

Summer 2009 Outreach Report

The Cathedral Outreach Committee handed out everything from birthday cakes to bicycles on Monday mornings this summer.

From September until May, committee members give free lunch vouchers to about 35 needy people a week. Friendly conversation, coffee, muffins or sandwiches are also part of the Monday morning gatherings. Rides are often provided to the Food Bank or medical appointments.

During the summer, the lunch vouchers stop due to budgetary concerns. But an average of eight people continued to visit weekly all summer to enjoy the chat and the treats.

Regular attendees were surprised and delighted to receive birthday cakes. Thanks to city hall's Bikes for the Community program, four people received used bicycles in August to help with their transportation needs. (The city has also donated bus tickets, which have been as popular with the Monday visitors as the lunch vouchers from participating downtown restaurants.)

While painting was being done at Cathedral Hall, a few of the gatherings were held at the back of the church. Many had never been inside the cathedral and marvelled at its beauty. Some took a guided tour. Others expressed interest in the Alpha program starting this fall.

Voucher distribution will resume in mid-September. The Outreach Committee would like to warmly thank the congregation for its financial and spiritual support for needy people in our community. The city's contributions have also been most welcome.