

Our March “Hallelujah Moment” - Brechin’s Mission & Outreach Team

Our Mission & Outreach Team focuses on social justice issues.

Brechin’s Anne Manikel and Rosemary Weighill started this team about 8 years ago. As I mentioned a few weeks ago in our formal thank you to retiring M&O team member Anne, some of the projects taken on over the years at Brechin and encouraged and supported by Anne through Mission and Outreach include:

- Instigation and pushing forward with Brechin becoming an Affirming Ministry
- Location of the weekly Loaves & Fishes Food Bank outpost here at Brechin
- Refugee Sponsorship
- Truth & Reconciliation work
- Brechin’s “Reaching Out” group
- Our Life Planning & Final Wishes series a couple of years back
- And Most recently, our monthly “Minute for Mission” dedicated to **local Brechin outreach projects** – our “Hallelujah moment”

. For the last couple of years, Our Mission and Outreach Team has focused on three major themes:

- **Truth & Reconciliation,**
- **Refugees** and
- **the Affirming Ministry**

Under the Truth & Reconciliation Theme the team has organized several workshops and presentations which have included:

- The Kairos Blanket exercise – an experiential exercise at how colonization affected the First Nations. Monies collected were donated to Tsa’walk Learning Center.
- A presentation by Terry Mack – “a primer on Vancouver Island First Nations”
- A workshop by Tammie Myles on the effects of Residential Schools and the 60s scoop on the lives of First Nations peoples to this day. Funds raised were donated to Tillicum-Lelum Child Development Center.

Through the bulletin, the congregation has been made aware of various indigenous presentations and plays such as the monthly presentations at VIU and the interactive play “Home”. In addition, the team has hosted a monthly book discussion group which focused on First Nations books

Refugees

Awareness of the plight of refugees has been highlighted with the showing of the documentary “Exodus”.

Support for the Hussein family and other refugees, has come not only from members of the Mission and Outreach team but also from other members of the congregation.

Affirming Ministry

The Mission & Outreach team, as well as members of the congregation, provide support for *Reaching Out* – the social & support group for members of the LGBTQ+, allies and community. Brechin members have marched at the Pride Parade. An informative Affirming Brochure has been created and is available along with rainbow pins” in the Narthex (entrance lobby).

Other areas that the Mission & Outreach have addressed are:

- support for Island Crisis Center through the Blue Box appeal in the fall, and
- a collection of men’s clothing for the Nanaimo Correctional Center for inmates who are released without appropriate seasonal clothing
- as well as gifts for the Women’s Center last Christmas.
- The team presented “Preparing for Christmas – some alternate options” which highlighted other opportunities for gifting rather than traditional Xmas gifts.

And finally

- The Introduction of the “Hallelujah Moment” once a month during the Minute for Mission time highlights the work and teams of Brechin United.
- Re-doing our Brechin Church brochure to reflect current and forthcoming changes due to our redevelopment. (*hold up the new pamphlet*). These are available today after the service in our Fellowship room)

The team members are Joan Hunting, Lynn Burrows, Marg Barrie, Vickeri Cochrane, Barb Curry, Judy Wiebe and Sally Bullas. We are always looking for new members – just contact one of the team members or let Cindy, our office administrator know of your interest.