

GEPC Outreach Team (OT)

Minutes from Thursday, 3 April 2025

Present: Dale Anderson, Debbie Failing, Joyce Grady, Lucy Hirsch, Josh Lee, and Mark Johnson

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Meeting was called to order by Mark J. at 7:03pm. Then, Mark led with an opening prayer. The minutes from our last meeting (2/24/2025) were reviewed and approved.

(1) We discussed the "Link." The most recent printed issue of "Link" (3/30/2025) had 3 OT-related items: --Collection Effort = the March Collection Effort was for Hillcrest Hope (HH).

--Breakaway = Breakaway will be 2-6 June. Many thanks to Laura C. for coordinating this.

--Rummage Sale = will be 1-3 May. Many thanks to Josiah Durfee for coordinating this.

(2) Josh is in charge of the Breakaway Celebration Festival which will follow the second service on Sunday, 8 June. The Festival will probably be relatively short duration (90-120 minutes). Relationship Team (RT) will take care of the meal. After eating, kids will go outside to play. Josh will coordinate the face painting and the soccer game. There will be a large, inflatable water slide, and Josh is asking for 1 or 2 folks to be Slide Monitor. Lucy said she would be willing to do that. Josh is also looking for people to help with clean-up when the Festival is over. (side note -- The dessert truck last year was too expensive, so Josh has a different plan for dessert this year.)

(3) We discussed the Rummage Sale. It would be great if GEPC members were there to meet the people who come in to shop. Josh will set up some sort of sign-up. Josh said that the folks who are currently in the "Sent" class on Wed night (learning how to share their Faith) would be the most likely people to sign up for this. They can hand out copies of: "The Life and Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth." Mark J. has about 240 copies of the book. That is probably a good number, because last year we bought 200 Bibles for distribution and we ran out.

(4) We then talked about the Community Garden. Mark L. has already started planting. It would be great if GEPC members or SS classes wish to use that dirt. However, the OT does not have any plans at this time to use the garden for OT purposes. Mark L. will put a paragraph into the "Link."

(5) As noted above, the Outreach collection for March was for HH. Many thanks to Joyce for coordinating this effort. The current Outreach Collection effort in April is for Resource Health (RH), and Brittany is coordinating the Baby Bottle drive. Future upcoming Collections will be:

May	City Union Mission (CUM)
June	Hillcrest Hope (HH)
July	City Union Mission (CUM)
Aug	Gashland Elem. School

(6) At a previous meeting, we had talked about how to get our Missionary information in front of the GEPC Congregation. Missions Team (MT) has discussed this, and they came up with some ideas. Pastor Michael has re-directed this matter over to Worship Team for their consideration.

(7) Many thanks to OT members (Joyce & Dale) who have sent to us (via email) some Ministry Updates.

(8) We then talked about the Missions Team (MT). Their last meeting was last Thursday, 27 March. Dale was not able to attend due to his recent eye surgery, so the meeting was chaired by Tom C. At that meeting, they interviewed Cheryl Metz who wants to be a missionary to France.

(9) There has been a mix-up recently involving our new missionaries (Creacy's and Orr's). Dale sat down with Pastor Michael and they got things sorted out. All OT members saw the recent email from Michael explaining what happened and recommending the best way to fix it. The applications from Creacy's and Orr's will be reviewed by Session at their next meeting.

(10) We got an email recently from CUM regarding cellphones. They are accepting new and gently used phones that meet certain criteria. Mark J. will contact CUM to get further information. Josh will ask Josiah D. if there is a youth who would be willing to help us with this project.

(11) Joyce is planning to take Josh and Josiah down to HH, so they can meet some of the folks there.

(12) Pastor Michael received a "Partner in Education" request from Machele Minter, a First Grade Teacher at Gashland Elem. School. Machele is asking for \$150 to fund bus transportation, so that 110 first-graders can visit the zoo. Michael forwarded the request to Mark J. Mark decided that this was a valid and appropriate "Partner in Education" request, and he gave them a money order for \$150.

(13) Josh led with a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm. Next meeting: Thursday, 15 May.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Johnson, Interim Chair & Clerk

Note:

(these minutes have been approved by the Outreach Team)