

Donate Calendars for Prisoners

A few years back, Theo Harris visited many of our congregations. He told a story about the time he spent in prison. Although he seldom received any letters, he always attended mail call. There was always the chance that this day would be different, the chance that this day could be the one when there was something for him. I would name his motivation "HOPE."

Not all of us visit people in prison. Some of us may sign Christmas cards in church each year, cards which will be sent off to people who are incarcerated, whose names we will not remember, but whose lives we will touch. When we reach out to those in prison, we offer hope, and we visit Christ in prison.

A very easy way to participate in prison ministry is to donate a calendar. Many of us receive calendars in the mail each year. Why not take the ones you don't need and give them to someone in prison. Last year, churches in our Presbytery collected more than 300 calendars and gave them to the men who reside at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. These calendars were distributed through the chaplain's office. Last year we collected 300 calendars. But there are about 1700 men at Sing Sing, which means we could use a lot more calendars.

When someone receives a calendar and hangs it on a cell wall, there is a reminder each and every day, for an entire year, that someone in the community thought of him. Won't you reach out? Won't you share? Can your church collect calendars and donate them to Sing Sing (or any other prison)? The Presbytery's PrisonER Partnership will be collecting calendars from now through December. If you have some to contribute, they can be dropped off at Scarborough Church or the Presbytery office any time. If you need help to get them there, let me know and I will come and get them from you. Please help. It's really easy. And hope is the most wonderful gift you can give. For more information contact Barbara Devir - barbdevir@gmail.com.