

Outreach/Mission Update from Pastor Doug Learned

The National Presbyterian Church

January 2, 2008

New Year's greetings! I hope you had a blessed Christmas. Here are some updates on post-Church-as-a-Mission-Potluck happenings and mention of a few upcoming outreach events: A total of 200 care kits and 150 food bags were delivered to Third Street Urban Prayer Breakfast in the week following the Church-as-a-Mission Potluck on November 11. Thank you.

Fifteen boxes of food and \$2,250 were donated at the NPC Thanksgiving Day Service. Rev. Art Brown picked up the food donations before Christmas, along with our overflow of donated items for care kits and food bags. The monetary offering was sent to five urban organizations that feed the homeless.

On Sunday, December 16, NPC members and friends wrapped Christmas gifts for the homeless in Stone Hall. The gifts were then shared at Third Street's Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 18. That Tuesday I was encouraged to witness a number of NPC members who gave much of their day to feed an expected crowd of more than 400 people, as well as many members of the Third Street Church who delivered hams and turkeys they had prepared at home for the event.

So far our congregation has donated more than \$50,000 through The Alternative Gifts at Christmas Market, which benefits local and global ministries.

Be sure to read the article in the January/February National XPress highlighting the Church-as-a-Mission Potluck. http://www.nationalpres.org/national_xpress.php

The Perspectives Course will be offered this semester at NPC, beginning Thursday, January 10. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn what it means to do ministry in the world. I highly recommend it. You may attend the first session as an observer to get an idea of the course, which meets Thursday nights from January 10 until May 8. http://www.nationalpres.org/2008_perspectives.php

Please be sure to pray for the team traveling to Thailand for the Thai Culture and Missions Tour, January 15-28, 2008.

Would you like to give hands-on service to help build a home and hope for a family living in poverty? Dr. Tom Jones, NPC Parish Associate, will be leading a Habitat for Humanity trip to Guatemala on August 2-10, 2008. I plan to travel with Tom and his group, and I invite you and members of your family to join us. For more information, contact Tom TJones@habitat.org or check out the Habitat for Humanity web site.

More Outreach/Mission Updates to come in a few weeks.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Doug Learned