

Outreach

POVERTY

In a sense we are all hungry and in need, but most of us don't recognize it. With plenty to eat in the deep freeze, with a roof over our heads and a car in the garage, we assume that the empty feeling inside must be just a case of the blues that can be cured by a Florida vacation, a new TV, an extra drink before supper.

The poor, on the other hand, are under no such delusion. When Jesus says, "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28), the poor stand a better chance than most of knowing what he's talking about and knowing that he's talking to them. In desperation they may even be willing to consider the possibility of accepting his offer. This is perhaps why Jesus on several occasions called them peculiarly blessed.

Regional Social Justice and Outreach Committee: Lynne Graham and I attended monthly meetings in 2011. The Rev'd Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles (Deacon at St. Agnes) is assembling a group to work on a social justice project called "Occupy the present" motivated by the recent occupy movements. Anyone interested can be in touch with Andrew.

Soup Lunches: on October 2nd we collected \$106.75 for the Palestinian refugees (sponsored by North Shore United Churches) and in December food we hosted a Food Bank Sunday. Donations are also brought to church throughout the year and taken to NS Harvest once a month by the Graham family. In January we hosted The Rev. Nick Parker from Mission to Seafarers and collected \$85. In addition we collected some gifts for the seafarers prior to Christmas and a large donation was delivered to the Mission at the beginning of December

North Shore Harvest: After our Thanksgiving service, all fruit, vegetables and donations of canned, non-perishable foods were donated to NS Harvest. A special delivery of lightly-used clothing was also dropped off for their "Dress for success" program.

Last year Aidan Faivre-Duboz celebrated his 9th birthday by asking friends and family to donate to Harvest Project on his behalf. Aidan donated \$100, which was half of his birthday money. Way to go Aidan! The children continue their "Grow a Row, Give a Row" project over the summer and produce is taken to the Food Bank in September.

Harmony Mountain Singers Concerts: 50% of the proceeds from two concerts held by the Harmony Mtn Singers at St Clements, \$927.50, was donated by this choir towards the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmother to Grandmother (Gogos) Campaign. Jeanette Terrace, Linda Tinker and Wilna Parry are members of the Lions Gate Gogos and help the choir by collecting donations at the door and managing refreshments during intermission. The other 50% goes towards St. Clement's for the use of the church.

Lions Gate Gogos also collect "Pennies for Africa" and have so far collected almost \$7,000! Our goal is a million pennies (\$10,000) so we are well on the way.

St. Clement's Meat Sale: 10% of the profit from our meat sales are given to Outreach. In the past we had passed it along to Sharing Abundance and the most recent meat sale profits were given to Alison Patrick for the Christmas Outreach.

At Christmas Alison Patrick and Caroline Battista worked on a **Christmas Outreach** to a recently bereaved family in our neighbourhood. Caroline and some of the older Sunday school children bought gifts, Alison put together a gift basket with food items and gift cards, which was delivered shortly before Christmas. It was gratefully received by the family.

The **bottle return/recycling project** is on-going. Gordon and Lynne Graham take empties down to the recycling depot and the money is given towards outreach. This year's collection went towards the Christmas Outreach. Bottles and cans should be rinsed prior to putting them in the large blue bins downstairs.

Sharing Abundance: at our St. Clement's Day Dinner, \$70 was collected for purchasing soup bowls to support community meals provided at St. Andrews United on Thursday. The Rev. Lizz Lindsay also initiated "Have a Senior Moment" lunches once a month for seniors at St. Agnes and meals for Single Parents and their families at North Lonsdale United.

Queen Mary Family Literacy Project: Capilano University is working alongside St. John and other agencies to encourage parents from Queen Mary Elementary School to drop by St. John Anglican Church on a Thursday morning. Several volunteers assist with tutoring language, computer, math and reading skills. Kathleen Houston and Wilna Parry are involved in this project but more volunteers are needed.

Coffee Hour volunteers: after every Sunday service we gather downstairs to enjoy coffee, tea and refreshments. A number of people are rostered on a rotating basis to take on this ministry but if this is something you would like to do, please let Yvonne in the office know so she can add you to the existing roster.

PWRDF: The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is the official development and relief agency of the Anglican Church of Canada. Funding is provided for emergency relief, support for refugee, sustainable community development projects and advocacy for social and environmental justice in Canada and worldwide. Parishioners can make donations through their website (www.pwrdf.org) or, if you donate through envelopes, you can use the blue envelope included with the regular offering envelopes.

Diocese of New Westminster Voluntary Outreach Program was previously known as "Going the Extra Mile" (GEM). Following a presentation and a motion at Synod 2011 GEM was re-named: *care+share*. Donations given by individuals and parishes go 100% to the 5 groups we support. You may give via your parish stewardship program or as an individual. The five groups below are:

Coming Home Society, Young Wolves Lodge – Transitional Worker

Garden to Table: Growing together (community Garden and kitchen at St. Dunstan)

*Our House West Coast Society
The Street Outreach Initiative
Westside Neighbourhood Ministry.*

To learn more about these local initiatives, please go to www.vancouver.anglican.ca and click on the *care+share* button.

Every Sunday we pray for charities listed on the back of the bulletin. If you would like to know more about these, please speak to Wilna. Most have extensive websites explaining their work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued and generous support over the past years. If outreach is your passion, I would like to hear from you! Please don't hesitate to come up with a suggestion or an idea for us to connect with our neighbors. It is a great encouragement to me to know our community cares deeply about our neighbors, whether they live next door or on the other side of the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilna Parry.