



# Missions at Unity Presbyterian

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## Missions at Unity Presbyterian Church

At Unity, mission means responding to God's call to perform acts of love and caring for those in need, both our neighbors and strangers. The Old Testament contains the command: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*" in 37 places. In the New Testament in Matthew 25, the story of the Good Samaritan makes the same point. Loving the "stranger" means helping those less fortunate, especially those suffering from injustice, prejudice, hostility and/or abuse of all forms regardless of race, religion, nationality, or socio-economic status.

All mission projects underway at Unity respond to this call. They are categorized into five Mission Focus Areas listed in the Table of Contents. Three groups provide overall leadership and coordination:

**Mission Team:** Meetings are on the *first Monday of the month at 7:00pm* in the Meeting Room. The team sets policy, validates projects, allocates the Mission budget, and oversees all Mission projects. Most projects the Mission Team sponsors fall within the categories of *Community Ministries, Support for Women and Children, and Mission Trips & Support for Mission Programs*. The Mission Team has two focus specific committees:

**Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee:** Meets on the *fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm* in the Meeting Room to provide leadership on issues pertinent to compassion, peace, and social justice. Unity has been certified as a *Peacemaking and Matthew 25 Church* by PC/USA.

**Earth Care Committee:** Meetings are on the *first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm* in the Meeting Room. Projects promote environmental stewardship of God's earth through innovative church and community projects. PC/USA has certified Unity as an *Earth Care Congregation*.

**You are invited and encouraged to participate in any or all the above groups, join any ongoing project, or introduce a new one.**

*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one  
of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40

## **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Crisis Assistance**

There are times when people find themselves in circumstances where they just need a helping hand with some immediate financial need. The Mission Team budgets money each year to aid local residents who contact the church for help. Generally, this assistance is help with overdue power bills, rent or medical needs.

The generous support of the church throughout the year allows us to meet some of these needs. All requests for assistance are screened by office staff, discussed with a minister, and referred to the Mission Team leader to determine the level of assistance we can offer. We take into consideration the level of support requested, any past support given, and requests that have been made to other agencies in the area such as East Lincoln Christian Ministries and Helping Hands of Denver. This assistance is paid directly to the service provider, such as the utility company, landlord, etc.

If someone contacts church members regarding possible assistance, please direct them to contact the church office who will commence consideration of the request.

**Unity Contact:** Unity Church Office, 704-483-5266

## **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Disaster Assistance**

The mission of the Disaster Assistance Committee is to assess Unity Presbyterian Church's vulnerability to both human-made and natural disasters and to develop responses to these potential risks. Working with agencies such as the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency, the Red Cross and local law enforcement, the committee develops and updates plans, tools, and systems that will inform and assist our church community in the event of an unforeseen disaster. Our concern also reaches beyond the church into our community, as we strive to find ways our resources can enhance local groups in their responses to such events.

In addition, efforts include providing clean-up and hygiene kits, when needed, to help people nationally recover from the devastation of disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding. Kits with supplies provided by our congregation are assembled and sent to a PC/USA warehouse to assist with this effort.

An adjunct committee to the Disaster Assistance Committee is the Church Security Committee. The mission of this committee is to develop protocols to mitigate and respond to potential safety and security situations on our campus.

**Unity Contact:** Liz Finley, [finbow91@yahoo.com](mailto:finbow91@yahoo.com)

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: East Lincoln Christian Ministry

East Lincoln Christian Ministry aims to help those in need while treating them with dignity and love. Located at the Catawba Burriss Road location are the Crisis Office, The Pantry, Home Meals Office, and The Closet. The Furniture Annex is located on Cedar Street, a short distance away.

- The Crisis Office aids with financial emergencies and houses the VITA Program providing tax assistance to individuals. Furniture and appliances are provided for those in need.
- The Pantry supplies food and personal hygiene items as needed.
- Home Meals delivers meals, and human interaction, to home-bound individuals.
- The Closet offers a large shopping area for clothing, household items, books, children's items, and more at low prices.
- The Furniture Annex offers gently used furniture, appliances, sports equipment, home items, and more at reduced prices.

In addition, throughout the year ELCM provides Easter baskets for children; family holiday meals at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas; Christmas gifts to children, elderly and disabled; volunteer dental bus, school bags and supplies; and furniture, appliances, and household goods to crisis clients.

**Volunteer opportunities** include interviewing in Client Assistance office, delivering Home Meals, deliveries and pick-ups for The Pantry, organizing shelves in The Pantry, working in The Closet sorting and displaying donated items, assisting with check-out.

**Unity Contact:** Bruce Rohr, bar8350@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: East Lincoln Senior Meals

Each year, Unity Presbyterian is one of several local churches that sponsor a luncheon for seniors in our area. The goal is to provide a lunch, fellowship, and light entertainment to offer East Lincoln County seniors an opportunity to visit with friends, meet new people, and enjoy participating with members of the community.

Members of the congregation prepare and serve the lunch while entertainment is provided by local talent. This event is well attended and appreciated by all who come.

Volunteers are asked to assist in this worthwhile event each year. Historically, Unity sponsors an event in the spring.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Satterthwaite, [g.satt@att.net](mailto:g.satt@att.net)



## **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:**

### **Hesed House of Hope**

Hesed House of Hope, a non-profit organization, is the only program providing overnight shelter for men, women, and children in Lincoln County. Begun in 2008 offering shelter October thru April rotating among five churches in Lincoln, today the debt free facility provides year round shelter for up to 24 residents in the main area and two families in family rooms. Hesed House assists approximately 175 clients a year. Staff salary and operating expenses are covered by donations. The goal of Hesed House is to provide temporary housing to allow individuals time to secure a permanent residence. In partnership with the Department of Social Services and other community agencies, counseling and resources to acquire public assistance, Social Security cards, driver's licenses, etc. are provided in support of a Rapid Rehousing and Employment Model.

Unity joins local churches, organizations, and individuals in providing meals for the residents. Unity volunteers provide a dinner meal on the first Tuesday of each month. Volunteers, in teams of two to five, provide and serve a dinner meal, and supply breakfast items. Volunteers may join the residents for prayer, dinner, and conversation.

In 2021, volunteers from Unity and other local churches donated trees, plants, landscaping materials, and volunteer time to enhance the property around the shelter which includes a meditation path behind the facility.

**Unity Contact:** Bill Muir, [wimuir@earthlink.net](mailto:wimuir@earthlink.net)



## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Lakewood Care Center

Lakewood Care Center is a facility for adults who have disabilities and require a place to live where their needs can be met. Unity Presbyterian is committed to finding ways to enrich the lives of the residents. Unity sponsors special events at holidays and throughout the year when residents are given treat bags, snacks, and personal care items. At Christmas, the Unity congregation remembers the residents of Lakewood with cards, each containing a dollar bill for the residents to purchase snacks. When requested by the Lakewood staff, Unity Mission funds provide supplies, clothing, and other items to meet the needs of special residents.

Lakewood staff members have shared details of the many positive resident reactions from efforts of Unity volunteers. The residents appear happier and look forward to the visits and gifts. When a visitor walks in the door, hands go up waving and smiles appear on their faces. Contact the church office if you are interested in becoming a Lakewood Friend.

**Unity Contact:** Denita Sample, [ddsample@charter.net](mailto:ddsample@charter.net)



## **COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:**

### **Lakewood TV Project**

The Lakewood TV Project began in 2015 when volunteers who visited the Lakewood Care Center in Denver NC expressed concern that there was only one television, in the common area, for all sixty residents of Lakewood to view. A drive was held to solicit donations to purchase televisions for resident rooms. Since 2015 there have been wall mounted televisions with DirecTV service in thirteen of the thirty double occupancy resident rooms.

The ability to have television service allows the residents to stay entertained and connected to the world outside the care center. Having televisions and service in resident rooms became especially meaningful during 2020-2021 when COVID-19 restrictions often kept residents confined to their rooms.

Since 2015 Unity Mission Funds have supported the Lakewood TV Project along with many individuals from the Unity congregation.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Satterthwaite, [g.satt@att.net](mailto:g.satt@att.net)

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Unity Construction Crew

The Unity Construction Crew is an all-volunteer group that has completed both large and small projects. Two of the biggest jobs were a metal kwanza hut at the Black Mountain Home for Children and a pole barn at Camp Grier. Both projects took several months and many volunteers. As for smaller projects, the group has built many wheelchair ramps, worked at Amy's House, Heartbeats Women's Center, Habitat for Humanity, and projects on the Unity Campus.

The group furnishes the tools. No specific skills are required. All ages are welcome, as usually there is something for everyone to do.

**Unity Contact:** Rick Ayers, [rickayers707@gmail.com](mailto:rickayers707@gmail.com)



## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Watchmen of the Streets

The Watchmen of the Streets mission is to GO to where needs exist in the areas of homeless and youth, LOVE people where they are, showing them the love of Christ, and CONNECT them with ourselves, resources, other non-profits and with God.

The program ministers to homeless who live under bridges, on the streets, and in homeless encampments in woods in the Charlotte area and throughout North Carolina. Resources for housing, medical, addiction recovery, food, clothing, and spiritual help are provided. Aid is brought to camps, relationships formed, prayers prayed, and hope given. Physical and spiritual help is brought to people in great need. Many homeless, through their connection with Watchmen of the Streets, feel closer to God and gain strength. Unity volunteers are needed and welcomed.

**Unity Contact:** Janeen Dishman, [janeen@unitypres.org](mailto:janeen@unitypres.org)



## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES: Youth Mission Projects

The Children & Youth team works each year to identify a special mission project for our youth. Our hope is to identify a place (either in our community or state) where we can go and serve for a few days or up to a week.

The Youth particularly enjoy being a part of the “Dash-n-Go” project which delivers money and/or much needed food supplies to local families in need during the holiday season.

Throughout the year, the youth are encouraged to engage in one service opportunity per month. One youth group meeting a month is designated to serving in our direct community. Those opportunities consist of visiting the assisted living facilities, volunteering at a food pantry, food kitchen, or animal shelter. During months when the youth are not able to go and serve in a particular place, we designate a youth group meeting for writing cards and sending messages of encouragement to folks.

**Unity Contact:** Rev. Dana Seiler, [dana@unitypres.org](mailto:dana@unitypres.org)

## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN:**

### **Amy's House**

Amy's House is a safe house for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. It is the only safe house for domestic violence victims in Lincoln County.

Most of the women and children that come to Amy's arrive in an emergency with little but the clothes they are wearing. They are supplied with clothing, bedding, and food in a safe environment. The residents are offered job training, transportation to court dates and doctor appointments, and help with their GED if they do not have a high school diploma. They are counseled by professionals and helped with job applications and interview skills. If residents complete the program, they are assisted in finding housing and paying rent until they have a job.

The home operates without government assistance and is supported by donations and grants. Amy's Closet, an all-volunteer operated resale shop is located on NC Business Highway 16. All profits go to support Amy's House. No salaries are paid, just the rent and utilities are taken from the profits.

Volunteers are needed to operate the shop. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 4:30pm. Volunteers pick the amount of time they want to work. The shop accepts donations of women's clothes and small household items. They ask that they be clean and in good condition.

People with basic skills are needed to help accomplish maintenance projects and gathering furniture when clients are ready to move into their own apartments.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Shiflett, [gashif@aol.com](mailto:gashif@aol.com)

## SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Angel Tree

Each year one of the wonderful Christmas traditions at Unity is to erect an Angel Tree filled with tags containing information about needs and wishes of children and elderly in our area. These requests are identified by local agencies such as East Lincoln Christian Ministry, Amy's House, Guardians ad Litum, Lakewood Care Center, or local schools. The tags list the needs of children, young adults, and elderly that otherwise might not receive special gifts during the holiday season. The cards identify, along with the need, the person's age and clothing sizes.

The Unity congregation will continue to provide this wonderful expression of God's love during the holiday season, and we ask that you consider choosing one or more of the Angels from the trees during this time.

**Unity Contact:** Unity Church Office, 704-483-5266



## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Black Mountain Home for Children**

Black Mountain Home began in 1904 when it was founded as an orphanage. The home provides residential care, family foster care, transitional living, and independent living for young adults. The caring Christian staff strives to meet each child's individual needs in a group setting with tasks and activities that promote each child's strengths.

Youths from twelve counties are served in residential care and enrolled in public school. They learn culinary and marketing skills at Cheryl's Place and Mountain Home Thrift Store, and auto mechanics at a campus shop. Graduation rates are around 90%. Young adults, age 18-21, live independently across the street from the main campus, many enrolled at a local community college and local technical college. Lifelong Living Program allows residents to transition to apartments as they age out and navigate new experiences. The home trains foster parents and licenses foster homes.

Black Mountain Home is supported by the Presbytery, grants, county Departments of Social Services, churches throughout North Carolina, and gifts from individuals. The Unity Construction Team built a storage building and restored structures on the campus. Unity volunteers can spend a few hours or stay overnight on campus while engaging in various projects.

Unity supports Black Mountain Home through financial aid and periodic workdays at the home.

[www.blackmountainhome.org](http://www.blackmountainhome.org)

**Unity Contact:** Charlie Bohlen, [Bohlen@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bohlen@bellsouth.net)



## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Camp Grier**

Camp Grier is an outdoor ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) located in Old Fort, NC. They are committed to making outdoor experiences and the gift of the natural world available to all. Camp Grier offers an overnight residential camp each summer for boys and girls in 2nd – 12th grade. Their program, called the Summer Journey Series, is designed to grow with children as they mature. Program components include hiking, swimming, rock climbing, arts and crafts, agriculture, canoeing, service, whitewater paddling, mountain biking, and backpacking.

Camp Grier works with church and community groups throughout the year to plan and execute service learning experiences. Many service projects are located on its campus and the Global Village is used by groups to experience life in developing countries around the world.

Unity has sent work teams to Camp Grier and helped them with financial support for both operating funds and with needed capital projects and upgrades to facilities. Because of our sponsorship, children from Unity receive a reduced rate for summer camp and special events.

**Unity Contact:** JD Waldrop, johndwaldrop@bellsouth.net

## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Children at Risk**

The Unity Mission Team allocates funds annually to support programs to assist children at risk. In recent years, projects have included coat drives and new book collections for summer reading.

Unity missions support the Lincoln County Birdie Program which supplies items for personal care kits given to homeless and transient children by county social workers. At various holidays, Unity donates 100 pieces of needed items (toiletries and other items) to be included in gift bags.

Throughout the year, the mission team aids local organizations including Crittenton for young women and families, Moms and Munchkins, and Heartbeats Women's Center. Unity members participate in tutor and mentor programs at Rock Springs Elementary and North Lincoln Middle School. Unity mission funds has supported an after-school enrichment program at Amy's House, a domestic abuse shelter, by covering the cost of supplies and snacks for the participating children who live in subsidized housing.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Satterthwaite, [g.satt@att.net](mailto:g.satt@att.net)



## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Crittenton**

Crittenton (formerly known as Florence Crittenton Services) has provided comprehensive health, education, counseling, and vocational services for nearly 120 years to young women and their families in need. While the residential facility is in Charlotte, the agency provides services to single pregnant young women, mothers and babies, and young women who are aging out of foster care from throughout the state of North Carolina, including clients from Lincoln County. Nearly 80 percent of the young women in this program have experienced significant adverse childhood experiences such as sexual and other physical and emotional abuse along with other trauma and/or neglect.

Individual and group volunteer opportunities are available including, tutoring, mentoring, working with activities and general agency support work such as public relations, fundraising, and assisting with special events.

For more info, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, 704-372-4663

Crittenton  
3350 Holabird Lane, Charlotte NC 28203  
Email for general information: [shyde@fcsnc.org](mailto:shyde@fcsnc.org)  
[www.fcsnc.org](http://www.fcsnc.org)

**Unity Contact:** Ken Sipes, [kencrittenton@att.net](mailto:kencrittenton@att.net)

## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Grandfather Home for Children**

The Grandfather Home for Children in Banner Elk, NC serves severely abused, neglected, and disabled children. The home has existed since 1914 and serves children from birth to age 18, with approximately 30 living on its campus and 300 in family placements in 48 counties throughout N.C. The Christian staff works with children in care to resolve their problems and provide acceptance, hope and new life skills to overcome the challenges they face.

The home is accredited by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services. It is supported through the Presbytery, by grants, payments from counties and gifts from individuals.

In recent years, Grandfather Home merged with Barium Springs, which was established in 1891 and was also a Presbyterian orphanage. The combined non-profit called Children's Hope Alliance which provides fostering, adopting, and outpatient therapeutic care serves approximately 3500 at-risk children and 350 foster families in 63 counties. Their motto is "hope, health, and healing."

Unity not only provides direct financial support, but also occasionally sends work groups for special volunteer projects.

[www.childrenshopealliance.org](http://www.childrenshopealliance.org)  
[www.grandfatherhome.org](http://www.grandfatherhome.org)

**Unity Contact:** Charlie Bohlen, [Bohlen@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bohlen@bellsouth.net)

## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN: Heartbeats Women's Center**

The Unity Mission Team allocates funds each year to support Heartbeats Women's Center, formerly called the East Lincoln Pregnancy Care Center. The center, located at 5968 S. NC 16 Hwy in Maiden, provides support to women, married and unmarried, who live in the East Lincoln County area, including information and assistance for unplanned pregnancies. The center offers pregnancy tests, life skills and parenting training, along with clothing and other items needed for baby care, as well as adoption options.

Unity's contribution to Heartbeats comes in the form of supplies, including children's clothing up to size 2, baby gates, disposable diapers and more. The center needs volunteers to work a few hours each week. All training is received in house.

For more information about Heartbeats, contact Crystal Regan at [elpcdirector@bellsouth.net](mailto:elpcdirector@bellsouth.net), 704-489-0708

**Unity Contact:** Gail Satterthwaite, [g.satt@att.net](mailto:g.satt@att.net)



## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN:**

### **Speak Up for Children**

Each year, dozens of Lincoln County's children are removed from their homes and placed under Department of Social Services custody as the result of abuse or neglect. Each child is assigned by the court a volunteer advocate, called a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). A few years ago, the Guardian volunteers created a nonprofit organization to help these children.

Children in foster homes often have many unmet needs, such as clothes for special events, help with the expense of school-related activities, sports equipment, etc. The GAL volunteers raise money to fill the gaps that exist in funding sources. Speak Up is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves children in our county.

Unity Presbyterian has donated money to support the grant program that provides funding to meet children's needs. It also donated funds to help build a picnic/play area next to the Department of Social Services building in Lincolnton. The playground offers a convenient outdoor space for weekly supervised visits of biological parents with their children who are in foster care. Volunteers participated in the development of the park.

Speak Up for Children, Inc.  
2817 E. Hwy. 27, Lincolnton, NC 28092  
704-735- 8786  
[www.speakupforchildren.us](http://www.speakupforchildren.us)

**Unity Contact:** Charles & Norma Bohlen, [bohlen@bellsouth.net](mailto:bohlen@bellsouth.net)



*Fresh food distribution event held in conjunction with Ebenezer United Methodist Church.*



*Dresses made by Presbyterian Women for children in Nigeria and Guatemala.*

## MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Access2Success

Access2Success (A2S) is a non-denominational, Christian non-profit organization dedicated to playing its part to eliminate poverty and provide hope through educational, athletic, and spiritual based initiatives. The ministry was founded on the premise that every child should have an opportunity to dream, irrespective of location. A2S believes that access to education, sports and after-school activities, and growth opportunities should be basic rights for all.

Programs supported by Unity:

**After School Academy** located in Benin City, Nigeria, offers at-risk youth a safe, engaging, and constructive place to go after school. Over 225 youth are enrolled and growing in the academy with over 1.1 million educational hours delivered to the children.

**Community Care** where A2S invests in the local community providing additional services to address ongoing issues as well as emergency needs that arise. A2A hosts teacher and coaching workshops to train and empower Nigerian people. They hold literacy classes once a month to give parents tools they need to help kids with homework as well as be more successful in business. They also offer a health clinic to provide regular exams to those who otherwise would go without any medical care.

**Daily Feeding Program** provides one hot meal a day for the children served in A2S programs. To support the local economy, A2S will purchase local, fresh ingredients and engage mothers of the youth to prepare the daily hot meals.



## MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Access2Success

**FaithFuel** is the monthly giving program which provides a community of funds to purchase food, basic supplies, and the cost of education. The programs help to break the cycle of poverty allowing kids to chase their dreams instead of worrying about their next meal or how they will afford their school uniform.

**Mission Trips** allow A2S supporters to be part of annual trips to Nigeria to connect with our in-country leaders, host basketball camps, offer youth development camps, and share our skills among our ongoing community programs. These trips are 10 days long, with programs centered around athletics, faith, and education. A2S mission trips are church supported offering members opportunities for travel support.

**Unity Contact:** Chris Easterling, [chris.easterling@charter.net](mailto:chris.easterling@charter.net)



## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Community Coalition for Haiti**

Of the more than 10 million people live in Haiti, 6.5 million struggle to live on less than \$2 USD per day. Healthcare, sanitation, and education systems are wrought with challenges. Clean water, permanent shelter, and consistent food supplies are luxuries. These realities coupled with systemic poverty, political upheavals, and natural disasters cause widespread misery and discouragement.

Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH) believes change CAN HAPPEN in Haiti—one person, one family, one community at a time. CCH is a faith-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with strong support from Presbyterian churches. CCH responds to the call that God places before us: to love and serve. It initiates and nurtures relationships, meeting people's needs while recognizing and encouraging their strengths, working together. CCH makes it possible for the poorest of the poor to have access to quality healthcare, opportunity for children to attend school, and helps families find sustainable ways to support themselves and their communities.

CCH emphasizes in-country leadership, training, and skill development in all that it does. CCH empowers Haitians to improve their own lives and communities.

Unity Mission Team works to identify ways to get involved, including promoting and participation in mission trips.

[www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org)

**Unity Contact:** Kate Conrad, [cconrad3@gmail.com](mailto:cconrad3@gmail.com)

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Flourish Kenya**

Approximately a third of girls in rural southwest Kenya begin having children by ages 15-19. Cultural myths, inaccurate peer-to-peer teaching, and general misinformation contribute to this high rate of adolescent pregnancy. A lack of resources for pregnant youth and society's taboos magnifies the issue, dividing families and leading to abandoned education, life-threatening pregnancy termination, hopelessness, and even suicide.

Through a partnership with Kenyan residents, Flourish Kenya provides factual reproductive health education. The focus is on prevention through various practices while still respecting established cultural and church values.

Flourish Kenya seeks to:

- Establish sexual and reproductive health programs in schools, churches, and communities, taught by Kenyan facilitators.
- Construct a safe house, run by members of the local community, where pregnant teens can live and continue their education.
- Set up outreach and family counseling in the hope that teens will be able to return home or remain in a safe home should they become pregnant.

Unity supports Flourish Kenya through financial contributions which help Kenyan families flourish.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Shiflett, [gashif@aol.com](mailto:gashif@aol.com)

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: The Kilgoris Project**

The mission statement for The Kilgoris Project (TKP) is “Education, Health and Opportunity.” TKP partners with rural communities to provide the children outside the village of Kilgoris, in southwest Kenya, access to an education, good health and economic opportunity. The community provides the land and TKP builds and staffs the schools, using local people, which provides economic development in these communities. The students are provided with clean drinking water and two hot meals each day. Health needs are also addressed.

TKP has a maze farm and a tree farm. Proceeds are put back into funding the schools. TKP currently has seven schools and 1300 students.

The hope of The Kilgoris Project is that, if for some reason teams can never return to Kilgoris, that what it has left behind will be self-sustaining.

Unity Missions has been a financial supporter of TKP's efforts for several years.

[www.kilgoris.org](http://www.kilgoris.org)

**Unity Contact:** Gail Shiflett, [gashif@aol.com](mailto:gashif@aol.com)

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Guatemala Mission Support**

**Casa Angelina** - Unity has sponsored trips to Casa Angelina Orphanage in Central Guatemala. This orphanage, operated by What Matters Ministry, provides a safe environment for children that have been severely abused or suffer from malnutrition and neglect. Many of the children have no parental support and are homeless.

Casa Angelina works to legally gain custody of these children and supports all age groups from infants through college youth. The secure location has multiple units each housing 12-14 children with house parents. Casa Angelina has a campus school and maintains medical facilities on site with full-time professional medical staff.

Mission teams to Casa Angelina help in facility construction, landscaping, or other general maintenance activities. This is an excellent opportunity to help disadvantaged children who live in a culture which provides no support system.

**Unity Contact:** Morris Sample, [wsample@charter.net](mailto:wsample@charter.net)



## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Grace for Guatemala**

In Guatemala, the most dangerous activity a woman can undertake is cooking for her family. Smoke inhalation is the leading cause of death in children under five. Most villagers use open flame burning stoves or wood piled up on dirt floors. The collection of 50 pounds of wood per family per day results in deforestation.

Since March 2013 Grace for Guatemala has purchased and delivered over 500 Ecocina stoves to homes in Zaragoza and neighboring villages. Unity Missions and members of the Unity congregation have sponsored over 150 stoves.

In recent years, volcano eruptions and other disasters have resulted in the inability for villagers to obtain adequate food and personal supplies. Unity Mission funds have been sent to the agencies we partner with to help with these needs.

**Unity Contact:** Gail Satterthwaite, [g.satt@att.net](mailto:g.satt@att.net)



*Ecocina stove shown  
beside a traditional  
cooking method.*

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Marion Medical Mission – Well Program**

Since 1990, Marion Medical Mission has built over 42,000 wells. As a result, over 5 million people now have a sustainable source of safe drinking water. That averages out to a well for a village of about 120 people at a cost of \$450.

In Sub Saharan Africa, the focus area of the Well Program, 50% of hospital admissions are due to water-borne diseases, women collectively spend 16 million hours a day carrying water. The area has the highest under age five mortality rate in the world.

The shallow wells program provides safe drinking water and the knowledge, skills, and tools to manage and maintain the protected water source through a locally coordinated community effort. Where shallow wells have been built, water-borne diseases are eliminated. Safe drinking water means health, education, income, and life, not death.

Unity Missions sponsors the costs of shallow wells to serve the residents of villages in Malawi.

**Unity Contact:** Ken Sipes, [kencrittenton@att.net](mailto:kencrittenton@att.net)

**Unity Contact:** Charlie Bohlen, [bohlen@bellsouth.net](mailto:bohlen@bellsouth.net)



*Villagers in Kamsale, Malawi that received the gift of fresh water from Unity sponsorship.*

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Nickel a Meal Program**

The Nickel a Meal Mission program is one way in which the Presbytery of Western North Carolina responds, through over-and-above giving to the biblical mandate to show compassion and do justice for those in need. The program provides an avenue for outreach and ministry through which each member of Presbytery can participate equally.

The plan of Nickel a Meal is quite simple. Each person puts 5 cents (or more) in a special offering for each meal he/she eats. This amounts to \$54.75 per person per year. This offering is collected each month on the second Sunday of the month.

The money is sent to the Western NC Presbytery. Twice a year the Presbytery Hunger Committee reviews grant requests from regional ministries that work with the poor. These agencies must have programs that meet the guidelines adopted by Presbytery, be endorsed by local Presbyterian churches, and representatives must meet with the Hunger Committee. East Lincoln Christian Ministries is one of those grant recipients.

Support of the Nickel a Meal program has been outstanding with Unity Presbyterian being a leader in contributions to this program.

**Unity Contact:** Unity Church office 704-483-5266



## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: One Great Hour of Sharing**

For more than 70 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has provided a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Your continued generous support of this offering is appreciated. It is one significant way the Presbyterian Church demonstrates we care for everyone throughout our nation and the world.

**Unity Contact:** Unity Church office 704-483-5266



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## **MISSION TRIPS & SUPPORT FOR MISSION PROGRAMS: Rise Against Hunger**

Aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Goal #2 of Zero Hunger, Rise Against Hunger aims to end hunger. From the implementation of sustainable community development projects to a meal packaging program that harnesses the passion of local volunteers, Rise Against Hunger strives to make an impact by building resilience, self-sufficiency and empowerment in communities worldwide.

2021 is the first year that Unity will participate with other area churches by hosting an “It Starts with a Meal” program. By packing simple bags of rice and soy, we will be providing meals to end hunger around the world. Everyone from 5 years old and up can participate in preparing these bags in an immensely fulfilling and impactful experience. And we get to build relationships with other churches in our area as well.

When access to food is a problem – from crises both natural and man-made to communities in need – these meals can be the difference between hunger and the ability to empower communities to grow and improve.

**Unity Contact:** Ann Lampron, [ann.lampron@gmail.com](mailto:ann.lampron@gmail.com)





## COMPASSION, PEACE, AND JUSTICE

The goal of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Committee is to identify and advance actions that promote God's gift of peace, compassion, and justice wherever there is brokenness and need: in our individual lives, families, congregation, community, nation, and world. We are God's hands and feet in addressing these issues in His creation. We are a committee lead by the Spirit to be "doers" of the Word and not just believers; to have our faith that leads us to actions to better the world around us.

The committee currently guides activities in the following areas:

**Worship:** Support, design and conduct services that express the reality of God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ, including special "Peace Services."

**Education:** Research and learn about issues in our community and world where "light" needs to be shone and truth and facts revealed; areas such as racial bias, injustice in the legal system of our country, homelessness, drug addiction, those with handicapping conditions, etc. Work to reach out to those in need so far as our sphere of influence allows.

**Interfaith Relations:** Explore ways to encourage engagement in interfaith conversations, community building and cooperation for social justice. We build "bridges of understanding" and become better able to articulate our faith in everyday relationships with those of other faiths. In support of this, we maintain working relationships with leaders at PC/USA and the Western NC Presbytery.

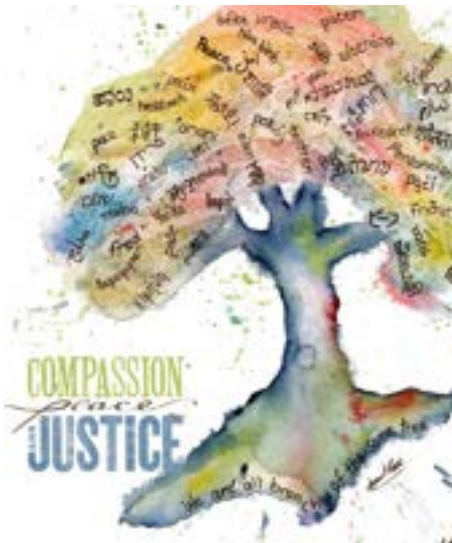
## COMPASSION, PEACE, AND JUSTICE

**Anti-Racism:** Reach out to African-American community in eastern Lincoln County; seeking to build “Bridges to Racial Unity” by becoming better neighbors. We jointly identify programs and projects that bring us together.

**Human Trafficking:** Promote understanding of the global slave trade and the extent of its activity in the Charlotte/Denver area. Discover ways we can counter this practice and support victims.

**Asylum Seekers:** Support the needs of registered asylum seekers by providing a one year, rent free, stay in the Manse. Involving the congregation in this effort with their support in the areas of transportation, education, acculturation, etc.

**Unity Contact:** Sam Sipes, [kschar1@aol.com](mailto:kschar1@aol.com)



## EARTH CARE COMMITTEE

We marvel with a sense of gratitude at the beauty, consistency, and grandeur of God's gift of creation, and acknowledge the current fragility of the world's environmental balance. We accept responsibility for its care and continued goodness.

As a part of the *Unity's Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry*, an Earth Care Committee was formed in 2015 to lead in finding ways people of faith can work to make caring for God's good earth a priority mission.

Our first action was to become formally certified as a PC/USA Earth Care Congregation (ECC). Currently, there are only 12 ECC churches in North Carolina. ECC churches formally commit to an "Earth Care Pledge" and accomplish a specific set of actions to meet a standard of excellence in four categories: Worship, Education, Facilities and Outreach. Unity has met these standards and will be awarded certification this year.

One specific action undertaken is composting organic foodstuffs at all church events serving meals and coffee. After each meal, organic wastes are deposited in composting bins that produce "super soil" freely available for local gardeners. This effort is in response to the fact that 40 percent of America's food supply makes its way to a dumpster. Decomposing foods in landfills release methane, which is at least 20 times more lethal a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

To enhance further Earth Care's commitment to creation care, Unity installed solar panels on the roof of its Worship Center, reducing the church's carbon footprint while also saving money for the church's use in other areas.

## EARTH CARE COMMITTEE

Other initiatives to enhance energy efficiency, conservation, recycling, and environmental awareness are being planned. This endeavor has the potential to put Unity Presbyterian in a position of leadership in our community on this issue.

We warmly invite all who care about stewardship of the earth to join in saying *the world and all within are God's; we are God's people, and therefore we are called to care for God's creation; all land is holy land.*

**Unity Contact:** Bee Manship, [bmanship@att.net](mailto:bmanship@att.net)



## OTHER UNITY MISSION PROJECTS

**Cherokee Mission Trips** to the Indian Reservation in North Carolina have been a way for individuals and families to be introduced to traveling on a mission trip. The trip offers an opportunity to work on home construction projects including dry walling, painting, and other small repairs. The team spends time at a local nursing home and gyms giving the opportunity to interact with members of the Cherokee community.

**Crop Walk** supports the ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. Unity Presbyterian has participated annually in the East Lincoln Crop Walk encouraging the congregation to gather sponsors and participate in the walk to raise funds. 25% of the funds collected support food assistance programs at East Lincoln Christian Ministry.

**Parenting Groups** - Unity's Mission Team supported and helped sponsor a series of parenting workshops for families with children up to age 5. The program offered to anyone in the community free of charge is designed to help develop good parenting skills which lead to stronger families, which in turn will contribute to building a better community.

**Unity Peace Pole** - On March 9, 2014, Unity Presbyterian Church dedicated a peace pole as part of a Sunday worship service focused on the "Language of Peace". Unity's peace pole joins the 200,000 others standing around the world associated through the World Peace Prayer Society. The intent of the pole is to serve as a constant reminder of the need for prayers for peace across all humanity, ever present in our minds, hearts, and actions.



## OTHER UNITY MISSION PROJECTS

**World Vision Child Sponsor Program** comes alongside children, families, and communities to provide tools, training, and hope so the children can become self-sufficient. It is child-focused and community-based. Sponsors get to know, love, and encourage a specific child while helping fund resources and improvements that benefit them and their community. Previous sponsorship drives at Unity have created relationship between members of the congregation and children in faraway places.





*Volunteers from Watchmen of the Street share supplies and spend time in homeless camps around Charlotte NC area.*



*Members of the Unity Construction Crew build wheelchair ramps and make household repairs in Denver NC area.*



*Gospel concerts sponsored by the Compassion, Peace & Justice Committee feature voices from Unity Presbyterian and local black churches.*

PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
(USA)

