

Mercy Team Report

Purpose. The Mercy Team is a group of men and women who have been appointed by EPC to encourage a culture of mercy in our church by caring for our church family, as well as, reaching out to our neighbors. The Mercy Team seeks to provide for practical and spiritual needs within the Emmanuel family and to mobilize the congregation to attend to the needs of the local community.

People. The Mercy Team is currently Alexa Burke, Carol Chao, Catherine Drury, William Fu and John McGlinchey. Nachele Real is a member of the Mercy Team but has been on sabbatical this year. Catherine Drury will be on sabbatical starting June 1.

Inreach Efforts

Prayer. The Mercy Team has been available for prayer after every service since August 2017. Every week there have been people prayed for, and some of these times of prayer have led to follow-up meetings for prayer and support. Members of MT have also prayed in our worship service.

Progress. Some members of the Mercy Team served on the Pulpit Search Committee and the Interview Committee to fill the Senior Pastor and Director of Community & Family Ministries positions, respectively.

Mercy Fund. In the fiscal 2017-2018 year thus far, we disbursed \$1,050 in financial assistance towards meeting the needs of those in our congregation. Additionally, we provide ongoing guidance, prayer and support for those who need particular care during difficult seasons of life.

Mercy Sunday [February 2018]. Chelsea Horvath, Director of Community Ministries at All Angels' Church, shared during our worship service and at our post-service special event regarding engaging our homeless neighbors. Some of our EPC children helped assemble basic necessities kits for distribution to those who attend the Sunday evening community meal.

Outreach Efforts

Partners.

- All Angels' Church: The Mercy Team facilitates volunteering through sending one team a month to serve dinner at their Sunday night community ministries meal. We donated \$4,400 for a new oven in 2017. In the winter we purchased supplies for 100 kits (socks, underwear, hygiene supplies, etc.) that kids in the church assembled to be distributed at their programs for the homeless.
- Bowery Women's Center: We also send one team every third Saturday to cook, serve and share a meal with the BWC residents. Last year, we donated \$10,000 to this ministry.
- Safe Families for Children: We continue to support their work as they continue the legal process to gain permission to coordinate housing children in need. One family at Emmanuel has volunteered through their Family Friend program.
- Metro World Child: One of our longest partnerships, we remain in contact about how to support their mobile Sunday School ministry to our neighbors in the Grant Houses.
- Young Life: Last summer, we donated \$500 for basic necessities for single mothers going to their Young Lives Camp ministry. We continue to financially support Young Life's efforts to reach NYC youth for Christ on a monthly basis.

Other Giving.

- WH/I Pathways [under Viva Uptown, Inc.]: Encouraged by their initial efforts in this mentoring ministry to the middle school and high school students at Inwood Academy, we donated \$4,000 to close the gap in their annual fundraising goal in March 2017. We recently had their Neighborhood Renewal Coordinator Al Santino and WH/I Pathways Program Coordinator Kala Mueller share and interact with us at a MT meeting.

- Hurricane Harvey: In Fall 2017, we organized a fundraiser challenge matching financial giving to a church in Houston with two former EPC elders. Totals:~\$3,500 EPC giving, \$2,500 matched. We also provided information for financial giving towards a church in Puerto Rico connected to EPC members.

How you can participate and pray:

- Engage newcomers and invite them into your conversations after worship, into your HFG, into your home. Familiarize them with our ministries and add them to our Facebook page.
- We are surrounded by an international community. Show hospitality to a foreigner by inviting them into your community and helping them understand our unique NYC culture.
- When a need arises beyond the scope of your friendship or HFG, refer them to us for prayer and assistance.
- Does your heart break for a need in your neighborhood, school, or in the life of someone you know? Please share your burden with us so we can pray together and seek out ways to bring healing and change.
- Serve our neighboring community - help us brainstorm ways to reach more neighbors with the love of Jesus.
- Volunteer once a month, or commit to volunteering consistently through one of our ongoing partnerships. Build and deepen relationships with those we serve and those who serve alongside us.

Fiscal Year to date: July 2017 to March 2018.

Mercy Fund

\$1,050 in mercy disbursement

Benevolence Fund

\$4,400 for All Angels stove

\$10,000 gift to Bowery Women's Center

\$1,078 BWC monthly dinners

\$2,500 Hurricane Harvey relief [matching grant]

\$1,325 Mercy Sunday

\$5,400 Young Life Harlem

Total \$24,703

Youth Group Report

I am thankful to God for carrying us through yet another year of youth group. We have 15 youth on our list, and 10 wonderful adult volunteers.

Large group: Attendance at the large group meetings was more consistent this year, with about 7-9 kids attending each meeting. We meet second Sunday of each month to discuss a “tough question”. Alex Tseng, Jae Chang and Ji Meng Loh took turns to lead the discussions. Since the last congregational meeting, questions discussed are: Why aren’t we happy? What evidence is there that Jesus rose from the dead? Is Christianity rational? Can faith be reasonable? Do science and the bible conflict? How should we think about feminism?

Small group: Small groups consist of 1-4 youths and 1-2 adult volunteers each, with the youth divided by gender and age. The main goal of small groups is to build relationships in a more informal setting. Groups meet roughly once a month. Some groups met more consistently than others, and attendance also varied across groups.

Bible class: The bible class meets on the first Sunday of each month during the sermon. The aim is to allow the youth an option once a month to be together for a lesson instead of staying for the sermon. Roughly 6 youth come regularly. The youth that attend welcome the opportunity to inject fun and laughter in what would otherwise be rather boring lessons.

Great Escape: Robbie Brown and Melissa Toomajian led a group of 7 youth to the Great Escape Youth Camp organized by the NY Presbytery Youth Ministry. This was held at the end of January. The kids and volunteers enjoyed themselves tremendously. We plan to send another group next year.

Spring Retreat: Eleven youth attended the EPC Spring Retreat – the largest number of youth at the retreat ever. Following the theme of the retreat, Martin Toomajian led a session on “Living a life of faith at school”; Tommy Pan held a discussion on “Social Media and Mission”; and Tracey Tae shared a testimony and had a Q&A with the youth.

Youth service Sundays: Each third Sunday of the month, the youth volunteer to serve EPC in Sunday Operations – they man the Welcome Table, usher and serve the bread at Communion. The youth have volunteered enthusiastically, performed their duties well and I think it helps them feel more a part of EPC.

Thank you!!!! Many thanks to Alex and Cleo Tseng, Phil and Ava Cook, Jae and Sujin Chang, Richard and Joyce Kwon, and Robbie Brown for their time, dedication and love for our youth.

Prayer:

1. You can pray for our planning for next year. Each year, at the end of summer, we meet to discuss tweaks to the program components and finalize curriculum topics. There may be volunteers rolling off. We may do some reorganizing of the small groups.
2. You can pray for our youth that each one of them will develop a greater desire to know God more deeply. Pray for the volunteers, that they will persevere in their efforts to mentor the youth, not be discouraged, and will grow spiritually even as they serve in youth ministry.