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Connect!

February 2021



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**Let's Continue to
SHARE THE LOVE!**



We are blessed be able to dedicate this edition of our *Connect!* newsletter to recent Local Outreach – one tangible way that we fulfill Jesus' command to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* Matthew 22:37-39



Holiday Outreach to Our Community

by Shireen David

Below are some encouraging facts and figures from All Saints' local outreach during the recent holiday season. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND FOR LOVING OUR COMMUNITY!**



HOLIDAY MEALS

For Thanksgiving, All Saints parishioners provided 40 families with a turkey meal through *Little Lights* and the *Share the Love* program.

For Christmas, that number went up to 50 families! *(See below for more pictures from this outreach – and other details on our monthly "Share the Love" program.)*

Also at Christmas – thanks to one special All Saints family – we delivered a Christmas meal with all the trimmings to the ladies at the Rockville Women's Shelter.



ANGEL TREE TOYS

All Saints also participated in this year's "virtual" Angel Tree and provided gifts and toys for the 50 children assigned to our parish.

WOMENS SHELTER GIFT BAGS

Patty Kelaher and Sandra McFarland



coordinated with the ladies in their Bible studies to provide 35 wonderful bags with thoughtful gifts such as personal hygiene products, socks, and gift cards to Target for the ladies in the Rockville Women's shelter.

Click [HERE](#) to see the beautiful thank you letter that we received from the Center!



WINTER COATS

All Saints donated more than 50 new coats for children, teens, and adults that were shipped to *Little Lights* to help keep the families in the Potomac Gardens and Hopkins housing projects warm this winter.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

30 poinsettias were anonymously donated during the season to be delivered to those being served by our wonderful Visitation Ministry.



BLESSING BAGS & GIFT CARDS

We continue to give blessing bags to our homeless neighbors each day. For the Christmas season – and especially since our church offices were closed the week after Christmas – we handed out \$575 worth of grocery cards to our regular Blessing Bag friends.

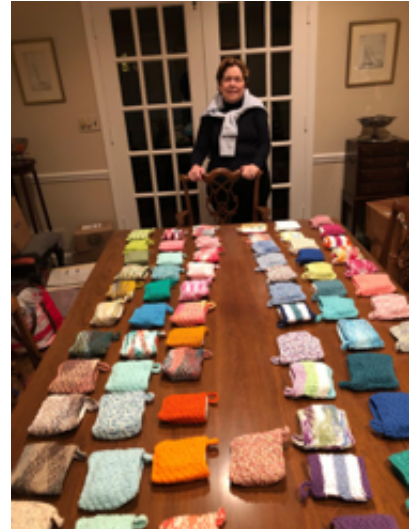


Soap "Sacks" – A Personal Ministry

by Gussie Lewis

All Saints parishioner, Gussie Lewis, handcrafts soap “sacks” to include with the gifts for the ladies to the women’s shelter. Read about this special ministry below, and how and why Gussie got involved.

The vision of **Soap S.A.C.K.** (Supporting a Community with Kindness – soapsacks.com) is to inspire communities of volunteers around the world to crochet/knit, collect, and donate soap and soap sacks to their local food pantries, homeless centers, veterans clinics, social service agencies and relief efforts. These sacks can be used as a washcloth and to store the soap, and are made from cotton so they are soft.



Why soap? The founder of Soap S.A.C.K., Stacy Wiener, had volunteered at local food pantries and realized that people were not able to use government subsidies such as food stamps to buy toiletry items. She saw a need and began designing these absorbent cotton knit bags. Each bag holds a new bar of soap and can be hung out to dry between uses while keeping the soap bar clean.

After seeing Stacy Wiener interviewed, I became inspired, and I've been making soap sacks for 3 years now. The first year I was only able to complete 25, but this year I was able to make 70 sacks! I try to make each sack unique and beautiful by using a different colored yarn.

I feel blessed to be able to make something that I know is well-received and will help others!



Let's Continue to "Share the Love"

Each month, All Saints is committed to providing the SHARE boxes with meats and vegetables to the community we serve through *Little Lights*. We recently dropped off 25 boxes of groceries, which included eggs and frozen turkeys. They were all gone within fifteen minutes!

Here is the feedback we received from our friends at Little Lights:



A parent from Hopkins (housing complex) said, "Thank you for being such a huge blessing to our community. If I had \$5, I would give \$2.50 of it to Little Lights."

Your generous donations allow us to continue feeding those who are struggling to provide for their families. The SHARE boxes cost \$25 each. We are currently distributing 25 boxes per month but would like to see that number increase. Please **PRAY** with us specifically that this outreach program will grow this year so we can serve more than twenty-five hurting families per month.

If you would like to sponsor a grocery box(es), please click [HERE](#) and choose "SHARE the LOVE" from the drop-down menu.

Questions? Please email Shireen David, Director of Mission and Outreach.



Did you miss the [January](#) issue of *Connect*? We highlighted the special role of prayer and mission support in the life of All Saints, with articles about the Day of Prayer and our mission partner, Rev. Bisoke, in Congo.

Previous issues of the *Connect!* also celebrate God's faithfulness to us:

[December 2020](#)

[November 2020](#)

[October 2020](#)

[September 2020](#)

[August 2020](#)

[July 2020](#)

[June 2020](#)

[May 2020](#)

Please join us in continuing to **celebrate the good news of God working**

in our midst – ideas for the *Connect* newsletter are always welcome! You may submit possible topics, photos, or short (1 – 3 paragraph) articles to Communications Manager [Teri Ballou](#).



How may we help?

**We are here for you. If you need help,
please call (301) 654-2488 or email info@allsaintschurch.net.
All inquiries confidential.**

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