

Alternative Pathways

On October 3, Interim Pastor Nancy Bancroft, Moderator Paul Schlaver and Mission Committee Chair Ken Murray met in Biddeford to visit the Alternative Pathways program.

Alternative Pathways is just that, an alternative setting and program to allow Biddeford teens to work toward completing their high school education. They are located in part of the mill complex in Biddeford.

Union Church already has a history of supporting Alternative Pathways. For the last two years, we have sponsored and staffed a holiday party for the students just before Christmas. And, just recently, we took a special collection of goods and funds to support the Alternative Pathways store, a place where students can “buy” items with points they have earned for completing projects, etc.

The purpose of our meeting was to deliver the goods and funds from the special collection and to learn more from Director Jim Boisvert about the ways that Union Church could continue to help in the future.

One possibility is to continue to provide financial support to purchase items for the Alternative Pathways store. The Mission Committee will look at this when we meet in November and develop a budget for 2017.

A second way to help is to, once again, put on the holiday party in December. The Mission Committee has already put that event on our calendar.

A third way to help is through volunteer involvement by members and friends of Union Church. The purpose of this would be (a) relationship building, and (b) helping the

students develop skills and hobbies that could enrich their lives and help them rise out of poverty. A number of specific possibilities were mentioned, as follows:

- ___ Helping students with their school work
- ___ Teaching a skill like knitting, crocheting, sewing
- ___ Playing games with students
- ___ Doing art projects with students
- ___ Helping students become more proficient on computers
- ___ Other ideas that you might think of (please list)

The school day consists of the morning and early afternoon. Students are dismissed at 1:40 p.m. The frequency of the volunteers’ involvement is open to negotiation.

For more information, **with no obligation**, please check off your areas of interest, above, give your contact information, below and give this paper to Nancy, Paul or Ken. Thanks.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____