

From the ROCC (Relationship Outside Church Community)

Annual Report 2022

Reported by Elder Lois Wenzell

The panel for Relationship Outside Church Community has been represented by panel members, Elder Lois Wenzell and Elder Max Onga Nana. During the year of 2021 we were able to share your gifts with the both the local and outside communities.

Through the **Presbyterian Church (USA)**, CPC has participated throughout the year in their four special offerings:

- *One Great Hour of Sharing* focuses on material need and their root causes – from direct famine and disaster relief to the implications of systemic racism within the phenomena of mass incarceration.
- The *Pentecost Offering* supports children at risk, youth, and young adults.
- *Peace and Global Witness* – peacemaking and reconciliation
- *Christmas Joy* – Supports church leaders (past, present, and future)

FACETS serves individuals and families who are homeless, low income, unstably housed, and at-risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. These individuals face significant challenges and have fewer ways to protect themselves from the pandemic. When FACETS needed food for the Feed the Hungry program for the holidays, we were not able to purchase the ~450 dinner rolls they needed. We relied on their expertise and were able to donate and designate funds for their program that was able to provide additional meals. We requested and received funds from our Deacons to support this cause also. Money from the Len Feder Fund was donated to FACETS, as well, as Len loved this organization and found them most worthy. CPC participated in FACETS toy drive in December this year. FACETS was very pleased as even the few toys that were contributed were given to well deserving children.

Western Fairfax Christian Ministry, or WFCM, is another non profit organization that CPC has supported for many years. Through our food pantry, we continue to provide food staples throughout the year. For the holidays, we donated funds for the meals program. Members of our church and the preschool donated hand-made and purchased mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and blankets. We were invited to participate in their food giveaway drive by offering these items to those in the line to pick up their holiday food items. Lois and Stephanie Wenzell were able to connect briefly with many people who really showed their appreciation for some warm mittens, etc. I was especially touched by a woman who by herself accepting food and was so pleased when I offered her gloves. I noticed she was pregnant and asked her to wait another moment while I ran over to the table to get a beautiful handmade baby blanket to offer her. We were all in tears as she was so surprised and so thankful for our generosity. We will never forget that.

Our Neighbor's Child is an organization that our Women of the Church have supported for over a decade with their Mitten Drive. Our WOC hand made dozens of hats, mittens, scarves, and blankets that were donated. Between the hand-made and purchased items, over 200 were donated between ONC and WFCM.

Girl Scouts. I just want to acknowledge that the Girl Scout troop that has been meeting in our Fellowship Hall for 20 years has honored us with a plaque of appreciation (soon to be hung by the side door). They have also purchased and donated five 10' folding tables for our use. They have been placed under the stage.