

Trusting steadily in God, united in our worship and nourished by our learning together, we long to live a life that expresses the love of God in the world. That's ministry! Last week's bulletin insert couldn't even *list* all the ways we at St. Michael's are bringing about the Kingdom of God. (If you missed it, it's posted on the website and there are additional copies in the gallery). Here are even more ways to serve!

### **Outreach & Justice Ministries**

**Showing our love and care and deep desire for justice  
for all God's children everywhere.**

**Advocacy Action:** Faith in action, focusing on specific issues in the political and social arena.

**Immigrant Welcoming Congregation:** We chose to declare our identity as a safe place for all. We are committed to raise awareness and do tangible outreach to make it so.

**Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIJ):** Banding together with others to bring about immigration reform and justice for immigrant workers and their families.

**O & J Council:** Individual ministry leaders meet regularly to support one another and the work of all the O & J ministries, and to share the "big picture."

**Environmental Stewardship (our Green Team):** Helping us create an environmentally non-harmful church and working to change our nation's awareness and legislation to reflect our love of God's natural world.

**Village Support Network:** Providing mentoring, housing, support, and friendship to a family in transition out of homelessness.

**Rahab's Sisters:** Part of a larger organization of churches, we offer non-judgmental conversation, meals, clothes, and toiletries to women existing via the sex trade on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

**Foster Care Support:** Gather school supplies (fill backpacks!) or help with a Christmas party to support children in foster care.

**El Porvenir:** Frequently, an enthusiastic work team from St. Michael's travels to improve the standard of living of poor people in Nicaragua through sustainable self-help water, sanitation, and reforestation projects.

**Hollywood East Outreach:** Sometimes "neighbor" really means someone living close to you. Our brothers and sisters at Hollywood East have basic needs for clothing and other services we can provide.

**Once a year** we participate in projects to share our values, such as **Alternative Gift Catalog** for Christmas, writing letters to advocate for food justice through **Bread for the World**, support self-sustaining work with the **Zimbabwe Art Project**, and celebrate growing acceptance of our GLBT brothers and sisters at Portland's **Pride Parade**.

We also have **representatives** from our congregation for **Episcopal Relief and Development**, the **Millenium Development Goals Forum Board**, **One Episcopalian**, and **Salvation Army White Shield**.

Many of our ministries overlap into two "categories." That is true of these O & J ministries listed in last week's bulletin insert: **Porch Light and Street Light Shelters**, **Daybreak Shelter**, **Community Meal**, **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Lunch**, **Meals on Wheels**. Clearly, food and justice are related!

## Compassion and Support Ministries

**We offer love and support to one another in tangible and less tangible ways.**

**St. Brigid's Guild:** Never underestimate the power of prayer. Those who commit to this ministry offer healing prayer after services two Sundays a month and meet together to continue to pray.

**Prayer Chain:** We can all pray at home or wherever we find ourselves. Prayer requests are added through the rector via email.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Use your creativity to crochet these safe havens of comfort and blessing for those who are ill, grieving, lonely, or needing a calm warmth.

**Recovery Ministry:** Helping us all learn about addiction and recovery, enriching the entire community.

**Ten Days of Christmas:** Some find Christmas to be a dark season. This group provides small gifts daily during Christmas to remind us all that we are not alone.

**Greeting Cards:** Currently, birthday cards are handwritten to those who are having birthdays after the age of 65. Let's increase this ministry of connection!

**Employment Network:** Serving those who seek employment with expert advice, resumé skills, interview strategies, and shared experience and support.

**Blessings of the Animals:** You know it's true; our pets are family members. On this day, pets and their families receive blessings in the courtyard in the spirit of St. Francis.

**Home delivery of meals** when needed isn't just about food; it shows the caring of community.

## Organizational Ministries

**Things don't get done by magic, you know. ☺**

**Bulletin Assembly Team (we mean, BATS):** Want chaos on a Sunday morning? Want to leave a visitor out in the cold? Suddenly have no bulletins! (And someone gave their time to print them, too.)

**Building Use Ministry:** Our buildings do a lion's share of work bringing the Kingdom. Many organizations in addition to our own community are grateful for space in which to do their good work.

**Facilities (we mean MOW/WOW's):** Tireless, committed laborers for the good of all. Young men, we dare you to keep up! Did we forget to mention, they also snack well on Wednesdays!

**Mailing team:** Regularly the Messenger, and occasionally other important missives reach you because someone cared enough to mail them. Their efforts help keep us connected.

**Stewardship Committee:** We know it's true; much is needed for a community to thrive, and each of us needs to give of our time and talents. Our Stewardship Committee helps us remember the joy of belonging to God's people and that all we have comes from God.

**Vestry:** The reward is as large as the commitment. Tireless, loving brothers and sisters bonded together to make sometimes difficult decisions on our behalf. And the food is unbelievable!

**Archives:** We're over 100 years old! And we've got the documents to prove it! So much wonderful history, lovingly saved for the benefit of those who come after us.

**Yes, you guessed it...BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!**

Even installment #2 did not have enough space to list all we are doing! Next week, look for **Music and Worship** ministries and more information on all our upcoming events. And as always, any curiosities or any activities you are doing that are expressing God's love in the world, please let us know! Contact one of us! Bruce Collins, [beebeeceetoo@yahoo.com](mailto:beebeeceetoo@yahoo.com); Charlene Sabin, [charlene@charlenesabin.com](mailto:charlene@charlenesabin.com); Elizabeth Rouffy, [esrouffy@comcast.net](mailto:esrouffy@comcast.net); Haelynn Barron, [haelynn.barron@gmail.com](mailto:haelynn.barron@gmail.com); Lynda Garner, [lyndag@stmaa.org](mailto:lyndag@stmaa.org). We're here to help!

**Coming Attractions! Giving Back and Loving It: The 2013 Ministries Fair**