

St. Charles United Methodist Church - Missions Team

MISSION:

The Missions Team provides direction, opportunities, and encouragement for the congregation to participate in the mission of St Charles United Methodist Church (SCUMC): To glorify God and make disciples by connecting people to Christ across all boundaries. No Limits!

RESPONSIBILITIES/GOALS:

The primary goals of the Missions Team are to help educate congregation members about the work of The United Methodist Church in God's mission and to provide opportunities for those members to respond through prayer and the stewardship of their time, talents, and resources.

We strive to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to minister to others in that name, by providing mission opportunities and a greater awareness of both local and global mission through mission education, mission experiences, mission support, and publicity for special church mission offerings.

SCUMC provides prayer and financial support numerous global missions in Mexico, Cuba, and Africa; however, SCUMC also supports a wide variety of local missions in our neighborhood, in the New Orleans community, in Louisiana region, and in surrounding states.

TEAM: LEADERSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Missions Team do not serve for a prescribed term, and are supplemented by a number of ad hoc participants for the various ministries.

The core team members for 2017 are:

- Jim Miller - Chair
- Janice Blocker
- Bobbie Botsay
- Chris Hazeltine
- Kurt Kienitz
- Lettie Klibert
- Ronda Knox
- Mary Anne Schindler

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- Babs Schultz
- Darlene Viola
- Pam Waguespack

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

Iglesia Metodista Park Temple, Jovellanos, Cuba

SCUMC has had a covenant relationship with Park Temple Iglesia in Jovellanos, Cuba since 1995, and has visited them for prayer, fellowship Vacation Bible School, and worship dozens of times in that period. SCUMC was even able to celebrate Park Temple's 100th Year Celebration with them in 2006! Through a network of 'home churches', Park Temple Methodist Church is nurturing their congregation and faithfully spreading the Gospel in Jovellanos. They are truly an excellent example of evangelism and sacrificial love to all.

Contact: Pam Waguespack

Mexico Mission, Reynosa Mexico

Willie Berman serves as the coordinator for ministries along the border of Mexico, and also works with United Methodist Volunteer In Mission (VIM) teams coming into Mexico. New ministries have been started in communities with which the work teams serve: sewing classes, wood-working shops for men, medical clinics, scholarship programs, Bible distribution, construction of houses/schools/community centers, breakfast and lunch programs, craft programs, a Personal Energy Transportation (P.E.T.) Shop and many others. SCUMC has led both Medical and Construction Teams to Reynosa for over 10 years.

<http://www.westhioumc.org/conference/willie-berman>

Contact: Pam Waguespack

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Hope Services, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Hope Services Ministry International provides holistic care in medical, psychological, social, educational and spiritual domains to the total person in the name of Jesus Christ to the Center, Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. Under Mrs. Esther H. Ndichafah, Program Director, the program provides care that embodies medical, psychosocial, educational, and spiritual areas of an individual. It is open to all persons irrespective of tribe, race, status, sex, or religion, with emphasis on the underprivileged, prisoners, widows, orphans, handicapped, traumatized and the homeless. The programs are also currently meeting the health needs of Yaounde Urban Refugees. Hope Services has also started a micro-loan program to help aid individuals become self-sufficient. It also completed a structure for a bakery to produce income and provide jobs.

<http://africanrelief.org/2011/08/31/hope-services/>

Contact: Ronda Knox

Hope Outreach International Ministries (HOIM)

Hope Outreach International Ministries (HOIM) is a Christian, non-profit organization dedicated to Evangelizing the lost through gospel crusades, camps and conferences; Empowering orphans, widows and those in need through Christ-centered vocational training; and Equipping ministers of the gospel through Christian seminars and resources. HOIM was founded by Julius Esunge, a native of Cameroon, West Africa. Since 2005, Julius and a team of missionaries have begun conducting annual mission trips to Cameroon, ministering at orphanages, prisons and higher education campuses, and organizing seminars and conferences for local church and ministry leaders.

<http://www.hopeoutreachinternational.org/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

Contact: Ronda Knox

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Great Concerns Ethiopia, Ethiopia

The mission of Great Concerns Ethiopia (GCE, formerly called The Oromo Project) is: "Serving the lost and poor of Ethiopia". Its special focus is amongst the Oromo People of Ethiopia, which is the largest people group in that country and is a designated unreached people group. Ministries include: Chronological Bible Storying; Medical/health outreaches; Micro-lending/Micro-business; Leadership training; and Edna E Fansler Prayer and counseling center for Women.

The GCE team consists of three Ethiopians and two Americans. John and Kay McNally, the American team members, help plan, train and coordinate the work in Ethiopia. In the States, they recruit short term teams and raise funds for the project. Glas, Asru, and Gosh are locals who are completely committed and invested in the work of The Oromo Project. They come from a variety of backgrounds and are lawyers, IT professionals, but work full time in the ministry of GCE. These Ethiopians are the main interface with the communities and execute the team plans. They live with their families in the capital city of Addis Ababa.

<https://www.greatconcernsethiopia.org/>

Contact: Ronda Knox

Ormond Nursing Home

Visits to nearby Ormond Nursing Home are a great way to spend some fellowship time with the elderly who don't always have opportunities to get out and socialize. Ice cream sundae and Root Beer Float get-togethers are popular with nursing home residents and visitors alike. There are rarely leftovers, and sometimes are coordinated with musical performances, as well.

Contacts: Lettie Klibert, Janice Blocker, and Babs Shultz

Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry

After partnering with the Second Harvest Food Bank and Winn-Dixie, our Food Pantry is now providing food bags to 160 needy families per month!

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This local ministry has grown tremendously in the past year, and there are always opportunities to pray for this ministry and its recipients, donate food, pick up donated food, stock bags, and distribute bags. Participation and donations by community groups is encouraged and appreciated!

Food distribution times are: Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM; Sunday mornings from 7:45-8:15 AM (perishables distribution only); and the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 PM.

People from St. Charles Parish can only get food from one food pantry in the parish. Required paperwork can be filled out at the Wednesday distribution times only; applicants need to bring a photo id, utility bill (gas, electric or water) with their name and physical address on it and the proof of income for everyone living in the household or a SNAP awards letter.

Contact: Mary Anne Schindler, Pam Waguespack, Darlene Viola

Thanksgiving Baskets

As an extension of the Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry, Thanksgiving baskets with a frozen turkey and other traditional Thanksgiving Dinner goodies are prepared and distributed in late November along with a sit-down brunch & social. As with the Food Pantry, donations of food and service are welcome and appreciated.

Contact: Darlene Viola

Pumpkin Patch

SCUMC has become known as “The Pumpkin Patch Church” in the Destrehan community due to the hundreds of pumpkins of all shapes and sizes that appear in early to late October in the front yard. While the proceeds from pumpkin sales go towards our Mexico and Cuba mission trip costs, it also provides a community outreach opportunity. Countless pictures have been taken in the patch or with the cardboard cutouts, and many school field trips provide an opportunity for storytelling and activities for pumpkin patch visitors.

Contact: Jim Miller

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Angel Tree Project / Operation School Child

Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program is the only nationwide effort that specifically reaches out to hundreds of thousands of innocent children who carry the heavy burden of their parents' incarceration throughout the year. While in prison, moms and dads are given the opportunity to give a gift to their child so the child knows they are not forgotten. SCUMC gets the chance to help that prisoner by purchasing the gifts on their behalf.

We also include in our Angel Tree program children that our local schools or teachers from our church recommend. These children often have little or no Christmas. Many of these students are actually declared homeless. We purchase a toy and a learning tool for these children.

www.prisonfellowship.org/Angel/Tree

Contacts: Chris Hazeltine, Janice Blocker

St. Mark's UMC, New Orleans

St. Mark's United Methodist Church is located in the New Orleans French Quarter, with a mission of being a reconciling congregation where one can find a community that embraces all persons regardless of race, sexual orientation, life history, education, and age. St. Mark's is a church that is committed to serving the homeless, and one Sunday every other month representatives from SCUMC worship with the St. Mark's congregation, and then serve a hot fellowship meal to the homeless who also attend the service. SCUMC also tries to participate in special seasonal opportunities for the homeless, as well.

<http://www.frenchquarterumc.org/home.aspx>

Contact: Ronnie Schindler, Jim Miller

GRACE Camp

GRACE Camp (God's Really Awesome Camping Experience) is a five-day experience at Uskichitto Retreat Center in LeBlanc, La. An outgrowth of Kairos Prison Ministries, it's

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designed to minister to some victims of crime that are often forgotten - the children of incarcerated persons.

The annual event at Uskichitto Retreat Center is open to Louisiana children, ages nine-11, whose parent (or parents) are incarcerated. There is also a separate camp for teens. Staffed primarily with volunteers, the camp offers music, art and swimming instruction. The children experience a week away from the routines of their lives and are encouraged to embrace their creativity and develop effective life skills.

<http://www.gracecamp.net/#/grace-camp>

Contact: Pam Waguespack, Chris Hazeltine

Kairos LCIW

Kairos is a Christian, volunteer, lay-led, ecumenical, international prison ministry in 31 states and in 8 other countries. (Kairos is a Greek word that means "God's Special Time".)

Kairos offers inmates the opportunity to receive God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, and to grow in their faith and servanthood in a Christian community on the prison compound. Kairos LCIW volunteers hold 4 day retreats twice a year at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) in St. Gabriel, La, which is located near Baton Rouge. Volunteers from all over Louisiana share a mission to show Christ's love and forgiveness to the women at LCIW through God's gifts of vulnerability, servanthood, gratitude, compassion, and humility. SCUMC members participate both as part of the in-prison service team and also the cook team.

<http://www.kairoslciw.org/>

Contact: Chris Hazeltine

Spring & Fall Craft Fairs

The Spring Craft Fair is not only an event for crafters, but also includes a Family Fight Hunger Walk/Run, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Proceeds typically help fund the SCUMC Food Pantry.

The Fall Craft Fair also sponsors Children Activities such as a hay ride, finger printing, storytelling, and pumpkin carving. Proceeds typically benefit our Mexico and Cuba Mission ministries.

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Contact: Mary Anne Schindler

Blood Drives

SCUMC Blood Drives are typically held in March and September, and provide our congregation – and those in our community – an opportunity to save multiple lives with a single donation and the investment of an hour's time.

Contact: Pam Waguespack

Mount Sequoia Mission, Arkansas

Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center was founded in 1922 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which comprised the states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. Called the Western Methodist Assembly, it was planned as a summer retreat, spiritual center and faith-based training facility west of the Mississippi River.

SCUMC has supported the Mt Sequoia retreat by spending 4-5 days performing pre-season maintenance work for the retreat in April.

<http://mountsequoyah.org/>

Contact: Pam Waguespack

UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (U.M.C.O.R.) is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Its mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

UMCOR Sunday (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing) is the yearly collection of money from all United Methodist churches to support justice ministries throughout the world

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by covering administrative costs for UMCOR. When a disaster strikes, SCUMC responds with special collections and/or projects (such as flood buckets).

www.umcor.org

Contact: Jim Miller

UMCOR Sager Brown

Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, is one of two UMCOR major supply depots in the USA. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. UMCOR is not a first-response organization, but tries to help victims of natural disasters or conflict recover to the point where they can rebuild their communities going forward. In past years, SCUMC has helped assemble UMCOR relief kits, which can be cleaning/flood buckets, sewing kits, birthing/newborn kits, health kits, bedding kits, school kits, etc. in site as well as collecting funds.

<http://www.umcor.org/Search-for-Projects/Projects/901515>

Contact: Jim Miller

Night Out Against Crime

SCUMC participates in St. Charles Parish's Night Out Against Crime by offering hot dogs and Smores in the Pumpkin Patch; the Fire Department & Sheriff Department visit and bring items to share with the children. The date is set by the parish, but typically held on a Tuesday in October.

www.crimestoppersgno.org/night-out-against-crime

Contact: Mary Anne Schindler

LA Methodist Children's Home

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Louisiana Methodist Children's Home is a leading faith-based provider of behavioral health services in Louisiana. LA-MCH offers a broad continuum of services which includes intensive home-based services, out-patient counseling and intensive residential treatment services for children and families experiencing crises, emotional stress and relationship problems.

SCUMC participates in special offerings to fund Louisiana Methodist Children's Home programs.

<http://www.lmch.org/>

Contact: Jim Miller

Missions Mailbox

Throughout the month of December, church members can leave Christmas Cards for each other in the Missions Mailbox located in the church Narthex. Instead of paying postage, a deposit can be left in the Missions Mailbox as a convenient way to exchange Christmas Greetings and help fund Missions programs at the same time.

Contact: Pam Waguespack

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PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2017

Year Round

Food Pantry distribution times are: Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM; Sunday mornings from 7:45-8:15 AM (perishables distribution only); and the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 PM.

First quarter – Jan to Mar

St. Mark's UMC (3rd Sunday in Jan)

Blood Drive (Mar)

Mount Sequoia Mission, Arkansas (Mar)

St. Mark's UMC (3rd Sunday in Mar)

Second quarter – Apr to Jun

Spring Craft Fair (Apr)

St. Mark's UMC (3rd Sunday in May)

Ormond Nursing Home (Spring)

Mexico Mission, Reynosa Mexico (May)

Third quarter – Jul to Sep

GRACE Camp (Jun)

St. Mark's UMC (3rd Sunday in Jul)

St. Mark's UMC (3rd Sunday in Sep)

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Fourth quarter – Oct to Dec

Cuba Mission, Jovellanos, Cuba (Fall)

Pumpkin Patch (Oct)

Ormond Nursing Home (Fall)

Blood Drive (Fall)

Fall Craft Fair (Oct)

Night Out Against Crime (Oct)

Thanksgiving Baskets (Nov)

Missions Mailbox (Dec)

Angel Tree / Party (Dec)