



St. John's Episcopal Church Springfield Gardens, New York

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

Issue 1
May 2013

Missional Vitality - Community Service

In his January address to the 146th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island, Bishop Provenzano welcomed us to engage two imaginative tasks as a diocese. One of which was that all congregations and leaders spend the season of Easter in mission discernment, framed by this provocative question "How does this congregation serve God's mission to God's people in this community?" In keeping with the requests and directions of Bishop Provenzano's request, our Church held a community outreach meeting on Sunday, May 19th after Mass in our undercroft. In attendance were members of our congregation, members of our community who were visiting St. John's for the first time as well as returning guests to our Church. The meeting opened with thought provoking questions and highlights from our resident priest Father Jerrick F. Rayside. Father Rayside called upon us to focus on how our church is perceived by our community and how we can further engage our efforts in partaking more in the community and making our Church and our mission known. We then continued with group participation in order to get everyone engaged in the discussions. We focused on areas within our community where we should direct our outreach efforts. We invited those in attendance to share their thoughts on how St. John's can best succeed in our mission of community outreach and also took suggestions on how we can best go about this endeavor. Suggestions were given that highlighted specific areas within our community needs, such as, The Elderly (Wills, Trusts & Estates Learning), Youth Workshops (Summer Programs) etc. We also discussed how we hope to keep new members engaged at St. John's and to spread the word of our mission by use of free community journals, newspapers, radio programs and the continued use of Social Media Network to spread the word of God and the mission of St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield Gardens. We will continue this emission we have been called upon to fulfill and we will start with engaging our parishioners here at St. John's.



The Cynthia Jenkins School, PS 37

St. John's has adopted The Cynthia Jenkins School, PS 37 in Queens NY. PS 37 is a community school that is approximately a block away from our Church. We are committed to assisting the PS 37 family throughout the year. Our congregation continues to donate school supplies, and other essential items families may need to PS 37 throughout the year. The PS 37 Adopt-A-Family Outreach allows St. John's to give back to our community and to spread the word of God through giving. Please continue to donate and take part in this much needed mission throughout the year. Heartfelt Thank you.... "We at the Cynthia Jenkins School, PS 37, wish to express our profound gratitude to your institution, for working with our school over the last two years." School's principal, Beverly Mitchell.



Adopt-A-Family Program

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, St. John's Episcopal Church participated in the Adopt-A-Family program again in 2012. We adopted two families to assist over the holiday. Thanks to all our parishioners who donated gifts of clothing and food for the two families in need. Christmas is a time of joy and peace for many, but for our neighbors in need it can be a time of great stress. Thank you all for sharing your blessings and by being a Christmas Angel. With the support of compassionate individuals like yourselves, we were able to brighten the lives of two families in our neighborhood. Recipients of this program were families at The Cynthia Jenkins School, PS 37 in Queens. We received a heartfelt thank you from the School's principal, Beverly Mitchell. Letter can be viewed at our Church Website. When you adopt-a-family in December you can make the holidays bright for needy children.



Supplies For The Families



Pastoral Care - Community Program

The members of the St. John's Episcopal Church Stewardship committee continue to provide Pastoral Care to our Sick, Elderly and Homebound parishioners. A weekly bulletin is sent out to them & special effort from the volunteers to see them at Easter and Mother's Day. We would like to thank our parish visitor volunteers who have dedicated their time and care each year to provide comfort and care to our sick and shut-ins. Pastoral Care involves, communicating with the sick and shut-ins, discussing illness issues, spiritual assessment, grief and loss, suffering and faith, death and dying, ritual and sacraments in pastoral ministry, theology of pastoral care, and care giving. If you would like to participate in this wonderful activity please see any member of our Vestry or Stewardship committee.



*Pastoral Care of
our Sick & Shut-Ins*

International Spring Fair - Community Event



*International Spring Fair
An Annual Community Event*

St. John's Episcopal Church held its 2nd Annual International Spring Fair on June 16th, 2012 from 10AM thru 6PM. Countries represented this year included: Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, USA, US Virgin Islands, Nigeria. Other parish groups in attendance were the Girl Scouts and the Youth Group. Thanks to all the vendors who participated this year. The 2013 annual event will be held on June 22, beginning at 10AM—6PM. This year to further increase awareness & participation an event banner was posted on the lawn & posters were handed out to the community. This event helps to bring the community to St. John's, We use this day to enlighten the community on our Church and its mission by way of actively engaging the surrounding community both residential and commercial.

Health Ministry Awareness Programs

The St. John's Health Ministry is an intentional ministry focusing on both healing and health, combining the ancient traditions of the Christian community and the knowledge and tools of modern health care. Its focus is providing health education, and helping the congregation in maintaining a healthy life style. Activities include: Regular blood pressure monitoring, answering health questions & steering them to the correct medical discipline & conducting workshops. In attendance at our International Spring Fair in 2012, were representatives from the New York Medical & Diagnostic Center in conjunction with the St. John's Health Ministry the team of technicians offered free Bone Density and computerized spinal examination.



New York Medical & Diagnostic Center

Senior Citizens Computer Class

St. John's Episcopal Church held several free computer classes for our senior parishioners, friends & family in November of 2012. We had a very good turn out and will be conducting other classes in the near future. Those who attended both classes received their Certificate of Training. The goal is to educate our seniors on the basic skills required to participate in today's technological environment.



Social Media Discipleship

As Episcopalians (Anglicans) we should embrace the social media and web publishing phenomenon. The Church should look at these tools as a social evangelism tool - bringing people into the Church via the internet as well as in our Church building. The goal is to expand the Sunday experience to the rest of the week by way of our church's Website, Twitter discussions, access to our Church's website updates via Facebook and the sharing our church activities via YouTube when possible. Please visit our social media networks to learn more about our Church and to stay connected with our Church family. St. John's Episcopal Church is now on: Facebook! Twitter! YouTube!



International Brunch & Nickel Social

The ECW/Women's Ministry holds an annual Int'l Brunch & Nickel Social that brings our congregation and community together each year. The event includes brunch, raffles, games, food and lots of fun for the congregation & Guests. We usually sponsor one or two other fund raisers during the year. The monies collected are used for the OUTREACH programs. We also oversee the collection of food for the Episcopal Community Services, school supplies for the needy children, adopt-a-family at Christmas, send knitted sweaters to children worldwide, hats and scarves to Seaman's Church Institute, and coordinate efforts for United Thank Offering. From time to time we take on other projects. No special invitation is necessary.



International Foods

Needlework Outreach Program



Needlework Presentation

The St. John's Needlework program is led by our very own Barbara Taylor and is held every Wednesday at 2PM at our Church. Additional members are Edith Moore and Marlyn Sawyer. Members of the community are invited to attend these needlework sessions and offers St. John's the opportunity to reach out to potential new members by sharing the opportunity to engage others in this wonderful art form. The needlework group with the efforts of the ECW Ministry sends knitted sweaters to children worldwide & hats and scarves to the Seaman's Church Institute.

Christmas Party & Tree Lighting

The Springfield Gardens Taxpayers & Citizens Association annual Christmas Party & St. John's Christmas Tree Lighting was held at St. John's again in 2012. This event hosts an array of community political leaders as well as community activists. St. John's has been hosting this event for several years now. In doing so we are also introducing new members to our community, to our Church and showing them that our Church's mission is to reach out to the community as often as we can. We look forward to seeing you at the event this year. Please visit our website for more details later this year.



Praise “Liturgical” Dance Children Outreach

St. John's Praise Dancers continue to reach out to the community by performing at special events in our community. Members of the group consists of parishioners and non-parishioners. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew held its 6th Annual Youth Talent Show on Saturday, May 19th at St. David's Episcopal Church in Cambria Heights, Queens. Among the performers was the St. John's "Little Angels" who performed 2 liturgical (praise) dances. We invite you to enroll your young ones in this program.



The Heavenly Tones Concert



The Heavenly Tones celebrated their 46th anniversary on Sunday, April 28th, 2013 by holding a concert at St. John's Episcopal Church. The event began at 4pm and showcased multiple gospel performances. There was no coverage charge, however, free will offering was accepted. This concert event was organized by Ceejay Abenn, St. John's organist and choir master. It allowed us to invite members of our community to our Church to partake in a religious event and to share our Church and mission to everyone in attendance. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this celebration and we wish the Heavenly Tones another 46 years of spreading the word of God through song.

Youth Group Outreach

St. John's Youth Group participated in the Mama Luke's Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in New Jersey on Sunday, October 21. Mama Luke's 2012 "Walk the Walk" on Sunday, October 21st for the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk in Newark, New Jersey ranked Team Mama Luke the #3 team out of 639 teams. THANK YOU to everyone that helped make this happen. Team Mama Luke. Mama Luke is Hip-Hop's fight against breast cancer in memory of Gay Frances Lucas. Along w/American Cancer Society-Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, we bring awareness to Urban-America & uplift spirits of breast cancer fighters everywhere.



Youth Group Breast Cancer Awareness Walk

Girl Scouts Outreach

St. John's Girl Scout meetings are held every other Saturday from 2PM-4PM, through June. The Girl Scouts in attendance are members of St. John's Church as well as children in our community who are not parishioners. Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls—all girls—where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth. Girl Scout Contacts are Roslyn Sealy & Afotan Fadairo. Please see any of the leaders above for more information or if you know someone who would like to join.



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