

Report to the VBUMC Second Century Committee
From the Community Outreach Study Group
April 9, 2014

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

The Community Outreach Study Group (formerly known as the Potter's House Study Group) was tasked in January with reviewing the existing ministries affiliated with the Potter's House, the primary focus of local outreach at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church, and to conduct a gap analysis related to facilities needs and long-range planning. The group was made up of eight church members including representatives of the staff, trustees, Potter's House volunteers, Church Leadership Council members, and the Lay Leader. Over the two months they worked, they created guiding principles for outreach ministries, collected information on existing ministries, identified target populations, investigated facility needs, and created a system of measuring potential for long-term success. In addition, the group identified opportunities for ministry growth in relation to expanded facilities at both the VBUMC campus and a planned facility for the homeless being developed by the City of Virginia Beach, referred to in this report as "The Witchduck Road Facility." The following report includes a review of the group's work as well as recommendations for the Second Century Committee and the Church Leadership Council. Thanks to the following who selflessly gave of their time and energy to develop this report: Jeff Andrews, Cindy Fitzgerald, Karen Gratton, Charlie Greiner, Oral Lambert, Karen Millman, Dave Moore, Jennifer Vaughan.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles directed the work of the study group but was also designed to guide those who will continue to work in Community Outreach Ministries of VBUMC.

1. Our work is God inspired and will be bathed in prayer and discernment.
2. We will be open and willing to dig down to the "Why" in our analysis of current and future community outreach ministries.
3. We will be open to new ideas while respecting and acknowledging the foundation that has been laid by the past.
4. We will be willing to let some things go.
5. We will encourage the development of ministries that focus on helping rather than enabling our clientele.
6. We will work to identify and articulate our niche on the continuum of services provided in the community.
7. We will seek to collaborate with other Oceanfront faith communities and agencies.
8. We will seek a balance between the needs/desires of the city government and the mission we are called to as a church.
9. We recognize the importance of being on good terms with the Oceanfront citizens and businesses.
10. We acknowledge the diversity of opinions within our congregation with regards to community outreach and will encourage educational opportunities for engagement and experience with the goal of greater tolerance and compassion for those we serve.

Existing Ministries

This study identified eight major ministry areas affiliated with community outreach at VBUMC. These include Potter's House, Bicycle Ministry, Fresh Food Wednesdays, Hope in the Upper Room, Kids' Closet, Community Brunch, Care By Community (CBC), and International Student Ministries. Clientele being served by these ministries are vulnerable populations who find themselves in the vicinity of the church and who are in need of support and services, some of which are not already provided by other agencies. These include those persons identified as chronically homeless, situational (short-term) homeless, those with chronic mental illness, substance abusers, working poor, veterans, at-risk elementary school students, and international students.

Using terminology gleaned from reading Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton, ministries were categorized "Emergency," "Betterment," or "Development" according to the nature and goals of the services provided. "Emergency" designation identifies ministries addressing an immediate need for short-term help, "betterment" identifies ministries providing goods and/or services that improve the lives of those being served, and "development" labels ministries providing training and/or services in order to reduce need for emergency and betterment support while leading clientele towards self-sufficiency.

The following table provides descriptions of each of the eight major ministry areas reviewed in this study and resources currently used in the delivery of services.

| Ministry | Description | Location | Ministry Classification | Schedule | Target Population | Weekly attendance | Interaction with other churches/agencies | Facility Needs |
|------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|--|---|-------------------|--|---|
| Potter's House | Provide IDs, bag lunches, hot meals, personal hygiene items, haircuts, groceries, financial assistance interviews, financial pledges | Potter's House downstairs | Emergency and Betterment | Tuesday and Thursday mornings | Homeless and poor residing in Virginia Beach | 240 | Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Panera Bread, Trader Joe's, WalMart | Storage space, food preparation and storage, waiting areas, interview areas, food, hygiene items, money, secure file storage, office space, parking |
| Bike Ministry | Provide bicycles and bike repair services | Bike shop inside Potter's House downstairs & bike shed outside | Betterment and Development | Tuesday and Thursday mornings | Working poor in need of transportation to and from work | 10-12 | | Bike repair space and storage for bikes and bike parts |
| Fresh Food Wednesday | Distribute fresh food donated by local retailers through the Food Bank of South Hampton Roads | Potter's House parking lot | Betterment | Wednesday afternoons/evenings | Working poor in need of food | 100 | Food Bank of South Hampton Roads | Space for temporary food storage |
| Hope in the Upper Room | 501(c)3 organization of homeless adults that provides Veteran's support group, Renegade Recovery, Hope Garden, Hope Art, service opportunities in the community, fellowship activities | Potter's House upstairs, Hope Gardens at Star of the Sea church and Nimmo UMC | Development | Monday and Friday afternoons | Homeless adults including Veterans | 20-30 | Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Nimmo United Methodist Church | Meeting space, storage for art supplies, storage for gardening tools |
| Kids' Closet | Collect and distribute gently used children's clothing and shoes in addition to providing dinner & fellowship to participating families | Church – 2 nd floor storage closet/classroom, Fellowship Hall | Betterment | 3 rd Monday evening of each month | Those in need of children's clothing and shoes | 70 | Cooke Elementary School | Clothing collection and storage areas, sorting space, distribution space, kitchen access, food donations, security |
| Community Brunch | Provide free breakfast, clothing, and communion | Fellowship Hall, kitchen, clothing storage classroom | Betterment | 2 nd Saturday morning of each month | Oceanfront community | 50-60 | | Clothing and food storage, kitchen facilities, dining facilities, dishwashing, security |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------|---|---|--------|---|---|
| CBC (Care By Community) | Participating students transported to church for after-school supervision, homework assistance, activities, and dinner | Church – 3 rd floor Sunday School classrooms, multipurpose rooms, kitchen | Development | Monday and Wednesday afternoons | Elementary-age school children from Cooke Elementary identified as homeless or living in hotels | 30 | Cooke Elementary School | Classroom space, play space, food donations, school supplies, feeding space |
| International Student Ministry | Provide worship and fellowship opportunities for international students working at the oceanfront during summer months | Fellowship Hall | Evangelism | Friday and Monday nights from June-August | International students living and working at the oceanfront during summer months | 80-100 | Russian Church of Norfolk, First Baptist Church (Norfolk) | Kitchen, dining space, worship space, food donations, money |

Current Facilities Use by Outside Agencies/Organizations

In addition to the afore-mentioned ministries, there are agencies and organizations outside VBUMC that utilize the church’s facilities in order to meet the needs of additional vulnerable populations, including homeless and at-risk teens and young adults and adults with substance abuse issues or a need for group support. Also, due to its location near the Oceanfront, the church is often asked to share its facility resources for visitors from other faith-based groups looking for meeting space and/or short-term housing for youth mission teams. The attached table provides descriptions and information about these outside agencies/organizations.

| Ministry | Description | Location | Schedule | Target Population | Weekly Attendance | Sponsoring Organization | Contact Person |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Point in Time/Homeless Connect | Annual event to identify and collect data on the homeless population in Virginia Beach while providing access to health and community services | Potter’s House, Church building: Fellowship Hall, kitchen | Annually in January | Homeless | 300 | City of Virginia Beach, DMV, Lion’s Club, Medical Reserve Corps, Legal Aid, Social Security, VBUMC | Jennifer Vaughan |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | 12-step recovery Program for alcoholics | Potter’s House | Monday and Friday evenings, Tuesday afternoons | Adults with alcohol addiction | 100 | Alcoholics Anonymous | Karen Gratton |
| Crow’s Nest | Provides a safe place to hang out and fellowship | Potter’s House | Tuesday and Saturday evenings | Homeless and at-risk teens and young adults (up to age 24) | 30-60 kids | Stand Up for Kids and Seton House Youth Shelters | Mark Stephens David Mount |
| Emotions Anonymous | 12-step recovery program for people with emotional struggles | Church – North Wing – 3 rd floor multipurpose rooms | Tuesday afternoons and Monday evenings | Adults with need for emotional support | 12 | EA International | Dave Moore |
| Various Church Groups | Mission teams looking for work projects | Various oceanfront ministries | Throughout the summer months | Youth Mission teams | | | |
| Campus Crusade for Christ | Student ministry providing summer mission opportunities for college age young adults | Main church campus – Fellowship Hall, assorted meeting rooms | Throughout summer months | College students involved in campus ministry leadership, unchurched | | Campus Crusade for Christ | |
| Interfaith Alliance at the Beach | Representatives from different agencies working with vulnerable populations | Fellowship Hall | Quarterly meetings | | 30 | IAB | Dottie Hampton |

Analysis of Current Ministries

Potter's House has traditionally referred to the emergency services provided through the church's volunteers at the facility in the 18th Street parking lot of the same name. This ministry is the most visible of all the church's community outreach efforts and serves a large number of our community's most vulnerable citizens, over 240 each week. It employs an army of volunteers ranging from retired church members to teens looking for community service opportunities to a full-time director who serves as a volunteer member of the church staff. While success has historically been measured in the number of lunches handed out, the number of financial interviews held, and the amount of financial resources pledged each week, in recent years the church has also seen a number of the clientele become actively involved in other ministries, and several professing their faith and becoming members of the congregation.

Bike Ministry is an offshoot of Potter's House that grew out of a need for the working poor to have reliable transportation to and from job sites, particularly those not on the local bus routes. A small bike shop furnished with donated tools is located inside the Potter's House which allows volunteers a chance to work on bikes donated to the ministry or brought in by clients with maintenance issues. Lacking sufficient storage space, bikes awaiting use are currently stored in a garage in a church member's residence in Shadowlawn. Success is difficult to measure, because clients don't always return or follow up with volunteers, but some will return the bikes when they no longer need them, and volunteers share stories of those who have moved out of the area or into new jobs with better transportation that have stayed in touch.

Fresh Food Wednesday is one example of how the church can work in partnership with a local agency to provide services to those in the local community in need of food. Each Wednesday afternoon, a truck from the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia arrives at Potter's House with a load of fresh food with a limited shelf-life that has been donated from local merchants. Volunteers from Hope in the Upper Room set up a distribution area, and local families and individuals arrive at a designated time to pick up bags of groceries. Clients are interviewed upon their initial arrival, and donations are logged in through Charity Tracker software. Success is measured in the fact that most weeks there is ample food for all who show up. Excess food cannot be stored due to limited space and refrigeration.

Hope in the Upper Room is a 501(c)3 organization of homeless adults that works in conjunction with volunteers to provide a variety of networking activities to homeless and previously homeless populations, including veterans of the armed forces. Their board of directors is made up of community volunteers, but the clients are responsible for the work of the organization. They have a daily schedule of activities ranging from support groups to service opportunities to art and income generation projects and fellowship activities. Success is measured in church and community involvement, connections to other services, such as the Veteran's Administration, and for some, employment.

Kids' Closet was the brainchild of several church women who wanted to share the love of Jesus and make a difference in the community and has grown into a wildly popular activity for local families. Volunteers collect and sort gently used children's clothing from members of the congregation, then once a month, they hold a "Shop Night," providing dinner, fellowship, and an opportunity for those in need of children's clothing and shoes to gather items for their families. They also provide emergency clothing to the clinic at Cooke Elementary School. Clothing is stored in bins in closets and a dedicated space on the church's second floor, and volunteers sort by size and season to keep everything organized. Each summer, volunteers from Kids' Closet join forces with the city's department of Social Services and a

local non-profit organization for the annual “Jump Start” back-to-school event. Success is measured in the number of families served each month and the amount of clothing donated regularly by the community.

Community Brunch has been an opportunity for community members whose schedules prohibit them from volunteering at Potter’s House to interact with and serve those in need. Four teams of volunteers rotate monthly duties in cooking and serving a hot breakfast to anyone who shows up in the Fellowship Hall on the second Saturday of the month. Many of those being served are the same folks who receive services from Potter’s House, and while in winter months the brunch provides a respite from the cold, the event is often seen by the clients as an opportunity for fellowship with one another. Communion is served prior to breakfast, and an adult clothing closet is available for choosing an outfit or shoes. This event often draws volunteers from other churches or organizations. Success is measured in meals provided, but the real benefit is relationships created. The number of participants in community brunch has been steadily declining due to other Oceanfront churches providing weekly breakfasts to the same clientele, and changes in the format are being discussed.

Care By Community (CBC) is an example of a successful partnership between the church and local schools. Elementary age students eligible for this program are classified as “homeless” by the school system and often live in Oceanfront hotels during the off season. To avoid their having to return from school to an empty hotel room or unsupervised situation, Cooke Elementary and VBUMC partner to provide transportation to and from the church after school where volunteers assist with homework, provide supervised play time, and feed them dinner before transporting them back to their residences. Success is measured in student participation as well as increased academic performance in the classroom and on Standards of Learning tests.

Every summer the Oceanfront is infiltrated by hundreds of foreign students, many from Russia and Eastern Europe, hired by local businesses to work during the busy summer months. **International Student Ministry** was started by church members wanting to provide a worship experience for these young adults in their native language (Russian) who rarely have the transportation needed to travel to the Russian Church of Norfolk. Volunteers work in conjunction with a church in Norfolk to provide dinner, worship, and fellowship time for these international students. Success is measured in the number of students who attend, and the program has expanded from simply a Russian ministry to include students from other nationalities as well.

Analysis of Current Facilities

In May of 1997 the church “Administrative Board approved a recommendation from the Council on Ministries to fund ‘Social Outreach’ as a significant mission of the church by designation 10% (tithe) of the Capital Campaign Funds for Mission Projects.” This is a quote from the centennial church history produced in 2013. The history went on to report, “75% of the tithe would be earmarked to endow Social Outreach including Urban Ministries. Part of this money was used to buy a bar at 1709 Pacific Avenue.” Under the leadership of Dr. Charley Earley, a group of volunteers (named in the history document) undertook the task of renovation and 18 months later the building became the home of “Urban Ministries” and was named “The Potter’s House”. The Potter’s House was dedicated on March 21, 1999, following the 11:00 AM church service.

The church history for year 2000 reported the Potter’s House was being used 5 days a week for urban ministries with the “...help of Star of the Sea (Catholic Church) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.” By 2001 the record indicates 11,273 lunches served; 1785 interviews for help conducted; \$17, 422.13 paid in rent assistance; \$18,114.61 utility bill assistance; 109 bicycles given out and 241 bikes repaired. In 2002 Star of the Sea began their own outreach and a quote from the church history, “...ours expanded to 3 days a week”, providing gloves, blankets, and warm soup during cold months and medical referrals being made to the Beach Clinic. It reports “60 volunteers” were involved with this work in 2002.

The building we refer to as “The Potter’s House” was likely built in the 50s. It is a two story painted masonry building with very little natural light due to minimal window space. It sits against a parking lot on the east side (rear) facing Pacific Avenue on the west where it is immediately abutting the public sidewalk. It is literally asphalt or concrete on all four sides completely devoid of any vegetation or plant material. The building has no architectural interest whatsoever presenting a tan flat surface with no ornamentation and no aesthetic appeal. There are no landscape or architectural features that would relate it to the church buildings which sit north across 18th Street from this site. The Potter’s House does not meet the higher standards of appearance and maintenance that have been set for the other buildings on the church campus. In fact, it has been reported that individuals frequently indicate they visited the building for services many times without knowing it was connected in any way with Virginia Beach United Methodist Church.

The ministries and mission efforts being provided from this facility have grown substantially since the building was dedicated 15 years ago in March, 2014, growth measured in terms of numbers of individuals served, numbers of volunteers involved, and types of services being provided. This report has identified the several ministries taking place in the Potter’s House facility.

While the term, “The Potter’s House” has become almost synonymous with outreach programs, and for many it is synonymous with “the homeless” ministries, it is clear that VBUMC’s Community Outreach Ministries go far beyond that space. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, cramped conditions limits the number of clients who can be served at any particular time resulting in clients having to wait outside for the doors to open. The tendency of some clients to congregate or “loiter” around the facility has brought criticism and expressions of concern from city officials, law enforcement officials, as well as local innkeepers and merchants who are worried about the impact this has on safety and the tourism industry. On Wednesday afternoons the parking lot overflows with families waiting for food distribution, often competing with church members for convenient parking to attend Wednesday evening church

meetings and activities. Teens and young adults seeking a safe place to be join the outreach program known as “Crow’s Nest” where they are accommodated by a small upstairs room with limited seating and very little appeal. Events that would benefit by the offer of some level of food service are severely limited by a lack of food preparation facilities.

The quality and adequacy of the facility have not kept pace with the use and our mission of “Community Outreach”. The types of outreach provided have been “lumped” into one broad brush categorization mentally associated with “The Potter’s House”, which unfortunately often carries with it negative impressions of dangerous substance abusers, pan handlers, or other types of unsavory characters. This perception clouds our ability to see that the vast majority of individuals ministered to here are very much like the rest of us but who find themselves in need. So the ministry and mission have unfortunately been pulled away (or kept away) from the church proper to be isolated and concentrated to this one building, a building that is in disrepair in many ways, over-taxed in usage, and which falls far short of the standards we have for our VBUMC main campus. We must rethink how and where this Christian outreach is conducted.

Using this report as a resource guide the planning for our church plant needs to consider how many of these human outreaches might be assimilated into the church plant as are other ministry outreaches and which ones could properly be served by scheduling use of multi-purpose spaces. Some of the outreach ministries already operate out of the church’s main building(s). There are space limitations there as well. Cramped conditions, inadequate storage, etc., are being assessed, and this vitally important ministry of “Community Outreach” needs to be factored into overall church plant planning.

Facility Needs Assessment

In order to accommodate current outreach ministries and plan for expansion, the following is a list of minimum designated space requirements.

Annex to main VBUMC campus - Due to situational circumstances like easy access to the outside, often at times when security is not available at the main campus, some activities are best suited for a facility detached from the main church building. Current use of this facility includes AA meetings, Crow's Nest gatherings, and Hope in the Upper Room meetings). Potential uses include community meetings, Scouting activities, emergency short term housing (Winter shelter, VBFEST weekly family emergency shelter), and mission team lodging.

- 2 large meeting rooms (at least 30'x25' each)
- bathrooms
- showers
- small kitchen
- some storage for group supplies

In addition, the bike shop currently housed inside the Potter's House is best suited for space outside the main church facility. Growth potential would include increased storage space, job training opportunities, and an expansion into a "Transportation Ministry."

- Bike storage (to house 50 unrepaired and repaired bicycles)
- Small office area
- Large room to work and house equipment (a workbench with a wheel truing stand, a large vice, and receptacles for small bicycle repair parts, two double bicycle repair stands plus peg boards for tools and area to store bike handlebars, forks, wheels, tires, tools, sprockets, seats, all kinds of bicycle repair parts)
- If the Church decides to enter into Automobile repair, this will require a separate space to accommodate what is needed.

Designated space within VBUMC main campus –these outreach activities are best suited for inclusion in the main church building but have single-use space requirements: Potter's House interviews (financial, food, ID, etc.), food ministry storage, preparation, and distribution (Potter's House lunches, Fresh Food Wednesdays, Community Brunch), clothing ministries (Kids' Closet, Adult clothes distribution)

1. Interview space
 - 6 cubicles
 - Reception area (with desk and office equipment)
 - Secure file storage space
 - 2 offices
 - Storage for items given out
2. Kitchen space
 - Food Pantry storage for dry goods only (at least 10'x25')
 - Shelving
 - Walk-in freezer/Flash Freezer
3. 2 Large storage areas
 - Kid's Closet
 - Adult clothes closet

Multi-use space in VBUMC main campus – these activities require space that could be shared with other church activities as long as scheduling is done carefully: food ministries involving fresh food storage, preparation, distribution, and/or meal serving (Fresh Food Wednesdays, holiday meals, Community Brunch, CBC dinners), classroom activities (job search/training, educational classes, small group meetings), fellowship activities requiring large spaces (Youth wing, Fellowship Hall, Multi-purpose Room)

1. Shared kitchen with church
 - Food preparation area
 - Serving area
 - Dishwashing facilities
2. Shared large areas
 - Large gatherings
 - Meal events
3. Classroom space
 - Job training
 - Resume classes
 - Job searches
 - Educational classes
 - Small group meetings

Potential for Growth in Outreach Ministries

As VBUMC continues to grow into its mission of impacting the community with the security of a relationship with Jesus Christ, there is potential for growth in its outreach ministries, limited only by available resources. The following table illustrates just a few opportunities for growth that came out of this study. It is by no means conclusive but simply a peek at what could happen if we plan our facilities around this mission.

| Current Ministry | How could this ministry expand? | What resources are needed? |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Potter's House | Provide mandatory job training in order to receive services; match mentors from the congregation with clients to help forge relationships; expand collaboration with other faith-based communities, develop a more efficient intake process | Classroom space, storage, food preparation spaces, job opportunities, more volunteers |
| Bike Ministry | Grow into "Transportation Ministry" by adding repair facility and training for clients, partner with local garages for car repair facility and training | Larger bike shop, onsite storage space, more volunteers |
| Fresh Food Wednesdays | Food reclaimed from local universities, hotels, and restaurants could be prepared through job training and frozen for later distribution by mission teams | Industrial kitchen and storage (flash freezer), certified kitchen manager, increased food donations, more volunteers |
| Hope in the Upper Room | Life-skills training, job search assistance | Volunteers with skills in job training, grant writing, a passion for seeing this program be successful |
| Kids' Closet | Create a co-op for families to become more invested in swapping clothes rather than just taking, offer classes in conjunction with shop night events. | Dedicated storage space, multi-use space for meals and clothing distribution |
| Community Brunch | Focus on at-risk families rather than homeless individuals already receiving free breakfast elsewhere. | Culture shift among volunteers and clientele. |
| CBC | Increase the number of students involved; add middle school students from Virginia Beach Middle School; increase opportunities for parents to be involved. | More volunteers, transportation for all students. |

| Need | Description | Target Population | Resources needed to make it happen |
|---|--|--|---|
| Showers/bathroom facilities/respice from the elements in extremely hot/cold weather | Provide a space and facility for those who wander into the church to have the resources needed to get clean/warm/dry | Homeless not plugged into local services | Dedicated space, security |
| Mission teams visiting the beach need affordable lodging while serving | Provide lodging in the church in return for mission service in any of the community outreach ministries | Youth and young adult mission teams desiring to serve in the Oceanfront area | Lodging space, bathroom facilities, showers, security |
| Opportunity for mentally ill to develop healthy relationships | Leisure ministries could expand to include or provide special programming for clients needing support | Potter's House clients in need of someone to listen and care | Space, volunteers, donated materials |

Recommendation to Second Century Committee and Church Leadership Council

The Community Outreach Study Group recommends that this report guide the architects in their space utilization analysis of VBUMC's Community Outreach Ministries as part of the architectural design process for any planned church plant expansion or renovation. A guiding principle of this process should be consideration to co-locating or integration of Community Outreach Ministries within the main church plant whenever possible. Specific recommendations include:

1. While VBUMC's Community Outreach ministries should be sustainable and developmental in nature, we should continue to provide *emergency, betterment, and development* services as long as the need exists in our community;
2. Whenever possible, community outreach ministries should be located in an environment that encourages inclusion and interaction within the church community;
3. Due to the security and access needs of some outreach activities, a church annex is necessary to maintain existing community outreach ministries and to expand growing ministries;
4. There is a need for dedicated space within the main church campus for storage and meeting areas to provide the space and services necessary to maintain existing community outreach ministries and to expand growing ministries;
5. There are continued opportunities for multi-use space within the main church campus for storage and meeting areas to provide the space and services necessary to maintain existing community outreach ministries and in order to expand growing ministries;
6. There is a need in the community for the expansion of outreach services that is contingent on increased availability of space, volunteers, and financial resources.
7. There is a need to educate the congregation and community about the outreach ministries currently happening at VBUMC to allow for increased opportunities for involvement directly related to our missional map of Encounter, Embrace, and Emulate.
8. The Director of Community Outreach position that is currently filled by a volunteer staff member must become a full-time paid position if the potential for management and growth of community outreach opportunities is to be realized. There is a need for the development of consistent processes to maintain and coordinate ministry at the level of efficiency and success desired by the community.

Next Steps

Subsequent to developing this report, the Community Outreach Study Group will be disbanded. However, there are continued needs in several areas that will involve members of this team. Those areas include:

1. Serving as the Mission/Vision Subcommittee to the Second Century Committee as we guide the work of the committee to align its plan with the missional mandate and vision frame of the church;
2. Working in conjunction with the City of Virginia Beach and B.E.A.C.H. coalition on homelessness to develop programming plans for the Witchduck Road Facility;
3. Working with VBUMC ministry directors and our clergy to develop educational and mission opportunities with the goal of increasing congregational involvement in Community Outreach Ministries.

While this report is limited to data and resources currently available, one thing has become perfectly clear as our church grows closer to living out its mission. "They" are becoming "us," and for a church whose mission is to impact the community by offering the security of a relationship with Jesus Christ, this is the one metric that really matters.