “the least of these”

Willingness to be out of our comfort zone

Hospitality to “others”

Answering calls for help

Sharing time and talents

Taking leaps of faith

Sharing unconditionally

The next few times we meet, we will have further conversations on these and related topics and begin to decide how to proceed with our activities and purpose.

We then had a brief business meeting.

Lauren stated that we have \$1200 left over from the Fall Festival. She recommends holding that for the time being for future requests/opportunities which may arise before the next Fall Festival. We are now on a January-December calendar for disbursements.

Lauren recently visited Grove Christian Outreach and observed part of their ministry. She intends to visit all the ministries which we support. Lauren has donation checks for *Faith in Action* and for *SpiritWorks*. Esther volunteered to assist in delivering the check for FIA and will also assist Lauren with writing a newspaper article about our committee. The suggestion was made to present the check to SpiritWorks at a Sunday service, since the director attends HNC. Lauren will check with Father Michael on this.

Lauren attended a board meeting at Angels of Mercy, and learned a lot about their services. They mainly serve persons with chronic conditions and are beginning a Therapeutic Lifestyle program. They have hired a member of HNC as a part time administrative assistant. They will have an open house on February 21 for clergy and other invited guests.

HNC is scheduled to cook and serve a meal for *From His Hands* on the following dates in 2009: **March 19, June 18, September 17, and December 3**. Another person is needed to learn how to drive the Salvation Army van and to become food certified. Presently, only one HNC person is qualified to do this, and a back-up is needed. Contact Lauren if interested in this.

The meeting start time was changed to 7:15 p.m. and will end at 8:45 p.m., on the third Tuesday of each month. February 17 is the next meeting.

Bill will give a short report next month on Vibrant Life Ministries.

Lauren closed with a prayer which included prayer for the Rev. Norman Forde, a parishioner who died earlier this week. Several people commented that he was much loved and a "true Christian".

Submitted by Patty Kipps