

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) continues its mission of informing the congregation about social justice concerns and leading in taking action where possible. Some of our activities are described here.

Our successful MainSpring House lunch program continues with the help of dedicated volunteers. However, because of changes at MainSpring, we now prepare only 50 lunches for every first Tuesday of the month. Our monthly costs are kept low by several generous donations of both money and food.

In Nov. a noon Coming Out Day Pot Luck was held at First Parish with GLBT students, staff and friends from Bridgewater State University as our guests. Parishioners provided the food and our guests led a discussion that focused on gender-fluid/non-binary identities. They facilitated a discussion about the ways gender-binary is manifested in our culture and how our community can offer greater inclusion to those outside the binary.

We assisted Rev. Fewkes with the *Time for All Ages* at the pre-Thanksgiving service and in having the children pass out the Guest at Your Table boxes.

Betty Gilson, Eileen Hiney and Rev. Rachel Tedesco attended UU Mass Advocacy Day on April 11, 2017. The morning activities were at the Arlington Street U U Church. The keynote speaker was Pastor Paul Robeson Ford of Union Baptist Church in Cambridge who inspired us to action for justice. After the luncheon at the church, Betty and Eileen proceeded to the State House for appointments with the aides of Sen. Marc Pacheco and Rep. Angelo D'Emilia to discuss specific bills, especially those concerning prison reform and economic justice. Rachel, who is on the U U Mass Action Board, stayed at the church to help with the clean up and other business.

Both the SJC and the Parish Committee have been considering purchasing a banner that will affirm our beliefs in the area of justice. We are confirming the design and it will be paid for by the SJC.

The following generous donations were made to selected charities through the Share-the-Plate program. Thank you all for your wonderful support. This is half of the undesignated collection each Sunday.

June 2016 Peace Labyrinth in E. Bridgewater	\$119.95
July & Aug. 2016 MainSpring House Lunches	124.63
Sept. 2016 Baton Rouge Area Foundation (For flood)	187.28
Oct. & Nov. 2016 Brockton Interfaith Community	374.83
Dec. 2016 Matthew 25:40 Mission	214.82
Jan. 2017 Bridgewater Food Pantry	261.00
Feb. & March 2017 UU MassAction	496.20
April & May 2017 Kids to Camp Still coming in, but so far about....	1,156.55

Members: Pearl Cohen, Sonia D'Alarcao, Vernon Domingo, Janet Dye, Frankie Finnegan, Betty Gilson, Susan Holton, Liz Keeling, Angela Sheble, Rev. Rachel Tedesco