July 2, 2018

Outreach Committee

Other Church Practices – from Sue Shirley, Outreach Committee

These are some practices I gleaned from various other Episcopal churches I thought might be open for discussion:

**Purpose:**

* We pledge to seek, serve, and shine by devoting our time, talents, and treasure to serve the most vulnerable in our community and around the world.
* Mission and Outreach Ministries are pathways that transform the hearts of worship into hands of service. We believe that each individual plays a role in creating a just, peaceful, and sustainable world. St. Paul’s Mission and Outreach Committee is work in God’s name, stretching out to meet the needs of those in the wider community.
* St. Augustine's Christian Outreach Commission invites members of the parish to champion the good work of organizations helping to make our world a better place, by applying for St. A's mission grants and partnering together in ministry.
* Responding to Jesus’s mandate in Matthew 25 to feed, clothe and care for those in need, the Outreach Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church assists those who serve the most vulnerable in our community, our nation and the world. We do this through an annual grant-making program, by identifying ways parishioners can provide [**hands-on service**](https://www.christepiscopalchurch.org/service-opportunities/) and encouraging participation.
* Missions” concern the seeking out of those who do not know Christ and the sending out of parishioners to carry out various kinds of Christian service in other parts of the world.
* “Outreach” is primarily the work of meeting human needs and alleviating suffering, whether close to home or far away. Through the efforts of our many volunteers and parishioners who give so generously of their time and resources, our church actively supports programs such as the Fuller Center, All Faiths Food Bank, Salvation Army, church building and mission work in the Dominican Republic (see story at right), and many other fine organizations of service throughout our local community and the communities of our nation and the world.
* Trinity and its parishioners continue to support Outreach in our community both monetarily and with hands-on participation. The main purpose of the Outreach Committee is to be good stewards of this budgetary commitment. The Committee periodically meets with organizations then reviews and recommends the dispersal of the budget to the Vestry based on need and the availability of funding.

### Individual Projects

Short-term, specific projects such as Thanksgiving’s in the Bag are funded with short campaigns for donations or from the Church budget. Longer-term projects are funded through the Church budget or Outreach Commission grants.

* **Outreach Commission Grants**

The Outreach Commission oversees financial outreach in the community. The Commission directs financial support and oversight to selected area agencies and non profits through an annual grants program. The types of organizations supported provide services such as feeding the hungry, providing temporary or transitional housing, caring for the disabled, and providing life skills training.

* The St. Elizabeth’s Outreach Committee supports a diverse array of charitable organizations, many of which are local but some have national and international scope. Irrespective of the people or region benefitted, the organizations exist to help and improve peoples’ lives and the Outreach Committee is committed to provide ongoing support.
* Outreach Committee Mission Statement

The goal of the Outreach Committee is to advance the work of Christ by sharing the resources of St. Elizabeth’s Church to help those in need.

In order to achieve this we will pursue the following activities:

* Provide financial and volunteer support to create partnerships with a wide variety of community outreach;
* Assist the needy worldwide by utilizing the resources of the Episcopal Church, where appropriate;
* Inform, inspire and involve everyone at St. Elizabeth’s Church regarding the activities of the Outreach Committee;
* Serve to coordinate, but not control, the outreach activities of other St. Elizabeth’s groups so that collectively we will maximize our contribution and make a difference in the lives of others;
* Demonstrate and strengthen our Christian faith and enrich the spiritual life of St. Elizabeth’s through these efforts.

Funding for the grants disbursed by the Outreach Committee is provided from the St. Elizabeth’s budget, proceeds from the annual Outreach Auction Dinner and individual contributions.

#### Our Commitment to Serve Others (Grace, Asheville)

Outreach at Grace Church intertwines with almost everything and everyone in our parish. Grace Outreach seeks to serve God and respectfully respond to the worldly needs of those Jesus referred to as “the least of these” (Matthew 25:35 -46): the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised, and the suffering. From individuals volunteering to help local charities to groups within the church raising outreach funds and organizing projects that literally span the globe, our commitment is to serve the Lord by making outreach an integral part of life in our church community. As Jesus told us, by carrying His love and compassion beyond the boundaries of the church to feed the hungry, care for the sick, clothe and shelter the poor and visit prisoners, it is as if we are showing that kindness to Him.

#### The “Outreach Group” at Grace Church.

In searching for an outreach ministry as a church or as an individual, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the staggering needs in the world as well as the many opportunities available for Christians who want to address those needs. A group of people at Grace, the ‘Outreach Group’, meets when necessary to prayerfully seek a clear spiritual focus for parish outreach ministries. In addition to keeping the parish informed about current outreach opportunities, the group plans and administers the outreach budget, distributes funding, and serves as a liaison between the parish and various outreach-related agencies. This group also proposes and supports outreach projects, encourages parish participation, works closely with the Vestry and takes responsibility for the stewardship of outreach funds.

* The Outreach Committee coordinates and promotes parish activities that offer care to those in need outside of the St. John’s community. The committee’s responsibilities include the distribution and stewardship of financial contributions in line with the vestry-allocated annual budget and designation of recipient organizations for the Christmas and Easter plate offerings. The Outreach Committee also supports existing outreach ministries & assists in the creation of new outreach ministries.

### St. Michael's offers every parishioner opportunities to serve others through local, regional, national and international mission work. The only requirement is a servant's heart. Our goal is to assist global and local organizations to alleviate hunger, promote affordable housing, meet emergency family needs, improve mental and physical health and well being, provide crisis relief, and promote education and life skills for children and adults.

* St. David's is committed to living out our faith by supporting those in need, both in our community and around the world. We do this because the Gospels tell us to do so, but we find that in serving, we get to know them, and when we do that, we learn more about who God is and how God loves. We are changed through the experience of helping others. With more than 20 outreach ministries, there are myriad ways to get involved.

**Vision:**

We are Christians committed to witnessing our faith through reaching out to neighborhoods, our villages and towns, and our world. It is our purpose to:

Research and recommend responsible and effective use of our allocated funds from St. Augustine's budget;

Inform our Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and Parish of the social and spiritual needs that exist beyond our walls;

Encourage the prayers, hands-on efforts and financial assistance of our faith community in addressing these needs;

Provide a wide variety of opportunities for parishioners to express their faith by taking part in outreach projects and ongoing programs;

Continue daily to spread God's word and love in all we do.

**Beliefs:**

The financial commitment made by the vestry sends a strong message about the importance of mission and outreach at St. Paul’s. We will continue to develop existing programs, while responding to new projects.

**Criteria for Support:**

1. What is the work of this organization and what does this grant make possible? How does the organization define and measure success? How long and in what capacity have senior leaders and managers served as a team? Please include a list of board members, copies of the minutes from at least two board meetings of the past year, and the percentage of board members who contributed to this organization in 2017.

2. Applicant organizations must have qualified for tax-exempt status under IRS Code 501 (c) (3). A copy of the organization’s IRS determination letter must be attached to your application. Please submit a copy of the organization’s financial statements and budgets for a two-year period.

3. Optional – you may include any information or literature about the recipient organization that will help explain or support your request. Please provide this in a PDF format attached to your application. This may include brochures, annual reports, etc.

4. Explain how St. Augustine’s members can participate in the work of this organization. Are there any actively involved board members who are also members of St. Augustine’s Church?

5. Champion’s Statement: How does the work of this organization relate to your faith?

### Evaluation criteria include: a focus in Guilford County, involvement of Holy Trinity volunteers and advocates, significance of the Holy Trinity grant to the organization, track record of performance, past Holy Trinity support, and the organization’s relationship to Holy Trinity or Holy Trinity parishioners. Successful grant applicants target housing, hunger, seniors, health care, disabilities, education, and refugees.

**Other:**

**Redeemer’s Current Mission/Outreach Ministries Aligned with 2017/18 Survey Results**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of Outreach Involvement** | **% of Respondents**  | **Alignment with Current Ministries** |
|  |  |  |
| Housing and Shelter | 75 | El Hogar, ERS Affordable Living, First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank, Habitat, Home Comforts, IHN, Lydia’s House, MEAC, PWC  |
| Childhood Poverty | 61 | El Hogar, First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank, Habitat, Home Comforts, IHN, Lydia’s House, MEAC  |
| Education and Training | 48 | El Hogar, First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank, IHN, Lydia’s House, MEAC |
| Food Pantry | 42 | Freestore Foodbank, MEAC |
| Social Justice | 37 | First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank,  |
| Emergency Assistance | 25 | First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank, IHN, MEAC |
| Opioid Crisis Intervention | 24 | First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank |
| International | 14 | El Hogar, Episcopal Relief and Development, Nets for Life |
| Prison Ministry | 10 | Freestore Foodbank |
| Neighboring Congregations | 10 |  |
| Public Health | 9 | First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank |
| Legal Advocacy | 8 | First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank |
| Financial Assistance | 6 | ERS, First Step Home, Freestore Foodbank, MEAC |

(ERS) Episcopal Retirement Services

(IHN) Interfaith Hospitality Network

(PWC) People Working Cooperatively

(MEAC) Madisonville Education and Assistance Center

**Trinity Asheville Outreach Budget**

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| --- |
| **Organization Name:** |
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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ABCCM | 8,000.00 |
| AB Tech Lavender Fund | 1,700.00 |
| All Souls Counseling | 1,500.00 |
| Asheville City Schools Foundation | 3,000.00 |
| Caring for Children | 5,000.00 |
| Church of the Advocate | 7,000.00 |
| Church of the Advocate Medical Supplies | 400.00 |
| Council on Aging of Buncombe County | 1,500.00 |
| Elida Homes | 1,500.00 |
| Habitat for Humanity | 5,000.00 |
| Helios Warriors | 1,000.00 |
| Helpmate, Inc | 4,000.00 |
| Homeward Bound | 6,000.00 |
| Literacy Council of Buncombe County | 1,000.00 |
| Manna Foodbank | 2,500.00 |
| Meals on Wheels | 2,500.00 |
| Memory Care | 1,500.00 |
| Mountain Area Radio Reading Service (MARRS) | 500.00 |
| Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc | 2,200.00 |
| Open Doors of Asheville | 2,400.00 |
| Partnership Pastoral Counseling | 1,200.00 |
| Pisgah Legal Services | 5,000.00 |
| Room in the Inn | 1,200.00 |
| Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry | 1,700.00 |
| Trinity Youth Mission trip to Haiti | 1,000.00 |
| Veterans Helping Veterans | 1,500.00 |
| Western Carolina Rescue Ministries | 2,500.00 |
| YWCA Child Care | 4,000.00 |
|   |   |
|   | 76,300.00 |

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## **Outreach: Getting Started #101**

Bob Runkle

We have been the Church Gathered, We are now the Church Dispersed. Remember, Wherever you go, Christ goes. Whatever you do, Christ does. If someone asks what your church is like, tell them “I am what my church is like.” If someone asks what your church does, tell them “My church does what I do.” Remember, you may well be the only authentic contact someone has with Jesus Christ because they will not come to church but you can bring the church to them. - Attributed to former U.S. Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson

If you learn this message, you can do anything you choose in the community of social justice and outreach ministries!

But what if you are on the vestry and there is not much interest in outreach? What if your congregation used to have an outreach ministry but does no longer? What if you’ve never been involved in outreach but have discovered a need within your community?

**Get passionate**
An effective social justice and outreach program can be created by a small group who has a passion for these ministries, in a very short period of time. A supportive environment created by a willing clergy person and a behind-the-scenes vestry member can make the program even more effective. At least one vestry member needs to be a passionate believer in outreach ministry activities, as this provides a built-in communications tool for the team.

**Assess the local needs**
Key to success in starting a new outreach program will be careful observation, fact gathering and presentation of conclusions. Realizing an unmet need is a great way to start. If things are not so apparent, interview members of the community (city council, mayor, governing body members or folks who’ve lived in the area a long time). Find at least one cohort to challenge your thoughts and summarize gathered data.

After you talk to people, you should have the names of organizations that are effective, some which may already be addressing that need you saw. Talk to their leaders and keep good notes. Would our volunteers be able to jump right in or would they need to help raise funds before starting? Would staff be available to help manage volunteers or would we need to devote time to that?

Will their philosophy merge with our faith structure?

Summarize the research and your decision-making process so that you can present this to the rest of the vestry. If your case holds the vestry’s attention, collect names to invite to a planning meeting. If you have only one real recommendation, you might consider including a representative at your first meeting to talk about the needs.

**Welcome new energy**
Many congregations change over time. Neighborhoods change, clergy change, people move away. For one or more reasons a congregation that once had an active, meaningful outreach program may become very inner-directed. If new members arrive with a passion for outreach, for doing something for others, or with a drive to help those less fortunate, they can become the catalyst for change. Having a vestry and clergy tuned to inviting and nurturing new ideas to surface will help!

**Define measurable goals**
Once a new direction is selected for the outreach efforts, the team needs to define goals for the first year that are really achievable and measurable. Figure out how to recruit team members, how to educate people about this need (newsletters, bulletins, tons of photos, bulletin boards, videos, web site messages — you name it, will work).

Success will happen if people see the needs and understand them, if the team is seen having fun, if the results are shared with the congregation, and if the activities are well planned and completed on time. Given that people learn and understand in different ways, tell the story in multiple ways. A really effective method can be a “client” who will tell how your congregation has made a difference, even to the point of changing lives.

## **Seeing Things As They Really Are**

[Alan Bentrup](http://www.ecfvp.org/blogs/author/206/alan-bentrup)



James Turrell is perhaps my favorite artist. He uses light and space in new ways to help people see new things. Or, rather, he helps people see things in a new way. During our [recent visit to Newfield in Indianapolis](http://www.ecfvp.org/blogs/3604/oldfields-newfields-and-balancing-tradition-and-innovation), a docent invite my wife and me into a room to see one of his works, Acton. I’ve only ever been to his [skyspaces](http://jamesturrell.com/work/type/skyspace/) before, so I didn’t know what to expect.

As we stood at the back of the room, we looked ahead at a white wall with a dark painting hung in the center. Or so I thought. [Acton](http://jamesturrell.com/work/acton/) is one of his “[space division](http://jamesturrell.com/work/type/space-division/)” series, which “consists of a large, horizontal aperture which appears to be a flat painting...but is a light-emitting opening to a seemingly infinite, light filled room beyond.”

In other words, it is an optical illusion, in which what appears to be one thing (a hung painting) is actually another thing (a window into a vast, empty room).

I was mesmerized. When the docent invited us to touch what we assumed was a painting, I thought she was crazy. And then I tentatively reached out to touch it, and my hand kept going, into this new room.

One of the main themes at this year’s [Missional Voices National Gathering](http://www.missionalvoices.com/) was that of seeing. Our closing presenter, DeAmon Harges, invited us to look at our neighbor and say, simply, “I see you.”

But...do we see what is really there, or do we see only what we want to see (or, perhaps, what we’ve been conditioned to see)?

When we look at our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and the situations around us, do we see the gifts they offer and the strengths they have? And when we look at ourselves and our parishes, do we see our full complement of gifts and limitations?

Staring at Acton, and finally discovering that there was a whole room beyond what I thought was a simple painting, was eye-opening. If I just stood back from Acton and admired it as a bland, monochromatic canvas, I would have missed it. I needed to engage with it to truly see it.

What would happen if we look beyond what we think we see in others? What would happen if we move in closer to those around us? What would happen if we truly engage with those around us? And what would happen if we attempt to see - truly see - our neighbors?

I think we would discover whole new worlds beyond what our eyes first glimpse.

**When have you seen something in your neighborhood that was beyond what you first glimpsed?**

MY OWN RAMBLING THOUGHTS

* Clarify if the Outreach Committee an advisory team for the Vestry? Or a decision-making team? A liaison between the parish and the agencies we support.
* Determine if it’s more effective to support fewer organizations in depth or several organizations superficially.
* Celebrate all the outreach currently being done at Grace. How can we do more?
* Develop a structure/criteria to determine what organizations Outreach Ministry will support
* Include feedback or reports from the agencies for accountability to be good stewards of the money to donate.
* What is their track record of performance and impact/effectiveness?
* Determine what agencies/organizations have the most impact for change
* Have a focus/target—unmet needs in the community; drug crisis; racial issues; seniors; food insecurity; mental health; environmental issues; education, etc.
* What needs are most pressing currently?
* Involve the congregation (survey?) in what they think are the most pressing needs that Grace should support?
* Focus on the change we want to create
* Most bang for our buck
* Spend time with the organizations we are considering supporting to learn more about them
* Develop relationships with the people we are serving
* Do our due diligence –how is organization run; % that goes to overhead; what are specific needs; impact it is having on the community
* Are we treating the symptoms or underlying conditions of drug abuse, racism, hunger, poverty, abuse—or both?
* Keep the congregation involved and updated monthly
* Are we looking for transformation? For the people we serve, as well as the people who are serving?
* Opportunities for youth to be involved
* Empowerment and Transformation are two words that keep coming back to me
* Are we in alignment with Diocese goals?
* Need Vestry support ($$). Outreach is the name of the game for churches!