

OUTREACH 2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

- We are giving increased attention to advocacy efforts in order to promote justice and effect systemic changes in the areas of gun violence, restorative justice, economic justice, education, and hunger.
- Education programs at Schools #3, #35, and Young Mothers and Interim Health Academy help over 300 children and youth in the Rochester City Schools. The Corner Place moved to its new location at New Life Presbyterian Church, providing space for future program expansion.
- Hunger programs all experienced growth over the past year. 125 Dining Room Ministry volunteers served 4,069 meals. Over 60 Food Cupboard volunteers served 2,751 clients with basic nutritious food items. The Christmas Basket Project provided holiday meals to 76 families this year.
- With 1,056 registered participants, the East Avenue Grocery Run netted proceeds of over \$34,000 for area hunger programs (including nearly \$26,000 for Third Church hunger programs). The addition of fundraising through Crowdrise helped lead to a record-breaking year for net Grocery Run proceeds.
- The Habitat for Humanity team collaborated with students from Pittsford Mendon High School and Get It Straight Orthodontics to build a sixth house in the JOSANA neighborhood.
- RAIHN@Third celebrated its tenth anniversary of providing food, shelter and hospitality to homeless families.
- The Outreach Committee developed a new Outreach Blog to help keep the community informed about the latest developments in our outreach ministries.

TEAM REPORTS

ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE:

Anti-Gun Violence Advocacy Team

The Anti-Gun Violence group is continuing on the path of the past 18 months: to look for opportunities to educate our congregation on aspects of this diverse and challenging social condition, to identify opportunities to collaborate with existing committees within Third Presbyterian as well as with outside civic and religious groups in the Rochester area, and to continue to identify specific actions and programs leading to a reduction in gun violence.

One area focus will be on the health care sector in Monroe County – who are the ‘players’, what do they know, what are they doing, how do they coordinate efforts. The other area of focus is on establishing relationships with local government departments and non-profits whose primary concern is conflict resolution before and after acts of violence occur.

We welcome all who are interested in reducing the level of violence in our community to join us. Our group consists of Ry Foye, Mary Sue Jack, Dale Maddock, Lorraine Nitzman, Don Pryor, David Tennant along with pastoral and spiritual guidance from Lynette Sparks and John Wilkinson.

Dale Maddock, Chair

Bread for the World

As a *Bread for the World Covenant Church*, Third Church budgets \$400 for the *Bread for the World* organization to continue to support lobbying and research efforts in the campaign to effect legislation aimed at reducing hunger in the nation and the world. In October 2014, Third Church participated in an Offering of Letters for the tenth year in a row. The theme this year was aimed at proposed cuts to food reform and availability throughout the world. After meeting with Regional Director of BFW Larry Hollar, instead of sending signed identical letters as has been done in the past, it was decided to send individually hand-written letters to the offices of *Bread for the World* to be forwarded to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who sits on the Senate Agriculture Committee. During the Offering of Letters in October, 22 handwritten letters were sent to the Senator. For more information, or to work with *Bread for the World* projects, please contact Carol Coons at carolycoons@gmail.com or by phone at 227-5953.

Carol Coons

Peacemaking Mission Team:

After reorganizing in late 2013, the Peacemaking Mission Team has been working to discern God’s call for peacemaking at Third, centering on these areas: Mideast Peace, Restorative Justice, Economic Justice.

Mideast Peace: The Peacemaking Mission Team strives to educate our members and the community on issues related to Israel/Palestine through support of:

- [Christians Witnessing for Palestine](#) and the [Witness Palestine Film Series](#), which screened five films about Israel/Palestine in November. This year, Witness Palestine also sponsored the one-woman play *My Name is Rachel Corrie* at the Rochester Fringe Festival, and the cultural event and dinner *Celebrate Palestine*.
- Fair trade olive oil products which were sold at cost during coffee hour to raise awareness of issues facing Palestinian farmers. Over \$600 worth of products were sold in early December.

Restorative Justice: We have been exploring the use of restorative justice in our community. It is our hope to encourage and promote restorative justice and initiatives for conflict resolution in our community. Peacemaking has met with representatives from Partners in Restorative Initiatives (PIRI), and a Sunday Seminar has been scheduled March 8 by Kathy Sweetland, board president. Her presentation, *There is No Peace without Justice*, will focus on restorative justice: what is it, and where is it helping in our community.

Peacemaking has become interested in the work of the Coffee Connection, which provides employment training and jobs for women in recovery from addiction. We consider the work of the Coffee Connection as another form of 'restorative justice'. Peacemaking has provided modest financial support to the Coffee Connection and has written a letter of support for a grant application to Self-Development of People. Our monthly meetings are held at various Coffee Connection locations, currently at the Greenhouse Café (2271 East Main St.). We remain open to ways in which we may help the work of the Coffee Connection.



Economic Justice: Poverty in Rochester has had a dramatic negative impact on the community, especially in our public schools. 'Third Churchers' already volunteer in many places to alleviate the effects of poverty. Are there new ideas and ways that we can help, or can we influence others to help? To start this conversation, the Peacemaking Mission Team is beginning an effort to educate ourselves (and the congregation) about poverty.

Peacemaking Offering: The total this year was \$1,932, 25% of which is for peacemaking by our Presbytery and 50% supports the Peacemaking Program of the PC(USA). This year, our local 25% share supported the work of *Doctors Without Borders*.

The Peacemaking team welcomes new members and would love to hear from you (contact: Linc Spaulding, 342-9568, or LRSpaulding@yahoo.com).

Linc Spaulding (Chair), Robb Adams, George Gotcsik, Ann Haag, Lynette Sparks, Sue Spaulding, and Yvonne Tolliver

EDUCATION:

Tutoring at Nathaniel Rochester School #3

Our Third Church Tutoring Program has 43 tutors at School #3 this year. Some facts about our workforce are these:

- Our volunteers come from four local Presbyterian churches and many other spiritual backgrounds.
- 13 tutors have completed five or more years in our program. We are grateful for their years of work and very happy with this strong retention rate.
- Seven tutors are new this year. All bring strong qualifications and special gifts to the children they work with.
- Our volunteers work with 19 teachers and approximately 150 students from kindergarten to 7th grade.
- Our Gift of Books enabled each child from kindergarten to 6th grade to choose a new book to keep. This was augmented by many donated used books for all ages we have given to children at school this year.

Our experiences at school inform our participation in adjunct activities. Several of our group are active in community efforts to improve Rochester schools, using what they have learned first-hand to work for changes and improvements in our District schools.

Through church member Sarah Lunt and a group of crocheters at an Alabama church, we have provided beautiful handmade hats and mittens to many children at school. We are grateful to receive the UPT monthly contributions of school supplies to teachers and for the 30 holiday food baskets our school families receive.

Goals for the future include more involvement with other churches and groups to increase the number of volunteers in our program. We are always working to connect more integrally with teachers and programs within the school.

We want to utilize specific professional backgrounds of people in our community to good advantage with our school children.

Sue Maddock, Coordinator of School #3 Volunteer Tutors

Tutoring at Young Mothers & Interim Health Academy (YMIHA)

The Third Church tutoring program at Young Mothers' and Interim Health Academy is maintained by a small, very committed and gifted group of tutors. They are flexible and patient, understanding and intrepid. YMIHA is a high school program for students needing an intimate setting and strong individual academic support. Our tutors work in classrooms in their subject area with specific teachers, as well as with individual students. Though the nature of the students' health concerns makes attendance and attentiveness difficult for many and tutoring there is challenging, all our volunteers now there have stayed for 3 years. In an adjunct to our program, Nancy Adams supervises the Boutique, a roomful of donated baby clothing, wearables and school supplies used for incentive gifts for students.

Our goals for the program are to maintain a small number of volunteers at YMIHA, and to have increased student acceptance of our tutors. It is hoped that these stronger working relationships will result in more ready attainment of their own academic goals by our students.

Sue Maddock, YMIHA Tutor Coordinator

Tutoring at Pinnacle School #35

The 2013-14 school year saw the tutoring program finish its eleventh year at School 35. This year we had thirty-seven tutors working with 105 students. We gained four tutors over the course of the year. Four tutors worked in classrooms helping students when the class had broken up into groups to do work.

The biggest hurdle for the program this year was the implementation of the Common Core and the district requirement that students cannot be pulled for 1-1 tutoring during "Common Core" subjects. This resulted in three hours out of the school day when tutoring cannot take place. The tutors exhibited great flexibility in adjusting their schedules to fit the students' schedules; it speaks volumes about the tutors' commitment to the students of School 35 who struggle with basic math facts and limited vocabulary. To bring the tutors up to speed about the Common Core, we had a tutor meeting with two School 35 teachers to show the tutors the EngageNY.org website and explain the new curricula. We made a concerted effort this year to flood one first grade class with tutors to help bring those students up to grade level. Five tutors worked with the same four students Monday through Friday.

There is a new principal at 35 Anaida Gonzalez-Fortiche. She is a welcome ally at the school and she does her best to accommodate the needs of the tutoring program. We also received a blessing out of the blue. School 35 has been adopted by the Urban Presbyterians Together group to give supplies to the school on a monthly basis.

To reward the students for their hard work, at the end of the year we do an ice cream social with the students and tutors. The tutoring program provides ice cream from Pittsford Farm Dairy. The tutor teacher dinner at my home is also covered by discretionary spending.

Before the Thanksgiving break there were some funds left in the tutoring budget. I approached the administration about providing the entire student body with a Thanksgiving "dinner". I did this because many of these children are from "food insecure" households. I wanted them to have a "real" thanksgiving meal. The administration said that the food would have to be prepared in a commercial kitchen. As such, we ordered Thanksgiving meals from Wegmans (all cooked, just needed to be re-heated) that included turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, whipped sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, and cranberry relish. Twelve tutors and I processed the turkeys and got everything ready. The meal was a huge hit with the 446 students of the school – "The best food I ever had," said one student. The Thanksgiving meal was also a great opportunity for tutors to bond over serving all the kids.

Ike Neilson, School #35 Tutor Coordinator

The Corner Place

With plans to eventually expand after-school programming for children from School #35 and the Upper Monroe neighborhood, and to strengthen our joint mission efforts with New Life Presbyterian Church, we moved the Corner Place from its prior location at 969 Monroe to New Life. We took the cabinets and work sink out of our old location and refitted them for our new art room, and spent hours moving art materials, furniture, and organized everything in our new home. Tracy Walker coordinated the contracting services for some facility improvements, and organized the move. The second phase of the project was coordinating all the materials into functioning and well-organized space.

The primary focus of our work is the Arts Academy for children grades 1 - 6. We had a dip in enrollment during the Fall of 2014 due to location and schedule changes, students changing schools, former students without their regular

transportation, and also, some students aging out of the program. At present, the program is steadily growing with approximately seven to eight more students than last term.

Highlights

- High retention rate of students
- Demographics reflect city population; a significant increase in Hispanic students
- Children come from multiple city schools and many zip codes
- Offerings in art, musical theatre, creative writing, and mathematics/jewelry through practical and engaging application
- Three/Four regular arts staff and director
- More than 300 hours given by volunteers from St. John Fisher Service Learning Program, volunteer support from New Life Church and Third Church, and community volunteers.
- New Steering Committee Chair Don Boyd and new steering committee members
- Application for Foodlink to support our program

In Community

- Cooperation with the Monroe Library System
- Three open houses and end of Year Showcase with Musical Theatre and visual art
- Community Meal and Show for Peace of the Pi
- Field Trip to Mini Maker Faire with Peace of Pi students
- Published article about the Arts Academy in *The Wedge*
- Created a new "walker" policy, where neighborhood students do not need parental supervision to participate in the program with the intent to reach more community youth
- Beginning plans to survey the surrounding neighborhood community

Challenges

- Funding for arts programming and special equipment needs
- Student transportation
- Communication with Spanish-speaking parents

Sarah Peters, Director of the Corner Place Arts Academy

Vacation Bible School 2014 – “Call to Adventure”

Rooted in sharing God’s love through Bible stories, the 2014 VBS Team invited Upper Monroe Ave neighborhood children to “Go For it”. Through daily themes we told stories, performed skits, led memory verses, and quizzes to help the children **Build** (an Ark), **Fish** (for People), **Find** (Jesus in the Temple) and **Try** (their Faith and Walk on water!). Music added to the fun, singing songs like our theme, “With Jesus in the Boat” and ending each day with “Go in Love”.

Supported by our partner, New Life Presbyterian Church, 22 children participated (ages 1 – 13). More than 30 staff members aged 7th grade to 70+ led the adventure. Daily “specials” included fitness games by the Monroe Milers, a Corner Place Music Jam, Honeoye Falls First Presbyterian Church Youth Group Puppet Show and “Jack the Juggler” (Jack Mould). Thanks to all who walked in faith to share God’s love and Word at VBS. Thanks be to God!

Third Church Volunteers included: *Cindy Capps, Lynette Sparks, Evan Sparks, Gloria Pleger, Holly Powell, Hannah Powell, Elena Pochodylo, Ken Wilkinson, Frieda Jones, Ann McMican and Jack Mould.*

HUNGER TEAM:

Dining Room Ministry

Since 1991, the *Dining Room Ministry* has served a hot meal each Saturday noon to any and all comers. Ten teams of ten- to twelve volunteers each, backed by planners and shoppers, prepare and provide a meal on a rotating schedule. In 2014, an average of 78 people were fed each Saturday, amounting to 4,069 meals at a budget of \$9,782 (an average of \$2.40 per meal). This is the highest number of guests we have served during the 24 years of DRM operation. During the year we implemented new menus with healthier items, with more variety and more controlled portions. We continue to seek feedback on these menus from our guests and team members, with the option of future updates as needed. We are grateful for the contributions of the Youth of our church, who participated in baking desserts for our guests. In 2014, approximately 125 volunteers served on Saturday morning teams or planned for and purchased food. In addition, about 50 additional volunteers came from church families and

the community to help out. New volunteers are always welcome. Robb and Nancy Adams (889-4055) and Phil and Beth Tschorke (342-3558) serve as Co- Coordinators and welcome your calls to volunteer.

Food Cupboard

2014 was a busy year for Food Cupboard. Open on 93 Monday and Thursday mornings, with an average attendance of 30 clients, 2751 clients in total were supplied with basic nutritious food items including milk, fresh fruits and vegetables. Thanks to careful management and many donations, we finished the year at \$20,512, only slightly over our 2014 budget of \$20,000. It takes about 15 volunteers each week to serve clients, stock shelves, place orders, pick up orders at Foodlink and other stores and manage inventory. Thankfully, there are about 60 people who share this responsibility, including several families. Counting the many people who bring food items on Sunday, Food Cupboard is blessed with an abundance of caring for our neighbors who continue to experience food insecurity.

We operate as an official Emergency Food Pantry according to the guidelines established by Foodlink. We and the community were deeply saddened by the death in February of Executive Director, Tom Ferraro. More than 35 years ago he began a modest program of surplus food distribution which grew into the founding of Foodlink and the national network of foodbanks called Feeding America. Each year we receive *modest* grants through the New York State Department of Health and locally, the Community Chest. These apply to our Foodlink orders, but when expended our order is paid from our Outreach Budget. We are ever thankful for the energy and resources generated by the Grocery Run again in 2014.

Many of our volunteers have been a part of Food Cupboard since its founding almost 20 years ago. A few retired this year and we thank them for their faithful service. New volunteers are always welcome.

Kay Ramsay

Christmas Basket Project

As in previous years, in 2014, the Christmas Basket Project committee worked with City Schools 35 and 3 and the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN), to provide a week's worth of food to 76 needy city families. 76 church families "adopted a family" by purchasing, packing and delivering a Christmas food basket on Saturday, December 20, 2014. Donations from the whole congregation were used to purchase TOPS gift cards for each recipient family and to underwrite expenditures over \$35 by sponsoring families. Contributions to this program more than covered all the expenses and were gratefully received. At the request of the schools a "mitten tree" was festooned with boys and girls T-Shirts, underpants, socks and warm mittens, gloves and scarves. *The Christmas Basket committee members include Bill and Rose Pethick, Bill and Carol Coons, Ned and Sally Green, and Marilyn Scheftic, with Rose Pethick as chairperson.*

The Hunger Team is grateful for the encouragement and financial assistance provided by the East Avenue Grocery Run and for the many members of the congregation who continue to contribute food, funding and volunteer help. *Hunger Team members are: Carol Coons, Team Leader, Bill Coons, Robb and Nancy Adams, Ned Green, Otto Muller-Girard, Jr., Gale Myers, Rose Pethick, Kay and Bill Ramsay, Cile Rice, Phil and Beth Tschorke and Marilyn Scheftic.*

Cameron Community Ministries "Put a Fork in Hunger" Campaign

2014 was the second year of a three-year collaboration by Third Church Outreach, Christ Clarion Presbyterian Church, Laurelton Presbyterian Church, and Cameron Community Ministries, known as the "Put a Fork in Hunger" Campaign. The collaboration enables Cameron to receive a three-year Triple Play grant from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to help ameliorate hunger. Cameron serves the Lyell Otis neighborhood, one of Rochester's most poverty-stricken areas.

Together, we collected supplies and assembled summer break bags filled with healthful foods for the Cameron kids, and we collaborated to prepare and serve several Sunday celebration meals. We are planning additional collaborations for 2015. We are grateful for Lorenda Gauronski's leadership in this collaboration on behalf of Third Church.

East Avenue Grocery Run 2014

Registered Participants 1056 – 102 in the mile and 954 in the 5K (down 121 from 2013)
Third Church-Participants (age 3 to age 82!) 131 (down 51 from 2013)

Income

Registrations \$20,270 (down 2,130 from 2013)

Corporate Sponsorships \$21,050 (up \$7,000 from 2013)

Crowdrise Fundraising \$10,620 (new in 2014)

Donations \$1,461

Pledges raised by runners \$2,015

Other income 2,738

Total Income \$56,139 (up \$12,139 from 2013)

Costs \$22,020 (up \$2,967 in 2013)

Net Proceeds \$34,118

Amount to Third Church's hunger programs \$25,958

Amount to allocate to other hunger programs \$8,160

Programs which received support from EAGR: Third Church food pantry, dining room ministry & Christmas baskets, Foodlink Children's Backpack program, Cameron Community Ministries, Irondequoit Food Bank, Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf, Calvary St. Andrews Food Pantry, Pittsford Food Cupboard

Other Church/Food Teams: Asbury First United Methodist, Bethlehem Lutheran, Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian, Cameron Community Ministries, Lakeside (Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf), New Life Presbyterian, Foodlink, Irondequoit Food Cupboard

Other Corporate Teams: Wegmans, JCS, SMP, Synaptics, Unity, MVP, Martino Flynn, Ardent Learning, Center for Community Health, Lifespan, Strathallan

Kerrie Merz, Race Director



Pastors' Emergency Fund:

2014 PASTORS' EMERGENCY FUND ACTIVITY

Rent assistance	\$3,090
Transportation assistance for work or medical care	\$1,164
Assistance with gas/electric	\$817
Medical/prescription co-pay	\$50
Eyeglasses	\$50
Work boots	\$50
Telephone (medical issues, children)	\$100
Automobile expense (gas, brakes, car payment)	\$300
School supplies	\$80
Baby formula	\$20
Hygiene supplies	\$350
Identity documents	\$60
TOTAL	<u>\$6131</u>

The Pastors' Emergency Fund is used to help those who come to us in financial distress. Help is given to any one person no more than once every six months. We attempt to refer clients to appropriate agencies for long-term help whenever possible for help with larger problems (the individual who couldn't make a car payment, for instance). In December 2014, we revised our guidelines to give priority to individuals with rental eviction notices, utility shut-off notices, and bus passes for work.

Gale Myers, PEF Administrator

HOMELESSNESS:

Habitat@Third (H@T)

In 2014, one more house was completed in Rochester's JOSANA neighborhood as part of Third's Outreach program in collaboration with Flower City Habitat for Humanity (FCHH), bringing the total number of houses built as part of the current effort to six. [H@T](#) coordinates the formation of coalitions to build Habitat houses and provides substantial financial support for each coalition.

In 2014, [H@T](#) worked with a coalition comprised of the student Habitat Club from Pittsford Mendon High School which is advised by TPC member and Youth leader Bruce Peachey. The additional house sponsor was "Get It Straight" orthodontia.



For this coalition, H@T's role was to support coalition members, provide a portion of the \$65,000 needed for each house, and join other coalition members in volunteering for the actual construction of the home. The house, at 726 Jay Street, was dedicated on Saturday, June 29, 2014.

[H@T](#) is currently planning to construct the Roger Cross House, in memory of one of the founders of Flower City Habitat who died in 2014. Roger was a member of West Henrietta Baptist Church, a coalition member. This house will be built by the Harvest Home Coalition, which last built in 2013. Members of the Harvest Home Coalition have been meeting since 2013 and use several fund-raising approaches, including Pastors As Waiters at Henrietta and Brockport restaurants; annual Habitat Thanksgiving Pie Sales; a magic show hosted by Salem UCC; and a benefit concert which is being planned for spring or this year. Asbury Methodist has joined this coalition for this project and has been generous in its financial support. I will meet with Incarnate Word Lutheran's committee early in February to try to persuade them to join in.

Tom Gillett, Coordinator

Katrina Recovery

August 29, 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the Katrina Disaster in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast which flooded much of New Orleans, particularly the east and west sides, home to many of the city's poorest and most vulnerable residents. Hundreds of thousands were displaced from these areas which lie on average 6 feet below sea level. This was soon followed by Hurricane Rita, fourth strongest Atlantic hurricane ever, which made landfall September 23, 2005, on the Louisiana Texas border. Since then, Third Church has committed to help in the city's recovery and has sent nine missions to New Orleans and the nearby bayous to aid in the reconstruction effort. Members and friends have made over 70 individual visits including some who have gone six or seven times. 2014 represented a year of hiatus so that we might discern our continuing work and potentially broaden our mission. Joining with Sally Altobello who coordinates Third's recovery work with groups and churches beyond our parish, we are planning two anniversary trips back to the city, still working with Presbyterian Disaster Relief and renewing our base of operations at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Metairie. The first opportunity is from August 24 through 28 on the anniversary of Katrina's landfall. A follow up will take place either October 19 through 23 or October 26 and 30. We will welcome both veterans from Katrina 1 through 9, and encourage new volunteers who have expressed or might have interest in joining the work. If interested, please contact either Nancy Watson, Rod Taylor, Lynette Sparks, or Sally Altobello.

RAIHN@Third



Third's anti-homelessness program, RAIHN@Third, completed 10 years in operation and our rotations 36 through 39 during 2014, while providing food, shelter and hospitality to homeless families and their children right here at Third Church. In partnership with New Life Presbyterian Church, we tap approximately 75 volunteers each rotation to meet our covenant of 4 rotations yearly, and our highly dedicated volunteer base recently has grown this year. We have renewed our covenant to support the Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) for another three

years. The larger RAIHN network continues to successfully assist families to progress from homelessness to independent housing.

With grateful thanks to our awesome volunteers:

- The umbrella organization RAIHN served a large number of families in 2014, and Third Church was at or near our capacity of 14 individuals for each rotation. RAIHN has helped over 300 families in the past decade, with the vast majority flourishing from their initial situation.
- Third Church hosted four RAIHN rotations in 2014 — January, April (Easter week), March, June and July. We are planning for four rotations in 2015.
- We celebrated our 10 year commitment to RAIHN with a picnic outside on the Third Church lawn in May, as well as with a private party for our RAIHN volunteers.
- With over 100 volunteers strong in conjunction with New Life Presbyterian, our volunteers logged well over 1,500 hours this year, supported by Third Church's excellent team of sextons. About half our active volunteers are RAIHN-trained for direct hosting positions; the others support set-up, take-down, and shopping and laundry activities.
- We mourn the death of one of our RAIHN original leaders, Bob Wandtke from New Life Presbyterian. Bob retained his enthusiasm for our RAIHN efforts even as his personal support diminished in recent years.
- Our leadership team continues to be strong and committed to our mission, as we transitioned some responsibilities in 2014. The team has gone to an electronic sign-up tool for our volunteer opportunities. Some changes to our support staff from New Life Presbyterian is expected in 2015. Leaders are: *Louis Loggi* (Co-Coordinator), *Laurie Mahoney* (Co-Coordinator and Communications), *Vera Versteeg* / New Life Coordinator (Food & Menu Planning), *Jim Pochodylo* (Setup/Takedown), *Sue Bixler* (Linen Closet and Donations), *Lorenda Gauronski* (Supplies), *Beth Tschorke*, *Linc Spaulding* .
- We operated close to our budget again, due to donations of meals and supplies. Extra expenses were incurred to purchase area rugs for use in each guest room, due to new hardwood floors.
- We continue to seek and receive donations from our congregation and outside groups. When needed, we ask for specific items and find our congregation's response extremely generous. This year, donations included sheets, blankets & towels. Personal care items are given to each guest.
- We are grateful to Third's youth staff as we continue to lodge our families on the upper floor of the Education Building – a wonderful, sunny space which is very well received by our guests.
- Please hold this date: May 2nd 2015 for RAIHN's Car City fundraiser, where we will have the opportunity to raise money & awareness for those who indeed are forced to sleep in their cars. Opportunities for youth, families as well as sponsors to participate.

Louis Loggi & Laurie Mahoney, Co-Coordiators

Kenya:

Another trip to Kenya to visit our partner church is in the planning stages. In fall 2015, a group of Third Church folk plan to travel to the outskirts of Nairobi to share life experiences, participate in worship services, and become acquainted with the culture, environment and spiritual practices of our friends in the Kihumo Parish. Some of you will remember when Mary Hinga, Jane Wambaa, George Waiyaki, Moses Ndegwa, and Eunice Ndegwa visited us in the early autumn of 2011. Before that, nine Third Church members traveled to Kenya on two separate trips where we were welcomed with open arms by Kihumo folk—young and old. For all nine it was a life transforming experience!

In early 2007 a partnership was formed between Third Church and the Kihumo Presbyterian Church of Nairobi, Kenya. A detailed memorandum of understanding between the sessions of our two churches stated our commitment to support them with a major portion of our capital campaign for projects deemed worthy by both churches. So far we have contributed to a goat project the building of a manse and the construction of a pre-school. We covenanted to be patient, open and honest with each other as the partnership grows and strengthens. To be that, it has become more and more clear that trips between members of each church need to take place more frequently. Please consider traveling with John Wilkinson, Becky D'Angelo Veitch and others. *The Kenya Team: Ry Foye, Judy Gordon, Ronna Grimes, Tom Klaseus, Scott Stratton-Smith and Lynette Sparks*

Outreach Blog:

In 2014, the Outreach Committee has made an effort to improve our on-line presence. The web pages were updated. Updates were posted on the church's Facebook page, and a new Outreach blog was initiated. The Outreach blog (<https://outreachatthird.wordpress.com>) is designed to provide a space where current programs and issues related to our Outreach programs can be discussed. The hope is that it will become an integral part of our ongoing discussions regarding the issues that we face in our community.

Tracy Walker

