

## WHAT'S OUTREACH BEEN UP TO?

Outreach is such a dynamic part of Christ Church. We are constantly praying and working for those in need, one way or another.

2018 has been a very busy year for Outreach. We began the year looking back at 2017 to see how we made a difference and what we could do to be stronger.

For over 20 years, 24 parish families continue to make sandwiches for the homeless for **Bethesda Cares** the first and second Saturdays of each month. It's a one-time a month, one-time a year project for each family, but the rewards of helping those who can't afford to feed themselves or their families is priceless.

In February we celebrated **Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)**. The mission of ERD is "Healing a hurting world, guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity." ERD is there whenever there is a disaster and the monies we raise do make a difference. We raised a total of \$2,415

Our focus during the month of March, **Heifer International**, saw Agnes the Lamb, made her presence. Agnes was created for the children of Christ Church as a symbol of Heifer's mission, "Passing the Gift," where one chicken, duck, lamb, etc. can produce products that can be passed onto other families in need. The parish was encouraged each week to "feed" Agnes, so funds raised could be passed onto buy lambs, ducks, bees and so many more gifts for families in poverty all over the world. Agnes was well fed and \$360.00 was sent to Heifer International.

In April, our parish joined with Revere Bank to sponsor a house for **Rebuilding Together Project Day**. 40 Christ Church volunteers joined about 20 Revere Bank volunteers to "fix up" a group home for disabled adults. Painting, landscaping, wallpaper scraping, new doors were just some of the tasks that were completed. Besides the cost of co-sponsoring the house with Revere Bank (which provides supplies), we raised an additional \$220 to help Rebuilding defray costs of supplies.

May and June introduced **Comfort Cases** to the parish again. Comfort Cases are cases given to children entering the foster care system in Montgomery County, giving each child from infant to 18 something that they can call their own. Our parish raised \$1,900 to buy supplies for 71 cases and enjoyed a "packing day," when we all got together to pack the cases.

New to our lineup, is **Camp Kesem**. Introduced to us by Paige Chase, one of youth, Camp Kesem is a free camp for children who have a parent who has cancer or died of cancer. Paige's mother succumbed to cancer several years ago and she found that camp was not only fun, but a way to deal with her loss. Paige put up a great display of items that we could sponsor for this incredible camp and shared with us why Camp Kesem is so important to her.

Let us not forget **Arcola Elementary**. We have been supporting various programs at Arcola Elementary and their **Linkages for Learning** program for many years. Throughout the school

year, we provide snacks for grades 1 – 3. This summer, for their summer camp, we donated VISA cards to help defray costs for entrance fees to various local attractions the children will be attending.

Beginning in August, we will begin to collect school supplies for those children whose families can't afford proper supplies for the coming school year.

Several members of our parish have become involved with the [Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington](#). Founded in 1986, 12 Episcopal churches in the DC area believed they could do more together than separately. Together they decided to go beyond the provision of emergency assistance to people who are homeless and others in need and help all peoples, whether it be with training, housing, food, language, etc..

Our own Charlie Briggs is now an employee of Samaritan Ministries. Doug Leavens has become one of their volunteers.

### The Problem Solver: Doug Leavens

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Doug Leavens has been a hard-working volunteer with Samaritan Ministry for more than two years as Computer Mentor, Resume Writer, Outreach Assistant, and Partner Representative for [Christ Church, Kensington](#).

Thanks to his years of professional experience in international development, Doug is curious and interested in people from all backgrounds and walks of life -- a trait that's invaluable in the diverse Silver Spring office. Thanks to his hospitality, orientation to detail, patience and problem-solver attitude, Doug is a terrific computer mentor and practice interviewer for Next Step participants.

Doug began volunteering at Samaritan Ministry "because I care deeply that we have so many in our communities who are less fortunate. They are looking for something I can take for granted...a hand up out of poverty or homelessness, illness, hard times, bad luck or just plain rotten circumstances. I love connecting with and having great conversations with our participants. They all have amazing stories and wonderful

dreams to fulfill. I feel it is a blessing to be able to give back, to pay forward to others, and to share my experience, talents and skills."

He continued: "[Samaritan Ministry is meaningful because it] empowers the homeless and those in need, starting with showing respect to everyone who walks through our doors, or that we meet on the streets. To greet someone with an open heart creates an atmosphere of equality and acceptance that many participants tell me makes them feel so welcome. They are in a safe place with us. And that makes it easier for them to take that first, next step toward a better, more fulfilling life."

Doug is "a problem solver, says Kathy Staudt, Lead Caseworker at the Silver Spring office, "some of our participants' issues can lead to frustration when the problems are really challenging and multifaceted, but Doug is a great one for staying with the issue and trying to figure it out. I really rely on him for one on one work with participants at the computer. We rely on him to serve our participants consistently - and they miss him when he's not there!"

**Christ Church parish never sleeps when it comes to helping others and making a difference!**

**SAVE THE DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL KENYA NIGHT is OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>!**