

OUTREACH

A Ministry Magazine of Salem United Methodist Church

“Salem does not exist for the sake of those who are already here!”



OUTREACH

The church is unlike any other institution: it exists, not for the sake of those who are already part of it, but for the sake of those who are not.

For those who ARE already here, Salem is committed to the **principle** of DISCIPLESHIP (growing into the likeness of Christ) and to the **practice** of COMMUNITY (doing life together deeply). But the church does not exist for the sake of those who are already here, and that is why we are so committed to OUTREACH ministries: offering the good news of redeemed pasts, better tomorrows, and eternal futures ... offering that good news until, as the song says, “the whole world hears.”

The Great Commission commands us to go into all the world: to reach-out. The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to meet needs when and where we see them: to reach-out. In chapter one of Mark’s Gospel, we have a story about Jesus worth knowing:

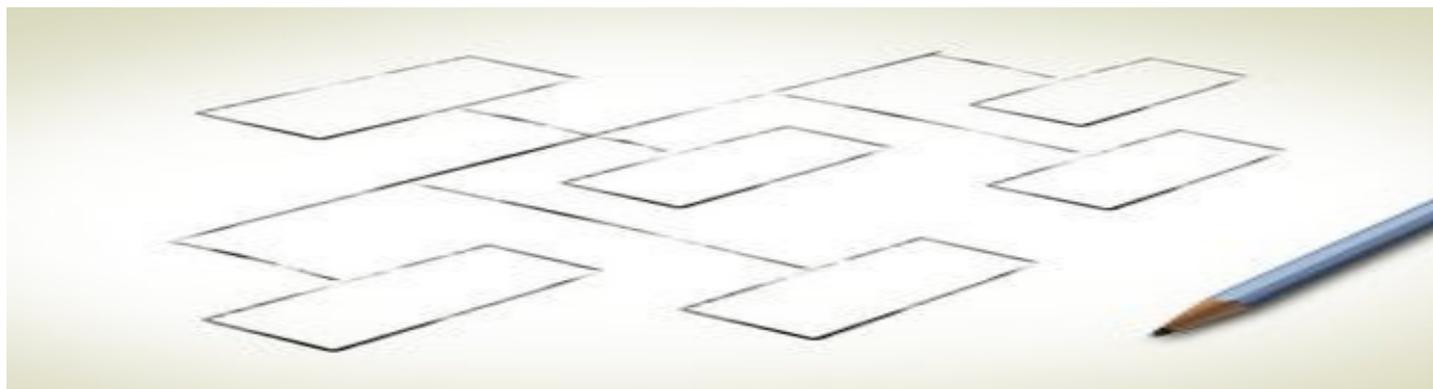
40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

(Mark 1:40-41)

He reached-out his hand, and touched the man. Think about that! Pray about that. This isn’t just a story about miracles or even about compassion, but the act of reaching-out. Let’s BE like that.

STRUCTURE



Our OUTREACH MINISTRIES are clustered into several work areas.

- (1) **Community Ministries:** ministries and charities in our community with whom we partner,
- (2) **Missions:** trips, events, and projects where folks from Salem are sent to meet a need; and the fundraisers required to make it possible,
- (3) **Evangelism:** efforts to communicate the Good News of redeemed pasts, better tomorrows, and eternal futures.
- (4) **Outreach Ministries:** ministries of Salem that seek to meet a need in our community,
- (5) **Outreach Events:** events hosted by Salem on our campus so that we can meet our neighbors and make new friends.
- (6) **Medical Benevolence:** efforts to leverage the resources of Salem United Methodist Church (physical, financial, and human) to make a difference in the well-being of others.
- (7) **Connectional Giving:** financial support of the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- (8) **Salem's Benevolence Fund:** a discretionary fund through with the Pastor can provide Emergency Financial Assistance.
- (9) **Missionaries:** global servants we know and support.

Overseeing our Outreach Ministries is Carol Standard, our Assistant Pastor.



It is not her job to **do** all the outreach here at Salem or even to **lead** all the outreach efforts. Her responsibility is to provide logistical support and administrative oversight to this important area of work.

She is excited about the work, so she dives in and joins in the work. She is passionate about the need, so she is always looking for opportunities.

We have wonderful people in place and we need many more.

***As we journey together,
let's be mindful of those we encounter
along the way.***

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES** “work area” includes our relationship with ministries & charities in our community with whom we partner on an ongoing, cyclical, or rhythmic basis.

FAITHWORKS is based in Covington and serves residents of Newton County. Our own **Carol Standard** is on their Executive Board. Faithworks was founded by a consortium of area churches in order to combine resources to assist needy Newton County residents with emergency financial resources for housing and/or utilities. FaithWorks is funded by 39 local churches, corporations, and individuals, including Salem.

ROCKDALE EMERGENCY RELIEF is based in Conyers and serves the residents of Rockdale County. We have partnered with them for the last few years on their Summer Lunch program. We have also partnered with them to do projects at their site on our Great Day of Service. In addition to the church-wide projects we undertake, a large number of our church members volunteer year-round with various RER projects.



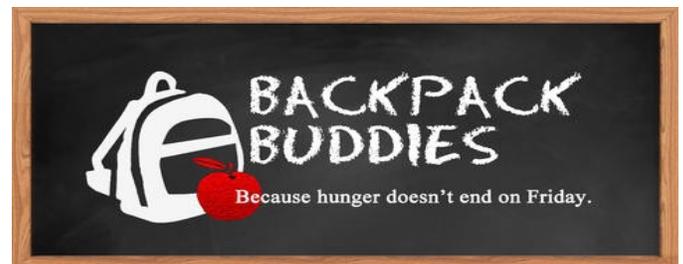
The Rev. Andy Peabody is the Executive Director of Rockdale Emergency Relief and Al Coleman served on the Board of Directors for two decades.

FAMILY PROMISE is a ministry seeking to intervene as families are entering homeless, in hopes that they can be kept from experiencing the depths of homeless known by too many already.



Four times a year we host families in our facility for a week at a time through this partnership. As we have launched Family Promise at Salem, Carol Standard and Joe Peabody (Sr) have taken the lead; and Carol is the contact person if you wish to get involved.

BACKPACK BUDDIES seeks to support the educational success of children who are nutritionally at risk. Throughout the school-year, volunteers donate, purchase, and organize food to be provided through the Backpack Buddies program to children in local schools facing home situations in which they may not have access to nutritious meals over the weekend.



Pier Barrow and **Diana Saltzgeber** coordinate this project and welcome your assistance.

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

THE SALVATION ARMY is our cousin in the big Wesleyan family. Across the years and throughout the year, we have partnered with the Salvation Army in different ways at different times: most recently by providing hygiene kits and other supplies for individuals and families in need, and we will be filling stockings for them this Christmas.



REFUGE PREGNANCY CENTER is a resource for women and families for whom pregnancy is a crisis. Every year, between Mother's Day and Father's Day, we ask members of our congregation to fill Baby Bottles with spare change. Bottles are distributed on Mother's Day and we ask, if possible, for them to be returned on Father's Day. The contact person here at Salem for the Refuge Pregnancy center is Annette Harmon.



FOOD PANTRIES are a year-round responsibility for the ministries and charities that offer them and for the churches and Christians who support them. All year long ... month after month, week after week, and day after day ... we collect donations of dry goods and canned goods for the food pantries in Newton County (@ the Community Food Pantry) and in Rockdale County (@ RER). We alternate between the two.

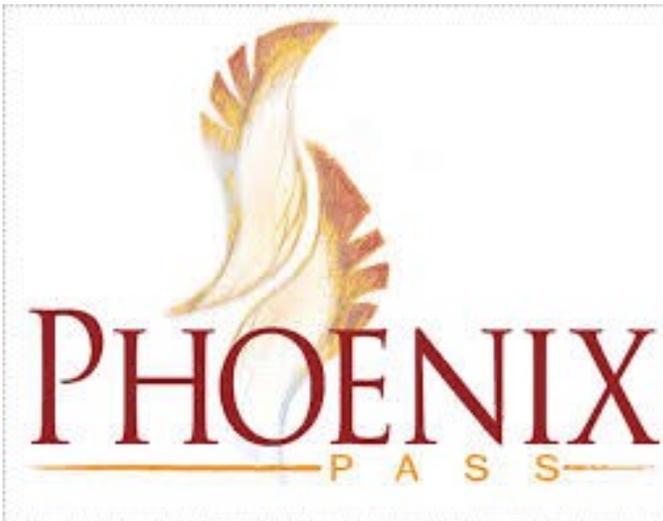


GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE HOMELESS SHELTER is run by Rainbow Ministries (in Covington) ... and we help when we can. In particular, through our "Socks of Love" project, we have provided fresh, warm socks filled with hygiene items and other needful things to guests at the shelter.



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

PHOENIX PASS is a transitional housing program for women and children that was birthed out of Rockdale Emergency Relief several years ago, and we want to help when and where we can.



ACTION MINISTRIES is an agency of the United Methodist Church in North Georgia and is the flagship helping-ministry in the conference, with offices around north Georgia; including a new office in Newton County. We are hoping that they will be ready next summer to extend their summer lunch program into this end of the county to parallel our partnership with RER.



AND SO MUCH MORE !!!

The list of all we do seems huge when you stop to think about it all. And there's still more!

We collect glasses for The Lions Club.



We collect hats and lap robes for the Veterans Home in Milledgeville.

We collect box-tops for education for PCLA; along with ink cartridges and old phones.

We collect Campbell's soup labels for the UMW in support of the Murphy-Harpst Home.

We collect pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House.

We collect toiletry articles and personal items for the Project Renewal Women's Shelter.

And we collect pill bottles for Doctors without Borders.



MISSIONS: TRIPS

The **MISSIONS** “work area” has to do with projects and trips we undertake ... and is led by **MARY WALTERS!** In the past we have taken trips, internationally, to Kenya, the Philippines, and to Mexico.

In **Kenya**, we built a church, constructed water purification systems, participated in medial outreach, and had opportunities to share the gospel.



In **the Philippines**, the trip included doing construction and Vacation Bible School, encouraging pastors and families, and even distributing animals to provide food and livelihood.



In **Mexico** (many years ago, to build a church).



As we look to the future, there are a number of opportunities before us!

MISSIONS: TRIPS

We have begun to plan for a youth trip to the **Bahamas** early this summer at the invitation of Lane and Merry Grayson, missionaries with the *Mission Society*.



And we've begun work on an intergenerational trip to **Tijuana** at the end of the summer to work with *Spectrum Ministries*.



We have also taken trips, domestically, in recent years to the **Hinton Rural Life Center** in Hayesville, North Carolina. Looking ahead, we are hoping to return to Hinton again after Christmas for our **Holiday Mission Trip**.



We are also HOPING to take two other domestic trips this year.

We would like to take a team to the **UMCOR Depot** in Louisiana (in the late winter or early spring) to assist in getting relief supplies organized and ready for shipment.



We would also like to take a team up to the Hinton Center in the spring to work in the center's tool shed, helping them get ready for a summer of student work-teams.



MISSIONS : GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

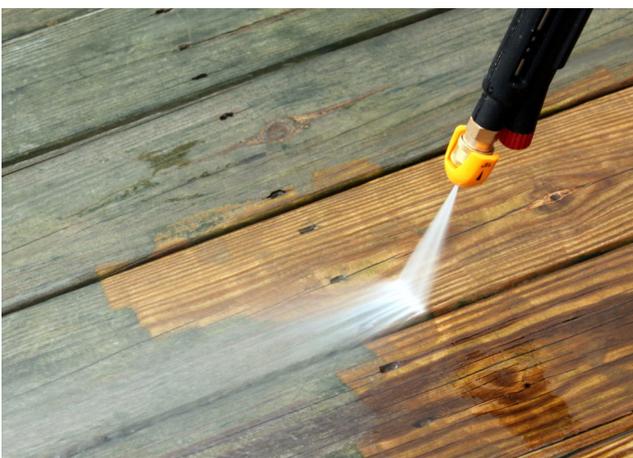
In addition to trips internationally and domestically, we are involved in projects in our own community. Specific needs occasionally arise in the lives of people in our congregation or the community, and – sometimes – we can respond to those needs helpfully. We certainly try! We also set aside one Saturday annually for our **Great Day of Service**: a day when we gather at the church for coffee, doughnuts, and a time of worship before we scatter throughout the community seeking to do some good for somebody in Jesus' name. Some of the work we do directly benefits individual families. Often we partner with ministries and charities. And at times we partner with civic and public interests to invest in our community.



Whether it is planting flowers or painting parking lots, we do it. Whether it is scraping old paint off a home or a building, or sorting cans or clothes; we do it!



Whatever the **task**, the **purpose** is always the same: share/show the love of Christ!



MISSIONS: FUNDRAISING

Given all the good they do, the MISSIONS work area is responsible for a significant amount of fundraising. Every fall, the congregation comes together to make the church barbecue happen: pork barbecue, Brunswick stew, slaw and all the fixin's.



In the spring, we do it all again with our Chicken Barbecue to kick-off World Outreach Week!



Throughout the year, we host “mission lunches” after worship on Sundays: barbecue, spaghetti and lasagna, and a potato bar.

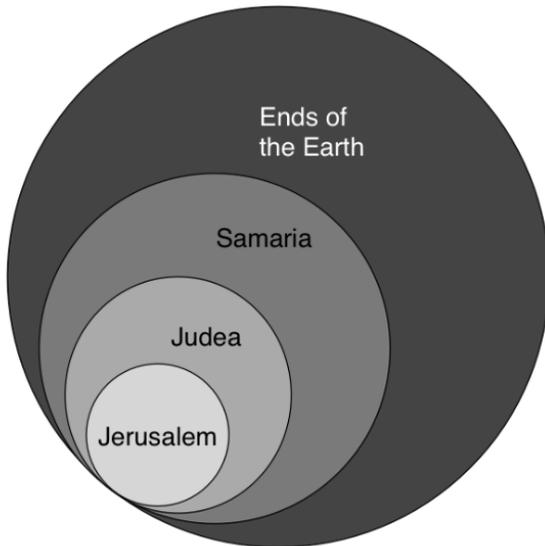


And, at least once a year ... The Taste of Salem ... a chance to sample the best that Salem's cooks have to offer. For \$10 you'll sample dozens of dishes until all of it is gone or you've had all you want!



EVANGELISM

The **EVANGELISM** “work area,” chaired by Pier Barrow, is tasked with reaching-out (here, there, and everywhere) with the good news of God’s great love.



Evangelism starts with us getting out in the community: meeting new people and making new friends. Some of that you need to be doing on your own. Some of that we need to find ways to do together. That’s why we keep asking Where’s FRAN? Where’s FRANK? Where are your Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, and their Kids? But evangelism isn’t just about invitations.



Evangelism also involves the process of following up with people who do visit with us: welcoming, orienting, and assimilating them; answering their questions and helping them find their fit; and shepherding them toward church membership (if that’s right for them)! And evangelism isn’t just about bringing people to church; it about introducing people to Christ.



Too many pastors and churches spend their energy trying to get people to fall in love with them, and not with Jesus. God forgive us. But ... If discovering the blessing that Salem CAN be is a way for someone to discover the blessing that Jesus is and longs to be, then to God be the glory! That’s what it means to be the Body of Christ: us, together, revealing Him and making Him known to our neighbors, the nations, and the next generation.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Our **OUTREACH MINISTRIES** are “ministries of Salem United Methodist Church” that seek to address needs in our community.

Karate Kids for Christ is a ministry through which children have the opportunity to learn discipline and self-esteem in the context of martial arts, taught in an explicitly Christian environment.



Salem’s **Prayer Shawl** ministry is an opportunity to use various skills – knitting, crocheting, and sewing – to bless others. Volunteers make prayer shawls which are distributed to people in the church, the community, and in other ministry settings as comfort in less than ideal circumstances.



As the weather again reminds us that colder nights are on the way, we are making arrangements to be prepared to offer ourselves as an **Emergency Warming Station** when temperatures are projected to drop below freezing.



OUTREACH EVENTS

We host **OUTREACH EVENTS** each year designed to bring the community onto our campus in creative and meaningful ways.

The ***Easter Egg Hunt*** takes place the Saturday of Easter weekend, rain or shine! Children, grouped by age, have the opportunity to hunt for Easter Eggs on the playground at the church and on the campground next-door. It is a fabulous day for our own kids, AND ... it is a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors and make new friends!



For several years now, we have kicked-off the week of Vacation Bible School with a block party, and **THIS YEAR** we've decided to plan one to kick-off the school-year.



The ***VBS Block Party & End-of-Summer/ Back-to-School Block Party*** are great fun in themselves AND are great opportunities to meet our neighbors and make new friends!

OUTREACH EVENTS

The same is true of our annual **Trunk or Treat** ! We offer to the community a safe place to trick or treat.



Families can come and enjoy the prospect of candy and other goodies without fearing for the safety of their children. And ... it is yet another chance for us to meet our neighbors and make new friends. Halloween treats, inflatable attractions, games, food, snacks, prizes: What not to love?



And, finally, our **Breakfast with Santa** has the same objective. Kids have an opportunity both to get their picture taken with Santa AND to spend some time hunting on their own in our Secret Toy



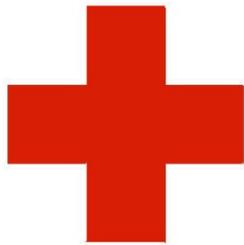
Shopper for just the right gift for Mom or Dad.



MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE

An emerging area of outreach ministry concerns the **MEDICAL BENEVOLENCES** we have embraced.

For years, Salem has hosted **Blood Drives** several times a year for the Red Cross.



**American
Red Cross**

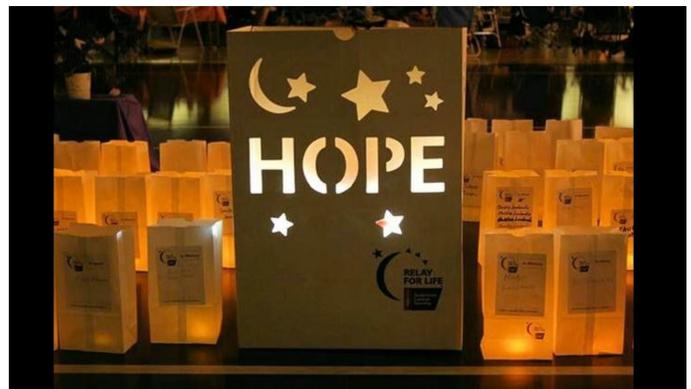
Together, we can save a life

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

1 IN 7
WILL NEED BLOOD
AT SOME POINT IN
THEIR LIFETIME,
BUT ONLY

1 IN 20
WILL DONATE

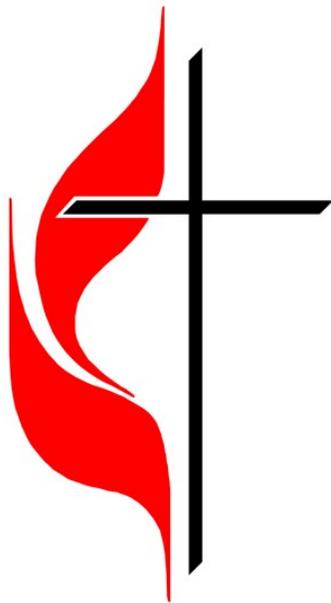
Now, we have people talking about participating in the **Relay for Life** next year in both Newton and Rockdale counties.



The possibilities are endless, because the needs are so great! And the church across the generations has had a heart for the wellbeing of others; and we do, too. Life is precious!

CONNECTIONAL GIVING: SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The United Methodist Church is a connectional (connected) church. Each church, like Salem, makes its own decision about the outreach initiatives undertaken by that local church. You've been reading about much of that already! What you may not realize is this: That doesn't include all that Salem helps make happen through our "**connectional giving**" in the United Methodist Church. We contribute to the larger work of our connected church both through *the special offerings* we receive throughout the year AND through the *apportionments* our church contributes to the work of the denomination as a whole.



The United Methodist Church (the whole denomination) and the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church (the regional body of which we are a part) have established special Sundays throughout the year when each local church is asked to give their congregations opportunities to participate in these special offerings. Some we simply list in the bulletin. For some, we distribute promotional material. For still others, we may take time in the worship service to discuss the need and encourage your participation.

The "Special Sundays with Offerings" are:

(G) Human Relations Day

January: Second Sunday

(NGA) Homeless Offering

February: Last Sunday

(G) One Great Hour of Sharing

4th Sunday in Lent

(G) Native American Awareness

April: Third Sunday

(NGA) Wesley Woods

May: Mother's Day

(G) Peace with Justice

May: Third Sunday

(NGA) Annual Conference Special Offering

June: First Sunday

(NGA) Murphy-Harpst

July: Third Sunday

(NGA) Golden Cross

August: Third Sunday

(NGA) UM Children's Home

September: Third Sunday

(G) World Communion

October: First Sunday

(NGA) Aldersgate Homes

October: Fourth Sunday

(G) United Methodist Student Day

November: Last Sunday

(NGA) Action Ministries

December: First Sunday

(G) AIDS Awareness

December: First Sunday

KEY

(G) = Set by General Conference

(NGA) = Specific to North Georgia Conference

CONNECTIONAL GIVING: APPORTIONMENTS

Our **apportionments** are “fair share” contributions from each church as determined by a formula based on the average worship attendance and the operating budget of each local congregation.

The logic of this approach (and additional information) is presented on the United Methodist Church website:

“Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.”

World Service Fund

Ministerial Education Fund

Episcopal Fund

Black College Fund

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

Africa University Fund

General Administration Fund

Want more information?

www.umc.org

The World Service Fund is the essential core of our global outreach ministry, underwriting Christian mission around the world. By giving to World Service we empower United Methodist evangelistic efforts...stimulate Bible study and spiritual commitment...encourage church growth and discipleship...and help God's children everywhere.

Men and women choose the ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the effort to proclaim God's word in a world desperately in need of that message.

Bishops have always had a very special role in our church...elected and consecrated to speak to the church...and from the church. The apostle Paul called it “a noble task,” but it is practical, too, since our bishops oversee and promote the church's spiritual and temporal interests as well.

The 11 U.S. historically Black colleges and universities supported by The United Methodist Church have played a unique role in U.S. higher education. Their graduates—teachers and doctors, ministers and bishops, judges, artists and entrepreneurs—are leaders in the African-American community and in a rapidly changing, more diverse United States.

We United Methodists acknowledge that we are but a small part of the worldwide Christian church—the living body of Jesus Christ. Our unity with other Christian communions is affirmed as we witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world.

This vital fund supports the only United Methodist-related, degree-granting university on the continent of Africa—serving students from 21 countries, all across the continent of Africa. Africa University provides higher education of excellent quality, enriched with Christian values, for both men and women, developing visionary leaders of tomorrow.

This fund underwrites and finances general church activities that are administrative in nature, rather than program-related—like General Conference, the legislative branch of the church. General Council on Finance and Administration coordinates and administers the finances of the church, receives, disburses and accounts for the church's general funds, safeguards the denomination's legal interests and rights, compiles and publishes denominational statistics and maintains the church's records.

CONNECTIONAL GIVING: UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict, or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States.



After the flood waters have receded, wounds have been tended, basic needs met, and the world's attention has faded, our church continues to be present by providing ongoing assistance. UMCOR provides survivors not only temporary relief, but also long-term education, training, and support. While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations, the most important partners in the work of recovery are those being served.

UMCOR is currently engaged in relief efforts in Haiti, the Bahamas, and the southeastern United States from devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew.

Just a few weeks ago, in response to the flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi, Salem prepared 40 UMCOR cleaning buckets ; what we once called flood buckets (and often still do out of habit). Next week we will be preparing health kits.



Next Sunday, we will be preparing UMCOR health kits after each of the worship services.



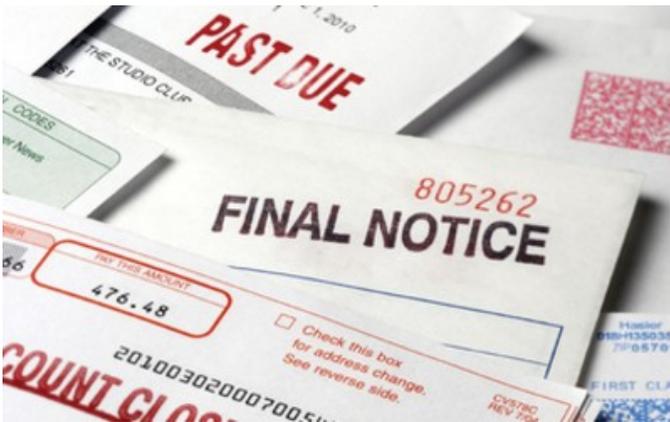
In addition to material donations, UMCOR also responds to disasters by receiving and utilizing financial donations. Undesignated gifts are available to UMCOR to use where those funds are needed most, but designated gifts are use for the purpose they were given: 100%.



Contributions designated by donors to an Advance Special account number go directly to the designated program. UMCOR uses other funding channels to cover non-program related activities such administrative overhead or communications. One source of that type of funding is the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. If you would like to know more about One Great Hour of Sharing and giving to UMCOR, please visit our How to Give web page.

SALEM'S BENEVOLENCE FUND

One of the aspects of Salem's commitment to outreach is all that you make possible through the **Benevolence Fund** you provide here at the church. Officially the "Pastor's Discretionary Account," this fund enable me — on behalf of the church — to respond to financial crises in the lives of individuals and families in our community.



Offering this kind of assistance can be frustrating and painful. People don't always tell the truth. Sometimes people NEED so much more than we have available to GIVE. Sometimes the help folks want isn't the kind of help we think will really help. It often isn't fun. But I am so glad that people come and ask ... believing that we are serious enough about following Jesus that we would help if we could. I want that reputation. And thanks to you, we have it! And I'm glad we get to do the good we CAN do!

Resource for this dimension of our witness comes in the following ways. **FIRST:** Some people choose to leave offerings on the chancel rail on the days we celebrate the sacrament of communion. Our practice is to use any offerings left on the chancel rail to bless others.

SECOND: The offering we receive at our monthly "Second Sunday Night" service is also dedicated to that purpose.

THIRD: There are times throughout the year, when — given the volume and depth of the needs presented to us — our available funds are inadequate; occasionally, nearing depletion. At those times, we will make an appeal from the pulpit and you will have the opportunity to designate a gift.

FOURTH: There are times when individuals — for reasons of their own and at times of their own choosing — will make designated gifts to this benevolence fund. It is a welcome surprise whenever it happens!

FINALLY: There also instances when individuals choose to donate gift cards, which can be a marvelous help. Gift cards enable us to assist people with food and with gas, as well as with presents at Christmas.



MISSIONARIES

The official “sending agency” of the United Methodist church is the **General Board of Global Ministries**. Formerly housed in New York, GBGM has moved its base of operations to Atlanta, purchasing and occupying much of the campus of Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta. **Daikin Cook** and **Sara Flores** have been supported by Salem for a number of years.

A number of years ago, a new mission sending agency was founded here in north Georgia. Originally called “the Mission Society for United Methodists,” the name was changed to “**The Mission Society**” as more and more people from other traditions began financially supporting and being sent in the work. **Richard Coleman** serves as the Senior Director of Mobilization and Candidacy. Richard and his wife, **Amanda**, and their four children are good friends of Salem. My good friends **Lane and Merry Grayson** are serving with the Mission Society in the Bahamas and have invited me to bring a team down this summer. The **Griffiths**, the family who hosted us on our trip to Kenya, were serving with the Mission Society prior to returning to the US. And **Carolyn Goodwin**, a member of our Kenya team, is now a missionary with the Mission Society, having recently been evacuated from South Sudan.

The International Leadership Institute was founded by **Wes and Joy Griffin**. Wes is an Elder in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, and is appointed to this work by the Bishop. Wes and Joy have both been our guests.

Venezuela Now was founded and is guided by **Warren & Jane Lathem**. Their son, Ray, died in the ValueJet crash in Florida on his way back from a mission trip to Venezuela. The people of Venezuela have a special place in their heart; and in the heart of God.

Word Gospel Mission is a mission sending agency that traces its Wesleyan Holiness roots

back to 1910, adopting the current name in 1954. **Dan and Katy Beth Searls**, along with their four girls, serve in educational ministries in Hungary. Dan and Katy Beth are dear friends of mine. Likewise, Billy and Joanna Coppedge (and their four girls) are serving in Scotland as Billy continues his education after serving in Uganda for years. Other friends, **Billy Wayne and Jenny Fuller**, served for decades in Kenya and now serve in Zambia.

One Mission Society, once known as the Oriental Mission Society, is another mission sending agency with Wesleyan Holiness roots. My friend **Thane Ury** was our guest recently during World Outreach Week. He and his wife, Laura, have served with OMS for almost 20 years; and we are still in conversation about a mission trip to China.

International Teams is a global non-profit. My friends **Aaron and Christina Passmore** (and their kids, Zeke and Damari) are missionaries serving in Ecuador. I got to know Aaron when he took over as the Director of Spectrum Ministries, housed in San Diego and ministering in Tijuana.

Spectrum Ministries is a ministry based in the US but doing ministry in Mexico. Matt Kooi is the new Director of Spectrum. **Sean & Lori Johnson** moved from Georgia to serve with spectrum just a couple years ago. Spectrum works with street kids and orphanages, and builds homes.

Reflect Ministries is a San Diego based outreach to the streets of Tijuana launched by my friend **John Alvarado**. They, too, work with kids living on the streets, including ministries to the children of the prostitutes and drug addicts in Zona Norte: the prostitution tolerant zone in TJ.

One of my former students and her husband have moved as missionaries to the Middle East. What they do is dangerous. Security is an issue.

***Do you support a missionary?
Do you want to? We can help!!!***

Salem United Methodist Church Covington, Georgia

*Everything a Simple Country Church Should Be!
More than You Ever Thought One Could Be!*

Mission: *to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World.*

Vision: *to Know Christ and Make Him Known
to our Neighbors, the Nations, and the Next Generation*

