

## In-reach/Outreach Annual Report

**Outreach** at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Bel Air continued during the COVID-19 pandemic. We had seven active outreach programs. Those programs which actively helped our church and local communities are: The Cottage Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, Yarn Guild, Cell Phones for Soldiers, Box Tops for Education, Harford Family House and The Welcome One Shelter (which currently has joined forces with Harford Family House).

During 2022, the Thrift Shop continued to grow in clientele, both those to whom we give items of clothing or household goods and those who purchase them. When we gave away more than we sold, it was considered a winning weekend. The Thrift is open on Fridays and Saturdays (except for major holidays) from 9:00 – 12:00.

The Yarn Guild creates and gives away an exceptional number of hats, scarves, lap blankets, prayer shawls, prayer squares and dialysis sleeves to members of our congregation, local health care agencies and the homeless. Anyone is welcome to join the guild, with or without knitting or crochet skills. Members of the guild are willing to teach these skills to anyone interested.

The Food Pantry's cooler, placed on the front porch of the Rectory, is filled and emptied every single day. The Food Pantry is kept stocked thanks to donations from our generous congregation. Items needed are those that can be eaten "on the run", such as pop-top canned goods (soups, stews, fruit, Vienna sausage) granola and fruit bars, Pop Tarts, bottled water, boxed/package tuna, etc.

Our donations for Cell Phones for Soldiers and Box Tops for Education have dropped off. Please remember Emmanuel when purchasing a new phone or finishing off that box of cereal or Granola bars! Instructions for Box Tops for Education are available on the "Outreach table" located on the courtyard side of the church.

Our Angel Tree this year benefited residents of Harford Family House. We placed thirty angels on the tree and all thirty were taken and all thirty donations received and delivered. The gifts were greatly appreciated.

**In-reach** was added to our committee in 2022. The focus of In-reach is to help connect the congregation to one another, aid those who experience restrictions in attendance and grow the fellowship and community of Emmanuel, Bel Air.

During 2022 the In-reach committee made telephone calls to each member of the congregation for whom that information was provided. Approximately 140 calls were made (or emails were sent if no phone number was provided). The purpose of the calls/emails was to connect with the members of Emmanuel and see what Emmanuel could do for them as we came out of COVID-19.

The In-Reach committee identified several areas of need and will work on those going forward, such as greeters and ushers and a welcome committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Costantino

Christian Education Coordinator