

## 2016 Annual Report of the East Main Presbyterian Church Deacon Board

The East Main Presbyterian Church Deacon Board is comprised of 30 members, 10 persons elected each year for a three-year term. The Deacons exemplify the love and compassion of Christ in offering encouragement, sympathy, comfort, and friendship to those who are ill, bereaved, lonely, or confined by diminishing health. The Deacons meet every month to discuss concerns of those who we visit, to pray for special needs, and to identify ways we can improve ministering to those in the congregation.

The Deacons interact with the ministerial staff in the area of Benevolences, visitation and requests for communion. The Deacons maintain the Deacons' Prayer Corner for the weekly church bulletin. Since 2009, in conjunction with the Children's Ministry, the Deacons have visited new babies and their families. Gifts of The Jesus Story Book Bible (and sometimes, a gift for an older sibling) along with baby caps, made by members of the Women's Association, are presents for each family. In 2016 the Deacons visited 10 new babies and their families. The Deacons continue to work closely with the Ministry of Care, the Prayer Blanket Ministry, The Open Door Community Dinner and Cook's Delight Night, offering food and comfort to those experiencing difficulties or illness.

Each month in 2016, the Deacons visited an average of 45 persons either in their homes or in nursing home. In addition to providing a social visit, the Deacon addressed spiritual needs by sharing Scripture and addressing the individual's prayer concerns. The Deacons often take copies of Our Daily Bread or The Upper Room devotionals to the persons visited. The Deacons take CD recordings of sermons to several persons and loan out CD players.

The Deacons provided meals following funerals or memorial services for 11 families in 2016. Family members are most appreciative of this ministry. The Corresponding Secretary sent an average of 20 various cards (birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, etc.) each month to members and friends of East Main both in Grove City and out of town. The Deacons provided Christmas cookies and small gift bags to 50 persons in 2016 and delivered Easter and Christmas flowers designated for shut-ins.

The Deacons are greeters at the Fellowship Hall entrance prior to each worship service; they deliver the sanctuary flowers and have assisted with arranging the flowers at Easter and Christmas. Deacons maintain a list of drivers who are available to drive parishioners to church or to appointments in and out of town. A small collection of health care equipment, donated to the church, is available on loan. The Vic-President of Deacons serves on the Nominating Committee; each month a Deacon attends the Session meeting and reports to the other members, thus facilitating communication between the two groups.

Because the Deacons were blessed by financial contributions this year, they were able to bless several people in the congregation with gift cards that were most appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Rider, Deacon President 2016