

Episcopal City Mission: Easter Bags



EPISCOPAL
CITY MISSION

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is a chaplaincy to young people in detention in the City and County of St. Louis. ECM provides spiritual care and worship to support the children and young people awaiting trial. Age range for the young people in the detention centers is eight years to 17. Three chaplains provide the bulk of the personal connections, but groups from churches around the Diocese of Missouri do special things—birthday parties each month, for example, and treats at different times of the year. ECM is trying to increase its outreach to the young people and their families with an after-care program.

For more than 20 years, Trinity Church in St. Charles has supported ECM in various ways, including providing cookies and other treats, school supplies like composition books, sock drives and Easter "basket" bags.

Activity in 2023

This year marked the fifth consecutive year of decorating, filling and delivering Easter “basket” bags, decorated by an inter-generational group of parishioners, filled with individually wrapped treats and activity books. This project originated as a Sunday School Lenten project, surviving the pandemic through some creative home-based work.

For the last few years, parishioners of all ages have gathered to decorate the bags in the St. Hilda Room as a fun fellowship and service activity. We provided 100 bags, filled with approved treats and activities.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Chairperson: Betty Bowen

Eucharistic Visitors: Lori Cooper, Susan Goddard, Nancy Noel, Judy Hodge, Helen Becker, Jennifer Bax, Millie Oberlin and Lucinda Dennis-Itoka.

Activity completed in 2023: The Ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) is to take the Sacraments of Holy Communion to parishioners who are ill or unable to attend Church. This Ministry brings the Church directly into the person’s home, hospital, or nursing home, thereby keeping them in close contact with God and the Church Community.

“In the Name of Trinity Church, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ’s Body and Blood. We who are many are One Body, because we share One Bread and One Cup.

The Eucharistic Visitor Ministry has now been assigned to the Pastoral Care Ministry as our LEV’s are doing pastoral care when they take the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners, and they will report any concerns to the Pastoral Care Committee.

Anticipated activity for 2024: To continue this Ministry to serve our Homebound parishioners who we need to include as part of our Worship Service each week.



MARTHA GUILD—FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

Chairpersons: Donna Osiecki and Betty Bowen

Members: Lana & John Tumbarello, Eleanor McCune, Kathy Smith, Marty Neuman, Sandy Lillard.



Activity completed in 2023: We catered one funeral reception this year, which was for Nancy Aehele on September 7, 2023.

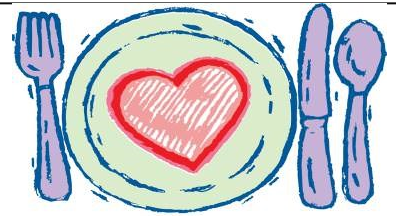
Due to limited resources at Church and food guidelines for Covid, all funeral receptions will now be catered, and the family of the deceased will pay for the food, if they are able.

Anticipated activity for 2024: To continue to be a support to the families through our hospitality of those who have left their earthly home. Volunteers are always welcome to be part of this Ministry... please see Donna if you feel called to help. Thank you!

SHARE A MEAL

Chairpersons: Avril Brudy, Donna Osiecki/Betty Bowen

Members: Team 1 – Avril Brudy, Benisha Brudy, Linny Arthurton, JoAnne Harris, Xiaodong Shi,
Team2 – Donna Osiecki, John & Lana Tumbarello, Barbara Parks, Betty Bowen



Share A Meal

Activity in 2023: Lunches are served at St John UCC on Fifth Street, St Charles, every Saturday, and Trinity serves lunch on the month that has five Saturdays; we therefore serve approximately 4 Saturdays each year. Each Church in the Program plan, shop, and prepare the food to serve whoever comes for lunch, no questions asked.

Since Covid we have noticed that the number of people coming by for lunch has been greatly reduced to between 13-25 people. Trinity now has a reputation of serving very tasty meals and the guests have shown their appreciation to what we serve them.

The last meal served on December 30, was planned by both Trinity Teams; Team 1 planned, purchased, and prepared the delicious meal for our guests, while Team 2 wrapped gifts from donations by parishioners to the Advent Tree. We were able to give out about 25 gifts bags and cookies.

Funds for the purchase of food and gifts come from the Quarterman Memorial Fund, for which we are very grateful.

Trinity has been doing this Ministry for the past 11 years, and many on our Team Members have been serving for most of this time; we would like to welcome new members to this important Ministry and invite anyone interested to speak to Avril, Donna, or Betty.

We say goodbye to Xiaodong Shi as he returns home to China. Thank you for all you have done to help this Ministry; you will be missed. And now we Welcome Melissa Galbreath who brings with her excitement and Joy to serve God's people!

Big Thanks to both Teams for all they have done during 2023.

Anticipated Activity in 2024: Both Teams will continue to do this Ministry on each Fifth Saturday as we fulfill the Mission of Christ, ***“....for when I was hungry you gave me food....”*** Matthew 25.34.

PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY

Chairperson: Betty Bowen, Lori Cooper & Carolyn Stuhlsatz

Members: Donna Osiecki, Lana Tumbrallo, Sandy Lillard, Christy Henke-Ratliff, Robert Brown.



On September 26, 2023, after several weeks of training, we Commissioned 8 new Prayer Ministers who will be available to the Trinity Parishioners should they wish someone to pray with them. This new Ministry will also incorporate Healing Ministers who will be available to pray with anyone at the Healing Service scheduled for the second Sunday of each month.

The Healing Ministry is a sacred trust given by God to the Church to care for those who are broken in body, mind, and spirit. The Love of God underlies all aspects of this Ministry, and God is the ultimate source of all healing. This is a Ministry of Presence and Grace, with the most important thing being to communicate God's Loving Presence to all people. People are invited up to the Altar to receive the Anointing of Oil and the Laying on of Hands; God invites us all to seek help through Prayer when needed.

On the Second Sunday of Advent we include a Service of Solace along with our Healing Service, which took place on December 10 this year. At the Service of Solace, we invite members of the congregation to come forward to light a candle for a loved one who has passed on to God's Heavenly Kingdom.

There is now a **PRAYER REQUEST BOX** on a Table in the Narthex (Entrance to the Church) for people to place prayer requests, and the Prayer Team will offer prayer for them.

Activity in 2024: As we now have an active Prayer Ministry, we hope, and pray, that our parishioners will take advantage of this Ministry. It is also the Vision of this Ministry to put on workshops on Prayer, to offer Labyrinth Walks, Prayer Vigils, and anything else relating to Prayer so that we all may grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Chairperson: Lucinda Dennis-Itoka

Members: Lori Cooper, Val Lanning, Marti Newman, Gale Mckiddy, Sandra Lillard, Susan Goddard, Deanna Miller, Kathy Smith, Iris Wright, Christy Henke-Ratliff, Jackie Halter, Fran Pieper, Jennifer Bax, Nancy Noel, Helen Becker, Judy Hodge, Millie Oberlin, Betty Bowen.

Pastoral Care is a very important Ministry at church. Through outreach and visitation to those not seen in a while (tragedy, illness, bereavement, events) makes people feel cared for and have a sense of belonging.



In 2023, we met a few times and made some plans for the year. Goal one, was to reach out and call regular, missed, home bound, and hospitalized, members of our congregation. As such, names were distributed alphabetically with Pastoral Care members. This could not be completed due to the medical conditions of some. Goal two was to continue to send out cards. We provided some stamps and mailed Seasonal, Get Well Soon, Sympathy and Birthday cards. During Christmas, cards were made available for members of the congregation to sign and were delivered in person by Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Our third goal was Visitations. Throughout the year, the Chairman visited some hospitalized members, in addition to our Rector and Deacon. We have received lots of gratitude and appreciation.

Donations were received of which we are grateful to God.

In 2024, we plan to meet monthly, make available prayers, music, reflections, to inspire us and complete our goals. We are thankful to members that remained on the committee.

TRINITY BELOVED GROUP

Coordinators: Lana Tumbarello, Gale McKiddy, Millie Oberlie

Active Members: Betty Bowen, Carolyn Hackman, Nancy Noel, Donna Osieke, Barbara Parks, Christy Henke Ratliff, John Tumbarello



The Trinity Beloved Group grew out of one of the small group sessions organized by Deacon Betty. It's mission is community outreach—identifying needs in the community and meeting those needs when possible.

The group met for the first time on January 21, 2023, and three coordinators were appointed: Lana Tumbarello, Gale McKiddy, and Millie Oberlin.

The first project undertaken was assembling packets for the homeless. These packets included such items as bottled water, socks, Band-Aids, lip balm, hand lotion, hand warmers, snack items, etc. 30 packets were assembled on February 18, 2023, and were provided to congregation members for distribution.

Our next project was to replenish the Discretionary Fund, which is used for outreach. On three successive Sundays, (June 25, July 2, and July 9) we offered for sale handcrafted cards and bookmarks crafted by our own Gale McKiddy, Betty Bowen and others. We raised \$608 for the Discretionary Fund.

The backpack project for students at Blackhurst Elementary School (in existence previously) was taken on by TBG this year. This involves providing backpacks filled with school supplies as specified by the teachers. We assembled 12 backpacks (6 for boys, 6 for girls) on August 5, 2023, and they were delivered to the school on August 17, 2023. All the shopping for the backpacks and supplies was done by Gale McKiddy and Eleanor McCune.

A request for assistance in providing school supplies for a family in need was received by Tamsen Whistler. TBG agree to reimburse her out of the funds remaining in the backpack fund.

TBG held a Craft/Food bazaar on October 7, 2023 in conjunction with the Priceless Sale. We agreed to direct 25% of our proceeds to the Priceless Sale, which is the fund raiser for the Trinity Episcopal Operation Fund. We raised \$472, of which \$118 was allocated to the Priceless Sale and the remaining \$354 to the TBG outreach account.

TBG contributed \$150 to a locally run program called "I Love my Neighborhood—Adopt a Neighborhood Child in Need." This program includes the area surrounding the church.

TBG was instrumental in once again offering shirt bearing the Trinity Episcopal name and emblem. Response was very good and the shirts are now being purchased and embroidered.

TBG plans for 2024 are as follows:

- Prepare packets for the homeless, similar to those assembled in 2023. These will be provided to on eof the winter warming shelters for distribution.
- Continue the backpack and school supplies program, increasing the number of filled backs to 14.
- Continue to investigate the possibility of providing Spanish language services. We have learned through our association with Blackhurst Elementary that there are a number of Spanish-speaking families in the area surrounding the Church.
- Provide name tags for Trinity Episcopal congregants.
- Hold two fund-raisers similar to those held in 2023, to provide funds for community outreach.
- Address any needs of which we become aware. We welcome input from members of the congregation.