

## **Outreach Report**

May 2020

Submitted by A.S. Rowcliffe

### **LOCAL MISSION**

#### **Episcopal Church Women**

- No report for this month.

#### **Family Promise**

- Barbara Corey provided the following update:
- Ascension will be providing dinner meals to the Family Promise guests at the Day Center from May 10-17. Also, we have donations of food gift cards to give the families so they can purchase breakfast and lunch meals. One Ascension member is taking a rose bouquet for each mother since May 10 is Mother's Day. FPK plans to resume housing the families at church sites near the end of May.
- One of the two fundraising events for 2020, the Golf Tournament, has been cancelled due to restrictions for group gatherings at the golf course. An attempt to reschedule it for a later date did not work out. The remaining fundraising event, the Pasta and Bluegrass Festival, is in the planning stages for August 22. John McDonald, an Ascension member and FPK staff member, is the chairman this year.
- The 2019 FPK audit was just completed and the list of top contributing congregations again included Ascension. Our members continue to be active members of the Board which had three members in 2019 (and an Executive Director) from Ascension and two members this year.
- Plans to replace the roof were delayed in March due to difficulty scheduling bids but it appears the project will move forward sometime in May or early June, with some help from the Ascension Endowment Committee. The new Executive Director, John-Mark Brown, had planned to make visits to each host congregation in the first few months of his term but this Spring has not allowed him to do that with churches closed. He is hoping to start that process in the summer or as soon as possible.

#### **FISH Pantry**

- All goes well at our three main Knoxville pantries. Jim Wright reported that they are serving about 300 additional families than is normal for FISH
- FISH is purchasing an additional \$5000 a month in basic food items to provide for these additional families, plus we're adding more food to the food bags so people do not have to return as often.
- FISH is also providing about 5000 Pounds of food, including \$1000 in purchased food, to each of three immigrant communities in Morristown, Sevierville and Athens Tennessee.
- Additional donations have been coming in to cover the cost of this additional food and FISH is grateful for that.
- Food donations continue to be high as wholesale food companies have been unable to sell all of the food they've been receiving from growers due to restaurants being closed.
- About half of FISH's regular pantry volunteers have elected to stay home and they have encouraged them to do what they think is best. However, FISH has attracted many new volunteers who especially want to be involved with helping people get enough food to eat during this crisis.
- Jim Wright appreciates so much all the support we have gotten from Ascension during this time.

### **Justice Knox**

- Monday, May 4- a virtual rally was held [https://youtu.be/FohAS\\_P0LHQ](https://youtu.be/FohAS_P0LHQ)
- Members have been asked to email or send a letter to Mayor Kincannon thanking her for the funding for affordable housing that she has promised and to thank her for keeping her commitment to Justice Knox.
- Members were also asked to write emails to school board members Susan Horn and Virginia Babb (as well as others) to ask them to use the ABC's as they get funding for restorative practices in every school in Knox County:  
Ask what the students need  
Be bold in their budget asks  
Claim the rainy day fund
- Members were also asked to call Glen Jacobs office to thank him for setting up a meeting between his assistants Sharon Shanks and Dwight Van de Vate and representatives of Justice Knox. Justice Knox hopes to meet with them before June 15

### **Newcomers Ministry**

- Nothing to report at this time.

### **Youth Mission**

- GiGi Logan is in the process of working on a summer youth mission event here in Knoxville; however, this will be contingent on the situation with regards to Covid-19 and safety precautions.

### **WORLD MISSION**

- Nothing to report at this time.