

**Claremont Presbyterian Church**  
**Board of Deacons**  
**Annual Report 2011**

The activities of the Deacons are conveniently organized into parish care and then among the functions of the three Deacon Clusters; Sympathy, Service and Witness. That organizational structure will be used in this report to review the activities of the Deacons for the year 2011.

Parish Care

Through the year each of the Deacons responded to the care needs of the members of their parishes. In addition to regular communication these responses included home visits, hospital visits, sympathy cards, sympathy calls, arranging for home communion, transportation to and from church, access to church support, and seeking outside agency intervention in the case of extreme situations. Because many of the situations requiring parish care may involve confidentiality issues none of these activities are here reported specifically by occurrence or name, but only generally as above. Clergy staff was kept informed of need situations by the Deacons involved.

Sympathy

In addition to the parish care functions involving sympathy the Deacons also provide support to memorial service receptions through the monthly assigned Sympathy Coordinators. The Deacons provided hospitality, light food and beverages to several memorial receptions in 2011 including several that fell a few weeks apart during the Fall.

Service

Under the Service Cluster portion of their organization the Deacons provide for patio hosts for the weekly Sunday post-service coffee, Sunday greeters, and ensure that there are adequate supplies both in the kitchen for coffee and in the sacristy for communion. With the efficient help of Joan in the office, supplies were always on hand for both functions. Greeters were regularly provided. We had one instance early in the year when, through miscommunication, coffee was not provided after church. Thereafter at least two of the Deacon officers checked in the kitchen before church to ensure that the coffee had been started. There were no further problems.

## Witness

All of the many activities that the Deacons have become involved in over the years are grouped under Witness. Those activities included:

- Providing support for the after-service food for the Claremont Presbyterian Church/Temple Beth Israel Interfaith Exchange reception
- Providing tickets for all of the third-grade students at Oakmont Elementary School (our church adopted school) to attend a performance of The Nutcracker Ballet
- Holding a Parish Sunday event after church as a means for the Deacons to personally meet each of their parish members
- Delivering approximately fifty Easter lilies to parish members in need of sympathy at Easter time
- Assisting with the All-Church Picnic as requested
- Providing thirty-five backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need at Oakmont Elementary School through the Back-Pack Sunday event
- Providing seventy toiletry kits to the Beta center for the homeless through the Bag-It Sunday event
- Holding a canned food drive in conjunction with the October Walk For The Hungry
- Coordinating the church's food donations to St. Ambrose Thanksgiving Meal
- Providing Christmas presents for six families in need through the Adopt-A-Family event
- Providing set up and event support (manning tables) for the Alternative Christmas Market
- Delivering approximately fifty-five Christmas poinsettias to parish members in need of sympathy at Christmas time.

The Deacons also maintained the Pastor's discretionary fund which was used to support critical needs at the discretion of the pastors, contributed to the Church Family Retreat and the PYG's work project, and responded to a request for financial assistance by an individual in Peru who is a member of the faith community being assisted by the Living Waters project.