

Outreach Committee Annual Report to Session - LPC - May 12, 2009

Who We Are

Amy DeHart, Chair; Gregg Amonette Vice-Chair; Mac Baker, Session Member, and at-large members: Margie Page, Mary Raine Paxton, Phyllis Parker, Ellen Smith (Barritt Fund), and John Winfrey (Mentoring)

What Guides Us

Bible and Prayer

Manual of Operation

- To develop outreach witness of this church on local, national, and international levels
- INFORM the congregation of activities of our missionaries, and be in charge of visits by missionaries and of the yearly mission season of our church;
- COORDINATE the mission work of this church with the mission work of other denominations;
- PROMOTE active participation among members through direct involvement in local ministry and mission
- MANAGE the KAT Service Fund according to the guidelines to assist individuals and/or families in the church or community who have specific needs; and/or to assist local agencies which have programs serving persons or groups in need;
- SOLICIT information from members of the congregation and/or community who may bring a special need to the attention of the committee
- APPOINT with Session approval, a KAT Fund Administrator.

Lexington Presbyterian Church - Mission Statement – April 2007

Life of the Church Report

- Gather and regularly place before the congregation local census data on poverty.
- Keep poverty issues before the congregation.
- Be a “clearing house” for church members to be “in mission.”

Longer Term

- All Members Engaged in Mission: Develop a plan by which every member of the congregation is engaged in mission.
- Education: Develop a variety of educational opportunities.
- Mentoring Program
- Lay Care Ministry
- Ecumenical Ministry
- Soup Kitchen – Homeless Shelter:
- Use of the Building
- Time and Talent
- Film series

Activities for June 2008- April 2009

LOCAL MISSION

Provide ongoing financial support for Six Local Service Organizations

- Yellow Brick Road Pre-school
- Rockbridge Area Free Clinic
- Meals for Shut-Ins
- Rockbridge Area Hospice

Rockbridge Area Relief Association, including the Food Pantry
Rockbridge Area Habitat for Humanity

Provide assistance in paying basic bills to community residents in dire need through the Barritt Fund, administered by Ellen Smith, who is supported by Beryl Honsinger. Ellen works with Rockbridge Area Relief Association to assist community residents who are in dire financial need. Ellen also works with St. Patrick's and RE Lee to provide this support. We have seen a substantial increase in calls and expenditures over the past two years. In 2007, Ellen and Beryl responded to 121 requests for urgent need of financial help. Disbursed \$12,330.44 for electricity, gas, rent, and mortgage. In 2008, funds disbursed increased to \$17,399. The first quarter of 2009 had the same number of calls as 2008, but a 31% increase in expenditures from the same period.
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Habitat Disciples Build – Good participation in a build last summer in BV. This year's build will take place in the fall.

Contributions from special offerings – 25% of two offerings are donated locally. **4 Cents-a- Meal** contributed monies to RARA, Meals on Wheels, and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank from 4 Cents-a-Meal local monies. Cynthia Penne recently took on coordination of the program and reported about hunger to the church through newsletter. More information and reporting is forthcoming. David Bowden counts the money.

Peace Offering - Contributed monies to Project Horizon, Boxerwood Gardens, Lynchburg Presbyterian children's home, and First Baptist Church.

Led **mentoring teams** to support two local families with single parents. Engaged a variety of members of the Congregation in assisting the families. Continue to assist family in need.

Mission Congregational Dinners: Outreach helped to sponsor three Congressional Dinners – October 2008: Africa's Orphans – Ministry of Hope and Rafiki International. March 2009, Friends of Barnabas and the Haiti Rockbridge Medical Alliance were the featured program at a dinner. Outreach organized an April 30 dinner that focused on Amanda Strickler's experience with the Peace Corps during her two-year assignment in Tonga.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Missionary Activities

David Hunter, Turkey, reported to the congregation at the early and 11 am services in March.

Charles Gwengwe, Ministry of Hope, visited the US and LPC from Malawi, Africa. He spoke at a Congregational Dinner in October and spoke to five of Phyllis Parker's World History Classes at RCHS. Her students have developed a letter writing relationships with kids in Malawi.

Kurt Ogden will preach at LPC in October 2009.

We are working to add two new missionaries

Rebecca Young, PCUSA, Indonesia – Becky visited from Indonesia preached on 12/28/08

Rafiki International, Christian, Interdenominational. Roanoke area representative, Vivian Mink, spoke at the October dinner.

iCare – we support the education of a young Ethiopian woman who is now in college.

Living Waters for the World (PCUSA program) to bring clean water to villages in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, and elsewhere in Central and South America.

Shenandoah Presbytery is organizing a delegation. LPC made a donation last

year to help with a project in Guatemala. The first trip will leave shortly. Malcolm Brownlee will take part in the mission project.

Friends of Barnabas Foundation – with funds from the former Haiti Medical Mission Program, LPC continued its support of FOBF by supporting two young adults participation in a May 2009 trip.

Rockbridge-Haiti Medical Alliance – Walter Kerschall and Josh Harvey have founded an organization to support a medical clinic in a village in Haiti that is lead by a young, dynamic Catholic Priest who leads a parish and school, in addition to the clinic. Through the bequest fund, LPC has funded a position for a Haitian nurse for one year and for supplies for the clinic. We are considering additional ways to participate in the Alliance.

Mothers in Mozambique – Laura Parker, RCHS graduate and daughter of church member Phyllis, is in the Peace Corps in Mozambique. She is starting a program to provide a goat for milk for mothers weaning toddlers. This lessens the likelihood of contracting the HIV from their mother during weaning. LPC is buying a goat for a mother and child.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Special Offerings

4 Cents-a-Meal Monthly Offering – 75% of collection passed on to Presbytery; 25% of collection sent to local organizations; One Great Hour of Sharing; Joy Gift (PCUSA); Peacemaking (25% given locally); Tool & Blanket (Church World Service); Sunnyside

Support Presbyterian Colleges - Union Seminary, Mary Baldwin, Hamden-Sydney, and Davis and Elkins Colleges

OTHER MISSION: Many other LPC organizations/groups leading mission and outreach efforts—PW, House Churches, Jessie Tree, Sunday School classes and more.