

GRANT AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

**MISSION ACTIVITIES**

- a) **CAMP ALDERSGATE CLEAN-UP:** The United Methodist Men of GAUMC travel to Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock once or twice a year to assist with maintenance and repairs.  
CONTACT: Jay Leak (262.4909)
  
- b) **CHRISTOPHER HOMES SUPPORT:** Low-Income H.U.D. housing for retired folks is underwritten by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arkansas. Some residents do not have cars. Four volunteers from GAUMC are needed to rotate taking these folks to WalMart for shopping once a week or as needed.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
  
- c) **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER:** A free dinner is prepared by church members and served to anyone who wants to come share Thanksgiving with us. Volunteers are needed to cook at the church, cook pies at home, set-up tables, serve, clean-up, eat with guests, and various other tasks.  
CONTACT: Tonja Bolding (262-4998)
  
- d) **EMERGENCY RELIEF TEAMS:** When an emergency happens in our church, in our community, or in a community nearby, it is best to already have a plan in place. Our GAUMC Emergency Relief plan is a comprehensive way to deal with these issues quickly and effectively.  
CONTACT: Bill Reinhardt (262-2726)
  
- e) **FEED THE HUNGRY:** GAUMC collects food for three types of distribution in an effort to feed the hungry wherever they are. Members pledge to bring a particular food item or amount money on a regular basis (weekly or monthly) to support one of the following focus areas:
  - 1) **FOOD FOR OUTREACH:** Through the United Methodist Outreach Store, individuals or families with vouchers from DHS are given a week's worth of food that includes meat, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, cereal, and other items. Donations of canned good from the congregation mean more people can be feed with less money needed.  
CONTACT: Floyd Dickinson (760-5549)
  
  - 2) **BACKPACKS FOR KIDS:** Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches during school may have no such support on weekends or in the summer. GAUMC helps by once a week providing 28 backpacks filled with food for two days. These packs of food are delivered to Hot Springs Intermediate and Middle Schools. Additionally we support individual school food pantries as requested.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
  
  - 3) **FOOD FOR SENIORS:** Some senior citizens have to choose between buying food and purchasing medications. Others can't get to the store or run out of money. The Area Agency on Aging

assists seniors through in-home visits. GAUMC provides food for their pantry that they can distribute as needed.

CONTACT: Doug Baber (620-4515)

- f) **FOOD LABELS:** Identified labels from various canned and packaged products can be exchanged for items needed in schools. We send our collected labels once a year to the McCurdy School for Native American children in New Mexico. Collection baskets are located close to both entrances.  
CONTACT: Carol Dickinson (623-8667)
- g) **GARLAND COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY:** Jesus called us to visit prisoners. Where that is no longer a simple thing to do, there are ways we can minister to those in jail. Garland County Jail Ministry needs volunteers to score bible lessons and write positive notes to inmates taking these self-guided classes. GAUMC collects paperback books for the prison library. Long underwear during the winter months is also welcomed.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
- h) **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** GAUMC provides snacks for the volunteers building these houses for families selected as qualifying. We pray with the workers and encourage them as we seek to do God's will in this work.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
- i) **MILES of PENNIES:** The United Methodist Women collect pennies for the Miles of Pennies project. These donations from UMW groups all over the country are used to support worldwide mission activities. Collection containers are located close to both entries.  
CONTACT: Carol Dickinson (623-8667)
- j) **OCC RELAY CENTER:** GAUMC was chosen as the regional relay center for Operation Christmas Child. Teams of 3-5 church members "man" the operation during part of each day of the week before Thanksgiving. We greet those bringing gift boxes, pray with them for the children who will receive the box, and provide additional information about the program. Then we pack the boxes into crates and transport them to the Arkansas Center in Little Rock.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
- k) **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** Each November, families pack shoeboxes with school, health, and fun items for children in poor and/or war-torn countries. These are brought to church the Sunday before Thanksgiving, blessed, and sent to the Operation Christmas Child center in Boone, North Carolina for distribution all over the world. Children in need of love get a box of gifts plus the story of Jesus Christ, who loves them unconditionally.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
- l) **OZARK MISSION PROJECT HOST:** Grand Avenue Methodist hosts Methodist youth from other Arkansas churches each summer for one week. We provide 15 "shower houses", all evening meals, and the use of our entire church building to support this outreach.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)

- m) OZARK MISSION PROJECT: GAUMC youth and sponsors travel in the summer to other areas of Arkansas for a week of mission work. Their work during the day consists of building wheelchair ramps, porches, storage buildings; painting and general repairs; yard work and home maintenance. Additionally, the youth develop a loving relationship with the families for whom they work, encouraging them and sharing meals. In the evening, the team shares their experiences and enjoys one another in Christian fellowship.  
CONTACT: Tonja Bolding (525-6624)
- n) POTTERS' CLAY SUPPORT: Potter's Clay in Hot Springs offers a respite for women and children needing help due to domestic abuse. We collect toiletries and toys to support their work. A basket is provided in Fellowship for donations.  
CONTACT:
- o) RECYCLE CELL PHONES: Old cell phones can be donated and refurbished for use by United States Military Personnel serving overseas and for women living in shelters to call 911. A basket is in the main hallway to collect these.  
CONTACT: Maxine Norman (767-6912)
- p) RECYCLE EYE GLASSES: Your unused or prescription eyeglasses are a God-send to people needing vision correction who cannot afford glasses, both in the United States and other countries. A collection basket is located near the Quapaw Street entrance. These are donated to the local Lion's Club for refurbishing and distribution.  
CONTACT: Dickie Cooley (624-4679)
- q) RECYCLE POSTAGE STAMPS: Our simple, used postage stamps are items to collect for stamp collectors in other countries. We donate our stamps to the United Methodist Deaconess Home in New Jersey. A basket close to the Quapaw Entrance is provided.  
CONTACT: Carol Dickinson (624-8667)
- r) SAGER BROWN MISSION TRIP: A group from GAUMC travels to Baldwin, LA once a year to work in the United Methodist staging center for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), packing and checking kits that are sent all over the world to communities experiencing disasters.  
CONTACT: Debbie Perry (623-5626)
- s) SAMARITAN'S MINISTRY: A safe shelter for homeless men provides bible study courses, life and job skills training, educational opportunities, and a chance to restore their lives. Volunteers are needed. Donations needed include clothing and food items along with gift cards or cash.  
CONTACT: Bill Reinhardt (262-2726)
- t) SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY: The GAUMC youth participate in the national tradition of donating soup for homeless shelters on Super Bowl Sunday.  
CONTACT: James Hunt (262-4998)
- u) STRENGTH FOR SERVICE: During World War II, the United Methodist Church was instrumental in the creation of a devotional book designed for military personnel serving the United States in overseas combat duty. The printing and distribution of this book is dependent on donations. Every July 4 we

are given the opportunity to support this ministry.

CONTACT: Morris Coston (525-7456)

- v) **SUITCASES FOR KIDS:** Children in immediate danger of domestic abuse are whisked away from their homes, sometimes in the middle of the night. When a foster home is found for them, they have nothing in which to carry their belongings. We collect backpacks, conference totebags, small suitcases, and other such containers to donate to Ouachita Childrens Center for this purpose.  
CONTACT: Lynne Perrine (623-1038)
- w) **TEEN CHALLENGE:** Men of all ages voluntarily enroll in this residential program to rehabilitate from various forms of addiction through a rigid Christian-based teaching and work program. We are available to help in a volunteer role when called on.  
CONTACT: Upper Room Sunday School Class
- x) **TUTORING:** Every Tuesday night that school is in session, retired teachers and other willing church members provide free tutoring from 5:00 – 6:30 for local students in all subjects and in all grades. Students are required to bring textbooks and/or assignments from school.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)
- y) **UKULELE BAND:** The famous GAUMC Ukulele Band practices every Monday and plays whenever and wherever invited. Not prior experience is required. Any size ukulele is acceptable.  
CONTACT: Peggy Phillips (624-1322)
- z) **UNITED METHODIST OUTREACH STORE:** Methodist churches in the greater Hot Springs area run a thrift shop located on Albert Pike Blvd. The store is open Monday through Saturday year-round. Volunteers work one day a week for 3-1/2 hours in the morning or afternoon. Work includes accepting donations, pricing and hanging items, straightening merchandise, and helping customers. Proceeds are used to provide food for families in need and financial support to other organizations in Hot Springs with similar clientele.  
CONTACT: Cleo Kling (318-0709)
- aa) **WESLEY FOUNDATION LABOR:** The United Methodist Men provide assistance with maintenance and general repairs to the Wesley Center in Arkadelphia, which serves both Henderson State and Ouachita University college students.  
CONTACT: Jay Leak (262-4909)
- bb) **WESLEY FOUNDATION LUNCH:** Once or more a year, GAUMC provides lunch for college students in Arkadelphia who come to the Wesley Center weekly for both good eats and spiritual food.  
CONTACT: Shari Coston (525-7456)