

NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE

Rufus Van Horn

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

2016 was another year that was just too sweet.

As per tradition, we started the year with reflections on the 2016 Saints' Brew Christmas dinner. Last December (2015), we served 100 guests and estimate that about 50 parishioners contributed food, money, or gifts for the event. The Girl Scouts were the biggest hit of the dinner distributing through their organized and well behaved distribution of the dinner, gifts, and clean up. We spent about \$500 on the dinner, which was two thirds of what was budgeted.

Again this year, the committee helped with donations to the weekly food basket. The parish provided our request for jars of baby food for the St. Luke's Food Pantry on Eason Blvd, which deliveries were made possible by Mary Howard King.

We like it when people eat. We agreed to provide dinner for Wednesday night Lenten service in March, and we helped with the October dinner put on by the Lutherans. Quad H had us down to feed on Saturday, July 9, serving 100-120 folks in the community center at Salvation Army on Carnation St.

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 in front of the narthex.

One of our ongoing projects is working with the Salvation Army on furnishing a family room and further explore the option of fully sponsoring an "All Saints' Room". The Salvation Army offered us to have the first right to help any family housed in the All Saints' Room through many different facets including financial, medical, tutoring, and donations.

At this year's Festival on the Field at Robins Field, we set up our traditional PlayDoh table for the neighborhood children. Our tent here allows for a fun and conversational oasis away from the continually growing balloon line, madness of the bounce castles, and shade from the sweltering sun!

This year's fair weather Trunk or Treat allowed for an even higher, triple stacked hay maze. The maze has become one of our highlights, as the kids are mostly great, and we have an easy go to setup to add to the Trunk or Treat event. Also, we did not run out of candy and were able to pack it in Saints' Brew Christmas Dinner gifts.

Thanks to the dogged determination of Tom Kimmel, we were finally able to remount the basketball goal in the west parking lot.

Finally, one new place we've developed a relationship is Traceway. Since August, we have been leading a monthly Compline service with 10-15 folks in attendance each month. In September, we had a pizza party for them, and they ate us out of pizza. We really enjoy basically just hanging out with them over there.

We look forward to being a friendly face of All Saints' at various neighborhood activities in 2017 and welcome your participation in any or all events this upcoming year.

Blessings,
Rufus Van Horn
Chair, Neighborhood Life Committee

Quick Hits:

How much money you were budgeted? : \$1,350

We spent:

Saints Brew Christmas Dinner	\$500
Gum Tree Race fan food	\$50
EYC Mission Trip	\$150
Trunk or Treat Hay Maze	\$50
Hot chocolate/supplies for Parade	\$50
Downtown Events (Play Doh, etc.)	\$20
Neighborly Outreach	<u>\$100</u> (Traceway pizza lunch)
Total	\$920.00