

OUTREACH BOARD MINUTES

February 25, 2026 4:00 pm Parish Hall

Present: Liz Halbert (chair), Maryann Darzano, Judie Ratcliffe, Bill Faherty, Sally Learned, Shirley DesNoyers, Margaret Melando, Deb Alt.

Meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes from January 28, 2026, were approved.

Liz presented the financial reports from Jan and Feb 2026. There was much discussion about the difficulty in accessing our necessary funds and the mystery around when we will receive the Endowment funds and how much that would be. The \$5991.95 in the Investment Account is in a CD that is due to mature in July. A motion was made and approved to request that we withdraw the funds from the CD as soon as possible and move the money to the Expense Account. Also, any money received from the Outreach Endowment should be put in the Expense Account. It was also suggested that we invite Rick Pearce, treasurer, and Karla Platt, bookkeeper, to our next meeting to thoroughly explain the finances.

Ministry Reports

SOIICF – Margaret reported that Samara’s Village is having a gala on March 21 at the Homer Wright Event Center. Tickets and more info can be found on their website. Food Pantry numbers continue to increase. Wednesday Lenten services continue – on March 4 Sally will be the leader at St. James Chapel at 12:30. There was much discussion about the need for Emergency Shelter funds and an additional \$10,000 was awarded to Brunswick Partnership for Housing to cover current costs. Sally reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing limits for client use of Human Needs and the Food Pantry. They also are planning to separate out the Food Pantry and Human Needs budgets.

Diaper Ministry – Maryann reported that the new director of the Diaper Bank is requiring clients to re-register with statements from their referrals. The client list had gotten very large and is now reduced to reflect current users. The recent diaper wrap party at St. Philips was well attended.

Brunswick Partnership for Housing – Sally reported that BPH has been very busy finding shelter for clients with all the cold weather lately. The transitional housing is full. The “Rapid Rehousing” program sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield has been very successful. Since the end of November, they have placed 38 people (17 households) in

permanent housing! The Emergency Shelter program has been temporarily shut down due to lack of funds. The program is for sheltering of referred families, women and those with health problems for 3 nights maximum and one time per quarter. The homeless population in Brunswick County is rising. The BPH fundraiser at American Fish will take place on May 19th – tickets will be on sale soon.

Lil' Bit of Help – Shirley reported that the Belize mission is stable. The restroom remodeling project off the sanctuary is currently on hold due to the death of a very involved volunteer who was in charge.

ECW – Judie reported that they are preparing for the Rummage Sale on March 14. Volunteer sign-ups are in the narthex. Donations will be accepted beginning on March 9. A retreat led by Aedan Barnes will take place in late April.

Chapel Docent – Deb reported that they will host a student group from Brunswick Community College that is in the “Body and Soul” class. There are 5 volunteers that will be there to make a presentation to them. The docents are considering only staffing the Chapel one day a month and offering a presentation at that time in hopes of increasing attendance and efficiency. They would give the information to the Visitors Center for publicity as well as getting it published in the paper.

Men on a Mission – Bill reported that the group is up and running now. They had a great presentation by Fraser Crane that was well attended. Bill is the treasurer of MOAM and sits on the board – they are beginning to plan events for the year. They will be helping the ECW with the rummage sale donations.

Old Business

Liz reported that the Chapel Annex project is currently on hold. They are awaiting a second bid on the project and also waiting until the Finance Committee has a better idea of the finances available for the project.

New Business

Alice Kennedy will be the new Communicator for our group.

Liz met the chairman of the NC VIPS (the tutoring volunteer group) at the Day4Hope meeting. She has his contact info, and she and Alice are now on his mailing list. He was very interested in getting volunteers from our church and volunteered to speak to our group. Margaret suggested we contact him to see if he would like to speak at a SOICF meeting. Liz will follow up. Training of volunteers will begin in Aug-Sep with volunteering starting in October.

Liz mentioned encouraging donations to the needy for Lent. Sally reported that BPH would welcome donations of camping equipment in good condition to be given to homeless people that are unable to find housing. She sets them up with the items they would need. An article will be submitted for inclusion in our e-newsletter and bulletin. Instead of collecting at St. Philips, people are to contact Sally at BPH.

The Newcomer Reception will be on March 15 after the 10:00 service in the Chapel Annex. Liz is going to be out of town so will be unable to make the presentation. Judie volunteered to do it – Liz will send her info.

Liz submitted an article about the grants we awarded last year and information on requesting money this year. It has appeared in the State Port Pilot for 3 weeks. So far, we have not gotten any response from agencies.

We received one grant request for \$10,000 from BPH for Emergency Shelter funding. A donation of \$5000 was approved with a plan to possibly give the additional \$5000 in the future once our finances are in order.

Liz attended the recent Day4Hope planning meeting. The event will take place on Saturday, August 8. The location will be Brunswick Community College Bldg. J but may change. Diane Hennessy, the chair for the last two years, is moving out of the area. She will remain involved until her move. Many of the chairpeople have returned.

Sally reported that the household items ministry at Trinity is discontinuing. They have a large number of items that need to be moved from their church, and they would like to donate them to a group that would give them away vs selling them. Margaret and Maryann suggested she contact Love of Christ Church in Bolivia.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.