

NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE

Rufus Van Horn

Our Mission Statement: *To do God's work in our neighborhood through service, fellowship, and worship.*

2015 saw our small but steady band of members accomplish many things for the good of our neighbors and parish.

We began the year with reflections on the 2014 Saints Brew Christmas dinner. Last December, we served 100 guests and estimate that about 50 parishioners contributed food, money, or gifts for the event. The Boy Scouts were a big help with distributing the food and clean up. We spent about \$500 on the dinner, which was half of what was budgeted. We were able to do the same for the 2015 dinner.

The committee helped repurpose and revitalize contributions to the weekly Food Basket. The parish responded well to our request for jars of baby food for the St. Luke's Food Pantry on Eason Blvd.

We were able to set up our bold red tent and All Saints' banner for the Gum Tree Race in front of the church, offering donuts and juice to spectators. We also set up in front of the church for the Tupelo Christmas Parade, offering hot chocolate. We were able to serve upwards of 100 cups of hot chocolate this year!

Around town, we were also visible at Festival on the Field at Robins Field where we set up a PlayDoh table for the neighborhood children. We entertained around a dozen children and their parents.

Thanks to Mary Howard King's research and coordination and generous donations by parishioners, we were able to pack 200 hygiene kits in September for those in need who visit Helping Hands Helping Homeless on South Green Street. Many parishioners and EYC joined in to make light, quick work of this project. We also donated bug spray to Quad H in the summer.

This year's Trunk or Treat was in the library due to rain. The Neighborhood Life table was loaded with candy generously doled out to hordes of well-behaved children.

Finally, we've continued our homework on having a fenced playground at All Saints'. That's a big ticket item that we will continue to work on in 2016! In addition, we are considering creating a garden in the planters between the parlor and the nave in 2016.

We look forward to being a friendly face of All Saints' at various neighborhood activities in 2016 and welcome your participation in any or all events this upcoming year.