

## **Calvary Outreach, 2022-23**

**Galatians 5:13:** *“You, my sisters and brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge yourselves; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”*

Our parish has developed numerous and effective outreach projects this past year. In our effort to reach out to assist those with need, we have enriched our **Blessing Box** (street side food pantry); given away 13 **Food Lion gift cards** once each month for a total of \$3,900.00; participated with financial support and actual volunteer hours to the **Community Service Ministry** (sponsored by the Sumter Area Ministerial Association) in Americus, which helps folk with rent, utility bills, etc.; **Shop With a Cop** (dinner for foster children sponsored by our City Police Department); **CASA** appreciation banquet for Foster Care Parents; **GSW student** dinner & educational class regarding our Labyrinth; **Pop Top collection** for the Macon Ronald McDonald House; a **Grief Support group** facilitated by Deacon Geri; **Whole Truth Ministries Food Bank & Clothing Closet**; the **Sumter County Middle School Clothing Closet**.

**Our most vital and consistent Outreach ministry has been our Mustard Seed Thrift Store**, President Linda Kidd. Our volunteers have raised money to support The Calvary Blessing Box, the Humane Society, Community Service Ministries, the Sumter County Middle School Clothing Closet, Whole Truth International Ministries Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. So far this year of 2022, the Mustard Seed Thrift Store has given away \$9,000.00. In addition, they have endowed an individual GSW student with \$2,000.00 in honor of the Rae Holt Memorial Scholarship fund.

**Our Calvary Christmas Tour of Homes** this past December, 2022, was a success! Our Outreach Committee raised \$7,000.00 to share between the Sumter Middle School Clothing Closet and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organization. We are planning to organize another Tour this coming December, 2023.

These efforts are not done by one person. The efforts include many volunteer hours of hard work, planning and investment of energy to the betterment of our Americus-Sumter County community. Our hard-working Outreach Committee: Linda Kidd, Tami Duke, Lorrie Johnston, Bethany Greeley, Elise Miller, Sandy Suddith, Carey Wooten, Joni Woolf, Julie Megginson, Sam Peavey, Kenneth Taylor, Patty Ferry, Jackie Merriman, Dianne Hall, with special guests Rev. Debra Monts, Mr. Clive Rainey, Mr. Philip Dalton.

On **Thursday, January 26th, at 6:00pm**, our Committee will meet to be planning for our Outreach efforts for 2023, and nominating new Committee officers. Deacon Geri has served as our Chair these past two years and now it's time for another fresh leader to recognize God's call to step forward. We welcome anyone who is ready to serve our community along with us. Anyone is welcome to please join us for this meeting!

Submitted by  
The Rev. Geri Nelson  
Deacon