

## **BAINBRIDGE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The Council continued to meet three times a year but conducted most of its business via computer. At our January meeting Violet Wade joined the Council and took on the responsibilities of Treasurer. Part of that position at the present time also includes treasurer for the Food Pantry . Our other returning officers are Paula Gifford- President and Sue Darling Secretary.

The Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen were our main outreach mission projects. Both are operating successfully! Numbers for the Pantry continue to be lower than normal, averaging about 55-60 households per month. We have had some new families including one with 13 members. Our funding is more than enough to match our needs and has been supplemented with various food drives, donations and additional grant money from the state due to the big jump in food costs. We were also able to give out gift cards to Price Chopper to assist with holiday dinner needs.

The Soup kitchen continues to serve approximately 100 meals or more on Saturdays with curbside takeout only. A different church prepares and serves the meal each week beginning at 11 am in front of the Methodist Church. Our church is responsible for the third Saturday each month. I think we hold the record for serving on the coldest Saturday in 2022 at 3 degrees! The biggest challenge to the Soup Kitchen has been the spiraling cost of take out containers which have tripled in price in the past year. The availability and choice of styles of containers is a big issue as well. Lack of volunteers is an issue for some of the churches and even we at times have had to put out a plea for help. Please let us know if you are interested.

I would like you to know that many members of our congregation are very involved with either or both of the food programs- Paula and George Gifford, Ann Baier, Violet Wade, Rhonda Stearns, Cheryl Nages, Sue Pixley, Sue Fletcher, Ellen Bosworth, Mary Ellen Whitmore, Ed Gorton and Evelyn Baker. This should certainly be noted as a large part of our outreach efforts! (My apologies if I left anyone out!)

There was not a VBS this past summer due to not enough volunteers to organize and run the program. There was a Baccalaureate service held in our church with Rev. Patty Wolffe presiding. Also a Memorial Sunday service in the park under the direction of Pastor Becky Drebert, with very small attendance.

Thank you to any who have supported and/or assisted the Council of Churches this past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Gifford