

Outreach

Grace Church offerings this past year:

Project Interaction

Project Interaction is made up of a group of Episcopalians from ten churches including Grace Church in Haddonfield. They meet monthly and orchestrate an ongoing series of outreach activities to benefit St. Paul's, Camden and the people of that city. Each Sunday morning one of these churches provides a hot breakfast at St. Paul's, Camden for anyone who chooses to attend. Attendees may include the poor, the homeless, those temporarily down on their luck, or the elderly. Grace Church provides and cooks the meal six times a year. More than 6,250 meals are provided annually.

In addition, Project Interaction raises money to help fund Camp Faith, a five week summer camp run by St. Paul's for the children of Camden. Money is also raised to pay for needed church repairs and equipment. The major purchase this year was a dozen folding tables for the all-purpose room.

The fundraising activity in 2007 was the annual dinner dance. This year's dinner was held on Saturday, December 1, at The Twenty Horse Tavern, Camden. Ten of our parishioners attended and others supported the affair by donating food or prizes, as patrons, or by purchasing ads in the program.

Our Church also picks up bread donated by Gerhard's Bakery. We package it and take the majority to St. Paul's every Sunday. What is left is offered for sale in the parish house after Sunday services. The money is used to support work at St. Paul's.

Project Interaction meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In 2008, the meetings will be at St. John's Church, 3 Linwood Avenue, Maple Shade. We appreciate the support that our parish gives to Project Interaction and invite you to become involved in any of our projects. We are especially in need of a few volunteers to help with the Sunday breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,
Roe Howell
Jean Horn

St. Paul's Food Basket

St. Paul's Food Basket is the largest outreach program sponsored by Grace Church. It involves approximately thirty parishioners (and a few other volunteers) each month. We give out 130 bags or more of food to needy folks at St. Paul's Church in Camden every Friday morning, year round.

During 2007, we handed out 6,543 bags of food compared to 6,741 in 2006. The total number of people served decreased from 17,047 in 2006 to 16,002 in 2007. In 2007 we averaged 125.6 bags per week, which is near the maximum we can sustain. The demand remains high and most weeks we must turn away a few people.

At Thanksgiving, we gave away 171 whole chickens instead of turkeys, as we did last year. Again, we had our big turkey drive at Christmas this year. Our parishioners and our friends at Mt. Pisgah AME Church donated enough turkeys and cash so that we were able to hand out 163 bags of groceries including 153 turkeys and 10 chickens.

It takes an enormous effort to solicit, store, retrieve, transport and hand out this food at St. Paul's. We thank all who donated and those who worked to make this possible. It made a lot of peoples' Christmas a little brighter--those who received and those who gave.

Grace Church parishioners and other friends of the St. Paul's Food Program gave all of the money needed for food, bags and supplies throughout the year. The Food Bank offers a limited and unpredictable assortment of donated food each week at 14 cents per pound. This year the food Bank's stocks have been low to non-existent and we have had to go to Aldi Stores to buy canned vegetables and fruit to make up the difference. It takes about 1000 cans of vegetables and fruit each week to fill the bags. The inability to obtain enough food to fill 130 bags each week has resulted in handing out bags that are only partially full. We are reducing the number of bags to 110 so we can hand out full bags. To help make up the difference, we have asked parishioners to bring in cans of vegetables and fruit to church each week. This has been a huge help. We hope folks will continue to do this every week and can increase donations on cans and money so that we can again hand out 130 bags each week.

The USDA and the State of New Jersey allot us a good bit of food each month without charge, which has also helped fill the gap. Every week we are able to pick up several hundred loaves of day-old bread and English muffins from Best Foods in Mt. Laurel (at no charge) which is most appreciated. We continue to need about \$1000 per month for food, bags and other supplies.

We have a number of volunteers who week after week put in many hours making this program the success it has been for over 23 years. Special thanks goes to Dick Bynum who every week determines what food is available, places the orders at the Food Bank, makes up the packing and pickup plans, and maintains our inventory. Special thanks also go to Stan Sikorski who manages our food pickup at the Church and the Food Bank and has been doing a superb job. Many thanks to all our volunteers as well as all those who support our program with cash and food donations.

We have many opportunities for volunteer help in addition to financial support. These include:

- Picking up food at the Food Bank in Pennsauken on Tuesday mornings;
- Helping unload our once-a-month delivery of USDA food on the 4th Monday each month;
- Bread pick-up at Best Foods in Mt. Laurel on Tuesday mornings;
- Bagging food on Tuesday mornings;
- Handing out food bags on Friday mornings.
- Helping Dick Bynum with the food ordering and the packing plans.

We try to limit each volunteer to only a few hours each month and only when they are available. We always need volunteers. If you would like to help with this great program, please call:

Dick Hammond at (856) 662-4034

(email-rhh@snip.net) or

Dick Bynum at (856) 428-2575

(bynum9@verizon.net) or

Grace Gagliardi (856) 489-4057

(email-gsgljg@earthlink.net) or

Stan Sikorski (856)795-0940

(email-steamstan2@aol.com) or

Grace Church (856) 429-0007 (email-office@gracehaddon.org)

We need everyone's financial support since we have to buy much of the food we give away. A check to Grace Church directed to the St. Paul's Food Basket is always most appreciated.

Lastly, thank God for all the wonderful efforts and good will of those who have supported our program.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Hammond