

Missions Committee Report--Della Andrew, Chairperson

MEETINGS: The Missions Committee met four times during 2009. Its main responsibility is managing the Church's funds received from the giving to missions through the envelope system of giving and the net proceeds from St. Mark's Thrift Shop. The committee manages these funds by a budgeting and review process. A summary of 2009 budget activities include: The budget for 2009 was presented in January and tentatively approved in March; with final approval of donations to foreign mission projects and our Local Mission Partners occurring at its final meeting in September.

SUB-COMMITTEES: The mission areas of responsibility were handled through sub-committees and their activities included:

-Campbell Soup Labels were received through the collection container in the gathering area and sent to the Board of Child Care.

-St. Mark's Thrift Shop provided \$16,927.89 of funds to Missions in 2009. The shop is managed and operated by volunteers, mostly from St. Mark's, but also some from the community. With Millie Parrott asking to be relieved of her responsibilities of managing the shop, several members of the committee met on December 31 to brain storm finding a new manager for the shop.

-The church's food pantry was maintained through donations of money and food & other household supplies from our congregation, Scout Troop 190, and The Talbot Bank & its employees. A committee member purchased supplies with the donated funds and made deliveries to the pantry at St. Mark's Village as needed. Two church volunteers opened the pantry there twice a month, where eligible residents accessed supplies. We also gave food supplies to individuals upon request, to the Interfaith Hunger Coalition's soup kitchen and to the Chesapeake Center of any extra large containers.

-Vases of Spring flowers were fixed and given to residents at St. Mark's Village at Easter.

-Appreciation Luncheon for Thrift Shop volunteers was held on August 10 with 37 people attending.

-Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child: 101 shoe boxes were collected, checked, blessed, and delivered to the regional collection location for needy children around the world.

-Holiday Food Baskets supplies were donated by our congregation and 26 food baskets were prepared for Thanksgiving & 26 for Christmas and delivered to residents at St. Mark's Village, with an additional 2 given within our membership.

-Talbot Association of Clergy & Laity A member of our church attended the TACL meetings and provided reports to our committee.

-Needy Fund In 2009, this fund received \$4376.61 in donations and gave out \$1746.65 to help 8 individuals/families with rent, utilities, medication, etc. and the balance of \$2629.96 to agencies that help those with like needs.

PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS PROGRAM: The donations to our 20 Local Mission Partners, which included 3 new ones, were presented at a special program on October 19. A total of \$34,300 was presented from the Missions funds. Each LMP completes a profile form and receives a visit from one or two members of our committee each year.

FOREIGN MISSIONS: The disbursement of our donations to foreign mission projects/people occurred in November. A total of \$17,850 was distributed to 11 different entities; which included \$3,000 to our covenant relationship missionary, Paul Webster, and \$4,000 to the Mujila Agricultural Center in Zambia, that he manages. In addition, \$8700 is paid out of the missions funds to the missions piece of our church's annual apportionment. At the end of December, we gave \$1000 to the Caring of Wings project to help with the costs of replacing a missions airplane lost in a crash in the Congo. A committee member communicates--mostly by email--with our foreign mission projects, receiving newsletters from some, and makes written reports to the committee.

OTHER:

Mother's Day offering: Upon the recommendation of Rev. Moore, a decision was made to use mission funds to make a yearly donation of \$250 for our church's Mother's Day offering to the Peninsula United Methodist Homes, with this first year's going to Heron Point.

Habitat for Humanity Choptank: A committee member coordinates the volunteers from our church to help with building Habitat homes in Talbot County.

Youth Mission Trip: Through the Missions' Volunteers in Mission budgeted line item, 4 youth were provided \$175 scholarships (\$700) to attend the missions trip to Red Lion Christian Academy in Bear, DE.

Talbot Interfaith Shelter: TIS was one of the new groups for which we provided funds at our Presentation of Donations Program. Also, for its 2009-10 operation, St. Mark's will be hosting the site for 2 weeks in addition to providing volunteers, as we did during their first year. A church member is coordinating this effort for St. Mark's.

Rev. Jefferson Labala: Donations totaling \$500 were given to Rev. Labala for his work of writing and publishing books/ leadership resources for the African Church.

The gift of compassion moves people to action on behalf of those in need. Compassion is not a simple caring about others, but such a radical caring that we have no choice but to make sacrifices for others. Those with the gift of compassion rarely ask "Should I help" but instead focus on how to help. Compassion makes us fundamentally aware of the Christ in others and springs from our desire to care for all of God's creatures and creation.