



Triumph *Newsletter*

July 2021

START Mission Trip to Jones County, NC

Dave Rea and Cliff Farrar

During the week of June 6-12, 2021, the STUMC START team traveled to Jones County, NC to continue with our disaster recovery efforts in that area. The team was made up of 15 people from our Manassas Campus, Haymarket Church, as well other churches.

Unfortunately, UMCOR has ceased operations in North Carolina. The recovery effort is now being led by Rice and Beans Ministry, an international relief agency. They are currently working in Costa Rica and Brazil and were looking for an opportunity to serve domestically. When UMCOR ceased operations, that opportunity was provided. Their founder, Fred Curry, contacted Stephanie Hunt, the area coordinator for UMCOR and offered to continue the work UMCOR could not complete. There remains much work to be done in this area.

We were housed at The Father's Refuge, a Christian retreat center in an old high school. Our area was a summer youth camp located behind the school with open air bunk rooms in a very rustic wooded setting. Everyone really enjoyed this camp setting. We also had a small team from Statesville, NC housed there. We made arrangements with them to share meals and morning devotions. Interacting with other teams like this is one of the pleasures of doing short term mission work. *(Cont. on page 2)*



STUMC has served in the Coastal NC area for many years and the Jones County area, specifically, since Hurricane Florence came through in 2018. This storm stalled over the entire area once it came ashore and dumped huge quantities of rain. Many of the homes here were flooded and this has been the focus of our service in this area. Some of the homes our teams previously repaired are in the same neighborhood we were serving in on this trip. It was good seeing the area slowly repaired one home at a time. Eventually, we hope to repair all storm damage in this small community.

We had three major tasks during this trip. We replaced the roof on one home, replaced an exterior door on another, and replaced the vinyl siding on a third home. The first two projects were completed and the siding job was about 75% complete when we left. Another team arrived several hours after we left and were ready to pick up where we left off.



We had significant weather related obstacles during our week. The heat was in the mid nineties during the day while we were working and this made frequent water breaks necessary. We also had a few downpours during the week. We quickly tarped the roof and took shelter until the storm passed. We were advised that this is typical weather for Eastern NC during the late spring.



At the end of the week, many participants reported feeling that we “got more than we gave”. All of us reported having a positive experience interacting with other team members, homeowners, and teams from other areas. We all want to return later this year. We are always looking for new team members. If this sounds appealing to you, please consider joining up with us on the next trip. No particular skills are required. All we ask is that you have a willing servant’s heart and we will help you with the rest. Please consider serving with us.

Food Pantry Updates

Jhenny Michalek, Food Pantry Coordinator

June has been a busy month for the Food Pantry and our continuing mission to reach, nourish, and serve the community. We partnered with Patricia Aldas, one of our regular volunteers that works for United Health Care; brought a mobile dental van and coordinated our first health fair. With the dental van we were able to provide dental screenings for 24 kids and during our health fair we were able to administer 34 COVID vaccines. Patricia was able to help us line up different healthcare partners to provide blood pressure screening, help with Medicaid applications and new information about benefits, new information for pregnant mom's, some mental health education, and Mason and Partners to provide COVID vaccines. We had a nice turn out and were able to send everyone home with some beautiful fresh produce from the farmer's market.



Over the past couple of months, the Kauffman family has blessed St Thomas in so many ways. They have worked with our food pantry to find projects that Michael and Noah could use as their Eagle Scout projects. Noah's project was to build 3 new picnic tables and clean out some of the flower beds around the church. The picnic tables are used by the children at Sunbeam, youth group, church members, and even members from the community to sit and have picnics, group meetings, and for just enjoying some time together.



Michael's project was to complete needed general maintenance in the food pantry building. He worked carefully with the food pantry team to empty the food pantry so the floors could be cleaned and repainted. He and his team then helped reorganize the food pantry shelves as they returned the items back into the food pantry during their 2-day project.



We would like to welcome Chrissy Fauls, Founder of WHY Incorporated, to St Thomas Food Pantry team. Chrissy has been working for the past year to bring food to those families affected by COVID in our community. She and Jhenny have partnered together on several projects, and we are very excited to have her join the team as an intermediate Food Pantry Assistant. Never one to shy away from hard work and tough conversations, Chrissy is a go-to name in this area for anyone who needs to get help, get connected, find resources, or for an organization to reach the larger community. Chrissy's gift for connection and her heart for her community will make her an invaluable part of our team.



Volunteers are truly the heart and soul of the food pantry. Over the past 14 years we have been able to continue serving the community and feeding those in need because of the volunteers that have continued to help us. Please join us on July 18th for an open house at the food pantry. Come see all the changes and find out more about the different volunteer opportunities available. We will be there at 10 am for anyone that would like to stop by after the traditional service, and at Noon after the contemporary service. Hope to see you there!

We're Open!

A few of the most common conversation-starters these days are... What did you miss the most during the Pandemic? What do you most look forward to when all of this is over? Where are you planning to go on vacation this summer now that we have more freedom to move about?

We've all been missing something or someone these many months. Maybe you've felt a strange sense that a piece is missing from your life. We've felt it, too.

A big piece of that missing piece has been the church.

We've all been missing church, whether we realize it or not.

The church is God's people, Jesus' bride. God's work in the world today is being completed through the church. And, it's so important that we gather together, hear God's Word preached, sing songs of reverence to Jesus Christ, and connect with one another.

That's why we're SO excited to be gathering regularly again at BOTH services, which fully resumed on Sunday, June 27. Our regular worship times are 9 AM and 11 AM on Sundays and we'd love for you to join us in person or virtually through our livestream.



About 50 people gather for our 3rd week of worship on June 20, 2021 – including several first time guests! Praise be to God for old & new friends.



Judy & Marian help welcome guests returning for worship at the check-in table before entering the building.

But not only would we love it, we also know that God's instruction is followed, your faith is enriched, and the other believers around you are encouraged when you do.

Again, worship services are at 9 & 11 AM. For those fully vaccinated, no mask is required but certainly one may be worn for your own comfort during this time of transition; and we continue to practice social distancing and other safety protocols to ensure everyone's health. If you have any questions, prayer requests, or needs, you can always reach us by phone at (703) 368-5161 or by email, abi.foerster@stthomasumc.org.

See you on Sunday,

Pastor Abi

July Sermon Series: Come to the Table

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shared meals with his people. In a world where there is an increase of hate and dissension, as followers of Jesus, God calls us to make space for all of God's children at the table. This series will help us most fully see God as we are mindful about seeing one another.



Haymarket Campus
Launch Celebration

Sunday, July 11

5 PM at STUMC

Worship Service

Followed by

Cake & Ice Cream

Time to Celebrate!

Join us on July 11 for worship at 5 PM, followed by cake and ice cream, to celebrate the launch of the Haymarket Campus as an independent United Methodist Church. Worship will feature contemporary music, communion and greetings from former pastors and friends.

Congratulations, Pastor Arum!

On June 14, during the 2021 Service of Ordination and Commissioning, Pastor Arum Kim was ordained as an Elder in Full Connection of the United Methodist Church within the Virginia Annual Conference.



Mission Moment

Cathy Campbell,
Mission Council Chair

May found us packing more health kits for the homeless. Thanks to the Friday Night Small Group, we were able to pack 104 health kits. Sixty-two of these kits were delivered to the Conference Collection point on June 19th. They will go out to different agencies in the area. (Ex. Rising Hope) The others will be kept on reserve and used when needed for various groups. We also sent \$200 to the United Methodist Conference for various missions.

The Mission school in El Salvador has an initiative to provide chromebooks for the teachers. We sent \$1000 of their \$10,000 goal. This is the school where many of our mission teams have worked. Teachers had been using their phones to teach the children virtually. The chromebooks will be a great asset.

Our Christmas in June toy drive was a great success. You provided nearly 300 toys to bless many children this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.



We also sent \$600 to Guatemala (Rachael & Nolo) to help pay for sinus surgery for a little boy named Levi.

Our Food Pantry served 1023 families and had 439 volunteers for May. The Clothes Closet continues to be open twice a month. Volunteers are needed to sort the clothes during the week and distribute the clothes on the designated Saturdays. Volunteers are needed for the Food Pantry, as well. Please contact Jhenny Michalek for Food Pantry and Renee Kinnear for the Community Clothes Closet.

The Missions Council would like to thank everyone for your generosity and your prayers as Missions continues to do His work.

Adult Discipleship Team

Holly Banner

In order to align all areas of ministry with our Strategic Plan, we have a dedicated team of 11 who comprise our "Adult Discipleship Team." We are team-building, sharing our faith journey, and are working to ultimately discern a Christian Formation plan for adults at all stages in their faith walks. We know a "one-size fits all" approach does not meet everyone where they are. We hope to develop a robust plan that will challenge everyone to grow and learn.

We meet for two hours, twice a month, and are committed to meeting for two years, which we hope will ultimately bear fruit and many new disciples!

Members of the Adult Discipleship Team are: Barry Barnard, Perry Bailey, Tammy Fick, Pat Dodson, Earl Amstutz, Scott and Cheryl Wagner, Rev. Abi Foerster, and Rev. Arum Kim.

We long to see children, youth and adults seeking the heart of God through more intentional discipleship. So, this summer we are inviting our entire church to pray the prayer below. You are invited to join us as we seek a breakthrough in this key area of our faith together.

Everlasting God, we know you are always with us. You have seen us through a difficult time of uncertainty and isolation, and by touching the hearts and minds of so many in our community of faith, you have enabled us to come together in new ways, allowing us to continue to worship you, to study your word and to serve those around us.

Inspire us to live more fully into our mission as a church: "We exist to reach, nourish, and serve the community so all may experience healing and new life through Jesus Christ." May the work of the Adult Discipleship Team help each one of us to become more aware of our need for Jesus. Help this team to create a clear and effective discipleship pathway for people of all ages and stages of life.

Spark a deep desire in ALL OF US to be growing in our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, being formed by the Word of God, and learning to integrate faith into all aspects of our lives. Holy Spirit, empower us now. Amen.

Endowment Giving

Barry Barger, Permanent Endowment Committee Chair

The first of the four recognized categories within the Permanent Endowment is **Mission Funds**. The income from this endowment fund is used to support our mission partners in and beyond the local church and community.

When I think of Saint Thomas and mission, I cannot help but remember a time many years ago when Linda and I, lifelong Methodists, transferred our memberships and became a part of our congregation. Saint Thomas was then a small church on Westmoreland Avenue in a building which was intended to become the fellowship hall as the church grew and expanded. Our pastor at that time was Reverend Leonard Hazelwood. We certainly had no idea of God's plan for the future of our church!

I can clearly still hear Leonard saying at the beginning of most services, "your generous gifts have provided prescriptions for a family in need." As a congregation we provided rent assistance, medical and utility bills, auto repairs and cribs – and even something as simple as a bag of groceries. We all knew that the gifts to the Pastor's Relief Fund were to be given in addition to our offering for the budgeted operating expenses of the church. This is just one example of the many ways that God multiplied our love through mission and ministry, local and worldwide that were supported in our early years.

Every church has an identity for which it is known. Saint Thomas' identity was that of a giving and serving church. The church may have been small, but it was mighty in its works.

Looking at today and going forward, that ember of love and concern for our neighbors, community, country and the world has grown through the guidance of the Spirit of our Living Lord, into a brilliant flame of hope and help. One has only to look at the work of our Mission Committee, the START team, Local Relief (formerly known as Pastor's Relief Fund), Food Pantry and VBS to name just a few, to feel the magnitude of this outreach effort. Also, the UMW supports various missions from their income and our Sunbeam Children's Center (which is fully self-sustaining) budgets for some tuition assistance in cases of unexpected hardship. Thanks to each of you for your support and efforts to allow all of this to happen.

The Permanent Endowment Committee has a dream that as we go forward, we can build up a **Mission Endowment Fund** that, as it grows, the fund's principle would be restricted but the income from appreciation, interest and dividends could support even greater callings in the field of mission, thus sustaining our long-standing legacy of hope and help.

Please give prayerful consideration to giving a contribution to the **Mission Endowment Fund**. I am always available to you to answer any of your questions or assist you in any way. Just let the church office know and I will contact you.

May God's blessings shine upon you and bring you peace!

News from the Kitchen

We are winding down this season of Tuesday Night Dinners. It's been a fulfilling year. We have enjoyed preparing, packing, and serving your meals curbside. It's been delightful to see many of you from week to week as you pick up your dinner. We have 3 more Tuesday Night Dinners left and then we'll take a small break before starting again on September 7th. Check out the July menus and we hope to see you this month! We have started something new—we now offer the kid's entrée as an adult meal. What this entails is you get the kid entrée and the rest of the adult meal for \$6.00. There is a line for this when you sign up online.

We will continue with curbside pickup in September as well as offering the opportunity for dining in. Our hope is that everyone can do what they feel comfortable doing and still enjoy Tuesday Night Dinners.

We would like to grow our team. If you are interested in helping with Tuesday Night Dinners, special events, or Sunday morning coffee (when that returns) please contact Janel Weed at: jbgirl211@yahoo.com.

Enjoy your summer and look for our September menus in the September newsletter along with the details about dining in on Tuesdays.

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

July Menus:

July 6

Fried Chicken

Corn Pudding

Fried Okra

Cheesy Biscuits

Kids entrée: Same as adult

Dessert: Homemade Ice Cream

Cookie: Glazed Sugar Raspberry

July 13

Philly Cheese Steak with Peppers and Onions

Coleslaw

Chili Cheese Fries

Kids Entrée: Cheeseburger

Dessert: Cherry Crisp

Cookie: Peanut Butter Kiss

July 20 Christmas in July dinner—Come dressed in red or green to celebrate!

Roasted Turkey

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Rutabagas (if available)

Green Beans

Kids Entrée: Same as Adults

Dessert: Pumpkin Pie

Cookie: Oatmeal Raisin

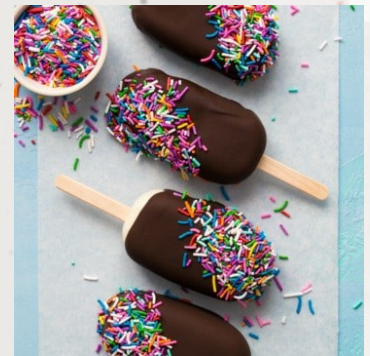
Beginning July 27—No Tuesday Night Dinner until September 7

United Methodist Women

Ice Cream Social, July 24th, 3 pm

(Rain date July 31st)

We are having our first in-person women's event! We will meet in the church parking lot between the front door circle and the speed bump near the Parsonage House, enjoying the shade from the pine trees. Please bring your own chair and beverage. We will provide ice cream bars. RSVP required by July 20th to Chair.STUMW@gmail.com.



Bazaar Crafters are looking for someone with calligraphy or fine painting skills for doing finishing work on crafts, such as painting faces or words. We use acrylic paint on wood or glass surfaces. Photos of crafts or craft patterns and paint will be supplied. If you are interested, please contact Crafters.STUMW@gmail.com

Our **Container Gardening** Zoom event on June 16 was a great success with an interesting and informative presentation by Janet Shalestik from Merrifield Garden Center



Green Thumbs Wanted!

Trustees are looking for an individual(s) or perhaps a small group to take some responsibility for maintaining the garden area at the Columbarium. Weeds have been pulled; mulch has been spread. Now some TLC is needed to add some flowers and pull weeds as necessary. Be part of the discussion for the overall look of this important part of the church campus! If you or your group are interested, please contact Ron Campbell at rcampbell46@yahoo.com. Thank you!



A Friendly Reminder From the Front Office:

We are so excited that groups are beginning to come back in person and are also continuing to use Zoom for their meetings. Please remember to complete a **Room Usage Form** to reserve a space for your group in the building. If you need a Zoom meeting setup, please use the **Zoom Meeting Request Form** located under the resources tab on our website. If your group has an announcement that needs to be published, remember to use the **Communications Request**, which is also located under the resources tab on our website. Using these tools to communicate your requests helps us to better support your ministry. Thank you!

Student Ministry

Pastor Arum

THE PACK met for the last gathering of the school year on Sunday, June 6 at church. It was a “messy” day with all the color powders! The evening also included a special celebration for Jon Weed’s graduation. We will take a summer break then resume our gathering on Sunday in late August once the schools start.

Congratulations

Jon!



Even though our regular gatherings take a break, we STILL meet during Summer for special activities.

THE PACK successfully finished the 1st "Home" Mission Weekend! Seven students accomplished many projects: cleared out the Original Church Building, helped the Community Clothing Closet on Saturday, and help preparation for the Science Camp. See the photos below that captured the highlights of the weekend! The 2nd "Home" Mission Weekend will be on Friday, August 6 – Sunday, August 8. We will plan to have a fundraising carwash on Sunday. Stay tuned for more information and support us!



THE PACK will also gather for a special outing on Sunday, July 18 at 6 PM to play mini-golf and enjoy an ice cream social!



Vacation Bible School - Live!

Thanks to Director Sam Spencer and her team of over 20 volunteers and staff, St. Thomas welcomed 34 children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade and 50 Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers in Sunbeam Children's Center for a great week at Adventure Island. The kids enjoyed Bible Stories, Music, Games, Science, Arts & Crafts and Snack Time all centered on discovering God's Great Light. Although about half the size of our usual VBS, it was great to have the kids live and in-person instead of LiveStreaming and on Zoom. Thanks to all who donated their time and supplies to support this important ministry!



St. Thomas
United Methodist Church

8899 Sudley Road, Manassas,
Rev. Abi Foerster, Senior Pastor
Rev. Arum Kim, Associate Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:
samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org
receptionist@stthomasumc.org

Upcoming Events

- July 1 Mad Science Camp through July 2
- July 5 Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 11 Celebration of Haymarket Church Launch
5:00pm—Worship and Reception
- July 12 Cooking Camp through July 16
- July 18 Food Pantry Open House after each service
- July 19 Theatre and Arts Camp through July 23
- July 20 Christmas in July Tuesday Night Dinner
Last Tuesday Night Dinner until September 7
- July 24 UMW Ice Cream Social