

OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT 2016

Celebrating St. Michael and All Angels 50th Anniversary

“Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine you do for me”

Mathew 25:40

OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Outreach Ministry enjoyed another successful year because of the generous support that it receives from the parishioners of St. Michael and All Angel's church.

This year our first event was a Pancake Supper held on February 9th – Shrove Tuesday. It was well attended with over fifty people present. This was also the first event held marking St. Mike's 50th Anniversary and being so close to Valentine's Day it was like a triple celebration! The Palm Crosses from the previous Palm Sunday were lit and Kohner Hall looked very colourful decorated with red bows, balloons and parishioners wearing little red hearts. It was an evening full of smiles and fellowship. A “Free Will Offering” totaled \$415.00 and this will be put towards The Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Programme. It takes many volunteers to make this event happen. My thanks to the following people who cooked, helped to set up and clean up - Grant, Dominick, Colin, Alex, John, Christopher, Andy, Rev. Michelle, Connie, Dale, Henriette, Theresa, Dawn, Cheryl, Monica and Patricia.

As I informed you last year The Outreach Ministry is no longer organizing fund raisers specifically for P.W.R.D.F. or distributing their envelopes at the beginning of Lent due to dwindling support. However we are *still supporting* the good works of P.W.R.D.F by a direct donation each year of \$500.00. For more information on the work that the P.W.R.D is involved with please visit www.pwrdf.org

Our sponsorship that we started in November of last year with Roudjina continues. As you may remember Roujina lives in an orphanage in Haiti called l'Arche or The Arc along with twenty two other children including her twin sister. The orphanage was built by our good friends Asmick, Mauro of La Corde – a Christ Youth Centre located in the impoverished Cloverdale area of Pierrefonds - and their supporters as a result of the devastating earthquake that hit the country in 2010. Alaina and the Sunday School children will be starting to correspond with Roudjina very soon. Our goal is to one day to be able to visit Roudjina and all the orphans. I am hoping that I will be able to do a better job of keeping you up to date with how Roudjina is doing by displaying updates I receive on the Outreach bulletin board in Kohner Hall. For more information about this project please visit www.pleasehelpme.ca

St. Mike's support of the Rt. Rev. Grant and Dr Wendy LeMarquand's mission trip in the Horn of Africa continues to be supported largely due to the enthusiasm that Henriette has for this project. Thank you Henriette for reminding us to drop our spare change in that little glass bowl each Sunday and to keep the LeMarquand's in our prayers. Henriette was able to raise a total of \$784.00 and I know that her goal is to one day raise \$1000.00. Let us see if together we can make it happen this year!!

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

A St. Patrick's Day Lunch was held on Wednesday March 16th in Kohner Hall. There were about thirty two people present. Our dear friend Annette Bouwman won the prize for the best dressed Leprechaun with her green bowler hat, shamrock socks and of course the best Irish accent!! These lunches give us all the opportunity to enjoy Christian Fellowship and to get to know each other a little better in a relaxed and fun setting. Just as important is the Communion Service we attend with our brothers and sisters in Christ before the lunch.

We provided sporadic baking for The Alcoholics Anonymous Groups (AA) that meet in Kohner Hall on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. We did this as a simple gesture of support. We are looking for volunteers so that we can bake for them more often.

"Tooney Sundays" continue to be well supported because of your generosity. This year you raised \$746.10. Money collected is put towards buying items needed for the Easter Baskets for the ladies at Auberge Madeleine as well as towards food needed for the Christmas Baskets. Many thanks for all those toonies!!

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

This is an area in which St. Mike's seems to shine brighter and brighter with each year that passes!

In the Spring twenty six Easter Baskets were taken to Auberge Madeleine. This is a shelter downtown for women in distress. These women are homeless and alone, others suffer from mental instability and drug or other dependencies. Sadly they are also the victims of domestic violence. The baskets we took contained the items we had asked the congregation to bring in, toiletries, underwear and cosmetics along with chocolates and a beautiful Easter card made by Faith, Kelly's daughter and a blessed Palm Cross. The baskets were delivered on Wednesday March 23rd and were received with much appreciation. Although quite a small project this is something that the ladies at the shelter really enjoy. We have formed a bond and they refer to the parishioners of St. Mike's as their "angels." For more information about the Auberge please visit www.aubergemadeleine.org

In the Summer St. Mike's once again had a food collection for families living on the West Island. This is our second year doing this and we would like to make it a regular event on the Outreach Calendar. We all tend to think of giving to those in need especially during the Christmas season and the long, cold days of Winter. However the very same people are still in need during the Summer months. Thank you to everyone who brought in food and to Jacqui, Glenna and Henriette who took the food to the West Island Assistance Fund in Roxboro where it was received with much appreciation!

White Gift Sunday was on November 27th and Christmas was officially under way for St. Mikes! This year you managed to fill thirty eight backpacks for the men at St. Michael's Mission downtown. On Tuesday November 29th we put on our reindeer ears and Santa hats and off we went to deliver the backpacks along with some Christmas baking - a real treat for the men. This

trip was extra special as there were fourteen of us all together – the largest group of people we have ever had!! This fact was not lost on George, the Director of the Mission. He took the time to call me at home to let me know that he thought it was one of the best visits we had ever had. Everyone sat down and talked with the men. George always tells us to “look into their eyes” as so many people just walk past and avoid eye contact with a homeless person. We sang carols, gave out our baking, served lunch, mopped the floors and wiped down the tables. Many thanks to Dale, Bernice, Henriette, Helen and Geoff, Dawn, Sarah, Monica, Jacqui, Julie and Andy, Dominick and Gail for making this hands on outreach experience so memorable. If you would like to join us next year please let me know. As you can see the more the merrier and everyone is welcome.

Finally The Christmas Basket Project 2015. This year you made it possible for us to put together and deliver twenty nine baskets. In total you showed the true meaning of Christmas to 84 children and adults combined, bought gifts for thirty six children and gave grocery cards out to the sum of \$1,425.00!! We are a small congregation but just look at the wonderful works we are able to do when we all come together as Christians for a cause we believe in.

This year The Outreach Committee expresses its thanks to Kelly and Faith for their beautiful handmade cards that each family and every child received as well as some equally beautiful framed mosaics. These really are a labour of love. Each one lovingly made and prayed over. We know you have been doing this for many years and we thank you for your dedication and commitment. The baskets would not be complete without your very special contribution.

Our thanks also to Jacqui and Joyce and their friends at Le Carrefour des Aines Knitting Group in Pierrefonds for all the hats, scarves and mittens you provided us with. You are a very talented group of ladies.

We also received a donation of twenty nine boxes of food from a friend of Daphne Fernades who likes to remain anonymous. Along with this donation we also received Winter coats for men and women, jeans, gloves and toques. These are the boxes you can see in Kohner Hall. The ladies coats have already been taken to La Corde by Henriette and Jacqui where Asmick, the director, will distribute them to the parents of the children who are most in need. The men’s coats and gloves we would like to give to St. Michael’s Mission early in February. Please check your bulletin for more details and plan to come with us. Many thanks and blessings to you Daphne. We hope that when you are next visiting Montreal you will come by and worship with us.

The evening we pack the boxes is always special as is the day we deliver. A big thank you to Veronica Bean (Wolowicz) who every year faithfully writes the Christmas cards and locates and prints out directions for every family receiving a basket. It is because of Veronica’s hard work that delivery day runs so smoothly! This year we give thanks to the delivery crew that turned out on a very cold morning to get the job done – Elijah, Marla, Charles, Anne, Jason, Jeremy, James, Erica, Helen, Geoff, Henriette, Berty, Alex, Colin, Brian Sherstone and his friend, Ray, Terri and her daughter (from St. Thomas a Beckett) John McCall, Rev. Michelle, her son Tom and daughter-in-law and not forgetting her grandson Oscar and his little sister. On behalf of the Outreach Committee I would like to thank **everyone** who helped make The Christmas

Basket Project 2015 the success it was. This is a large undertaking that we as a parish in the Pierrefonds community commit to each year and one in which we not only fulfill that commitment but excel in it! What a wonderful example of "the little church that could." Let us remember to give God the glory and the praise for "through Him we can do all things."

My report would not be complete if I did not bring to your attention the ladies who make up the Outreach Committee and whose hard work are the reason all these events take place. They are Henriette, Jacqui, Monica, Julie, Glenna, Dawn, and Theresa. I would also like to thank our three "unofficial male members" Dominick, Andy and Bob. Your willingness to help out whenever asked is much appreciated and is never taken for granted. Anytime you want to become "official" members and attend meetings just let me know! This year I especially want to thank Henriette for all the photos she takes of Outreach events. These photos serve to give anyone using the church (and there are a lot of them!) an insight into the kind of parish and people we are. What kind of parish are we? Well every year you show me that St. Michael and All Angels Church is a parish full of kind, loving, friendly and compassionate people. Your generosity and caring hearts never disappoint. Without all of you there would be no Outreach Ministry - **You Are The Outreach Ministry**. May God bless you and all your families as we move forward into a new year. Let us continue to reach out to our brothers and sister in Christ with joy in our hearts remembering always Jesus's teaching in Mark 12 30-32

"Love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second most important commandment is this: love your neighbour as you love yourself. There is no other commandment more important than these two"

Respectfully Submitted

Elizabeth Ho-Wo-Cheong