



Outreach Ministries Winter 2016-17 Update



**SAINT JAMES
EPISCOPAL**

St. James Outreach Ministries

Adopt-A-Highway

This ministry gives our members an opportunity to keep our neighborhood clean and free of trash by cleaning up Piney Mountain Road 4 times a year.

Cam Walters • cam@acitelecom.com
(864) 979-9980

Bag O' Beans Challenge

Our parishioners are challenged to bring in 1 lb. bags of dry beans to the Narthex to help provide for those in need. We have committed to 300 bags per month.

Christmas Angel Tree

Gives members of St. James a way to reach out in love and caring for the less fortunate in our area by ensuring that needy families are able to celebrate Christmas with dignity and joy.

5th Saturday Lunches

Daughters of the King (DOK) prepare lunches to be taken to Southside Community Center on months that have a 5th Saturday.

Boyd Cater • boydcater@wafres.org
(864) 414-5760

Feed Thy Neighbor

A cooperative ministry with other Episcopal churches in Greenville which prepares & serves hot breakfast every 2nd Saturday morning. Feed Thy Neighbor ministry centered at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Ben Freeman • bjfenterprise1@gmail.com
(864) 419-6590

Frazee Homework Ministry

St. James parishioners volunteer as academic tutors in this program for under-resourced children in the downtown Greenville area, assisting them in improving their reading and math skills.

Marie Hovland • tomar617@hotmail.com
(864) 901-4248

GAHN and United Ministries

This ministry provides homeless families with safe, secure shelter while offering emergency assistance, strategies to obtain affordable housing, permanent employment, and other assistance.

George LaFaye • georgelafaye@gmail.com
(864) 423- 9705

Giving Tree

An opportunity to help those in need; set up on an as-needed basis in the Narthex, NOT just at Christmas. Tags on the tree indicate items that local families and children may need.

Pastoral Food Ministry

The Pastoral Food Ministry receives referrals from the staff and clergy of those who might benefit from a meal being brought to a parishioner's home to help ease transitions following unforeseen life events.

Dianne Posey • di@theposeys.net
(864) 234- 1438

Project Host

Project Host is a local soup kitchen and vocational training center for people in the food industry, which also provides a holistic response to poverty, through helping people receive food and case management.

Tina Boyd • youthminister@stjamesgreenville.org
(770) 361-8469

Stop Hunger Now (SHN)

SHN's mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

John Kaup • john.kaup@furman.edu
(864) 607- 2985

Three Perspectives

Stop Hunger Now

By *Moira Allen*

A few weekends ago I spent a Sunday afternoon volunteering at the St. James “Stop Hunger Now” event. I had noticed this event in the weekly announcements and because it was about feeding the hungry I signed up. Did I know anything about it when I signed up? No – I didn’t know a thing! All I did know was that it had something to do with packing meals to feed the hungry. In my ignorance I thought I might be packing sandwiches or cookies into bags for someone to take to the hungry in Greenville. Or that I might be packing hot soup in containers for someone to take to the homeless. Wow – was I wrong!!!

What a surprise to find out that we were actually going to be packing 20,000 meals to be shipped internationally to feed people in developing nations. Finding out that the largest percentage of these meals support programs such as school lunch programs, early childhood development programs, orphanages and medical clinics added to my initial feeling that on this day I might be making a difference to someone somewhere.



What an incredibly well-organized event. Tables were set out with 6 of us to a table, and we scooped and packaged vitamin packets, soy protein, dehydrated vegetables and rice. I never knew that scooping so many pounds of rice could be such fun! The lively music that was played the entire time certainly made this a unique experience. We scooped, we sang, we danced and the old adage “many hands make light work” definitely held true.

Each time the gong rang signaling that we had packaged another thousand meals, great cheers rang out. And at the end of the afternoon, when we reached our 20,000 meal goal, I felt energized instead of tired and my table’s efforts at a Rockette’s dance routine was an indicator that this held true for us all.

Some people run the other way when asked to do charity work because it’s not easy to give up a day, or an afternoon from our busy lives. I read

somewhere that the more you volunteer the happier you are in life (yes, someone did a study on this), and I believe this is true. Over the years I have participated in many volunteer events, especially feeding the hungry, and this is one event that I would definitely participate in again. Thank you St. James for being a church with such compassion for the community at large. I am a new addition to the St. James community and I am grateful to God for guiding my feet to your door!

By Joni Tevis

We participated in the Stop Hunger Now event held at St. James in November 2016, and I am so glad that we did. There are serious reasons for taking part in this event, and I'll get to those, but as I think back on the time we spent at the event, what stands out is how much fun I had.

It started in the foyer of the Parish Life Center, snacking on pizza and meeting folks from other parishes; I felt I was part of a larger community, up here on Piney Mountain. And once the meal-packing actually got started, and they turned up the music, you know I was jamming to some Stevie Wonder, the Beach Boys, and the not-often-appreciated Ronnie Milsap. The poor people at my table now know of my fondness for singing along: There ain't no gettin' over me.

If you haven't taken part in one of these events yet, here is how it goes: you get a task (pouring rice or protein or dried veggies in a bag, or sealing the bags, or carrying full bags to the packers) and you completely immerse yourself in that task for about 90 minutes, during which time you are transcendently one with your job, your teammates, the music on the loudspeakers, and the occasional whongggg of the gong, sounded every thousand meals, usually by a child who really gets into banging that gong. Enthusiasm! That is the word of the day. By the time we were finished, I was tired, but I also kind of wished we could keep going. We were really hitting our groove.

Larger context: Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief nonprofit that has provided over 225 million meals in 74 countries since its founding in 1998. It is based in Raleigh, NC, and operates throughout the US and in developing countries. Stop Hunger Now often distributes meals through schools and focuses on helping children get the nutrition they need.

There is a pressing need for the work they do; according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, "Approximately 792.5 million people in the world do not get the food they need to live a healthy life. That

is nearly one out of every nine people on earth. That figure is down 167 million over the past decade and is 216 million less than in 1990-1992.” That figure might be hard to get a grip on, but one fact that struck me was “Hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.” And as the mother of a young child, it grieved me to learn that “66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.”



We can't solve every problem, but this is something concrete that we can do. I believe it is what Jesus would have us to do. And we had a wonderful time doing it—our six-year-old daughter most of all. Next time we have one of these events, see if you can make it! I'll save you a slice of pizza, and we'll cross our fingers for more Ronnie Milsap hits.

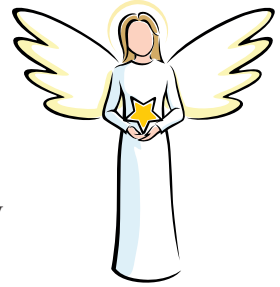
By Charlotte Littlejohn

I have participated in a total of eight Stop Hunger Now events. My job has typically been measuring the weight of the bag, then adding or subtracting rice, but I have been a runner and also packaged the actual food. For those who do not know, Stop Hunger Now is a meal packaging event where a big group of people package thousands of meals that are sent to a warehouse, then shipped to where they are needed most. A group raises the money, then the organization will bring all the supplies, and then the group will package them together. The packaging can be a fun social event that can bring communities together and teach teamwork. You fill a bag with a vitamin pack, soy, vegetables, and rice that will be boiled when they arrive to their final location.

Every time St. James has done an SHN event, I have attended. I find joy in participating in the events. It is easy to talk to the people around you while you work, and it is rewarding when you hear the gong ring every time 1,000 meals have been loaded onto the truck. I am only 14 years old, and I have helped pack over 50,000 meals through St. James and Stop Hunger Now.

The Angel Tree

Every December the St. James community reaches out in love and caring for the less fortunate in the Greenville area by ensuring that needy families are able to celebrate Christmas with dignity and joy. We connect local families in need with the generous parishioners of St. James by setting up trees in the foyer decorated with tags naming favorite toys, clothing and personal items. St. James parishioners then purchase these Christmas gifts for the children and families and bring them back to the church. They are then delivered in time for Christmas. Where did the gifts go this year?



- About 150 gifts for boys & girls went to the Salvation Army
- Over 100 gifts to Mental Health America of Greenville County
- Other gifts went to the children of the St. Francis congregation
- Over \$900 in Jingle Bills from St. James helped to purchase gifts, and the balance was sent to Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate

By Vanessa Vestergaard

Mental Health America of Greenville County has been very fortunate to be able to highlight our 2016 Operation Santa Claus campaign at St. James Episcopal Church. St. James' Angel Tree has helped many children and adults, alike, to receive a surprise gift. Always, there has been a non-profit with particular needs and special populations on a limited budget to receive unique and thoughtful presents. This year, St. James and MHAGC have partnered to support MHAGC's longstanding Operation Santa campaign.

Operation Santa Claus has been part of MHAGC, since its beginning over 60 years ago. "Santa Headquarter" is at our main office on Main Street with working elves throughout the Greenville community. Many of our donations come from businesses that sponsor us through an office charity event and from individuals touched, either directly or indirectly, with a mental health condition. MHAGC feels the effects of mental health funding cuts on a yearly basis, in a population, where one in four has a mental illness. The Angel Tree comes to MHAGC, during a tight budget, as a blessing.

The Angel Tree, this year, fills a huge gap with Operation Santa 2016 being one of the most successful campaigns to date. Operation Santa has been able to serve over three hundred people: homeless, low income residents without resources and individuals in MHAGCs' residential homes. This year, St.

James has had a collection of donations worth close for \$400. These include: toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, lotion, socks and knit gloves, hats and many other necessities.

These donations help many with daily living skills and provide a safety supply, during a long winter. For those who have no easy access to a store, the gift bag comes as a relief. St. James Episcopal Church and a MHAGC partnership have made a difference this year for many and this holiday season, our commitment of service and faith based outreach have strengthened our ties.

With each gift, the congregation has shown support for MHAGC's mission: to positively impact mental health through education, awareness and service. Mental health conditions are a real, community problem and they need local community support. This year, through the Angel Tree, St. James has addressed those facing depression, anxiety, bi-polar, and schizophrenia. MHAGC has been truly humbled by the many at St. James who have participated in the Operation Santa campaign and have advocated for continued mental health awareness.

Mental Health America of Greenville County sincerely wants to extend a deep warm thanks to John Kaup, who led the Angel Tree program, and the congregation who were led by Christian spirit, fellowship and generosity. MHAGC is truly thankful and grateful.

PEACE TO ALL THIS SEASON.

For more information about MHAGC and all of its programs or to participate next year in Operation Santa, visit: [www. MHAGC.org](http://www.MHAGC.org), email [MHAGC@ MHAGC.org](mailto:MHAGC@MHAGC.org) or visit us at 429 N. Main Street in Greenville.

Mission/Outreach Opportunities Jan-March

FEED THY NEIGHBOR

January 14, February 11, March 11

BREAK 'N' BAKE

1/18, 2/15, 3/15 (Youth project baking desserts for soup kitchen)

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

February 5 (youth receive donations in soup pots to benefit the hungry in our community)

ANNUAL MEETING

January 22 (hear about various ongoing mission projects)

OYSTER ROAST

February 25 (benefits mission projects)

STOP HUNGER NOW

March 5

TABLE SALE AT COFFEE HOUR

to benefit Education Equals Hope
February 12