FIRST 2019 MEETING OF KITTAMAQUNDI COMMUNITY, INC

March 31, 2019

President of Council, Don Benson, opened the meeting with a short reflection on where we are and who we are as a community. He, the Council, and the Community honored Vicki and Gene Long for their dedicated and unswerving service as social hour organizers over the past few years. Vicki was presented with a bouquet of flowers and as it was her birthday, she was honored with a cake and a song.

The first agenda item for the meeting was to hear reports from the six corporate missions of KC, followed by a focus on the timely issue of diversity and inclusiveness.

The six Corporate missions are:

1. Cold Weather Shelter
2. Sacred Garden
3. Seeking Refuge
4. Ministry to the Day Center
5. AGAPE Ministry
6. LIFT UP
7. Ellen King, Normale Doyle, and Marsha Broaddus have provided leadership for this mission for 16 years with assistance from Allan Lohaus, Harriet Katzen, and Anne Yenchko and a multitude of volunteers. We have partnered with several other worship communities to provide housing, transportation, meals, laundry, personal care as up to 25 homeless guests have been provided a safe and warm environment for one to two weeks between November and March. Ellen King will be resigning after this year and a new coordinator is being sought.
8. Elaine Buderer has provided the leadership for the transformation of our backyard space into a beautiful garden with a fountain, pergola, entryway and egress path, in which flowering trees and bushes have been exquisitely placed. The garden planning has been enhanced with the assistance of Landscape Designer, David Dows, while the planting, weeding, watering of the garden has been undertaken under the watchful eyes of the KC gardeners. The Memorial Garden is a resting place for a number of KC members and worshippers.
9. The Seeking Refuge Focus Group was called by Don Link in May of 2015 in response to the acute refugee crisis in the world. 15 persons responded to the call and in February of 2017 an Afghan refugee family was welcomed to Columbia, MD. through the Lutheran Refugee Resettlement program. The family is settled into a town home owned by the Diocese of Baltimore under the sponsorship of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church. The parents of the four children ages 3-13 have limited education: mom is enrolled in HCC for ESL and GED classes; father works full time in Gaithersburg MD and the children attend Oakland Mills Middle and Stevens Forest Elementary Schools. The youngest is in full day, full week family day care.
10. KC in conjunction with another congregation, Mt. Pisgah Church, provides a hot meal to homeless men and women at the Viola Davis Day Resource Center once a month. First called by Anne Dunn 12 years ago, Randy Malm has carried on the call since she moved. The center is staffed by a number of volunteers and some paid staff. Services to the homeless includes: Laundry, showers, access to computers, social work consultations, and limited medical attention. Transportation is provided for the homeless from Jessup and Laurel to the center. It is located off of Route 1 in Laurel.
11. The Agape Focus Group began as a relationship developed between Judy Colligan, Normale Doyle and a Baltimore inner city Pastor, Reverend Robinson. This group began as an opportunity to minister to the Agape church and has provided a summer camp experience for children ages 9-18 over the past 19 years. Many of the girls have gone on to college as the first in their family to do so. The 4 day camp is supplemented by quarterly activity sessions for KC youth and the Agape girls held in staff members homes and at KC. 2019 marks a significant milestone as the second generation of girls become campers. The camp is held at Camp Ramblewood with a staff of 12 volunteers from KC.
12. LIFT-UP is the acronym for the funds raised to build the elevator housing, install an elevator, purchase a new piano, and a new sound system. The original cost for all three was $233,000 of which all but $22,500 (which KC borrowed from itself), will be repaid by mid-2019.

Don reminded members and worshippers about some of the places for new persons to learn about KC, particularly in booklets prepared by the Community Life Leadership Team. He shared the goals of the 2019 Council which include transparency and use of a suggestion box, designed and build by Harry Jones.

A few announcements were offered including information about CARE groups to be called and about the Jubilee Celebration. The discussion topic around Inclusion was introduced by Ken Katzen, caller of the Vitality, Diversity and Inclusion Focus Group. After a short introduction, persons around the tables were invited to discuss the question about what inclusion meant to them.

The meeting ended with a Community sharing and a pot luck lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Yenchko,

Council Secretary