

BOARD OF DEACONS

Active Deacons 2022:

Kevin Bradberry

Tina Calhoun

Sheryl Crankshaw

Eileen Edwards

David Geurtsen

Hanna Kenney

Patti Stephens, Chair

Slowly making our way out of Covid-19 limitations, Deacons used the year to reassess local needs and possibilities for service. In April we still didn't feel comfortable holding an Easter Breakfast nor in June, a Dad's Day Sub Sale. However, we found several other ways to serve.

In February we were happy to have the help of Kris Moorman in updating our Referrals list of local service agencies, including addresses, phone numbers and websites, for use in the office.

In March, responding to the Russian attacks on Ukraine beginning in February, we donated \$200 to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, supporting their aide to Ukraine.

In Spring, Rev. Summer organized a collection of personal hygiene items, which she took to the school nurse to give to students as needs arise.

In September, Brenda Scordo, who buys fruit for the Backpack Program at Sackets Harbor School, asked if Deacons would like to contribute toward the fruit. She spends about \$30-\$40 each week. The Deacon fund donated, what we estimate, will cover fruit for the rest of the school year.

Patti Stephens visited with school superintendent, Jennifer Gaffney, who gave her a tour of Sackets Support Center. This double room is a response to students' returning in September 2021, to in-person school after their computer-learning and separation from friends. Half the space is a study hall, the other half is available for quiet individual or social activities. Adults monitor each side of the space. A full-time teacher is available to work with K-12 students one-on-one, who may need a break from the classroom. This teacher is funded by a three-year grant. Deacons purchased adult coloring books and stress-relieving toys (like Fidgets) for the Center. Members of the congregation also donated Lego sets.

Under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce Wonderland in the Harbor was set for November 19-20. Judy Fiorentino organized bakers to make playing card cookies for children to decorate. Deacons paid for some materials. There were many cookies, but due to weather, few families. So cookies were in evidence for the next month and a half.

For the previous two years, gift certificates to Aldi's have been given to families in December in place of the traditional Jubilee Shop. Patti had conversations with people in St. Andrew's Catholic Church and Sulphur Springs Methodist Church suggesting they ask those members who often shop for Jubilee how they felt about this year. Both groups were enthusiastically in favor of shopping. At school, Ms. Gaffney felt comfortable calling some families on the Backpack list

to ask if they would like their names passed along to the Deacons for the Jubilee Shop. She emphasized to us that Jubilee Shop is not the only group who offers help each year, so the number of families referred to us would depend upon the number of groups offering help. The school gave us contact information for seven families. Cec Perkins suggested one more family, who was new to St. Anthony's Food Pantry. Because there was a Community Concert scheduled for 3:00 on December 10th, the wrapping party was scheduled for December 3rd. Time was short, so Patti called each parent to find out sizes and preferences of their children. Six members from the three churches did the shopping on Monday, November 28th. Wrapping took place at St. Andrew Parish Center, that Saturday. Brenda Scordo provided music, cookies, and help wrapping. Each parent was most appreciative.

Tina Calhoun reached out all year to house-bound or rehab-bound congregants, showing our care and concern.

Hanna Kenney sent our *Daily Bread* devotional booklets quarterly to members and friends out of the area.

We were able to help some families with critical needs.

Sheryl Crankshaw made our congregation aware of each of the four PC(USA) special mission offerings. The Pentecost Offering is designated for children and young people. We donated the local share to the Sackets Harbor Rescue Squad, in recognition of the high school students and young adults who are manning our local ambulance. Our share of the Peace Offering, in October, was donated to Interfaith Works, who, resettles refugees in Syracuse. One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy offerings are sent entirely to PC(USA).

We continue to be in contact with Cec Perkins at St. Andrew Food pantry. In the summer the Pantry contributed \$1,000 toward the replacement refrigerator for St. Andrew church and still had a balance of \$8,643.21. The Pantry served about 8 families the first half of the year, and about 10 the second half. In addition to grocery items, twice a month, each family received a Thanksgiving Dinner and a Christmas Dinner.

Our congregation and community continues to be generous. Our challenge is to identify needs of our neighbors, so we can put that generosity to work.

Patti Stephens