

InReach Annual Report

2019

The InReach Ministry is actually made up of several ministries that serve new and existing parishioners in St. Matthews. Here are compiled reports from the various ministry heads.

The Greeter Ministry headed by Diane Eberhart is doing well. We have a full schedule of volunteers who work very diligently to identify new visitors and get them to fill out visitor cards. We welcome anyone who would like to be a greeter. It is a great place to start getting involved in the church. We could use a few more greeters at the 8:00 service so if anyone is interested please let Sam, Diane or John Eberhart know of your interest. We have 4 ladies who bake bread weekly so we can give out our loaves to the visitors. We believe our bread ministry is something special that we do at St. Matthew's.

The On-Boarding Ministry (Vestry Liaison Samantha Renfro) was established in 2018. Since that time, we have welcomed many newcomers. In 2019 we had 49 visitors who filled out welcome cards. We held two three session newcomer's classes and hosted 2 newcomer receptions. Volunteers keep track of newcomers and send out letters and brochures on a weekly basis. This ministry could use more volunteers. Contact Sam Renfro if you are interested in joining.

The Order of St. Luke Ministry headed by Karen Morgan, meets every Wednesday before the Healing Service at 10 am. They pray for those in need from inside and outside the parish.

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry headed by Vicki Conway, has provided (through our parishioners) over 100 meals to individuals who were ill or in crisis.

Stephen Ministry headed by Susan Jung has been official at St. Matthew's since 2016. This Christ-driven ministry is a one-on-one caring relationship providing emotional and spiritual support. The Stephen Minister meets face-to-face, in total confidentiality, with their care receiver, someone suffering the hurt and fear brought by one of life's bigger challenges. These trials include death of a loved one; loss of health; job loss; divorce; financial crisis and a multitude of other difficulties.

The Stephen Ministers of St. Matthew's partnered with the First United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville for continuing education once a month until May 2019. They also met at St. Matthew's for supervision once a month.

No candidates for the training program were identified this past year, as the referrals were not enough to warrant additional Stephen Ministers. Currently, there is one Stephen Leader (Susan Jung), and three Stephen Ministers (Ted Sawyer, Bernie Waller, Gini Peterson).

Newsletter articles have been submitted through June of this year. There is an informational bulletin board displayed in the hallway outside the church office.

Goals for 2019 were to build awareness of this Christ-centered Ministry and to increase the number of referrals.

Statistics for 2019: 1 referral who requested a SM outside the parish – referred to FUMCL

After much prayer and discussion, the St. Matt's Stephen Ministers decided to suspend monthly supervision and continuing education meetings in May 2019. No one in the group had a care receiver and there have been so few referrals over the last four years, that the need for a Stephen Ministry at St. Matt's is questionable. It now appears that the current Stephen Ministers could offer their skills and talents in other areas.