

Outreach Commission Report for 2017

Budget

The vestry approved \$5,000.00 for the Outreach budget in 2017. The Christ Church food ministry in the form of our Food Pantry continued to be our most significant community outreach and accounted for virtually our entire budget in 2017. To meet the need for food for our clients, we maximize our buying power through purchases and free food from the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank. We are also a distribution point for the free government USDA and Food for Life programs.

The Arlington Catholic Diocese continued in 2017 to provide our Food Pantry with free food it collected by donation. Roy Smith has begun regular, scheduled pick-ups of food provided by the Arlington Diocese twice each month of about 700 pounds. The generous donation of food from the Arlington Diocese to our Pantry resulted in a surplus remaining in our 2017 budget. A portion of this surplus carry-over has been approved by the Outreach Commission to be used to help with the cost of construction of the Father Jeffrey Packard Outreach Building on our church campus. This building will provide additional storage space to benefit the Food Pantry and the Thrift Store.

For 2018, the Vestry again approved \$5,000 from the Church budget for Outreach.

Grants

In January 2017 we received a Rice Bowl grant from the Arlington Catholic Diocese of \$2,000.00 to support purchase of food from the Food Bank. The grant funds were raised through the generous participation of parishes, schools and youth groups of the Arlington Diocese during the Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Lenten program during Lent. We have re-applied for this grant to purchase food from the Arlington Catholic Diocese in 2018. Grant announcements have been delayed until February.

We also submitted a proposal for an additional grant under a new program offered by the Arlington Catholic Diocese. Our proposal involves: 1) an improvement to our Food Pantry garden and 2) better nutrition for our participants through basic cooking education and recipe assistance. Grant announcements have been delayed until February.

Income	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Church Budget Transfer	4000	4000	4000	5000	5000	5000
Congregational Contributions	2135	3965	2999.53	3025	2600	2600
Holiday Meals Donations	4888	3279	2956	3050	2895	2750
Grants	1350	1000	3350	1500	2000	2000
School Back Pack Donations	1220	1254	1120	1100	1408	1300
Other Income			105	0	100	2750 2017 carryover
Total	13593	13498	14530.53	13675	14003	16400

Expense	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Food Bank Dues	50	50	50	80	80	80
Food Bank Purchases	8684	8955	9867.59	9800	7776.14	8800
Holiday Feedings	2029	2073	1903.19	2200	2069.88	2200
International Outreach	175	0	0	0	0	500
School Supplies	799	702	630.73	750	979.43	1000
Equipment			2070.91	750	0	750
Outreach Building						3000
Total	11737	11780	14522.42	13580	10905.45	16330
Balance			\$8.11	95	3097.55	70

Outreach Projects in 2017

Food Pantry (FP)

Our Pantry's mission is to provide for the needs of the hungry in the communities surrounding our church, with primary emphasis on Spotsylvania County and the City of Fredericksburg. Stephanie and Roy Smith are the Food Pantry coordinators.

Food – USDA food and Food for Life are federal government programs that provide food to our pantry patrons without cost to the pantry. We serve the community by picking up this food from the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank and distributing this food to our clients.

Our Food Pantry is open two Tuesdays each month and completely staffed by volunteers from our church. Without the hard work of many volunteers the work of our pantry – scheduling and paperwork, shopping, stocking, packing bags, serving clients, setting up and cleaning up – would not be possible.

The only direct cost of the FP is the cost of food to stock our shelves and freezers. We purchase food from the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank (FAFB) at their shared maintenance cost of 19 cents per pound. Food is also occasionally collected from donations from our congregation. This year we also received food donations from the Boys Scouts during “Scouting for Food,” a local business, Cleaning Authority and the Vakos office staff at Thanksgiving.

We must now pre-order food on-line for later pick-up at the Food Bank. Food is then stored in our storeroom until our distribution dates. Prior to distribution food is pre-packed into bags for easier distribution to our clients. Food distribution occurs from Room 4 on the first floor in ASH. The FP is also using the former education office in ASH to house freezers for frozen meat products. The chart below summarizes the number of clients our pantry served in 2017.

Date	Ch 0 - 5	Ch 6 - 18	Adults	Seniors	Total People	Families	New Families	Comments
1/10/2017	23	89	172	32	316	79	10	Just opened to new clients
1/24/2017	17	87	163	40	307	90	3	
2/14/2017	12	83	159	48	302	88	3	
2/28/2017	16	65	129	37	247	68	0	
3/14/2017	2	23	53	15	93	23	0	Snow
3/28/2017	14	73	149	40	276	78	3	
4/11/2017	17	77	160	47	301	88	2	
4/25/2017	8	62	103	41	214	58	2	Rain
5/9/2017	14	56	129	37	236	69	2	
5/23/2017	13	64	146	37	260	81	5	
6/13/2017	6	55	127	38	226	70	1	
6/27/2017	16	89	141	42	288	78	8	
7/11/2017	11	69	130	40	250	73	3	
7/25/2017	15	67	165	50	297	90	4	
8/8/2017	17	71	164	40	292	80	5	
8/22/2017	20	91	164	40	315	85	5	
9/12/2017	20	74	152	37	283	79	3	
9/26/2017	21	70	154	38	283	83	7	
10/10/2017	19	86	178	50	333	98	1	
10/24/2017	12	61	139	40	252	73	9	Last day for new clients
11/14/2017	21	85	200	53	359	104	0	
11/18/2017	29	129	223	56	437	126	0	Thanksgiving
12/12/2017	15	72	143	45	275	79	0	
12/19/2017	18	110	218	62	408	121	0	Christmas
					Total People	Families	New Families	
					6850	1961	76	

Holiday Food Programs

Thanksgiving

Jim and Janice Kenkel chaired our Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program. This year we had 134 families sign up seeking assistance for their holiday meals. We tried to keep costs down by obtaining as much food as possible from the Food Bank in the months preceding the Thanksgiving distribution. However the majority of donated turkeys from the Food Bank arrive too late for our pre-Thanksgiving distribution. We purchased 109 turkeys at Wal-Mart for \$999.79, representing an average cost of \$9.17 per turkey. The other food items purchased from Walmart cost \$1000.21. The average cost per family for Thanksgiving food was \$14.92.

Christmas

Kristi Gross chaired our Christmas Food Distribution Program with help from Bill Butler and Larry Gross. Similar to last year, the Christmas food distribution did not focus on one meal but was a larger “regular” food distribution to our clients to assist them through the period when our pantry was closed around the Christmas holiday. Virtually all of the Christmas distribution food was from the Food Bank. This plan required more accumulation and storage of food prior to the distribution but the Commission felt it benefited the families over the period we were not conducting pantries. Incredibly, the cost for our Christmas Food Distribution was under \$70.00!

As always, many members of our congregation played important roles in making both Holiday food distributions successful. Parishioners generously donated food and money, shopped, picked up purchased food, pre-packed boxes for distribution, set up chairs and tables, completed paperwork, carried food to clients’ cars and showed tremendous patience and compassion. Our pantry patrons were extremely thankful and appreciative for the food assistance.

School Supplies Program

Penny Knepp, Kristi Gross and the Watts family continued our School Supplies Program in 2017. Seventy six children received backpacks filled with school supplies. This program is expected to continue in 2018 with the Watts family leading.

Additional Outreach

A public Prayer Wall was temporarily installed in front of Christ Church near the Thrift Store where it was accessible to members of the community to leave a written statement in chalk of their prayer concerns. The wall was funded by a New Life Grant from Father Packard. The prayer wall was an invitation to the community to think about and demonstrate their prayer life or to ask others to join them in praying for a particular purpose. The prayer wall was part of a layered, social media invitation to the community to join us in prayer. Each week prayer concerns from the wall were included in the Prayers of the People during our Sunday services. The Prayer Wall has been taken down and stored for future use.

Outreach in 2018

Food Ministry

In 2018 we plan to continue our Food Pantry with distributions occurring on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Staffed completely by parish volunteers, our Food Pantry requires 1,600 volunteer hours annually.

We also plan to serve a hot prepared breakfast for our patrons and staff in ASH on Shrove Tuesday. Future meals may become a regular event.

Everyone is invited to attend Outreach Commission meetings or send suggestions to Outreach Commission chairman Allen Bareford at ABareford@fre.idc.virginia.gov or contact our Vestry liaison David Fagiano at davidfagiano@gmail.com