**CARE Committee Minutes**

**Monday, April 24, 2017, 7:00**

*To connect the members of St. James with people in need*

Evelyn opened the meeting with devotions.

**Old Business:**

*R@T –* There was discussion about the loss of team members and captains. CARE recognizes how central R@T is to our ministry and will continue to look for ways of sustaining this ministry. There will be a meeting of the captains within the next month.

*Backpack Ministry –* The Backpack core group continues to be faithful and committed to the backpack ministry. There are two more ‘packings’ of groceries – May 18th and June 7th and there are enough groceries to finish the year. The school system has taken on the summer food program.

*Hospice Snacks –* CARE will continue the snack program for Hospice families. CARE affirmed that we would collect snacks in May and October.

*LEOS –* St. James is continuing to supply volunteers for the 4th Saturday at LEOS from 8-3:30. Although we have a number of members trained and it seems to be a core group of volunteers who are available, we have been able to cover our Saturday commitment. The next Saturday we are working is Memorial week-end. We will continue to reach out to expand who is working on Saturdays.

*We, the People –* The larger We, the People group that started in July is now a group of approximately 20 people on a leadership team, who meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at St. James. From the leadership team, small groups were formed, adding others from within the community, who meet separately and report back to the leadership team. The leadership team is led by Don, a St. James member, and Charles Rivens, pastor at New Covenant. The group is focused on recognizing racism in our community and looking for ways to bring unity. Jennie shared a flier about a workshop on racism at The Life Center, a Mennonite Church, the following Saturday.

*Rise Against Hunger Packaging Event –* Our partnership with St. Paul AME Church on April 9th was a huge success. We registered 100 volunteers from both churches, packed 10,000 meals in an hour and a half, had a light soup and salad supper together, and then worshipped in our sanctuary, with St. Paul’s choir, both ministers leading us and grape juice and wine for communion. CARE members affirmed that they are ready to do it again. Jennie expressed a desire to not only partner with St. Paul again with packing meals, but with a Bible study or R@T or other programs that they would like some support.

**New Business**

*Meals on Wheels –* The initial investigation into the Meals on Wheels program was confusing and difficult to understand how the program works, what the needs are and ways that members might be involved. The program seems to operate out of Burke County. Because the program seems to be congruent with our mission statement and our interest in hunger issues, we will continue to investigate what we can do in Caldwell County. (*Attached is a report of what Annette found out after our last meeting)*

*Immigration –* St. James has had 2 meetings on Sunday afternoons to discuss immigration issues. The meetings have been well-attended and the discussions have been invigorating. A DAECA teenager pays $400-$600 every two years to be allowed to stay in this country and go to school. A lawyer from Asheville will be at St. James on Sunday, April 30th to talk about the legal issues facing unauthorized individuals and what support members might provide. As a committee, we appreciate Dianne’s commitment and knowledge and leadership on this important issue.

*Prison Ministry -*  Jennie continues to be interested in pursuing social justice through a prison ministry, but has nothing to report at this time. She invited others who have an interest in this area to join her in pursuing this ministry.

Kathryn shared that there are Human Hurt and Hope grants and also Millennial Development Goals grants available through the dioceses that encourage collaboration as we work on issues.

**Next Meeting Dates:** 4th Monday, July 24th and October 23rd.