

Present: Lauren McDonald, Bill Teale, Esther Gay, Gay Forloine, George Brown, John Greenman, Laurie Brown, Michael Smith, Norm Cooper, Patty Kipps, Rick Garfield, Stuart Hughes.

Lauren opened with a period of silence and a prayer.

Discernment process:

We reviewed our meeting guidelines, which were formulated at our last meeting. Lauren asked us to respond on what had been on our minds about Outreach since we last met. Several people responded.

Bill would like a review of Laurie's previous analysis of non profits that we support. Patty suggested that we not just be a funds decision making and disbursing group but also become more aware of how our cultural, class, and religious ideas can be a barrier to doing outreach.

Lauren asked us to each name one word that described how we are feeling about Outreach right now. Answers ranged from hopeful to confused.

We then broke into groups and defined the 5 priorities of "What is Outreach?" from our last meeting. We eventually reduced these to three:

1. Benefit community
2. Practice the Gospel
3. Serve others in need.

Lauren asked us to name what HNC is already doing for Outreach. The committee came up with about 17 different groups with whom HNC is now assisting, such as *From His Hands*, *FISH*, *Relay for Life*, *Sudan ministry*, *Angels of Mercy*, *SpiritWorks*, *Faith in Action*, *Grove Christian Outreach*, *Fall Festival*, *Angel Tree*, *African Team ministry*, *Kairos*, *Williamsburg Walks the Talk*, *Books for Jail*, *Eastern State Hospital*, *Housing Employment Linkages Project (HELP)*, and *Meals on Wheels*

Lauren then asked us to think about how our committee can structure ourselves according to those three primary purposes and be prepared to talk about this at our next meeting.

Business meeting:

Lauren distributed thank you letters from many of the agencies we have helped financially. These letters will be posted in the narthex for the congregation to read. Lauren has referred to some of our agencies in Prayers of the People in a past service. She also wrote about some of them in an article for the Nuggets. She asked: were these helpful and should they continue? There was a unanimous *yes* from the committee.

From His Hands volunteers will cook and serve for Grove this Thursday. They have plenty of helpers for this time. Should we do this more often? We now do it quarterly, and could do it bi-monthly. George stated that we should move to bi-monthly and the committee agreed. We still need at least one more person who can become qualified to operate the Salvation Army truck and obtain a food handler's license. George expressed an interest in doing this and will speak to Gary Harvey about it.

Good News Ministry, which provides chaplaincy services and Bible correspondence courses to Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, provides monthly tours of the jail. Since Lauren will not be available on any of the days scheduled, she will call the jail Chaplain and try to arrange for a tour for our group.

Lauren provided an update on *HELP*. It is actually moving along. They now have a draft planning budget and have hired a new case manager. They have a goal of serving 25 additional clients, and have found possible rental housing in the community. The next training session for volunteer mentors is March 21, 2009. At least one member of HNC will attend that session, increasing HNC's roster of mentors to 4. They will also hold a Community Information day in July. Lauren will attend their next meeting and get to know more about the program and meet the people involved

Lauren visited *SpiritWorks* and reported that she was very impressed with their community connections and their services. Their vision for the future includes housing for homeless females who need help with addiction issues. The director is a member of HNC, and welcomes drop-ins to talk to her and see the program.

Next meeting is April 21 at 7:15 p.m. Lauren closed with a prayer.

Submitted by Patty Kipps