

TO: St. Stephens/St. Patrick's Community & OLPH 11/26/18

FROM: Sister Kathleen and Staff of NEW MINISTRIES

At this time of year it is time for us to ponder "where we have been and where we are going".

New Ministries began with an empty slate, knowing that the ministry would develop as people voiced the concerns of their community or the needs would be discovered by our team. The obvious need was for people who are isolated and no longer able to drive.

Now what is most visible is that the building as been identified as a Hospitality Center. The center serves as a drop-in area for any person in need. We have the means to assist people be it for a physical, psychological or spiritual need as we have a staff that is available to listen and act. Assisting our efforts are the Office of the Aging, Access to Independence, N.Y. Connects and a professional resource for families who are affected by Alzheimers.

Wednesdays serve as a social day with free Bingo, light refreshments, guest speakers on topics that our participants have requested, raffles and a wonderful time for gathering. Through these gatherings we have sponsored trips for entertainment or shopping and movies.

Yes, ministries develop. We have done a pilot program at a person's home who was unable to come to the center, and, with the neighbors who joined us, there was a sufficient number for a

meeting. While the meeting was about Access to Independence, requests were brought up concerning the need to discuss and explore dementia needs, and this led to a new program.

Many people are in need to physical exercise and find cost and transportation an obstacle. They are happy to participate in the exercise room in the center – at no cost and with volunteer assistance.

As all of us realize, we are called to direct service and support services in order for a community to exist and grow. It is through New Ministries we hope to serve as an “outward” sign of our commitment to serve our “Dear Neighbor”.

Now, at this time of year when we think of thanks-giving and caring for others, we, the staff of New Ministries, thank you for your support now and as we grow into the future.

Many Blessings for your many gifts,

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Kathleen". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sister Kathleen and Staff