

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

Second Presbyterian Church’s participation in and support of mission causes is one of the strengths of the congregation. The Mission Committee is very selective in its choice of causes to support. In addition, your Mission Committee makes every effort to keep the congregation informed by sponsoring informational programs throughout the year. Second Church can be justifiably proud of its accomplishments in the area of mission support.

The committee sponsored four programs during 2008, including a report by the Baja Mission Team’s work building houses in Mexico, the World Food Day Soup and Sandwich Luncheon and hunger offering, a program on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Disaster Preparedness, presented by David and Carolyn Thalman, and the Christmas Joy Gift Program. In addition, the Committee hosted Bruce and Lora Whearty, PC(USA) missionaries to Ethiopia in April. Session subsequently approved the recommendation of the Committee to support the Whearty’s as “our missionaries” over the next three years, at a total cost of \$3,000 (spread over four budget years, 2008-2011).

The mission causes receiving support through the Church Budget include: financial and prayer support of the Baja Mission Team ( from line item #7103 - Missionary Support), Presbyterian Hunger Program, Discretionary Fund for local needs, Valley Mission, Heifer Project, Staunton-Beverly Manor Weekday Religious Education, Augusta Regional Free Medical Clinic, Pregnancy Help Center (ComfortCare Women’s Center), Medical Benevolence Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, SACRA, Ethiopian Partnership, and Water for Life.

Special offerings beyond the Mission budget include:

World Food Day. . . . .	\$ 290.00
Christmas Joy Offering. . . . .	693.00
One Great Hour of Sharing. . . . .	1,010.00
Pentecost Offering. . . . .	551.00

The World Food Day Offering was designated for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The Church retained 40% of the Pentecost Offering (\$220.40) and donated it to the Salvation Army for their children’ programming. The committee recommended that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (\$1,510.00) be designated for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance efforts to assist following the hurricanes that damaged the United States in 2008. \$500 of this support represents a previous year’s OGHS offering that was redirected from support of the day care center in Baja, which has not made substantial progress in being built.

The monthly Hunger Offering (4 cents/meal) supports five Hunger Ministries. During 2007, \$4,157.95 was received and the first \$3,750 was divided among the five causes, according to a standing policy of the Session:

Presbyterian Hunger Program, Shenandoah Presbytery. . . . .	1,500.00
SACRA (also received staple foods donations). . . . .	750.00
Water for Life. . . . .	500.00
Heifer International. . . . .	500.00
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. . . . .	500.00

The balance of the Hunger Funds, \$407.95, was directed to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank by Session action on January 7, 2009.

Your Mission Committee thanks YOU, the members of Second Presbyterian Church for your continuing prayers, support and generous contributions. YOU have made it possible for the Mission Committee to accomplish so much for those in need in our community and around the world.

Nancy Swisher, Chair

Bob Ridle, Mary McNamara, Earl Flower, Jean Flower, Betty Landes, Patsy Easley, and Dan Williams.