

St. Paul United Methodist Church

# 2018 Regional Mission Trip

CROSS, Plymouth, NC



**UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION**

*Christian love in action!*

## **Volunteer Information Packet**

Version 1.0 - 28 April 2018

## Schedule

**Sunday 20 May 2018** – Forms and \$50 deposit due.

**Wednesday 23 May 2018 – Team Meeting #1**, 6pm at St. Paul UMC, Fellowship Hall  
Balance of **\$255 registration fee** due.

**Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Team Meeting #2**, 6pm at St. Paul UMC, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday 27 June 2018 – Team Meeting #3**, 6pm at St. Paul UMC, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday 8 July 2018** – All volunteers are invited to attend the 10:00 service at St. Paul UMC, Christiansburg, VA

**Sunday 8 July 2018** - Depart from St. Paul UMC at approximately 11:15 AM.

Estimated travel time is 5.25 hours (plus stops) from Christiansburg, VA to our destination which is in Plymouth NC 27962 near the Albemarle Sound.

**Monday to Friday** - Help as needed in the Plymouth area. Optional Wednesday afternoon team activity.

**Saturday 14 July** – Leave after breakfast. We may plan something fun on the way back. Likely return time is mid-afternoon.

**Sunday, 15 July** – All volunteers are invited to the St. Paul UMC Annual Church Picnic. Details will follow.

## Why bother?

We will do some physical labor in North Carolina but most importantly we will do God's work and put our faith into practice. How many times does the Bible tell us to help those in need? Whatever else you do in 2018 you will know that you did God's work during the Mission trip week. That is a powerful thing for your faith journey and for the people you help.

## What will we be doing?

The CROSS Organization will send information on possible jobs. We will sign up for a subset of these. We will learn more details as we near departure. Often novices can easily contribute to jobs on-site. Also **they will have light duty work** in their facilities for those desiring something other than home repair.

## Who can volunteer?

- No special skills required other than a desire to serve God and your neighbor.
- **No minimum age but volunteers younger than 14 must be accompanied by a parent.**
- We will need a Support Team two to four people to prepare meals and keep things organized and tidy around the facility where we'll be staying. Our hosts have light-duty work such as assisting in the food pantry, sorting clothes or other donated materials, or painting.

## Cost

- Your **\$255** registration fee covers food and lodging during the work week, United Methodist Insurance, host organization fees, and team T-shirt.
- St. Paul UMC may (upon request, first-come, first-served) award \$150 **scholarships reducing your cost to \$150**. Scholarship awards are kept private. **Please inquire if the registration fee is a barrier to your participation!**
- We will collect a \$50 deposit as early as possible to secure your spot on the team.
- Volunteers will buy their own "road food" while traveling and the cost of any fun activities on Wednesday and/or Saturday.
- If coordinated in advance with the Support Team we may elect to have dinner at a local restaurant one evening at your own cost.
- Youth are recommended to bring at least \$60 spending money for these expenses.
- We will car-pool to Plymouth **and need volunteers to drive**. Anyone not driving should help their driver with some gas money.

## Logistics & Responsibilities

- Volunteers should bring presentable work clothes, sturdy shoes (preferably boots), gloves, and eye protection.
- Volunteers may, at their discretion, bring hand tools, power tools, and specialty tools.

## What next?

**If you're ready to sign up**, first contact Todd Fitch at (540) 320-7413 or [todd.fitch@comcast.net](mailto:todd.fitch@comcast.net) so we lock you in as confirmed. Then you will be included in all planning meetings and team information. Next complete the required forms and return them to Todd directly or in the "Outreach" mailbox at St. Paul Church. Please indicate if you would prefer to work on the Support Team, on a Work Team, or wherever the need is greatest. Checks can be written to "St. Paul UMC" with "Mission Trip" in the memo area.

## Host Location and Organization

Notes from their web site at <http://jubileeproject.holston.org>

- Plymouth, NC 27962
- 252-809-2355
- [jayclark@plymouthcross.org](mailto:jayclark@plymouthcross.org)
- <http://plymouthcross.org/>

### History

Jay Clark, pastor at Plymouth UMC, after directing the repair - almost a complete rebuild - of a home severely damaged by Tropical Storm Nicole (2010), started a repair ministry called CROSS, Christians Reaching Out in Sacred Service. According to its mission statement, "The CROSS mission of Plymouth United Methodist Church is to glorify God by helping preserve affordable home ownership and revitalize our community through the coordination of resources and mobilizing teams of volunteers for the critical repair and/or rehabilitation of homes. Those served are families with children living at or below the federal poverty line, the elderly-at-risk, the disabled, and those experiencing the devastation of a natural disaster in Washington County and beyond."

### CROSS has:

- Hosted 14 mission work teams - 174 volunteers
- Raised \$85,000 for building material and contractor
- Provided an additional \$145,000 in donated labor

### Demographics

The 2000 U.S. Census reports that Plymouth has a poverty rate of 44.3%, the fifth highest of all 547 municipalities in North Carolina, and a median family income of \$17,281.

### Host / Lodging:

- You will stay in the climate-controlled Plymouth United Methodist Church (PUMC) educational building.
- Teams have access to PUMC's kitchen and dining room facilities.
- There are 2 shower suites with 3 instantaneous hot water showers each.
- There are 14 rooms of varying size; the facility can house 50 adults or 70 adults and youth at one time.
- CROSS provides cots and team members are welcome to bring air mattresses..

### Meals:

- We will provide and cook our own food.
- Please inform Todd if you have any special dietary needs.
- <need kitchen details>
- Ice – TBD
- Grocery Stores – TBD