



Welcome to

St. John's Episcopal Church

Decatur, Alabama

Outreach Partnerships & Opportunities

June 2017

More Than a Soup Kitchen

St. John's is one of 13 member churches who make up the Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), an organization formed in the 70's to build cooperative efforts among the churches of Morgan County in providing support and assistance to persons in need, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The CCC is located at 119 1st Avenue NE in Decatur. In addition to financial support and bags of groceries, each church provides volunteer hours to assist the CCC staff in maintaining a food pantry, a clothes closet, shelves upon shelves of linens and housewares.

Likely the most visible part of our interaction with the CCC is our quarterly participation in its Soup Kitchen which operates Monday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Once every three months, St. John's assumes responsibility for procuring, providing, preparing, and serving a hot mid-day meal to some 200 to 250 clients.

On a sunny Thursday in February, a team of 20-plus St. John parishioners dished up Santa Fe soup, tossed salad, bread, drinks, and dessert. In truth, however, the biggest hit that day was a side dish of well-seasoned stewed cabbage, a last minute addition from an anonymous donor.

The preparation for the meal began the day before when four cooks gathered in St. John's kitchen to get the soup started. Thursday morning, four or five more

folks joined in at the CCC for chopping salad vegetables, plating desserts, setting tables, and opening lots and lots of cans of beans, corn, and tomatoes.

As the early workers were finishing up their tasks, eight or ten more volunteers signed in, donned the health-department-required gloves and stood ready to serve when the doors opened to our guests at 11:00 a.m. sharp. For two hours, plates were filled, drinks poured, desserts replenished, tables wiped and reset, greetings extended, and assistance provided. God's people were fed—including the cooks, clerks, and servers. True to the Episcopalian style, St. John's in particular, there was also much fun and fellowship along the way.

If you'd like to be part of the action—even if you only have an hour to share—send me your e-mail address and you will receive my "Save the Date" alert before our next lunch date. You can let me know at that time if and when you are available, and I'll plug you in to the schedule. If you're not available that day, no problem. You'll hear from me again at the next quarterly opportunity.

Peace and love,
Kathy Slaton
St. John's Liaison for the CCC Soup Kitchen

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What is Outreach?

At St. John's, we believe that God is calling us to make a difference in the world. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we restate our commitment to helping God's reign be established "on earth as it is in heaven." Outreach is a word we use to summarize everything we do to help God's kingdom become a reality here on earth. It is food for the hungry. It is clean water for the thirsty. It is clothing for the naked. It is shelter for the homeless. It is freedom for the oppressed. It is dignity for the downtrodden. In other words, outreach is everything that Jesus is calling us to do.

Outreach is more than just a buzzword; it is a way of being Christian. Outreach is more than a collection of service projects; it is an orientation to the world. Jesus told his followers to go out and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20), and we believe that he was speaking to us as well. Everything we do as a church is about transforming lives. "In-reach" is how we take care of those who call St. John's their church home. "Out-reach" is how we take care of everyone else. Ultimately, however, we believe that there should be no distinction between the two.



Outreach Partnership Grants 2017

Name of Organization	2017 Grant	Purpose of Grant	St. John's Liaison
Alabama Arise	\$500	Advocacy for the Poor	Harry Moore
Austinville Elementary School	\$500	Reading Program	Vicky Nelson
Banks-Caddell Homework Helpers	\$5,100	Tutoring Program	Kevin Malcolm
Banks-Caddell McDowell Environmental Center Trip	\$8,100	5 th Grade Environmental Education Field Trip	Dodie Hall & Carolyn Price
Boys' and Girls' Club	\$4,000	Tutoring Program	Elise Hannah
Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC)	\$5,000	Food and Financial Assistance	Kathy Slaton
Community Free Clinic	\$3,000	Medical & Dental Care	Grant Thompson
Families & Children Experiencing Separation (FACES)	\$2,000	Back to School Program	Mary McKimmon
Habitat for Humanity	\$2,600	Gutters for New Homes	Karen Sawyer
Hospice of the Valley	\$2,000	Bereavement Counseling	Martha Freeman
Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC)	\$5,000	Teaching Programs	Bobby Straub
Parents & Children Together (PACT)	\$4,000	Teaching Programs	Cassandra Moore
Princess Theatre	\$1,000	Arts Education Project	Harry Moore
Total 2017 Grants	\$42,800		
Other Supported Organizations	Other Funding	Source of Funding	
Banks-Caddell Backpacks for Food	\$6,818	Parishioner Donations	Suzanne Thompson
Court-Appt. Special Advocates (CASA)	\$3,000	Bake Sale Beneficiary	
St. John's Beans & Rice Ministry	\$1,500	Bake Sale Beneficiary & Parishioner Donations	Sally Marsh
Community Free Clinic	\$80,000	Episcopal Center Space In-Kind Donation	Grant Thompson
Parents & Children Together (PACT)	est. \$80,000	Episcopal Center Space In-Kind Donation	Cassandra Moore



Partnerships & Opportunities to Serve

Alabama Arise

This organization is a coalition of 140 congregations and organizations as well as individual members that promotes state policies to improve the lives of low income Alabamians. It's sister organization, Arise Citizens' Policy Project, analyzes state policies and educates its members and the general public on poverty issues. **St. John's Liaison is Harry Moore** (hmoore944@aol.com)

Austinville Elementary School

Austinville Reading Motivational Program has been created to support approximately 140 students in grades four and five to encourage reading while increasing vocabulary development and improve comprehension skills. Volunteers may partner with

Austinville by reading with students. A short training is given to help the volunteers understand the most effective ways to help students with their understanding of the text. **St. John's Liaison is Vicky Nelson** (vickykcv@bellsouth.net)

Banks-Caddell Elementary School

Backpacks for Food Program

Many of the B-C families qualify for free and reduced meals. Even with that support, some families still struggle with providing enough food for their families either consistently or during certain part of the month. This program allows students to have additional food over the weekends during the school year. St. John's provides food bags for about 30 students. *You can volunteer to be a shopper, packer, or deliverer.* **St. John's Liaison is Suzanne Thompson** (laurasuzannethompson@gmail.com)



Banks-Caddell Elementary School

Homework Helpers Program

This after-school program runs Monday-Thursday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. beginning mid-October through April. It serves students in the 2nd through 5th grades who for a variety of reasons need assistance completing their homework. *Our goal for this program is to have 6-8 volunteers each day of the program to assist the students with reading, spelling and math homework. You may work one day each week or volunteer to be a substitute for the regular tutors.* **St. John's Liaison is Kevin Malcolm (dive4dlr@aol.com)**

Banks-Caddell Elementary School

McDowell Environmental Camp

This past spring, an anonymous donor made it possible to send 5th grade students from B-C to the MEC. It was a life-changing experience for many of them. We are determined to make this an annual event. *You can help by donating money to the MEC fund or supporting the students by attending the session or coming down to camp for a meal.* **St. John's Liaisons are Dodie Hall (dodiehall@bellsouth.net) and Carolyn Price (cprice1958@att.net)**

Boys and Girls Clubs of North Central Alabama

The primary mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Their programs are based on the needs and interest of the youth the Club serves. They build interpersonal relationships between the staff and participants. *They need volunteers who will help young people take control of their lives, envision productive futures and reach their goals.* **St. John's Liaison is Elise Hannah (elisehannah@me.com)**

Committee on Church Cooperation

The CCC has a long heritage of helping people in need. The staff and volunteers have done that with the aid of churches, individuals and organizations. In addition to providing food from the food pantry, soup kitchen and clothes, the CCC helps people starting over after a fire, students needing school supplies, and the sick who can't afford medicine as well as helping families at Christmas. St. John's sponsors the meal for the Soup for the Soul soup kitchen once a quarter. **St. John's Liaison is Kathy Slaton (kdwslaton@gmail.com)**

Community Free Clinic of Decatur-Morgan Cty

The mission of the Free Clinic is to provide free, quality healthcare, dental care, and prescription medication to low income, medically uninsured adult residents of Decatur and Morgan County, through volunteers serving the community in a manner that respects the dignity of all persons. *Volunteers serve in the office and the reception areas.* **St. John's Liaison is Grant Thompson (grant.h.thompson@gmail.com)**

FACES

Families and Children Experiencing Separation

FACES is a United Way agency made up of an all volunteer board that raises money to meet the immediate needs of foster

children in Morgan County. Our Mission is to meet the needs of children in foster care or at risk of being placed in foster care. We help children be children. **St. John's Liaison is Mary McKimmon (marymck2@att.net)**

Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County

A nonprofit Christian ministry building decent and affordable homes to improve the lives of families in Decatur, Hartselle, and the surrounding communities of Morgan County, Alabama. People in need partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Future Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay a no-interest mortgage. With your help, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Our ReStore gives new life to great merchandise and provides a new start for families. The funds we generate help build Habitat homes in Morgan County. The ReStore receives donations of furniture, household items, building materials, and more on a daily basis. ReStore purchases and donations help build homes! **St. John's Liaison is Karen Sawyer (karen.sawyer89@gmail.com)**

Hospice of the Valley, Inc.

Camp Hope

Held at Point Mallard Park, this is a day-long grief camp customized to target the grief of school-aged children (5-12). Each camper is assigned an adult buddy who will accompany the child throughout the day and help him/her integrate, understand, and express the feelings that accompany the loss of a close loved one. *They need volunteers to serve as buddies (10-15), craft items for children's groups, and refreshments for Camp Hope.* **St. John's Liaison is Martha Freeman (cookie@bellsouth.net)**

Mental Health Center of North Central AL, Inc.

Decatur-Morgan Group Home

The group home provides 24/7/365 housing and supportive services for 14 adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, bi-polar and the like. *They need help with painting, landscaping, and other facility maintenance needs; assistance with feeding group home residents and children during summer programs; help promoting their special events; provide transportation to weekly services; provide a Sunday meal; and have a music ministry come to the group home.* **St. John's Liaison is Dodie Hall (dodiehall@bellsouth.net)**

Neighborhood Christian Center

The mission of the NCC is to serve our neighbors in need with the gospel of Jesus Christ and provide hope and healing through education and discipleship. *They need volunteers to pray, encourage, mentor and teach their educational programs. They could also use people to provide meals for classes and graduations. They always need people to volunteer on Food/Clothing Days (Monday-Wednesday).* **St. John's Liaison is Bobby Straub (bob@lbr1co.com)**

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Partnerships & Opportunities to Serve

Parents & Children Together (PACT)

A Hand Up

This program is designed to help meet needs of families when they are at a critical point in their life. It will provide case management services to perform a thorough assessment of the family situation and establish goals to help families begin to develop skills that promote self-sufficiency. St. John's has a wonderful opportunity for great involvement with this program.

Volunteers for PACT can work on a regular or part-time basis. They can be trained and have the opportunity to work as case managers/intake workers and be directly involved with families. St. John's Liaison is Cassandra Moore (moorec6@gmail.com).

Princess Theatre

Arts Education Program

An arts education program is an essential component of a student's education. These programs help schools meet the requirements of the Alabama Course of Study for Arts Education. Studies have shown that arts education in schools provides greater motivation to learn in all subjects; increases attendance rates for students and teachers; raises test scores including standardized achievement tests; engages students more fully in the learning process; gives teachers a sense of renewal and challenge, especially when the arts are integrated with other subjects; and develops higher order thinking and problem solving skills. **St. John's Liaison is Harry Moore (hmoore944@aol.com)**

St. John's Beans & Rice Ministry

The Beans and Rice Outreach Program started in 2015 as a service project for Vacation Bible School. The first offering saw 33 pounds of beans and rice being shared with any that came. That number has grown to over 300 pounds of beans and rice and serving upwards of 54 families. Our parish fills quart-sized bags and offers these packages on the fourth Thursday of each month. This is an easy project for any age. **St. John's Liaison is Sally Marsh (sally@stjohnsdecatur.org)**

St. John's Community Garden

The garden provides vegetables, herbs and fruit for many local organizations such as the Free Clinic, PACT, Banks-Caddell School children and teachers but more than that, it provides gardening and learning opportunities for children as well as adults. *We need volunteers to water, weed and harvest.* **St. John's Liaison is Carol Hancock (clch11@icloud.com)**

Please consider volunteering for one or more of these opportunities. Contact Seth Olson at seth@stjohnsdecatur.org or 256-353-9615.