

2020 Annual Report from the Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members: Susan Conrad, Rev. Heather Finck, Aimee Heinly, Judy Hunt, Ruth Sheets, Susan Stuebner, Judy Walters, Christine Williams

Although the pandemic changed the way some mission projects were supported, the committee is grateful to the congregation for their continued support of mission outreach. This report of mission projects and the benevolence report summarize the important mission outreach your support made possible.

Appalachian Service Project – ASP did not schedule volunteer home repair mission trips in 2020. Funds that had been set aside for the trip were sent directly to ASP.

Backpacks and More – Although the August 2020 event was cancelled, backpacks and supplies remaining from 2019 were given to local schools and Grace Smith House.

Brookhaven Christmas Gifts – Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and friends of FPUPC we were able to continue our tradition of providing gifts for the families living at the Brookhaven Apartments of Grace Smith House. In order to make the process safer and more convenient for everyone it was decided that donations this year would be in the form of gift cards. Gift cards were purchase for 49 women and children residing at Brookhaven. The gift cards were delivered early enough that mothers could shop for their children’s gifts this year.

Bridges to Community – Bridges to Community did not organize 2020 mission work trips for volunteers. This year we donated funds directly to Bridges that had been set aside for a youth to participate in a Bridges to Community trip. The organization will benefit from our support now. When trips resume and youth from our congregation would like to participate, the Mission Committee will support them.

CROP WALK 2020 – The October Dutchess County Interfaith Council CROP WALK was a virtual event. FPUPC members and friends walked on their own and raised funds for CROP, which Mary and Ken Moody supported in many ways for so long. To date, donations to *Team Moody* exceed \$16,740.

Earth Stewards – Through the committee’s programming and initiatives and with support from FPUPC members and friends, FPUPC maintained our status as an Earth Care Congregation. The committee continues to challenge us to be more faithful stewards of the Earth. The full Earth Stewards Annual Report follows.

Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County - Habitat for Humanity built and dedicated a house as part of a Faith Build and our church actively participated in the project. Youth spent a couple of days there and others provided food and worked on the build.

Holiday Meals – The Logan and Puckette families sponsored a “take-out” Thanksgiving dinner this year. It was appreciated by all who attended. Thanks to all who made this community event possible.

Homeless Shelter Meals – The fourth Wednesday of the month we serve meals for the homeless through Hudson River Housing’s Gail Webster House. As need grew, the clients were housed at an alternate location. Hudson River Housing hopes to have a new, larger facility in the future. As the pandemic spread, we were called to feed 110 people, up from 80 earlier in 2020 and 60 in previous years. Many thanks to all those who made meals and desserts, donated food, purchased meals at restaurants, and dropped off meals. Since the pandemic, we can no longer serve the meals ourselves. Shelter staff pick up the food from our car and serve the meals. We look forward to the day when we can again serve the meals ourselves. Thank you for supporting this important Mission Project.

Lunch Box – FPUPC sponsored meals in March and August as in years past. Many thanks to FPUPC members and friends who made donations towards the meals. Due to the pandemic, Dutchess Outreach staff served the meals. Thanks to Bonnie Biskup and Mitzi Loatman for keeping this mission project in our hearts and minds.

Presbyterian Missionaries - As the COVID-19 pandemic rages here and around the world, FPUPC continues to financially support the Ministry and Service of four Presbyterian missionaries who have elected to stay and continue their work in the countries where they serve.

Kay Day teaches English and Practical Theology to Rwandan men and women preparing for pastoral ministry at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Sciences, a joint project of the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda and four other protestant denominations.

Ryan and Alethia White are Mission Co-workers serving the Iranian Presbyterian Church in Berlin, Germany. This is a congregation of expatriates and refugees whose needs and stressors faced are so very great. Just as here, Ministry is challenging, with all the COVID-19 protocols.

Nadia Ayoub is a Mission Co-worker serving in Greece with Perichoresis, a refugee relief agency, and the Greek Evangelical Church. She serves as Advocate, Counsellor, and Translator for refugees from many Middle Eastern countries.

In addition to the financial support we provide, all of them request our prayers for those they serve, and for their own physical, emotional, and spiritual health. They also ask that we advocate locally and nationally for justice and humanitarian aid with dignity, for people displaced by religious persecution, armed conflict, and famine.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Conrad

2020 Annual Report from Earth Stewards Committee

In 2020 the committee continued to work on the requirements to maintain FPUPC's Earth Care Congregation status. As a second year applicant, FPUPC needed a total of 50 points with at least 5 points in each category. FPUPC far exceeded those requirements.

Worship: 61

Education: 14

Facilities: 49

Outreach: 14

Total: 138 In truth, the point requirements were suspended in 2020 because of the pandemic and the Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) leaders realized that much of the planned work was consequently disrupted. However, FPUPC continued with caring for the Earth.

Surprisingly, some of the areas where our congregation picked up some points were because of the pandemic. We had more outdoor worship services in 2020: 3 drive-in communion services, the Blessing of the Backpacks, in addition to our usual Blessing of the Animals. For a while in 2020, the florist shop was not being used for our worship service flower arrangements, but instead pesticide-free flowers were gathered from several members' gardens. During the time, when we had no in-sanctuary attendees, and used only live streaming, we saved on paper bulletins.

We were able to modify some of our usual Earth Care activities for smaller versions. Some of us participated in the DIY Trash Bash, instead of the usual Lagrange Trash Bash. Some of us used the Lenten devotional provided by PEC. We had good attendance from members (and a few non-members) at the Zoom class on Home Composting. We sponsored a Zoom presentation to re-introduce solar community options for those that did not sign on the first time in 2019.

Then there were activities that FPUPC completed as we usually do. We held an Earth Care Sunday (this time on youtube) with an Earth Care sermon. Several Sundays featured music or hymns that focused on with an intentional earth care component. We used emails to inform the congregation of Earth Care ideas for Earth Day, Lent, and Advent, and announce the composting class. We added 2 books to the church library. We continued our congregational membership in PEC.

Though we certainly were impacted by the restrictions of the pandemic in 2020, FPUPC continued to move forward with caring for the Earth.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Sheets