

REPORT OF THE JOINT MINISTRY TEAM:
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
OUTREACH
SPIRITUAL LIFE

In 2014, our committees joined together to form a joint ministry team that met monthly to share their creative talents, ideas and energy.

Representing Christian Education: Gail Airasian, Brenda Briggs, Carvina Williams

Representing Outreach: Elizabeth Bennett

Representing Spiritual Life: Robin Baker (through June), Brenda Briggs, Ose Manheim, Karen McCune Barca, Julie Roberts

During the first half of the year, our gatherings began with an alternative worship that included music, scripture readings and reflections. Our meetings were facilitated by Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade.

Reverend Thomas Hathaway frequently participated and shared with us his work with youth, Outdoor Church, and his work with FormingFaith.net.

Regarding Christian Education with children and youth, in June we honored 5 young people who completed confirmation. The confirmands were Clarisse Coughlin, Drew Hill, Tripp Hill, Aaron Olapade, and Louise Wilensky. There was a celebration of music and the young people shared their faith statements. The youth experienced a joyous and meaningful overnight field trip to Heifer International in Rutland, MA.

On September 5th the church held a successful "Blessing of the Backpacks" and this was the first event to take place at the 458 High Street hospitality space. Upon the move to 458 High Street, traditional Sunday School classes came to an end.

Regarding Outreach, the ministry team and members of the congregation coordinated with the outreach team leader, Elizabeth, to continue our successful ministries with Outdoor Church and the Indigo Shelter. Sandwiches were prepared and delivered to Cambridge on the 5th Sunday in March, June, August, and November. The Indigo Shelter residents received Easter gift baskets and also Christmas gift baskets.

Spiritual Life continued to support the congregation's worship experience by arriving early to set up the sanctuary and preparing for communion. Upon the move to our new Sanctuary location, we shifted from monthly communion sacraments to weekly communion. The deacons continued to reach out to members with pastoral care. Brenda takes the lead as our most active deacon, frequently driving a church elder to medical appointments and grocery shopping for her.

The joint ministry team model proved effective as we met to share ideas and support each other in our ministries. In addition to arranging various activities, the group visioned, discussed and processed how best to transition to our new location. This including planning with Reverend Wendy the walk through the church to celebrate our history with the stained glass windows, and the "Leave Taking" service where we carried hymnals and other items that symbolized our shared ministry, walking to 458 High Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen McCune Barca