

OUTREACH BOARD MINUTES

January 28, 2026 Parish Hall

Attending: Liz Halbert (chair), Margaret Melando, Judie Ratcliffe, Deb Alt, Alice Kennedy, Bill Faherty

Meeting opened with prayer.

Minutes from November 19, 2025 Meeting were approved.

Financial Report dated 12/31/2025 was presented by Liz. There is still some confusion about the true total we must spend this year. Deb stated that she put \$10 cash in the treasurer drawer designated for the Docent account (a book sale). She suggested we should have a system in place for deposits (an envelope labeled 'Deposits' with a receipt booklet to record the amount and where it is to be applied). This deposit did not show up on the Dec statement but may in January.

Ministry Reports

SOIICF – Margaret reported that they have a new secretary (Len Trizinsky) – still looking for an Assistant Moderator. There was a guest speaker, Sherri Magnum, from Children's Home Society. She spoke on the need for foster parents in Brunswick County. She also advocated for people to support foster families through practical help – meals, lawn care, etc. MLK events were reported as successful. One of our parishioners, Tina Powers, is interested in joining the MLK Committee and getting more involved with SOIICF. Margaret will contact her with information. Food Pantry report – 1012 families served, 1498 individuals served and over 49,000 lbs of food received from 8 stores in December. Current needs – coffee, salad dressings. We need to change our list of requested items, eliminating holiday foods. Lenten luncheons are beginning with Ash Wednesday at Trinity Methodist – Wade Brinkoff from St. Peter will preach. Each Wed in Lent there will be a service and light lunch served at various churches. The schedule is still being filled. It will be published in the e-news once we have all the details.

Diaper Ministry – Wrap party coming up on February 5 at 10:00 am.

Brunswick Partnership for Housing – Margaret gave report. In the first 6 months of their fiscal year, they provided overnight shelter on 270 nights for 133 people.

They are anticipating an even greater need in the next 6 months. Sally Learned requested additional Emergence Shelter funds from SOIICF and BPH was granted \$10,000. They will consider donating additional funds if needed in the future.

Jan.28, 2026 is the date for the Point-in-Time count of the homeless in Brunswick County. Upcoming fundraiser on May 19 at American Fish – details to come later.

Lil' Bit of Help – Deb reported that the new sound system at St. Paul's in Belize is a great addition. Doug Cottrell is now helping with their music program since the previous leader passed away. The next project will be a remodel of the restroom behind the altar area.

ECW – Judie reported that \$10,000 has been transferred to Outreach. She requested contact information for leaders of charities that Outreach has funded so they can be asked to speak at their meetings. Liz will send info to Pat Elliott and Maryann Bonifant. Rummage donations will begin to be collected on March 9 with the sale on March 14. Sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the Narthex. She asked Men on a Mission for help with collecting and hauling donations. Luncheons have been successful with new women attending. The 2026 Annual Meeting will be at Thai & Vine.

Docent Ministry – Deb reported that she was contacted by a professor from Brunswick Community College who teaches a Historical Religions Class. She would like to visit the Chapel of the Cross for a tour with her class. Tentatively scheduled for February 26 – waiting to coordinate with Trinity Methodist.

Men on a Mission – Bill reported that they will have a board meeting on February 2 at 10:00 am.

Old Business

The status of the Chapel Annex remodel was reported by Liz. The architectural plans were sent, and an estimate has been requested from Mark Williams. If we receive information in time, we will make a presentation to the Finance Committee on February 10 to see what the financial situation is for the project.

New Business

Thank you notes from Brunswick Bands and Foundation of Brunswick Community College were distributed.

Alice will contact the leader of NC VIPs to get information for tutoring possibilities for 2026-27 school year.

Day4Hope will take place on Saturday August 8, 2026 at Brunswick Community College. They are starting their organizational meetings that will take place the second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am at St. Peter Lutheran. The first meeting will be on February 11.

A motion was passed for Outreach to continue its same areas of focus for 2026-2028. The areas are Families and Children, Homelessness and Affordable Housing, Substance Abuse Recovery, Local Disaster Preparedness and International Mission.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 25 at 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.