

June 2008 Outreach Committee Minutes

Present: Gary Harvey, Gay Forloine, John Greenman, Esther Gay, Linda McGee, Rick Garfield, Patty Kipps.

Gary opened with a prayer.

Vibrant Life Ministries (VLM) and HNC involvement in ministry with homeless people: Gary and Bob Gay will attend a meeting this week with representatives from Bruton Parish and St. Martin's. A St. Martin parishioner wants to look into having these 3 churches (and other local area churches) work with the Salvation Army (SA) to come up with an alternate plan to VLM (which has evolved into a year long program requiring daily bible study or other approved programs). VLM withdrew from working with SA due to SA's lack of this requirement. James City County has withdrawn funding from VLM, but has expressed interest in supporting an alternate plan. The committee agreed to hold on to the funds which would have been directed to VLM until we see what might happen with the new plan.

Rick noted that 3 women recognized in "Women With a Cause" (a local recognition group) were associated with charities that we support: Spiritworks, Grove Christian Outreach, and Angels of Mercy.

Gary asked committee to think of other agencies or charities to donate to for 2009. Gary would like a requirement that each assisted entity provide us with a financial report, at least quarterly. Outreach Committee guidelines note that there is to be a liason to each charity from the Outreach Committee.

Ideas for possible new charities or initiatives to consider: Patty suggested possibly St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport News. They have various ministries every day of the week for homeless and low income people, many of whom have jobs, but can't afford to pay for rent, food, and utilities. We could get involved with them through a monetary donation and/or by having parishioners volunteer there on occasion. We may invite the rector to speak here

Linda suggested giving donations to Avalon (a local women's shelter) and to Grove Christian Outreach.

Suggestion also to look into some type of ministry at Burnt Ordinary housing in Toano, for low income people. Stonehouse Presbyterian has a monthly meal for some of the residents there. Patty will check into this.

Committee considered having a study/discussion group on the book *What Every Church Member Should Know about Poverty*. Will consider that for this fall if there is interest.

Committee decided to cancel the July meeting due to a conflict with Father Michael's bible study that month. Instead, we will meet via emails among the committee. Please send any communication to all committee members. Next meeting will be August 25.

Gary closed with a prayer.

Submitted by Patty Kipps