

Parish of the Epiphany

Mission and Outreach

2011-12 Programs

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Matthew 25: 44-46

Welcome Letter from Thomas

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Epiphany Outreach Mission Statement

Striving for justice and peace, and seeking to serve Christ in the world, our parish Outreach seeks to mutually transform and empower lives through hands-on service and by sharing resources with our neighbors, both locally and globally.

Mission and Outreach Statement of Purpose

The Outreach Committee strives to encourage an awareness of the needs of others, inside and outside of our community. We put our faith into action through the giving of our time, talents and financial resources. The projects that we support offer the opportunity for hands-on service and spiritual growth and they allow all of us, children, teens, adults, seniors and clergy, to work together. We offer several different opportunities to meet everyone's diverse spiritual leanings, interests, talents and availability of time.

We work in three ways. First, we support and publicize the outreach efforts of members of our parish. When a parishioner feels passionate about a particular cause they bring this to the committee's attention and we plan ways in which we might support this effort. Support includes monetary funding, a goods drive or event planning. An example of this is our relationship with Brookview House, a transitional housing facility for homeless women and their children. We have given the organization money for computers and art supplies for their Children's Center. We provide gifts for the women and children at Christmas and have collected household items for four new apartments. Events involving Brookview House and Epiphany families include a movie outing, apple picking and a pancake supper.

The second way we engage in Outreach is through implementing larger parish wide outreach projects like the Lenten Project, the Thanksgiving Basket food drive and the Advent Giving Tree. These events invite the participation of all members of the congregation. Lastly, there are a few agencies that Epiphany supports through monetary donations only.

Global Missions

This year the women of Epiphany created a Global Mission Fund to support parishioners traveling on global missions to third world countries around the world. To learn more about this fund and how you can apply for support from the grants team go to the we serve menu on Epiphany's website at www.3crowns.org. We distributed our first grant in 2011 to a group of parishioners traveling to Haiti to offer medical assistance to earthquake and cholera victims.

Local Community

Ministries

Council for Social Concern, Woburn

As an ongoing service, food donations of non-perishable items are collected and placed in the shopping cart located in the Narthex. The donations are then delivered to either St. Stephens in Boston or the Council for Social Concern in Woburn. Also, each year Epiphany parishioners donate hundreds of baskets of food and turkeys to help local hungry families in need enjoy their Thanksgiving holiday.

Environmental Partnerships

The mission of Environmental Partnerships, Inc. is to assist faith communities and environmental groups to be effective partners working for environmental justice and stewardship.

To achieve this goal, EP:

- helps parishes address environmental issues of local concern
- helps environmental groups develop programs with the faith community
- supports lay peoples' crucial role in discussing multifaceted scientific and technical issues.

Germaine Lawrence

GL is a residential treatment facility in Arlington serving girls ages 11-18 recovering from behavioral issues. Each year, nearly 200 girls rebuild their lives and leave GL stronger and healthier, and ready to make positive contributions to the community. POE parishioners meet once a month for 1-2 hours and share skills and/or craft such as knitting, sewing, cooking, yoga, dancing, photography and sports with the girls. “Your gift of time and friendship will improve the life of an adolescent girl at Germaine Lawrence”.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty and

homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat has built more than 300,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.5 million people in more than 300 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Twice a year, teams of volunteers from Parish of the Epiphany hammer, paint and saw in one of Habitat's locations in the greater Boston area. Carpentry skills are not required, as team members help build a stronger community.

Meals on Wheels

From the first "Meals On Wheels" delivered in canteens to British servicemen during World War II; to the first formal Meals On Wheels program in America, serving Philadelphia shut-ins in the 1950s; to today's vast network of local home-delivered and congregate meal programs that serve millions of seniors and others across the country - Meals On Wheels has been a long-standing, highly-regarded institution. Members of the Parish of Epiphany have been picking up meals at Winchester Hospital and delivering them to seniors and shut-ins for years.

Winchester Multicultural Network

The mission of the WMN as stated by the Board of Selectmen in Sept. '09 is to promote the recognition, understanding, and appreciation of diversity, advocate for each and every person's civil rights and confront intolerance. "Winchester is a community that is grounded in respect for every individual, and therefore protects all residents, employees, business owners, students and visitors in the enjoyment and exercise of human and civil rights. It is town policy to ensure equal treatment and opportunity to all individuals regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, ideology, socio-economic status, health, sexual orientation, age, military status, or disability." POE supports all that WMN stands for.

St. Lukes Chelsea, San Lucas

POE has recently developed a strong relationship with the Rev. Edgar A. Gutiérrez-Duarte, Vicar of St. Lukes church in

Chelsea, MA. Formally established. on Mar 30, 2009, St. Lukes-San Lucas is a partnership with the Mystic Valley Deanery congregations. The kitchen, which began operations in June 2009, is staffed entirely by volunteers, and opens every Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon. Warm, nutritious breakfast and lunch are served to anyone who comes in, free of charge. Some days, over 80 people from all over Chelsea are served. The food for the kitchen is provided by the Greater Boston Food Bank and private & corporate donations. St Lukes also stocks a food pantry and parishioners help with unloading, stocking and bagging groceries for local residents.

Boston Area

Ministries

Blackstone Library

In September 2010 a new outreach mission project started with a community service day shared with St. Stephens church in the South End and 190 other volunteers where the library at the Blackstone was renovated and thousands of donated books displayed on shelves in a new brightly painted space. This library team travels to the Blackstone twice a week to help shelve books and read to the children, responding to the needs of the principal and teachers at the Blackstone school.

Brookview House

BH is located in Dorchester and provides transitional housing for homeless women and their children with the goal of eventually moving these families to permanent housing. Brookview House provides services to more than 100 moms and more than 200 kids per year with 75% leaving the ranks of homelessness permanently. The program changes lives – mothers stay employed, families stay housed, and their kids stay in school and thrive. For many years now Epiphany has supported the program and helped these women furnish new apartments for their families. Every year we sponsor a field

trip for over 80 Brookview members. Last year we went apple picking at Honey Pot Hill Orchard in Stow.

Ecclesia Ministries

In the summer of 1994, the Rev. Deborah W. Little began meeting with homeless people on the streets of Boston, offering sandwiches, friendship, and referrals. From that simple beginning, Ecclesia Ministries has evolved into a church community that engages homeless and privileged people, service providers, clergy, churches, seminarians, and others in ongoing activities that work to meet the important physical, social and spiritual needs of homeless people. In February, Epiphany members go to Ecclesia Ministries' Common Cathedral in Boston and bring donations of items that can be used by the homeless: old backpacks, fanny packs, small toiletries, sweatshirts and pants, raincoats, sweaters, shirts, hats, gloves, new white t-shirts, jeans, sneakers, and belts.

Rosie's Place

The mission of Rosie's Place is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for poor and homeless women to maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives. Rosie's Place seeks to fulfill this mission through the expression of our core values: Welcoming; Unconditional love; Fair and non-judgmental treatment; Encouragement; Holistic approach; Alleviation of suffering; Truth; Pursuit of social justice; and Independence. Parishioners serve lunch between 11 and 1 @ Rosie's Place in Boston on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Saturday's/Sunday's Bread

SSB serves meals to people in need at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston. SSB provides healthy meals in a safe and inviting atmosphere and are an interfaith activity.

Volunteers come from 40 organizations all over the Boston area. Each 2nd Saturday volunteers meet at POE to serve from 12:30-4:30. Work includes food prep, table setup, meal service and cleanup.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Turkey Wahoo

This year parishioners donated food, helped deliver, cook and serve an entire thanksgiving meal to St. Stephens parishioners. We played games, made crafts, bagged over 150 turkeys and fed close to 200 people in limited space! For St. Stephens church, this is their favorite celebration from a staff, kid and family viewpoint. 25 Epiphany families provided the food and 15 parishioners helped on site.

St. Stephen's BSAFE Summer Program

The Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment (B-SAFE) program is a summer day camp for kids in the Boston area. The program runs for seven weeks each summer offering full-day academic and enrichment opportunities serving young people from first grade through high school. The goal of the program is to build a community where all people feel safe, feel big, and feel connected. Every summer the program serves close to 600 youth in six Boston neighborhoods. Each site includes academic lessons in reading, writing and math; technology classes, art workshops, sports, swimming, and many field trips. A healthy breakfast and lunch is served each day, along with a snack. For middle school youth, there is a Youth Leadership Corps that involves all of the above activities, along with leadership training, community service opportunities, and community organizing, including meeting with local political officials. For high school youth, a CIT (Counselor-in-Training) program is offered that provides a paid summer job. POE participates in B-SAFE as a partner parish for 1 week in the summer. For 4 days each week, a dedicated team of adults, young people, and children from our church prepares and serves lunch to campers at St. Stephens in Boston. On the 5th day, a special field trip is organized for camp participants. In 2010 the elementary school aged children went to the Ecotarium in Worcester and the middle school children enjoyed Water Country in NH.

International

Ministries

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

In 2009 Epiphany had a special opportunity to see and hear what life in the Holy Land means. We were joined for the Eucharist and for Adult Education by The Rev. Canon Samir Habiby, Special Assistant to Bishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. Canon Samir spoke of the many good things happening in Jerusalem with Bishop Suheil at the Helm. He also interspersed his presentation with his many personal experiences working in and for the Diocese of Jerusalem. In addition, Dr. Linda Brown, a member of this congregation, spent two weeks there in February as a medical volunteer, working for the Diocese of Jerusalem. Linda shared her experience with us during this same Adult Education forum. Linda especially spoke of the terrible tragedy of the conflict in Gaza, which was taking place during her stay. To hear Rev. Habiby's sermon again, go to the parish web site @ <http://www.3crowns.org> and then navigate to "We Worship" and to "2009 Sermons" on April 19. Also recommended is Churches for Middle East Peace – a coalition of 22 public policy offices of national churches and agencies -- Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant -- seeking to maintain an on-going dialogue with Congress, the Administration and the diplomatic community, to advance such concerns, assessments, and advocacy positions. You can learn more about them at <http://www.cmep.org>

Books to South Africa

BSA collects donated books locally and ships them to poor communities in KwaZulu Natal Province, South Africa. We try to provide books in Zulu, since early childhood education is in Zulu, the predominant home language. We buy locally produced books, written by South African authors. College education and employment is largely in English. The

Community of Richards Bay eagerly awaits the next container of books we will ship. They will share them with communities nearby in Swaziland and Mozambique.

Children’s Book Shipments

CBS is currently sending books to an orphanage in Sri Lanka, the New Orleans Recovery School District, Church of the Redeemer in D’Iberville, MI, the Reading Food Pantry, Cardinal Cushing School in Hanover, MA and Ambrose School, Winchester.

El Hogar, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Epiphany has supported El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, “The Home of Love and Hope” for over 10 years now. Since 1979, El Hogar has provided a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned, and hopelessly poor children living in and around Tegucigalpa. Today, more than 250 boys and girls ages 5 to 20 years old are receiving an education and learning marketable trade skills that they will use to support themselves and their families when they reach young adulthood. One child at a time, El Hogar is breaking the cycle of poverty and despair that has become a way of life in Honduras. Teams of young people and adults from Epiphany plan weeklong mission trips to El Hogar each Spring, Summer and Fall.

El Hogar Walkathon

Each year the Parish of Epiphany organizes our annual walkathon to raise money for El Hogar. Each year the walkathon raises nearly \$30,000 which goes directly to helping the children at El Hogar.

Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States, guided by the Episcopal Church’s principles of compassion, dignity and generosity as we work to heal a hurting world. ERD reached more than 2 million people in

over 40 countries last year. Rather than impose “one size fits all” solutions, ERD supports local, long-term initiatives that address poverty, hunger, disease, economic development and disaster response where the need is greatest. ERD’s partnership with the worldwide Church creates opportunities to serve communities in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists. In many of these places, the Church is often one of the few institutions people trust and turn to for help. POE supported the Haiti relief effort in January 2010 through ERD. In April 2011, with the support of ERD, a group of parishioners traveled to Haiti to provide medical assistance a year after the devastating earthquake and continuing cholera epidemic. During Lent 2011, children in our Sunday school collected coins in their mite boxes to purchase animals through ERD’s Gift for Life program.

Microlending

Inspired by the peace work and success of Muhammad Yunus of the Grameen Bank and in an effort to help support entrepreneurs, largely women worldwide, pull themselves and their families out of poverty, Epiphany supports individuals by lending them funds and empowering them to become more self-sufficient and better able to take care of themselves and their families. Through the help of Kiva.org, Epiphany is able to lend directly to individuals all over the world and follow the progress of the individual’s loan and business online. We have supported a total of 14 entrepreneurs working in Honduras, Rwanda, Palestine, Pakistan, Paraguay and Sierra Leone since we started a few years ago.

War Widows in Sri Lanka

This year Epiphany started a new ministry with Ruba Gnanaratnam who lived in Sri Lanka for 50 years. We are helping her support war widows who are working on rebuilding their lives after the war destroyed their homes and schools in the north of Sri Lanka. Epiphany will help support the rebuilding of a day care center and help provide sewing machines and other items so women can make school uniforms for the children.

Parish-Wide Programs

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

During the month of November parishioners donate food baskets to the Council of Social Concern in Woburn to help families in need enjoy their Thanksgiving, donations valuing over \$3,000 each year. The list of items needed is distributed to the parish and posted online then baskets are delivered to the CSC the week before Thanksgiving.

Giving Tree

Each December the advent Giving Trees, in Hadley Hall and in the back of the church, are decorated with wish list tags from all the organizations we support. Parishioners choose from tags requesting toys, gift cards, food, clothing, books and household items to support local and Boston area families in need. There are also tags for financial donations to support our global mission work in Palestine/Israel, Honduras, Sri Lanka and South Africa. One specific initiative includes financial support for the teaching staff at El Hogar, a thriving orphanage and school in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with whom the parish has a special relationship. Each Christmas over \$3,500 worth of donations are distributed to hundreds of grateful children who feel remembered and cared for by Epiphany when they open gifts they wouldn't have otherwise received thereby spreading love and hope far beyond Epiphany.

Spring Lenten Program

In the Spring, during the 40 days of lent our Mission and Outreach team plans a project with a special focus and opportunity for parishioners and their families to reflect on others in need beyond Epiphany. In recent years, we have learned more about El Hogar, HIV/Aids in Africa, Habitat for Humanity, Environment sustainability and St Lukes soup kitchen and food pantry in Boston. In 2011 we focused on empowering women and families globally and locally. The

goal was to broaden our understanding about the Epiphany organizations that support women's empowerment including helping war widows in Sri Lanka, Children's Book Shipments, Rosie's Place, Brookview House, Germaine Lawrence and Microlending. We also read and discussed the book *Half the Sky* by Pulitzer Prize winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn.

Youth

Ministries

City Reach

In mid January, the YPF youth group goes on a CityReach weekend at Common Cathedral in Boston. These young people and adult mentors participate in an overnight program of service and prayer focused on the experience of homelessness in Boston. During the 20-hour session participants join City Reach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing.

Youth Leadership Academy

YLA is a program where high school students from around the diocese work together to become better leaders in the Episcopal Church. This year parishioners Celanie Almquist and Joe Owayda joined a mission trip to El Salvador in June as part of their outreach experience.

If you would like to learn more about Epiphany's Youth ministries, please contact the Reverend Roger E. Nelson @ 781-729-1922.

How You Can Help Make a Difference

Whether you have a few minutes, many hours, or whether you want to lead a project, or just help out.

Making a difference is an important part of our life and work at the Parish of Epiphany. Whether you are interested in helping alleviate poverty in Honduras, offering food or support to local families in need, or championing something new for the parish, we welcome your enthusiasm.

There are three ways you can get started:

- Talk to Betsy @ 729-6598 or Kate @ 729-9618 about your area of interest and they'll direct you to the program's leader. Leaders of our programs are also listed in Epiphany's 2010 Annual Report online @ www.3crowns.org.
- Call the Parish Office at: 781-729-1922
- Read our newsletters and check out our website @ www.3crowns.org. Most Programs are listed under "WE Serve". Also, check out the Mission & Outreach bulletin board in the hallway in front of Hadley Hall.

**For more information on Parish of the Epiphany
visit www.3crowns.org**