

Good News from the Northern Tier

By Charles Cesaretti

“This is the second year of our partnering with Coats for Community and we have become known to locals as the “coat church,” reports Jack DeMark of Christ Church, Forest City, with wide grin. “Over the three days of our drive, we provided 160 coats to our neighbors.”

Coats for Community is a partnership of Christ Church, Forest City; St. Mark’s, New Milford; St. Paul’s, Montrose; and, Christ Church, Susquehanna. The four parishes have joined with the American Legion Post in Montrose to provide free coats to those in need in Susquehanna County.

“We provide new and used coats free to our neighbors in need,” says Louise Bagnall of Christ Church, Susquehanna. “Along with the coats, sweaters, and blankets we receive from the American Legion Post, we add items we have collected. We are grateful to John Finlon of St. Paul’s, Montrose, for his help in delivering the coats to each of our sites.”

John Finlon is Junior Warden and St. Paul’s and a member of the American Legion. He works with Salene Herman of the Post in collecting the coats and distributing them to sites around Susquehanna County. “We are very busy this winter,” says Finlon. “Along with our four Episcopal parishes, we are setting up sites in the local schools, too. So far we have provided 410 coats to adults and children. I suspect we will double that when we have the three-day program at St. Paul’s, Montrose.”

Coats for Community is one project that the Northern Tier Parishes have begun. “We have worked together this year on a number of projects,” reports Jeanette Saulo of Christ Church, Susquehanna. “Jointly we have held a Food Bank Sunday, Undie Sunday, and UTO Sunday. And, Christ Church has joined in helping St. Mark’s, New Milford, with their monthly **Good News Lunch**.”

The Good News Lunch was launched several years ago, bringing together the churches in New Milford. “We served 130 guests at our November Thanksgiving lunch,” says Joan Flint of St. Mark’s, where the luncheon is held on the third Saturday of every month. “The Baptists provided the pies; the dressing came from the Methodists; the Roman Catholics contributed the potatoes and coleslaw; Christ Church, Susquehanna, made eight gallons of squash; and, we at St. Mark’s roasted the turkeys and made the gravy. The folk group from St. Lawrence RC Church provided the entertainment. We can’t wait for the Christmas dinner!”

“It has been a busy and rewarding time for our parishes,” opines Rachel Warriner Barton, Senior Warden of St. Paul’s, Montrose. “The growing partnership of our parishes in the Northern Tier brings us many blessings, as well as providing for those in need. We have fed, clothed, visited, and offered hospitality to many in our communities. And, it was a real treat for us when we welcomed the Jr. High Students of our Diocese this past summer for their week-long visit to the Northern Tier. Along with housing and feeding

them, our parish bakers must have baked a thousand chocolate chip cookies for them, too! It is true that we can find Our Lord in the most amazing situations and places.”



Louise Bagnall (left) and Janice Carpenter prepare for Coats for Community at Christ Church, Susquehanna.



Jeanette Saulo of Christ Church prepared 8 gallons of squash for the Thanksgiving Good News Lunch at St. Mark's, New Milford. The event served 130 guests.
