

More giving together.

The Outreach Board is pleased to announce its newest program,

“Caring Circles”

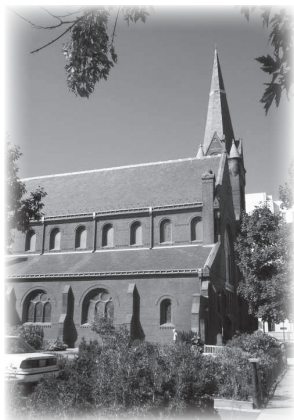
(nationally known as ‘giving circles’)

These are a growing means of learning about the lives and conditions of people and places in need of financial aid.

Through research and investigation, the groups, or ‘circles’ will select an established organization to fund as a way of helping to improve the lives of others.

In 2010 we plan to call for the formation of Caring Circles for:

- ♦ Women-to-African-Women
- ♦ Poverty in Washington, DC
- ♦ Impoverished workers in the US
- ♦ A Native American reservation



We encourage individuals to develop ideas for outreach activities that inspire them.

We welcome you to approach the Board with those ideas. It is our intention to do everything we can to support your ideas and efforts to ‘do the work God has given us to do’.

OUTREACH BOARD

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For more information about Outreach,
visit our website at
<http://www.stmarks.net/outreach/index.html>

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Outreach



David Johnson
Grace O’Neill
Co-Chairs

Rev. Paul Abernathy
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Welcome To St. Mark's!

Our Outreach program is centered on two purposes identified in the St. Mark's Outreach Board charter:

- ♦ To develop and sustain, through ongoing dialogue within the parish, a vision of outreach...and its relationship to the totality of life in the parish.
- ♦ To establish and provide oversight for an appropriate management structure within which outreach activities are undertaken.

Recently we have supported parishioners who have been moved to:

- ♦ Open St. Mark's as a place of welcome to all on Inauguration day
- ♦ Provide food/support for workers brought to the U.S. from India fraudulently as they appealed to the Justice Department for a fair hearing.
- ♦ Provide backpacks and back-to-school supplies for needy students through Capitol Hill Group Ministry.

The Outreach Board has:

- ♦ Adopted an apartment at **Partner Arms II:** a residence for formerly homeless families taking the next step toward financial independence. Every two years we provide usable home furnishings for a family who will then take these as they start a new life. Our next 'furnishing' will be Fall, 2010.



- ♦ Created a **Lenten Mite Box** project: members of the Board prepare a brochure of factoids describing poverty around the world. Participants fill their mite boxes according to their abundance in comparison to world shortages. In 2009, \$1,000 supported the The Bishop Walker School for Boys and the Grameen Foundation (which provides microloans to individuals in third world countries).

These projects have been part of life at St. Mark's for years:

Soup Kitchen: We support the nearby Church of the Brethren 'soup kitchen', whose lunch program provides meals to the needy four days each week. Our congregation supports their efforts with monthly casseroles: pans and recipes are provided at St. Mark's at both services (1st and 2nd Sundays each month). In addition, our volunteers also prepare either soup or sandwiches on the second Sunday of each month.

Grate Patrol: Each month a group of our young people, along with several adults, prepares bag lunches for distribution by the Salvation Army to those on the streets of our city.

Food Bank: We encourage parishioners to donate non-perishable food items and/or small personal-care items each Sunday. These donations are delivered to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington for distribution to the needy.

Honduras: An independent committee, yet under the Outreach umbrella, plans and sponsors

a bi-annual service trip for our youth. The committee's fundraiser, Wake Up the Earth, collects funds for physical and financial support of programs in Honduras.

Local Charitable Groups we support:

Capitol Hill Group Ministry is a social service agency founded in the 1960s by the clergy of inter-denominational Capitol Hill Churches in an effort to coordinate assistance for those in need. Over the years, we have been involved in CHGM by providing food and shelter for one month per year for two homeless families, supporting CHGM fundraising projects, and volunteering time in service on the board.

Samaritan Ministries of Greater Washington is a social service agency supported by a number of churches in our dioceses addressing poverty and homelessness in DC in a variety of ways. Our parishioners volunteer with them.

Action for Community Transformation (ACT) was founded by a St. Mark's parishioner. While originally providing scholarship funds for promising young women in Honduras, it now trains and provides supplies for counselors who go to Kenya to do testing and counseling services for HIV-AIDS patients.

