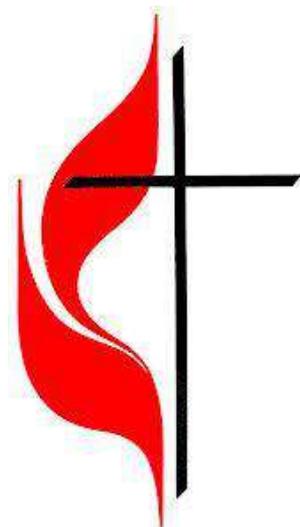


***ST MATTHIAS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

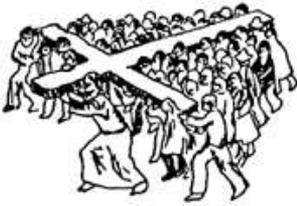
**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**2018**



**Our Vision**

*A Christ-centered community of faith,  
reaching, teaching, loving, and serving.*



## Our View on Missions

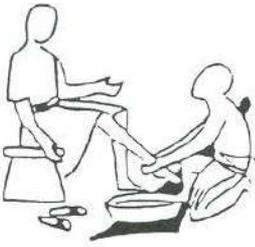
The mission of the Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches, like St Matthias, provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

Our missions are a grace-filled response to the reign of God in the world announced by Jesus Christ. Our church seeks to maintain a clear sense of mission so that God may use us to save people, heal relationships, transform social structures, and spread scriptural holiness. We embrace Jesus' mandate to love God and to love our neighbors to make disciples of all people.

St Matthias uses a variety of local, regional, national, and worldwide mission outreaches to demonstrate the presence of the living God among us and to build up our members and others in their faith and its outward expression of mission service to others. The diversity of our mission projects seeks to enable each individual to apply his or her gifts for service throughout the year. We are always seeking to sustain our ongoing missions and also continuing to grow in our faith and service by offering new mission opportunities. The list of missions is ever-changing as God continues to call us.

This booklet is an attempt to consolidate the missions at St Matthias. It is a "living" document that will be updated every three years as we expand our missions based on hearing the call and answering it. It does not and cannot reflect the magnitude of the love and generosity of the men, women, youth, and children who give their time, talents, gifts, and service in other ways. For further information regarding any of the missions, please contact the pastor or the Mission Committee chair.

## Servanthood



Webster defines a *volunteer* as “one who chooses freely to do something” and a *servant* as “a person devoted to another or to a cause, creed, etc.”

The difference between a *volunteer* and a *servant* is a volunteer gives what is convenient when it's convenient. The servant serves at the whim and direction of the Master. *Volunteer* is the language of the world; *Servant* is the language of the Kingdom.

When it comes to the church, the body of Christ, we attempt to see ourselves as a servant not a volunteer? When we get to heaven, we do not want to hear God say, *Well, you volunteered when you could* BUT, instead say, *Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Master.*”

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:1: *Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.* And so we shall. We shall no longer refer to ourselves and the people of St Matthias as *volunteers* we are *servants*. It is not semantics; it is a deep change in worldview. It is adopting Kingdom-talk and Kingdom-values. Serving Him is not only one of the greatest joys in life but it also brings HOPE to others.

## Biblical Foundation



Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. *Proverbs 3:3-4*

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward. *Matthew 10:42*

So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. *Matthew 18:14*

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”  
*Matthew 22:37, 39*

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but not works? *James 2:14*

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. *1 Peter 4:10*

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. *1 John 3:18*

**May God bless the men, women, youth, and children of St Matthias who hear the call to give their presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness among the least of these. We welcome you to join us in the mission field.**

## MISSIONS FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

St Matthias continues to be an active member of the local community, along with the Rappahannock River District, in reaching out to our closest neighbors with genuine Christian love and service. The following are opportunities for local community missions.

### ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY

Worship services are held every other Sunday at the Hughes Home on Caroline Street in Fredericksburg. People bring family members, young and old, to share in the experience and to bless the elderly. Larry and Betsy Mosley show tremendous dedication and genuine love to the aged and their families through this special mission. (ONGOING)

### BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS FOOD PANTRY

St Matthias established a food pantry to serve those in need of food and personal hygiene items for low-income people within the church and community. Individuals are screened and approved prior to distribution. Items are also collected, sorted, inspected, and delivered to other organizations including Hope House and Empowerhouse on a monthly basis. Donations can be put in the collection box in the Mission hallway. For more information regarding the Food Pantry, contact Mary Lou Pitzer. (ONGOING)

1. **Fresh Food Godmother:** Fresh food (eggs, vegetables, and fruit) is available by appointment. Contact Margaret Ann Holt for further information.

2. **Holiday Dinners:** Individuals can sponsor a complete dinner for a family. A list of what to buy for the box is provided. Families are vetted through social services and our office; some are families we have helped throughout the year from our discretionary fund.

## CAMPUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

St Matthias has partnered with the Campus Christian Community (CCC) at the University of Mary Washington to provide dinner twice per semester for the students' Thursday evening "Table Talk" Bible study. We bring the meal to the CCC facility and then enjoy dinner with these enthusiastic young Christians. We are blessed by their energy and their love of the Lord, and we find it a privilege to be able to help support them both with food and with encouragement, as well as with financial support for their spring mission trips. Servants are always needed to help prepare and deliver the meals to the students! Contact Mary Ella Fuquay for further information. (SCHOOL YEAR)

## CHILDREN'S MISSIONS

Our focus is on helping the young children in our church understand what faith is, believing in the Lord, praying and reading God's Word, and being led by the Holy Spirit. The age of the child determines the way we teach these principles. All children, regardless of their age, can understand helping another child; this becomes something with which they can identify. To that end, the missions we embark on have a focus on something children are capable of doing. The following are some of the missions the children help support.

- 1. Helping Hands:** We participate in a mission trip arranged by the Virginia United Methodist Conference called "Helping Hands." Depending on the location and dates established by the Conference, the children and adult chaperones spend about 36 hours on a trip, including driving to a church within a couple of hours of Fredericksburg, staying overnight in a church, sleeping in sleeping bags on floors, eating meals with other youngsters, and performing tasks for others. Friendships are formed. God is praised through music and worship services, and children are introduced to phases of life they may have never seen. The children are assigned "mission" work with a group from another church. Mission work may include packaging food for local food pantries, cleaning up streams, and visiting residents of long-term care facilities. For further information, please contact Jen Belako. (ANNUALLY)

**2. Other Projects:** Children participating in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Kid's Club, and Scouting ministries are challenged to be generous by participating in funding special projects, making items for shut-ins, collecting food, visiting, and other opportunities to reach out with Christ's love. (ONGOING)

### **CHOICES WOMEN'S CENTER**

The Choices Women's Center provides a variety of services and support (medical, counseling, Bible studies, mentoring) to anyone facing an unplanned pregnancy. We are given baby bottle banks for us to collect money from Mother's Day to Father's Day to support the Center. Our point of contact is Joan Polen. (ANNUALLY)

### **DOVE PROJECT**

Dove gifts are for designated mentally handicapped and elderly individuals within the community. The gifts are specific to the individual and are collected in early December. Numbered paper doves with the gender, sizes, and a list of desires are posted on the Mission's bulletin board each November. Contributors may remove one or more doves from the board, purchase appropriate gifts for the person described, and return the gifts to the church. Our contact is Rosa Hogue. (ANNUALLY)

### **FLOWER FAIRY MINISTRY**

When the Sunday morning altar flowers are not taken by the person who has paid for them, a member of our church "recycles" them into numerous small table-top arrangements. They are then distributed to various people and locations such as members of our church, the Sunshine Lady House, Micah Ministries, Hope House, the Kenmore Club, and the Thurman Brisbane homeless shelter. Our "flower fairy" is Margaret Ann Holt. (ONGOING)

### **FRED CAMP**

High school age students and adults, along with others from the area, spend a week during the summer renovating homes of low-income, disabled, or elderly individuals in the local area. During the evenings, the students and adults participate in Christian-based programs and fellowship. Financial sponsorship is needed to help defray costs of participation and to help support purchasing materials. There is also a need for preparation and delivery of lunches to the work teams throughout the week. Fred Camp also requires adult leaders to chaperone for the entire week. For further information go to [www.fredcamp.org](http://www.fredcamp.org) or contact Jim Davis. (ANNUALLY)

### **HEARTWOOD MINISTRIES**

Heartwood Ministries is a mission of the Rappahannock River District of the UMC and includes the Food Program, which provides meals to children and families in Stafford and Fauquier Counties who are suffering from food insecurity. In conjunction with Heartwood Ministries, St Matthias receives donations of food and also purchases food for two-day bags, which are given to children during the summer food program (June-August) and during winter (December) and spring (March or April) breaks during the school year. The church also provides servants to serve at the food distribution sites and to help deliver the food to Stafford County Schools. Money is budgeted in the mission budget to cover the cost of food for this program. For further information, contact Tammi Ellis. (ONGOING)

### **INTERFAITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Fredericksburg Interfaith Community Council is a consortium of 30 local religious and benevolent groups that attend to various needs of the local community. St Matthias provides financial support to this group annually. The dollar amount is set by the Council. (ANNUALLY)

**School Dressing Days:** In August, before the schools in the area begin, the Fredericksburg Interfaith Community Council sponsors School Dressing Days. The program has been in existence for many years and has become increasingly popular for less fortunate families with school-age children. Our church donates new

clothing items, school supplies, money, and servants on days needed to sort clothing and school items and to escort families around to “shop” for clothing. Our contact is Mary Lou Pitzer. (ANNUALLY)

## LOVE AND LAUNDRY

St Matthias UMC has partnered with a local laundromat, the Laundry Basket, to provide free washing and drying on a once-a-month basis. On the third Friday of each month, from 1-5 pm, we pay for the laundry for each patron or family who comes to the Laundry Basket. We talk with the patrons, pray with them when appropriate, and share with them the message of God's love and caring. We distribute information about our church and its upcoming events, give little goodie bags to the children who come in with their families, and offer assistance in any way we can. The generosity of the St Matthias church members, who donate their quarters to us, has made it possible for us to help an average of 15 patrons/families, at a cost of about \$150.00 each month! We are always looking for helpers with this mutually-blessing ministry! Contact Mary Ella Fuquay if you are interested in helping. (MONTHLY)

## MICAH ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

Micah Ecumenical Ministries is supported by many churches in the Fredericksburg area. The following are some of the ways St Matthias supports that ministries.

1. **Micah Cold Weather Shelter:** From November to March, the Micah Ecumenical Program opens a cold weather shelter for the homeless at night. We provide a couple of teams twice a month (third and fourth Monday nights) to make up beds and in-process the homeless at the shelter for the evening. We also provide a pair of clean white socks, underwear, and undershirts for each resident. For more information on the Micah Ecumenical Ministries go to [www.micahfredericksburg.org](http://www.micahfredericksburg.org) or contact Dave or Trudy Monroe. (ANNUALLY)

2. **Micah Breakfasts:** There are a couple of opportunities to serve breakfast. A monthly breakfast coordinated by Marian Lynch,

is served on the first Thursday of each month at Fredericksburg Baptist Church downtown. In addition, the United Methodist Men's group serve breakfast on the third Saturday every other month at Zion Baptist Church downtown. (MONTHLY/BI-MONTHLY)

3. **Water for the Homeless:** Bottles of water and other supplies donated by St Matthias and the White Oak Rescue Squad are distributed by church member Marian Lynch to the homeless in our local area Monday-Friday during hot weather (typically from May to October). (ONGOING)

4. **Christmas Eve Dinner:** We serve 50-60 guests at the Cold Weather Shelter and area homeless who do not stay at the shelter who would not have a meal otherwise as the local churches take that evening off for the opportunity to spend time with their families and worshipping at their own churches. (ANNUALLY)

5. **As Needed Services:** We also provide transportation to doctor appointments, area food banks, and other destinations that are important for them to get to. We purchase new shoes/boots, haircuts and seasonal items on an as needed basis. (AS NEEDED)

### **MILITARY/VETERANS MINISTRY**

As a way to honor, support, and pray for our men and women in the military, St Matthias provides an up-to-date bulletin board with names and addresses of our service members who serve both the church and community. Cards, letters, Bibles, and care packages are sent through the generosity of church members. We remember our veterans who are patients at the McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital in Richmond, VA, by collecting used books, lap quilts, walker bags, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, mouthwash, body soap, etc. Donations can be put in the box designated for the veterans in the Mission hallway. A spaghetti dinner is held to honor all former and current veterans and their families around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Our contact is Roger Keene and Norma Polley. (ONGOING)

### **READING BUDDIES/STUDY BUDDIES**

A group of servants from St Matthias work with the teachers at nearby Grafton Village Elementary School to tutor students, help with special projects and events, and assist in the library with the primary grade children. We work with small groups or with individual students, helping children in the tasks or areas in which “catch-up” is needed. We are always looking for additional “buddies” to help with this ministry of assisting children to learn and enjoy success in school. Contact Mary Ella Fuquay if you are interested in helping with this ministry. (SCHOOL YEAR)

### **REBUILDING TOGETHER**

Rebuilding Together is a national organization with 187 chapters bringing over 100,000 servants to donate their time and talents to provide home rehabilitation and modification services to homeowners in need. Rebuilding Together’s Vision Statement is “A safe and healthy home for every person,” and its Mission Statement is “Bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners”. The Fredericksburg chapter covers people in need in the City of Fredericksburg and Stafford and Spotsylvania counties. Servants include individuals from various local churches and nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. This event is held annually in April on a specific weekend. For further information go to [www.rebuildingtogether.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether.org) or contact the president of our UM Men. (ANNUALLY)

### **REMEMBERING COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Goody packages, letters, cards, and prayers are sent to our college students periodically, especially during exam weeks. Our contact is Mary Lou Pitzer. (ONGOING)

### **SALVATION ARMY MINISTRIES**

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Their message is based on the Bible, their ministry is

motivated by the love of God, and their mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as they meet human needs in His name without discrimination. Every program they offer is rooted in their passion to serve God by serving the lost, the vulnerable, the needy, the poor, the hurting, the helpless, and the hopeless.

**1. Salvation Army Toyland and Shoe Fund:** St Matthias monetarily supports the Salvation Army's Toyland (Christmas program) and shoe fund (school-aged children in need of shoes). Toyland is where the Angels (see below) and food are assembled and processed to give to needy families who have been vetted by the Salvation Army. The shoe fund provides shoe vouchers for specific shoe stores, which have a prearranged agreement with the Salvation Army, to students whom the school nurses have determined are in need of shoes. Our contact is Evette Russett. (ANNUALLY)

**2. Angel Tree Project:** The Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program provides new clothing and/or toys for children in the local area. Numbered paper angel tags with the first name, age, gender, sizes, and desires of a child who will receive the gift are posted on the Mission's bulletin board each November. Contributors may remove one or more angels from the board and purchase appropriate gifts to be brought back to the church, picked up by the Salvation Army, and distributed to the child/children for Christmas Day. Our contact is Evette Russett (ANNUALLY)

## SCOUTING PROGRAMS

**1. Cub Scout Pack 213:** St Matthias supports the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) by chartering Cub Scout Pack 213 through the United Methodist Men (UMM). The Cub Scout program provides a weekly family- and den-based program for boys entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The Pack is run entirely by volunteers and consists of adult leaders and boys from the church and its surrounding neighborhoods. The Pack is open to boys from any faith, church, school, or neighborhood. Membership in the Pack is in accordance with the policies of BSA. Cub Pack 213 offers year-round activities including week-long summer day camp and week-long summer resident camping experiences under the auspices of the National Capital Area Council, BSA. The Pack meets on Monday nights from

7:00-8:30pm throughout most of the year. Our Cub Scout representative is Anna Gotthardt. (ONGOING)

**2. Girl Scout Troops 169/278/5059:** The St Matthias United Methodist Women (UMW) sponsors Girl Scout Troop 169, Troop 278, and Troop 5059 for girls ages 5-10. The troops are composed of school grade subdivisions of Daisy (K-1), Brownie (2-3), and Junior (4-5) scouts. The troops share in some of the mission activities of the church on an ongoing basis. Our church also provides meeting space for planning and training activities for the community Girl Scout programs. Troop 169 meets on Tuesday evenings, Troop 278 meets every other Tuesday evening, and Troop 5059 meets on Wednesday evenings. Our Girl Scout representative is Angelique White-Toombs; however, the following are the individual troop leaders: Troop 169, Dyan Petke; Troop 278, Judith Miller; and Troop 5059, Angelique White-Toombs. (ONGOING)

**3. Scouting for Food:** On the first Saturday in November to support BSA's Annual Scouting Good Turn for Food, Scouts from Cub Pack 213 distribute food collection bags to neighborhoods within the community. The following Saturday they collect the donations and provide them our church's food pantry. (ANNUALLY)

## **THURMAN BRISBEN CENTER**

The Thurman Brisben Center is a year-round homeless shelter facility. In addition to short-term housing, they also provide counseling and support services to the community and those in need of housing and employment. St Matthias has supported Thurman Brisben for several years primarily through the donation of money, food, supplies, and also meal service. Under the leadership of Brenda Wood, a small group of servants from the church plans, prepares, and serves a hot dinner meal to the approximately 90 residents at the center six times a year. The meal service requires about six servants who meet around 3:30pm to prepare and then serve the evening meal. A sign-up sheet is posted on the main bulletin board prior to each scheduled date. A complete list of needs and more information about the center and its programs are available at <http://www.brisbencenter.org>. (BI-MONTHLY)

## **USED CELL PHONES**

We have a collection box in the mission hallway for used and unwanted cell phones. When the box is full, the accumulated phones are taken to a local distribution center and are then further distributed within the community. (ONGOING)

## **MISSIONS FOR OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY**

The members of St Matthias recognize we are not alone in our mission needs here in the local area. We continually seek to reach out to our neighbors within our region. The following are opportunities for regional mission activities.

### **RED BIRD MISSION AND SCHOOL**

Through budgeted funds, we support Red Bird Mission, a nonprofit agency under the Red Bird Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church, located in the Appalachian Mountains near Beverly, KY. Red Bird empowers individuals and advocates justice by providing educational, health, and community outreach ministries to area low-income residents. The Red Bird Conference provides education to the local area through the Red Bird School (K-12), medical and dental clinics, vocational and employment opportunities, and attends to the spiritual needs of the community through local churches. For further information go to [www.redbirdconference.org](http://www.redbirdconference.org). (ANNUALLY)

### **SOCIETY OF SAINT ANDREW**

Small coin boxes are distributed and available during the Lenten season to collect pocket change to support the Society of Saint Andrew (SOSA) headquartered in Big Island, VA. SOSA provides volunteer labor and transportation to glean (collect unharvested/discarded produce) agricultural plots nationwide and here in our region. Our donations are used to provide fuel for the trucks to deliver the food. Service opportunities also exist during harvest times for teams to go and pick/harvest crops here in the area. In addition, SOSA provides us with Advent and Lenten devotionals. For more information about SOSA go to <http://www.endhunger.org>. (ANNUALLY)

### **UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES**

Our Christmas Eve offering is given to United Methodist Family Services in Richmond, VA. For 115 years, UMFS has been helping children and families in Virginia reach their full potential. Through the foster care program, foster parents and children find one another and often go on to become adoptive families. Through the residential programs at the Child & Family Healing Center and Leland House, girls and boys overcome trauma and heal. Through the Charterhouse School, students with special needs and autism find help and success. And through the Project LIFE, teens aging out of foster care in Virginia find new skills and a voice. Through all of their services children and families are empowered. For more information go to [www.umfs.org](http://www.umfs.org). (ANNUALLY)

## **MISSIONS FOR OUR NATIONAL COMMUNITY**

St Matthias stands together with our neighbors across the nation to support those in need with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. The following are some of the ways we reach out to our nation:

### **NEW BEGINNINGS (MAINE)**

St Matthias has donated over 100 articles of clothing to the “New Beginnings” mission in Farmington, ME. New Beginnings helps young girls, from difficult situations, get back on their feet by providing mentoring and clothing appropriate for job interviews. Donations are collected throughout the year. For donations, contact Dianne Moore. (ONGOING)

### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES**

We participate in three essential blood drives at the most critical times of the year: one in slow winter lull, during the summer vacation rush, and most importantly, early during the Christmas season. Our congregants and neighborhood donors have been very faithful as each one of our goals has been met. Members of the UMM and UMW have contributed time and talents to each drive with thank you gifts to those who need our church as a lighthouse on their faith journey. We look forward to the path that God has before us as we minister to those who need this "gift of life". Our contacts are Carole and Ron Hall. (EVERY 4 MONTHS)

### **SELAH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Selah Children's Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, FL, is a year-long mission connecting our children with the patients in the hematology/oncology and Sickle Cell Anemia units. Our mission is to encourage those children with cards, letters, stickers, and kind words. Adults in our congregation have graciously given instruments and monetary donations to be used by the staff to

purchase ongoing supplies, musical instruments, and craft items for the children. Our UMW have made pillowcases and blankets for new patients. Our Kids Club periodically sends goody bags with “love notes” and simple crafts. It is a blessing to all who come in contact with their pediatric outpatient oncology/hematology clinic. Our contact is Carole Hall. (ONGOING)

### **UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (UMVIM)**

Various Conference Disaster Response Centers exist to aid in natural disaster recovery efforts through the healing of hearts and homes. With the gift of labor from servants from around the country and donations from countless others, we are able to help qualifying people move from temporary housing to safe, sanitary, and secure homes through UMVIM. St Matthias has sponsored and sent teams for years to rebuild lives and hope to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia for hurricane or tornado relief. We are committed to continuing to send a mission team to disaster locations in the United States. Our contacts are Peg and Barry Jones. (ANNUALLY)

### **WINTER WEAR (MAINE)**

Over the past few years, St Matthias has donated several hundred men’s, women’s, and children’s winter coats to Shorey Chapel’s winter wear mission. Shorey Chapel is a small chapel in Industry, ME. The coats are given out during the Thanksgiving food give-away. Anyone in need of a coat is given one. Winter wear of all shapes and sizes are needed. For donations, contact Dianne Moore. (ONGOING)

## **MISSIONS FOR OUR WORLD**

We recognize our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ are not only in our community, region, or nation but are also around the world. We support them by the following:

### **VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Each year prior to Virginia Annual Conference in June, the United Methodist Women put together supplies for flood relief buckets, layette packets, health kits, canned goods, and school kits to be taken to Annual Conference by our pastor and/or Annual Conference Delegate. These items are then distributed where needed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). (ANNUALLY)

### **HONDURAS WORLD GOSPEL OUTREACH MISSION**

Since 1993, World Gospel Outreach (WGO) has been providing opportunities for people from North America to serve in Honduras. WGO is serving the poor in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, by meeting their physical and spiritual needs. They seek to touch them with the love of Jesus Christ through work in three specific areas. Short-term mission teams provide medical, dental, and optical care to the very poor and wash their children's hair at clinics set up in local host churches. Team members share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with every Honduran who comes to the site. For more information go to [www.wgoreach.org](http://www.wgoreach.org) or contact Peg or Barry Jones. (ANNUALLY)

### **RISE AGAINST HUNGER**

Our church is committed to helping end world hunger in this generation. Rise Against Hunger packaging events began in 2005 and supply meals to national and international areas in times of disaster. God's children of all ages (young and old) package more than 10,000 meals at the event. We also purchase the Sawyer lifesaving water filters to be delivered around the world. Appropriately scheduled on All Saints' Sunday, we feel blessed to be

a part of this powerful worship experience aiding needy children and families in our country and around the world. Our prayer is that our hands and feet will be those of Christ as He uses us to bless the world He came to save. Wherever possible, in-country organizations work with Rise Against Hunger to help eradicate world hunger in our lifetime. In the months with five Sundays, a potato bar is held on the fifth Sunday after the 11:00 service. Donations are welcome and the proceeds go to support Rise Against Hunger. For more information go to [www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org) or contact Carole Hall. (ANNUALLY)

## **UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF**

UMCOR is the not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide.

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR partners with local partner organizations and survivors to rebuild livelihoods, health and homes. In times of acute crisis, they mobilize emergency supplies, fresh water, and temporary shelter to stricken areas, and then stay as long as it takes to implement long-term recovery. Their workers are known all over the globe for their compassion, leadership, expertise, and guidance in recovery efforts.

UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development.

Most importantly, UMCOR connects us in a global network of generous donors and equally generous beneficiaries. On the One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, we collect donations for UMCOR that are specifically designated to cover their yearly administrative costs. For donations provided any other time of the year, 100 percent of them go to the relief. For more information go to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/about/>. (ANNUALLY)

## **USED EYEGLASSES FOR LIONS CLUB**

Throughout the year, the Lions Club collects used eyeglasses and delivers them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs). LERC volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength, and package the glasses. Most of the recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in developing countries where they will have the greatest impact. We have a collection box in the mission hallway for used and unwanted eyeglasses. When the box is full, the accumulated eyeglasses and cases are taken to a local Lion's Club donation location for them to distribute and use accordingly. We have been able to take thousands of glasses and sunglasses donated by the Lions Club to Honduras for those who are cannot afford them. For further information go to [www.lionsclub.org](http://www.lionsclub.org). (ONGOING)

## **YOUTH 30-HOUR FAMINE**

Our United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) supports World Vision's 30-Hour Famine. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Motivated by faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. The 30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger. It brings our UMYF closer together and to God, feeds hungry children, and changes our world forever. Students fast for 30 hours and raise funds to help feed and care for children around the world. By sacrificing and serving others, they are learning to think outside of themselves and see the world as Christ sees it. For more information go to [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org). (ANNUALLY)

# **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS**

Primary support for mission activities at St Matthias comes from the generous giving of money, time, materials, and talents from our members and friends. Throughout the year we conduct the following activities to generate funds for our missions.

## **LOCAL DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Baskets are set on each side of the altar on Communion Sundays for anyone led to donate to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is used for those who contact the church for help with gas, food, utility bills, etc. The people in need are vetted and the fund is closely monitored and distribution records kept. (ONGOING)

## **ANNUAL BUDGET**

The Missions committee within the church is provided an annual budget to apply towards various mission activities year-round. These funds are allocated to various projects and their disbursement is approved annually by the Administrative Council. (ANNUALLY)

## **DONATIONS FROM CHURCH GROUPS**

Various groups within the church including the UMM, UMW, Sunday School classes, Youth, Children, and VBS participants provide donations to support various church missions. (ONGOING)

## **INDIVIDUAL GENEROSITY**

None of these missions would be possible without the spiritual, financial, and physical support of our church members. We are a small church with a big heart for our brothers and sisters. We live by the words of Matthew 25:35-36, *...For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a*

*stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was in prison and you visited me. (ONGOING)*

***God bless those servants who hear the cries  
of the needy and answer.***