

**SERVE THE WORLD IN CHRIST'S NAME:**  
**Ministries that Reach Outside the Congregation to Serve the Community**

**OUTREACH AND MISSION MINISTRIES**

**Randy Hubbard**

*Outreach Ministry serves locally and globally, reaching out in love through Christ to minister to a needy world through compassionate outreach that empowers, educates, uplifts and offers hope to people in need.*



As it was for all of us, 2020 was a year that looked nothing like the Outreach Committee, or its members, thought it would when it started. We have all shared fear, trepidation, loss, uncertainty, isolation, and a longing to return to normal, not knowing quite what normal will look like. At the same time, we have discovered resilience, courage, sustained and even strengthened faith, hope, and most importantly, the ability to meet by Zoom, that we may not have known we had. And, despite a pandemic and an inability to meet in person or organize any truly group activities, the Outreach Committee was able to function and accomplish several things, thanks as always to the efforts of its members and the generosity of the congregation and the community. As a reminder, here are the current members of the Committee: Sally VanWelden, Sherri Heslen, Joyce Manning, Jo Ann Schomerus, Kip Travis, Liz Peel, Marilyn Taylor, Fr. Gary Brower, and Randy Hubbard, chairperson. Shelley Hitt, a member of the Outreach Committee for several years, decided to step off the committee during the year—her vision, compassion, and ability to make us focus will be missed. Here are some of the highlights from a very different year.

Even though starting in mid-March we were unable to meet in person or to gather in any meaningful way, we still managed to organize and carry out several in-gatherings throughout the year. The normally simple and comforting idea of just conducting those in-gatherings the way we always have was out the window; we had to plan with much more effort on how to collect things when we could not get together, when we could not use the church, and when we were not sure how enthusiastic or able people would be about leaving their houses to make donations. However, having to think harder about the in-gatherings also gave us a new focus, and we thought more deeply and intentionally about which organizations we should be supporting, and why. Our in-gatherings included the Super Bowl Sunday collection of food for the food pantry at West Early College, a joint effort with St. Timothy's for a pop-the-trunk collection of food to benefit Covenant Cupboard and Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS), a virtual in-gathering of school supplies, a drive-up collection of food for Thanksgiving, and a modified Angel Tree Project which required both computer skills and drive-up donations. Again, despite the pandemic, parishioners and other members of the community generously donated food, Christmas gifts, gift cards, school supplies and cash that we were then able to distribute to various community organizations. The level of giving was beyond expectations—for example, for our Thanksgiving in-gathering, we collected seven full boxes (140 pounds) of food. And for the Christmas in-gathering, Good Shepherd filled all the available slots for giving presents (approximately 45 children) and, in addition, donated approximately 45 gift cards for families in need. The recipients of these donations continue to express to us how much these donations mean to them and the people they serve. That participation is part of what allows Good Shepherd to continue to reflect God's love out into the community, which is one of the committee's primary purposes.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Living Nativity in December. This was not an Outreach Committee-sponsored event, although several of our members participated in the food drive that was part of that effort. We collected about 700 pounds of food and \$450 in cash donations during the event, which was amazing. What the Living Nativity also did reflect, I think, is that even in very difficult times, there is still a desire on the part of this congregation to reach out into the community and give back, sharing our faith by example, and welcoming the community to participate. That spirit, that devotion, that faith, is heartening, and that example is what the Outreach Committee will continue to try and live up to.

COVID-19 did put a significant crimp in our ongoing efforts to make more “hands-on” community service opportunities available, given that the ability to gather in groups was severely constrained. That did enable us to focus, however, on continuing to identify groups “closer to home” in the SE Denver metro area that would provide individual parishioners the opportunity to make donations or even volunteer. We had Zoom meetings with representatives of the Giving Heart day shelter in Englewood, Family Tree/House of Hope (featuring our own Susie Street), and Reading Partners, a group which provides opportunities to tutor elementary school children who need reading assistance. We are also working on, and plan to complete this year, a list of local organizations that provide services to those in need and may provide volunteer opportunities as well. We hope that will be the beginning of an effort to enable Good Shepherd to serve as a sort of community clearing house, being a source of information not only for the congregation but also for the community as to where vital needs can be met and where opportunities for help can be found.

For 2020, as has been the case for the past couple of years, we were allocated a budget of \$3,000. The Outreach Team takes the responsibility of spending this money very seriously. We tried very hard to allocate the money to organizations and projects we believed were reflective of what the congregation would want. We tried also to be always mindful of our goal to minister to those in need. This year, as last year, we tried to focus a bit more on providing funds to groups in which parishioners are involved, and to those in need in our own community, with our donations. We made donations to the HAAT South Metro Task Force, Giving Heart day shelter, Integrated Family Community Services, St Clare’s, and a year-end contribution to the Rector’s Discretionary Fund. We also donated to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for Western Wildfire Relief.

As always, we would very much appreciate suggestions from individual members of the Congregation about outreach projects that they might find appealing or which they think we should consider—and, of course, we would always love to have new members (we meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, by Zoom until further notice).



**The Jamaica Medical/Dental Mission**, with support of Good Shepherd, completed its annual mission trip February 28 – March 7, 2020, just prior to the Covid-19 lockdown. The 23-person mission team provided quality primary medical care, dental examinations, dental extractions, prescription medications, health awareness education, physical therapy, and other health related services to over 900 patients.

Since its first introduction to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church by Bill and Karen Henwood over ten years ago, the Jamaica Medical/Dental Mission has evolved into a 501c3 under the name Jamaica Missions USA, and is blessed with a core group of medical and non-medical leaders from Good Shepherd and other churches across the US who ensure the continuity of the mission. The composition of volunteers on the mission teams changes from year to year and has been strengthened through the participation of volunteers from the US, Canada, UK, and Jamaica. Also new, through an association with CSU-Pueblo, the Jamaica mission has been able to offer clinical experience and academic credit to RN's pursuing their Nurse Practitioner degree.



What has remained the same over the years, is the mission's goal: to share the **Word of God** by providing quality health care! Each patient is prayed for individually and opportunities to share personal testimony abound. The mission serves with support of the Jamaican Ministry of Health in areas not regularly visited by Jamaican healthcare providers. Patients travel regionally to visit our healthcare providers with the majority walking on foot, often many miles, over rugged mountain terrain to the rural communities in which we serve. For most patients, our doctors and dentists provide the only care they receive during the year. Our teams return to the same communities each year to provide a continuum of care. Both patients and team members benefit from the long-term relationships developed over the years, and look forward to seeing old and new friends on each return trip. Our team members are ever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve such gracious people who have little in way of material possessions, but who are so extraordinarily rich in spirit and God's grace.

Though saddened by the cancellation of the 2021 mission due to the pandemic and the deaths of two of our leaders, founder Bill Henwood on January 15, 2021 and our team pediatrician Valerie Royes on November 15, 2020, we look forward to honoring their lives through continuation of the mission they so believed in. The next mission is tentatively planned for February 2022. Please consider volunteering. Non-medical volunteers are always needed, in addition to medical, dental, and pharmaceutical professionals. For more information, please contact Curt or Melissa Watson, or visit: [www.jmusa.org](http://www.jmusa.org).

### JAMAICA MISSION BAG PROJECT

Beverly Wolfe

Beverly Wolfe leads a ministry that makes small bags to hold medicine and supplies to provide to the patients served by the annual Medical/Dental Mission to Jamaica. Sadly, the Jamaica Mission has been cancelled for 2021, so making these bags during 2020 was not necessary. We will look forward to helping with future Missions.



Our beloved Music with a Mission Concert Series (MWM) came to a screeching halt in 2020 due to COVID. We successfully completed three of the five planned concerts for the 2019-2020 season before we had to shut down in March. Those three concerts generated \$6,400 for our mission partners, bringing our total for four and a half seasons to just over \$40,000.

For those who may not be familiar with our series, we offer four to five concerts each year in a season, which runs from October through April. The concerts feature local artists and are free of charge to the community. Each concert is partnered with a different mission organization, and we collect a “love offering” during the evening of the concert with proceeds going to the charity.

Each MWM season is planned out months in advance, which includes collecting money from our Angel Sponsors to pay for the series, as well as finding and booking our various artists. Because of the pre-planning involved, we will not be able to snap back to normal immediately. It is anyone’s guess when we will be back up and running. Much depends upon a large proportion of the mass public getting vaccinated, and it is not clear yet when we will reach herd immunity. The inability to open doors at full capacity — or even near it — would turn our numbers upside down, and I would rather wait until we can “pack the house” again to make the most of our donations for our mission partners. My best guess is that this fall (2021) will not be realistic for a return, and that we will have to delay to 2022.

We are eager to get the ball rolling again on our series, but we will only do so when it makes sense for our congregation and for the community.



St. Clare's Ministries offers short term respite from the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, and the separation we feel from God and each other. With God's help, St. Clare's is an open, welcoming, and diverse community that provides physical and spiritual nourishment, clothing, and other support to our guests in need.

Your financial support enabled us to offer full church services in the sanctuary, serve multi-course hot meals in the church hall, and provide clothing and sleeping bags from our clothing closet, each Tuesday evening until the middle of March in 2020. At that point St. Clare's was declared an essential ministry to feed the homeless and working poor in the Baker neighborhood in Denver. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Clare's reverted to its roots by operating outside of the church to distribute to-go meals, bags of toiletries, clothes, sleeping bags and blankets. St. Clare's has followed all guidelines of the State of Colorado, City and County of Denver, and the Episcopal Diocese in dealing with the number of our guests, sanitation of all surfaces, wearing masks, social distancing, and other requirements. Church services were suspended due to health requirements. Regular volunteers over the age of 65 were sidelined from weekly operations for their health and safety. Operations continued with a smaller number of younger volunteers and staff. St. Clare's served 4,839 meals over 53 Tuesdays in 2020. 514 volunteers donated 1,523 hours of time to cook, serve and clean up after the meals and operate the clothing closet. We distributed 198 blankets and 174 sleeping bags to our guests experiencing homelessness.

St. Clare's responded to our guests needs with additional clothing closet inventory due to the sweeps of homeless communities by the Denver Police Department.

We are working on controlling our costs and increasing our funding of the ministry in 2021. We expect our food costs to increase with inflation. So please prayerfully consider continuing your financial support of St. Clare's in 2021.

We expect to continue to operate outside because of the pandemic for the foreseeable future. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all our guests and volunteers safely back into the church hall to enjoy a hot meal together.



UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church since 1889. All are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude by **noticing the good things** that happen each day, **giving thanks to God** for those blessings and **making a tangible offering** for each **blessing** using a UTO Blue Box. 100% goes to support innovative mission and ministry.

In 2020, UTO gathered over \$1 million and awarded domestic and international grants throughout the Anglican Communion, focusing on COVID-affected ministries. We had one UTO ingathering at Good Shepherd in December with approximately \$100 collected. Thank you to those who support the Church's engagement in the world.

In a difficult year with many hardships, UTO invited us to find thankfulness with these offerings:

- The first "Theology of Gratitude Scholar's Conference" was held in April with well-known author, Diana Butler Bass. I highly recommend the conference videos found here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/conference/>
- In May, the "Grace and Gratitude in our Liturgical Life" webinar explored the role gratitude plays in our common worship, the way our liturgical calendar orients us toward gratitude, and the pattern of Eucharistic worship and its intention to shape us into people who give thanks.
- In September, Colorado Episcopal Bishop Kym spoke about UTO's positive impact in a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgkwwHFGnwU>
- In October, UTO took part in the Diocesan Annual Convention virtual marketplace.

2021 activities will include the announcement of new ministry grants and other ways to learn about gratitude, and to give thanks and fill your Blue Box.

For more information contact Karin Elsen, or visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering).