

Peace with Justice Sunday

The Peace with Justice offering supports the work of leaders who stop violence and restore peace to families and nations; reaches out to children and young people and helps them find alternatives to violence through creative expression. The offering also provides education and advocacy resources to help end global violence, injustice and improve human rights for all people.

The Mission / Outreach Committee has historically given to many local charities and assistance agencies such as: Deep Well, John's Island Rural Missions, Boys & Girls Club, Volunteers in Medicine, CODA, Low Country Legal Aid, Hospice Care of the Low Country, Penn Center, Children's Center, Island Chaplin and Humane Society. We look forward to continuing this funding and others in the future.



Outreach and Missions

Special Ways We Give

To Our Church Family
To Our Community
And To Our World



St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

St. Andrew By-the-Sea United Methodist Church's Role in Mission and Outreach - Locally, Regionally, State-Wide and World-Wide

Mission / Outreach Committee

Meeting those in need in our community, region and state is the primary goal of St. Andrew "local" mission giving. Funds to support these efforts come from three primary sources; the annual Fall Festival, Christmas and Easter offerings. Additional monies may come from individual contributions throughout the year.

These funds are used to reach as many people as possible through direct action "hands on projects" and by distribution to local charities and assistance agencies. Some funds are designated to the outreach programs selected or operated by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. We also, through the UM General Board of Global Missions support two foreign Missionaries; this broadens our World outreach and scope.

Throughout the year there are programs, which allow for congregational participation, such as Teddy Bear Sunday, the monthly food collection for the Deep Well Project and special offerings.

UMCOR Disaster Relief

Disaster relief projects sponsored by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are raised to the congregation for members to support through calls from the Mission / Outreach Committee. The UMCOR Projects assist communities throughout the world suffering from man-made or natural disasters. The most recent calls were for help after hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Indonesia tsunami.

St. Andrew Outreach Ministry Through Mission, Groups & Classes

Under the Mission / Outreach organizational umbrella of St. Andrew By-The-Sea many programs and projects are undertaken and operate as "hands on" programs, while many are supported financially.

Fall Festival

Fall Festival has been the primary funding source for the St. Andrew By-The-Sea Mission / Outreach ministry for over 26 years. This annual event grows in participation, scope and involvement each year. A large number of St. Andrew members give countless hours, talents and sweat equity to make this event happen. It not only provides the primary funding for our programs; it provides both an island-wide social event and source of many needed items to those less fortunate in our community.

St. Andrew members have been at the forefront in preparing and serving the meal to over 1,500 people each year. The free-will offering that is collected at the meal is given to the Deep Well Project so they can restock their pantry.

Joy Sunday School Class

The Joy Sunday School Class consists of couples and singles of all ages. The primary study emphasis is the Bible and how it relates to our everyday living. The class participates in outreach ministry by responding to the special needs that are lifted up to it and as they arise. They have donated toward the Heifer International Project, Salkehatchie Summer Service, hurricane disasters and the Boys & Girls Club.

Special United Methodist Outreach Offerings

Native American Awareness Sunday

Native American Awareness gifts support urban churches where Native Americans worship on Sunday and reach out to one another seven days a week. The gift also supports seminary scholarships for U.M. Native Americans.

Human Relations Sunday

Human Relations Sunday's offering supports the work of more than 50 church-based community developers in low-income, racial-and-ethnic minority communities and an international network of grass-roots social justice organizations.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing gift provides refugee assistance and provides direct disaster relief response for victims of floods, hurricanes, tornados and earthquakes. It also addresses hunger through advocacy training and resources.

World Communion Sunday

The World Communion offering provides for the future leadership of the church and the global community, ensuring continuing ministry by supporting Crusade Scholarships, the Ethical Scholarship Program and the Ethic-In-Service Training Program.

Epworth Children's Home

The Epworth Children's Home gift allows us to answer a mother's prayer as her child is placed in Epworth's care. Your offering helps provide the necessary means for a child to develop faith in God, self and others.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

The Prayer Quilt Ministry purpose is to promote prayer through the use of quilts as a prayer carrier. It is an interfaith outreach ministry and a statement of faith in God and His power to comfort, strengthen and heal. No fee is involved in this ministry; however, free-will offerings are often received, and are used to continue the Prayer Quilt Ministry.

Bridge Committee

The Bridge Committee, supported by Church members, is in keeping with our mission to provide assistance to individuals and/or families who desire to improve their quality of life with mentoring services.

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry program of our congregation equips lay members with the training to provide distinctively Christian one-on-one care to those experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances, both in our congregation and the community. Stephen Ministers work with our pastors to minister to more people than the pastors can reach by themselves. This care is given from a nurturing community where people are cherished and cared for in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Congregational Relief

Members and friends generously fund the Congregational Relief Fund. These funds are used to assist those members of our own Church family in need.

Estill Middle School

The Estill Middle School project started from the Bishop's Initiative in 2006 to work with the schools identified in the video presentation "*Corridor of Shame*" about failing schools in South Carolina. Through research and interviews the decision was made to bring aid from St. Andrew to this school in Hampton County. The currently identified needs are technology improvements in the classroom and mentoring to the students. Smart Boards have been purchased for two classrooms and computer purchases are being investigated. A reading-mentoring program is underway as well as purchasing grade level books for the recently started book club. Assistance with their student Leadership training project is an ongoing program.

Thanksgiving Meal

St. Andrew and Hudson's Restaurant have sponsored the Thanksgiving Community Meal for several years. Its purpose is to provide a setting and meal where those who are alone or cannot provide a decent meal for their family in the community can come together and to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund of St. Andrew By-The-Sea is a permanent fund to receive gifts. It is an opportunity to share some of our God given resources through a special gift of cash, marketable securities, or other assets. The income of the fund may be used for purposes within and without St. Andrew, as the Endowment Committee shall determine. Preserving the principal of the Endowment Fund assures that a gift given today will be ongoing, enabling the donor to have a part in the work for Christ for countless years to come.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Fund purpose at St. Andrew is to grant scholarships to students entering college who desire to enter the ministry, Christian education, or church music. These scholarships are open to students attending South Carolina Methodist colleges, seminaries and graduates of Epworth Children's Home or other school of higher education. The scholarships are given in recognition of the need to educate people for the ministry is vitally important so that every Church pulpit has a full time minister. Consideration is also given to eligible St. Andrew members attending colleges or universities in other disciplines.

Women on Their Own

The Women on Their Own supports group's mission is to build a Christian community of women that celebrates the strength and honors the achievements of women who "are on their own" for a variety of reasons.

Middle & High School UMYF

The Middle and High School UMYF purpose is to let our youth, as they approach adulthood, know that they are a vital part of our church family and as such, can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. They are given many opportunities to put their faith into action. They have participated in projects such as: Salkehatchie Summer Service, Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Undie Sunday, Thanksgiving Community Dinner and adopting families at Christmas. Their fund raising project is selling flamingo insurance to raise money for special retreats and work camp expenses.

Children's Sunday School & VBS

St. Andrew's Children's Sunday School and the summer Vacation Bible School has the purpose to provide our children the knowledge and understanding through the teaching of the Bible and the words of Jesus Christ that they too can help others through their "gifts and service." The Sunday school children have collected money to purchase farm animals through the Heifer Project International so families in other countries can make a living. They also collect non-perishable items for the Deep Well food pantry.

Disaster Relief

Disaster Relief has many faces in our congregation. Under the leadership of St. Andrew, a 30 member Emergency Response Team has been formed in the southeastern portion of South Carolina. This team, at the request and direction of the Bishop, will respond to any disaster or emergency in the southeastern region of the United States.

In support of the Emergency Response Team an Emergency Response Trailer has been purchased with the majority of the funding coming from St. Andrew's Mission Committee and Endowment Fund. Solicitation is under way from various sources to find the funds needed to complete equipping the trailer with all necessary tools and supplies.

St. Andrew has responded to the reconstruction needs of the Gulf Coast region by sending four teams into that area to help with the repairs needed to return several families to their former homes. It is a goal to send at least two teams a year to the Gulf Coast area over the next several years to help our Christian brothers in that area recover.

Mission Trips

The Mission / Outreach Committee goal is to help fund St. Andrew mission trips to foreign countries on an annual basis. The plan is to have an all-church trip one year and a youth trip the following year. Over the past three years there has been an all-church trip to the village of Billy White in Belize; a youth trip to Billy White and plans are under way for an all-church return trip to Billy White in 2008. Currently over 60 members have expressed an interest in that trip. The committee has also looked at possible *Volunteers in Mission* trips from the UM Board of Global Missions to Panama, Kenya and Guatemala.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry with a mission to eliminate substandard housing from the face of the earth. St. Andrew has been active in supporting this cause. In 2000 we partnered with another group to build a house for a member of St. Andrew. In 2003, we contributed \$40,000 to fund another house and supplied much of the labor to build that house for a family selected by the Church. In 2005 we partnered with the three other area Methodist Churches to fund \$10,000 and provided member participation to build the home. Once again in 2007 St. Andrew funded \$10,000 and provided member help to partner with the area Methodist Churches to build a home. It is hoped that in the near term we can again fund and partner to build a home as Habitat moves into Jasper County

Health Ministries

The Health Ministries Committee works to provide a variety of health related outreach programs for the Church and the community. Twice a year blood drives are being held, an annual flu shot program has been started

and health education programs are presented. "Soup for the Soul" is a program to deliver homemade soup or meals to ill or recuperating Church members.

Deep Well Monthly Food Collection

The first Sunday of the month food collection for the Deep Well Project has been a very successful outreach program for many, many years at St. Andrew and will continue. This food collection has provided Deep Well, on average, with over 1,500 non-perishable food items per year.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop fellowship and to expand the concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We lend support to our church and community through many projects such as: Church Women United events, coupons for Red Bird Mission, supplies for the CODA shelter and Life Care Center of Hilton Head, food for church memorial receptions, donations to the Library and Scholarship funds. The UMW's three clusters provide support for needy island families.

United Methodist Men

All men of the church are members of United Methodist Men. The UMM is a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus, and to grow spiritually. The UMM goal is to nurture small devotional groups and to adopt outreach projects that require financial and/or service support. Projects undertaken by the UMM are: the annual all church oyster roast, the Children's Center through the 5th Saturday project and Habitat for Humanity.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center mission at St. Andrew By-The-Sea is to provide counseling, support and educational opportunities in the caring environment of a Christian church. These services are provided for persons without regard to race, creed, faith or ability to pay.

The Counseling Center's contribution to the church and the community is to provide counseling and educational opportunities by means of scholarship sessions or charging based on the ability to pay. The Center is a community outreach program

Local Emergency Outreach

This discretionary fund has a mission aim of assisting those individuals or families outside our congregation who are struggling with health care or living expenses and who have exhausted all other social agencies aid options. These funds come from the Christmas Eve offerings and other private donations.