**CARE Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2017, 7:00

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

**Donations:**

**April July December**

Project Graduation $ 250 CIS $1,000 Soup Kitchen $2,000

Shelter Home $1,250 Helping Hands $ 500 Stop Hunger Now $2,944

William Lenoir $ 500 Yokefellow $ 500 Caldwell House $ 500

Helping Hands $2,000

Shelter Home $1,000

Yokefellow $1,500

**Old Business:**

R@T: Rebecca agreed to be the captain of the R@T captains and will call meetings when they are needed. A meeting is needed at the beginning of the year.

Backpack Ministries: Gloria confirmed that they are serving 60 children this year and they will receive a pallet this Friday at 11:00. They are in need of strong individuals who could help them unload the pallet. The Soup Kitchen and Yokefellow also benefit from the items in the pallet that cannot be used by the Backpack Program. Nothing goes to waste.

Hospice Snacks: Annette reported that she felt we were down some in the amount of snacks brought this quarter.

LEOS: Volunteer training times - January 21st - 10:00 and February 9th - 6:30 were shared. Although we have a substantial list who have been trained, many have been unable to work on the 4th Saturday. January 28th will be the next time St. James will work. While members will be needed for the morning, Ken usually can cover the 12:00 - 3:30.

We, the People: This group started by St. James member, Don Bushman and Rev. Charlie Rivens met recently at St. James and decided to keep a committed core group of approximately 20 people for 4-6 weeks to work on racism and unity in Caldwell County. The group will meet every other Thursday at St. James and then decide what steps to take next.

Christmas Cards: Rebecca reported that although we got a late start, the Christmas cards brought in $450 for LEOS. She recommended that we start in October for next year, if we are going to do them again.

Stop Hunger Now:

The CARE Committee has a contract with Stop Hunger Now to have our event this spring. Jennie is in the process of finding a black parish to partner with for this event. Rebecca, Annette, and Betty agreed to serve on the planning committee with individuals from the partner church.

**New Business:**

Social Justice Classes: CARE will continue to investigate sponsoring a class on social justice issues and possibly open it to other churches to partner with us.

New Ministries to Consider:

*Meals on Wheels:*Annette shared information on the program that is run by the Western Piedmont Council of Government. Although they have a long waiting list and the program fits well with our mission statement, there are many factors to consider and there is not a person in Caldwell County to help us understand if this would be a good fit for St. James. Annette will try to get more information for us.

*Prison Ministry*: Having read, **Just Mercy**and a son who works in a prison, Jennie shared a growing passion she has had with the justice issues in the prisons. As we move forward, she would like to invite someone to talk with us about ministries in the prisons and ways of connecting with this population in need.

In the discussion about the prison ministry, other members listed areas they would like sessions offered that may be informative concerning the needs of others. Some concerns listed were:

human trafficking, police brutality, what does it take to become documented, the problem with opiads, how to write effective letters to representative.

**Meeting Dates 2017:** 4th Monday April 24, July 24, October 24.

Volunteering to have devotions:

Evelyn —April 24th

Dianne —July 24th

Maggie —October 23rd