



February 13, 2019

### *GOD'S LOVE LETTER...*

*"I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."*

*~Mother Teresa*

*I believe that God shows up and is most visible when communities gather together to serve one another in love. I believe that the ultimate expression of divine mercy and love lies in a community's efforts to commit to working together in an attempt to create a just and compassionate world for all.*

*I believe that God best demonstrates God's love for the world through the gifts found in community. For we are all uniquely designed by a creative and mysterious God who calls for us to use our gifts in ways that build one another up. There is a beautiful blending of God's magnificent works that can be witnessed when individuals form relationships and commit to seeking to uphold truth and justice as they serve together in Christ's name.*

*And serve we did -- as approximately 75 people from our Hills Church community gathered together after church on Sunday, February 3, for our annual intergenerational day of service. The church was filled with hearts eager to help as adults and children worked together to build tables and dressers for those in need, sort and package gently used towels and bedding, as well as fill laundry baskets with an abundance of household items to support the year-round work done at the New Life Furniture Bank. There were others who collected and sorted donations and provided financial support (through our Super Bowl Snack Bag Raffle) for Rose's Bounty -- a non-profit faith filled organization which works tirelessly to assist the children of the*

Chittick School of Boston who are facing food insecurity. Fleece was donated and cut into strips to make beautiful scarves and delivered, along with hand-knitted hats and mittens, to Cradles to Crayons to provide clothing to families and kids who otherwise simply cannot afford such basic items. Trays of meals were made, packaged, and frozen to be ready to feed the homeless families and guests of Family Promise, the Wellesley Food Pantry (which is housed at the Hills Church), and for our own church families in need of comfort, care and a prepared meal. Cookie dough was mixed, rolled out, and shaped into delicious treats to share with our local police and fire departments as a way to demonstrate our gratitude for their service to our community. Letters of support were written and mailed to those in our community in need of hope. And the list goes on and on...

I'd like to imagine that God's love letter to the world is written time and time again by our active works of service to one another. On February 3, our church wrote one powerful love letter - simply by showing up, being present, and dedicating a few hours to serve those in need. I cannot help but think about the lives touched and profoundly impacted by the kind and generous acts of our church family.

The coordinating, decorating, organizing and outreach of Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Christian Service and Parish Life, made our Day of Service possible. What a blessing it is to belong to a church with such faithful and committed ministries.

I am humbled and sincerely grateful for the ways in which our Hills Church community dedicates their time, talents, and financial support to improve the lives of so many - time and time again...

Thank you, all, for being a shining light of hope in the world - and for the ways you live out your faith in both word and deed.

It is a gift to serve among and beside you.

Peace and Joy,

Anne Marie

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

*Associate Minister for Youth and Families*