Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee is committed to representing The Presbyterian Church as the Heart of Christ in the Heart of the City by participating in downtown and community events. It is our goal to reach out to our community and be the “face” of our church, especially to those that don’t have a church home.

In 2016, the Community Outreach Committee plans to help organize church-sponsored events, such as the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 25, and the Community Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, March 27. These are multi-denominational events that involve several area churches. Community Outreach also helps to organize National Day of Prayer that is attended by area churches, politicians, and other community leaders. This year National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 5. Pastor Jerry Kirk, who developed the 40-day Prayer Covenant, will be the keynote speaker. Community Outreach helps with other church-sponsored events throughout the year, such as, National Back to Church Sunday, Live Nativity, and Christmas Eve cookies for area police and fire departments. In 2015, our church shared National Back to Church Sunday with Pilgrim Baptist Church to bring our congregations together. Live Nativity is our opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with our city and surrounding community with usually 300-500 in attendance. Also 10 large trays of cookies and breads were delivered on Christmas Eve to the Hamilton Police Department, the Butler County Sheriff’s Department, all five Hamilton Fire Stations, and Fort Hamilton Hospital to show how much our church appreciates all that these public servants do for our city and county.

The Community Outreach Committee typically participates in several community-sponsored and city-wide events throughout the year. Community Outreach helped with publicity and provided food and other items for the City-Wide Unity Picnic that took place at Booker T. Washington Community Center on June 20 last year. This year’s picnic is scheduled for June 11, 2016. Community Outreach entered a float into the Hamilton City’s 4th of July parade. Several families from our church volunteered their time and resources to build the float and accompany it in the parade. The Presby float won Grand Champion in 2015. Community Outreach also participates in the German Village Christkindlmarkt event held each December. Christmas items from Israel, South America, and Africa are sold to help fund the Hearts of Hope Store. The Hearts of Hope Store was started by Community Outreach and now has a store front on High Street. Our goal with the store was to not only support Fair Trade missions, but to help the revitalization efforts of Downtown Hamilton. The store sells hand crafted gift items, jewelry and clothing from around the world and is completely run by volunteers.

In addition to helping with church and community events, the Community Outreach Committee has been instrumental in providing funds and volunteers to help decorate the outside of the church throughout the seasons. The flowers in Spring and Summer; Fall décor and pumpkins for Operation Pumpkin in September and October; and lights, banners, and other decorations for Christmas help to make our church a focal point of Downtown Hamilton.

The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank all of our church family for yourr hard work to make these events possible by volunteering your time and talents and/or giving donations. In 2016, the members of Community Outreach strive to continue to organize and participate in all of these events and activities, as well as any new opportunities that will help The Presbyterian Church achieve its mission.

Submitted by Kim Geisler

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