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“Out of love, place yourselves at one another’s service.” (Gal. 5:13)

Deacon Gathering March 9, 2019

Prison Ministry Panel Discussion

At the March gathering of deacons, a panel of men and women serving in prison ministry shared their experience and insights. The panel included: Deacon Bill Toller, Deacon John Leary and his wife Donna, and Deacon George Morrell. Deacon Paul Mazzariello, Deacon at the Hampden County Correctional Center, was scheduled to participate, but was unable due to a pressing priority.

The panel discussion was recorded. Click below to watch the videos.



Deacon Prison Ministry

2 videos • 1 view • Last updated on Mar 26, 2019

1



Deacon Prison Ministry part 1

Catholic Communications Programming

2



Deacon Prison Ministry part 2

Catholic Communications Programming



ISAIAH 61

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives,
And freedom to prisoners."

A Newsletter of the R.E.C. COMMUNITY in Hampden County, MA

The RESIDENTS ENCOUNTER CHRIST JAIL MINISTRY has been a significant part of the HAMPDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S efforts to offer comprehensive education, vocational training, substance abuse treatment and recovery, and spiritual enrichment and support since its founding in February, 1982. The program consists of the following elements:

- THREE THREE-DAY WEEKENDS HELD IN LUDLOW ON PRESIDENTS' DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, AND COLUMBUS DAY WEEKENDS FOR MEN IN MEDIUM SECURITY...
- THREE TWO DAY WEEKENDS FOR WOMEN AT OUR CHICOPEE FACILITY ...
- THREE TWO DAY WEEKENDS HELD FOR MEN AT THE WESTERN MASS RECOVERY AND WELLNESS CENTER AT MILL STREET IN SPRINGFIELD...
- A REC REUNION MEETING HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN LUDLOW AND CHICOPEE FOR REC WEEKEND GRADUATES...
- A "BEYOND REC" PROGRAM HELD EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN SPRINGFIELD FROM 6:30PM-8:30PM FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND FOR MEN AT OUR MILL STREET FACILITY...

TO BEGIN THE PROCESS TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER, CALL



HAMPDEN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Michael J. Ashe, Jr., Sheriff of Hampden County



Bill Toller
Consultant/Programs

627 Randall Road
Springfield, MA 01105-1070

GET INVOLVED

- ◆ Attend a Sunday night "Hoot" during one of the weekends! This fun celebration lets you hear testimonies of how God is working in the men or women's lives over the weekend.
- ◆ Join the REC team! A Saturday morning training enables you to serve on a weekend team and then attend the REC reunion meetings on Wednesdays.
- ◆ Pray for those sharing Christ with the men and women as well as those men and women purposing to live for Christ within locked walls. Pray, too, for those men and women newly released and seeking to live out their new life on the outside.
- ◆ Make a financial gift to REC. Your gift enables the ministry to continue to provide Bibles and fund the cost of the weekends. There is a REC compassion fund which assists those faithful to REC while inside as they set up life on the outside.



OUR RESULTS,

As of 2015:

- 95 men's weekends
- 66 women's weekends
- 52 WMCAC weekends
- all reaching over 5,000 men and women!

CONTACT US,

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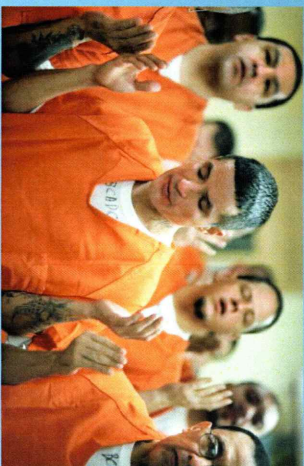
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RESIDENTS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

*Bringing the hope of new life in Christ
to incarcerated men and women
in Hampden County.*



"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

THE

CALLING

“Remember those in prison,
as if you were there yourself.”

Hebrews 13:3

The idea of reaching incarcerated men and women can be an intimidating thought. Life in prison is lived in a different world than the one where most of us live.

Founded at the York Street Jail in 1982, Residents Encounter Christ (REC) is a ministry that allows a weekly connection with the men and women who have participated in a weekend long REC experience.

The REC weekend offers the men and women two to three days filled with sharing the Truth of God’s plan for forgiveness, purpose, new life in Christ, the body of Christ and other topics to help them understand what faith in Christ means and can mean for their lives in and beyond prison. REC volunteers share the Truth by sharing what God has done in their own lives.

THE

FACILITIES

The REC ministry is involved in three Hamden County Correctional facilities:

- The Men’s Correctional Facility in Ludlow
- The Women’s Correctional Facility in Chicopee
- The Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center.

www.hcsdmass.gov

THE

REC WEEKEND

Volunteers meet ahead of a weekend to build a sense of team, be equipped for an effective weekend, and plan the various talks and schedule.

Early Saturday morning, the team arrives at the facility to set up and prepare for the weekend with the men or women. Those coming share a table with volunteers. The day is spent sharing about life’s goal and ambitions and the reality and power of the cross.

There is worship through contemporary videos, table discussions around the various talks given and projects that the tables work on together.

Sunday, the team arrives for a long, great day. The day’s theme is on the power, change, and hope that the risen Christ brings to life. There are talks and discussion, more powerful videos, some unexpected serious and not-so-serious moments. Those attending are given the opportunity to make or strengthen their personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

After dinner there is an evening celebration called the “Hoot” - the party with Jesus. The residents (as we refer to the inmates) share what God’s been doing in their lives through the weekend. The “open mic” part of the evening is the highlight of the weekend.

Weekends at the men’s facility in Ludlow take place over holiday weekends: Presidents’ Day, Memorial Day, and Columbus Day. These REC weekends continue into Monday.

The Holy Spirit does an amazing thing through the weekend to build community between volunteers and residents, those whose lives are very different ... but not really. Brokenness and poor decisions have affected **all** of our lives.

REC

REUNION

A great as REC weekends are, the weekends come to an end and the men or women walk forward with Christ within the walls.

Our burden is for more than one weekend. Each Wednesday in the men and women’s jails, the REC volunteers return for an evening of encouragement and hearing from the residents.

There is also an REC Bible Study taught at the jails. Those who have attended a REC weekend can attend and grow in their faith through learning God’s Word.

Volunteers and residents can continue encouraging one another through mail. The REC ministry has a PO Box through which residents can stay in touch with those at their tables.

BEYOND

REC

Once a resident has been released, they can meet with the REC team on Thursday nights. It’s an informal time of music and updating those there on their life and its challenges and joys. We meet at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Summer Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108 from 7:30 pm—9:30 pm.

