

BPC MISSION CONCERNS ACTIVITIES

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" (1 John 3:17)

Mission: To reveal God's love, justice and saving grace made known in Jesus Christ.

Purpose: Prayerfully to research, prioritize and generate support activities to accomplish our mission with people of special need in our area, region and around the world.

The members of Bettendorf Presbyterian Church, in part through the Mission Concerns Committee, support local, regional and world service agencies with time, talent, and money. The broadening of communication networks and diverse population movements are constantly making us more aware of the severe need in all parts of the world. We are very blessed at Bettendorf Presbyterian and much of that blessing comes through the generosity, love, care and support of our membership for people in crisis, whether its origins are environmental or political.

Here we will describe the gifts both of money and time and talent provided by our congregation. There are some organizations that are provided both monetary support and "hands-on" effort. These are listed in both sections because members of our congregation make substantial contributions through both money and tireless efforts.

This is only a summary of the "official" mission works of our church. There are many whose works go unheralded, and perhaps even unnoticed, but who are nonetheless quietly spreading the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ through their day-to-day contacts. They give tithes, time and talents as Jesus asked us to do in Matthew 6:1-4 without the sound of trumpets and for the glory of God and not the glory from man. They are a great proportion of the mission of Bettendorf Presbyterian Church.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY mission activities are all supported by mission gifts from BPC. These include not only traditional mission activities, but also the Theological Education Fund and Camp Wyoming. This year, our presbytery also was deeply involved in efforts to relieve the damage caused by the flooding in eastern Iowa in June.

Camp Wyoming is the outdoor ministry of the East Iowa Presbytery. Many of our church family have enjoyed time at Camp Wyoming. This past year our church family sent financial support directly to Camp Wyoming for their ministry.

LOCAL MISSION GIFTS include:

Arrowhead Ranch is a school for teenage boys and girls with special challenges. The school provides them with structure, education and discipline. It provides a last stop for youth to keep them in society as a contributing member. The next probable alternative is incarceration in the penal system.

BPC Deacons are funded to support needs in our congregation.

Care Link provides help to persons in need to meet emergencies. It is administered by the Bettendorf Police department. "Walk-in" requests for assistance from the church are referred to this program for help and guidance.

Christian Family Care Center located in Rock Island has the following mission statement: "Founded upon and motivated by Christian faith, the Christian Family Care Center seeks to provide services to homeless men, abused women and their children, and those who are hungry and in need of the basic necessities of life. Opportunities to make positive life-changing choices are provided through programs which educate, enrich and impart hope to anyone in need, regardless of race or creed." A quarter of our Peacemaking Offering also went to support this organization.

Churches United is a Rock Island and Scott County organization made up of Christian congregations. The Purpose is to stimulate spiritual renewal and to serve as a communication center for churches in mission.

Food Pantry is organized through Churches United. Its purpose is to make available a variety of food, household and personal hygiene products to people in need.

Davenport Free Kitchen is a co-operative venture of Churches United and The Salvation Army. Members of fifty-five churches provide and serve evening meals to 60-100 people six days a week at the Davenport Salvation Army. Nick and Barbara Pitz lead this mission project.

Dubuque Seminary is a Presbyterian Church seminary. Their purpose is to educate individuals for pastoral duties. They have a strong rural and Native American program for pastors. Our pastor, Troy Winder, graduated from the Dubuque Seminary.

Family Resources is a family support system that has been in the community since 1849 with a name change and reorganization in 1975. Their main emphasis is on education and support of victims of domestic violence. They maintain the women's shelter for that purpose. Their services are free with their staff paid by United Way, grants and donations.

Gideons is a group working to win others for Jesus Christ through association, personal testimony and placing the Bible in motels, jails, colleges, medical facilities and with military personnel.

Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. provides transitional shelter and supportive services to single parent families. The intent is to achieve permanent and positive changes in the lives of single parent families. The facilities offer furnished apartments and support through group sharing, referrals for child care, education, job training and other community services. This year they also took over an emergency homeless shelter in Davenport.

Lydia Homes of the Quad Cities strengthens children and families through their residential program, located in Davenport. They provide homework care for children. They also provide temporary homes for more than 20 women who are in great need of help and assistance.

Rebuilding Together was formerly Hearts and Hammers QCA. They unite people of all faiths and backgrounds to help preserve and revitalize homes and neighborhoods. They help low income, elderly and disabled homeowners who cannot do their own home repairs. These repairs are done at no cost to the homeowner

Rick's House of Hope is for the grieving and traumatized children. It is a program of the Genesis Medical Center Spiritual Care Department. Most services offered by Rick's House of Hope are offered without fee. Donations and the Genesis Foundation support the program.

United Neighbors provides many services including housing for homeless families with children. The lack of affordable, safe and sanitary housing compounded by other difficulties such as loss of income, substance abuse, rental discrimination and domestic violence contributes to the number of homeless families in our area. The goal of United Neighbors is to improve the quality of life, build self-esteem and empower families.

Young Life is a non-denominational organization where the main focus is to reach out to the unchurched youth in high schools in Scott County. They hold weekly meetings with very good attendance from both churched and unchurched students. The Montie Gauss Family from our church is involved in Young Life.

Youth Programs within our church were provided financial assistance for a youth mission trip to Houma, Louisiana in 2008. Our high school youth helped Presbyterian Disaster Assistance prepare equipment, tools and supplies for use in disaster relief.

Other Local mission support included funding support for food baskets provided by the Bettendorf Police Chaplain program, "After Prom" activities at Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley High Schools, a remodeling project by the BPC Handyman's Group, support for an "Evening of Praise", help for a church that was damaged by fire, and funds to ship school supplies and toys for children in Iraq.

DIRECT AID includes:

Marion Medical Mission African Wells Project was sent financial assistance to help with more water wells for the needy in Malawi, Africa. The project is handled through the Marion Medical Mission, which Pastor Richard McFarlin (son of former Associate Pastor Paul McFarlin) of Woodward, Oklahoma, leads.

The Presbyterian Children's Club is Alice Chikomo's project to help educate street children in Zimbabwe.

This is an extremely difficult mission considering the political unrest in that country.

Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship is a global partnership to establish indigenous churches among peoples who have not yet been reached by Christ's message.

MISSION ACTIVITIES are "hands-on" projects in which members of Bettendorf Presbyterian Church commit their time and talent. These include:

Saturday Food Distribution involves substantial amounts of unsold Hy-Vee Bakery products that are picked up and distributed each Saturday to the Salvation Army, Café on Vine and the Annie Whittenmeyer Youth Center. Jim Maloney runs this activity and help is always needed.

Meals on Wheels: Our church is the central pick-up point for three routes delivering meals to the home bound. Eleven members of BPC participate in deliveries of these meals, an effort coordinated by Sharon Pipe.

Davenport Free Kitchen provides free evening meals for persons in need weeknights and Saturdays at the Davenport Salvation Army. Once every two months, BPC volunteers prepare and serve tasty and nutritious meals for 60-100 people. Nick and Barbara Pitz coordinate this project.

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Person: One hundred names were put on the "Angel Tree" during the Christmas season. Again the congregation responded generously and gifts were provided to all. Amber McCrea and the young adults of the church again took on this project.

Crop Walk: Twenty-three people participated in the 2008 Quad Cities CROP Walk which supports Church World Services. This year's participants collected \$2037 Margie Froeschle coordinated this effort.

Relay for Life: Fifteen people participated in this event supporting the American Cancer Society. They raised \$1143. This was also coordinated by Margie Froeschle.

Community of Joy Food Pantry- This Bettendorf food pantry has received much "hands-on" support from BPC this year. Food donations were received on the first Sunday of each month and delivered to the pantry. Volunteers also do weekly shopping for staples needed by the food pantry and Monday morning pick-up of unsold bakery goods at Hy-Vee and The Bread Basket which are delivered to the pantry. Kevin Johnson has also organized a collection point for clothing donations to be distributed through the pantry.

Lydia Home building is regularly maintained by BPC members with services including painting and carpentry. Jim Benson coordinates this effort.

Hurricane Recovery mission: Seven members of our congregation participated in a multi-presbytery mission to New Orleans to help in continued rebuilding efforts from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. They spent five days helping to rebuild homes and facilities in that city.

Flood Relief Missions: After the flooding in eastern Iowa, BPC organized groups going to flood-damaged areas each Friday for four months. In 2008, twenty two participants contributed 64 days of labor removing damaged materials and rebuilding homes in Cedar Rapids and Oakville.