

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee of Second Presbyterian Church is charged with the responsibility of managing the Mission Budget of the church.

The first thing I want to tell you is that essentially nothing much has changed in the past year. The needs are all still there. In fact more people than ever find themselves relying on the groups and agencies we support...many of them for the first time in their lives. I want you to think "food, families and children." Those three words pretty much sum up the mission of the Mission Committee. "Food, families and children"...it's a re-occurring theme that underlines almost everything we do. Throughout the year Mission Committee members act as your eyes, your ears, and your heart when it comes to identifying and helping those in need. And then accurately identifying the organizations best serving those in need. And we always welcome your input when it comes identifying those who need assistance.

So, who did you help in 2011? Where did your money go? Here's a snapshot.

In 2011 the General Mission Budget supported the Valley Mission, Teen Challenge, Weekday Religious Education, Ethiopia Support, Medical Benevolence Foundation, Comfortcare Women's Center (formerly the Pregnancy Help Center), Augusta Free Medical Clinic, Habitat for Humanity, Massanetta Covenant Church, and Missionary Support (like the Moir Family in Ethiopia and the Baja Mission Trip). We even found a little money to respond to the Windy Cove Presbyterian Church's appeal to support their team helping out in still devastated Haiti.

Your generous giving to the monthly Hunger Offerings is allowing the 2011 Special Mission Budget to not only support hunger ministries such as the Presbyterian Hunger Program, SACRA, Water for Life, Meals on Wheels, Heifer International and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, but your generous giving in 2010 allowed extra Hunger Offering monies to be carried over into this year so that the increasing hunger needs administered by the BRAFB for the Kid's Cafe, SACRA, Valley Mission, VFP, the Volunteer Farm at Woodstock and the Salvation Army could all benefit.

Special offerings in 2011 included One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, World Food Day Offering, and the 2011 Christmas Joy Fund Offering.

In addition, the Mission Committee sponsors four Church Night Programs and Dinners in Fellowship Hall during the year. April - Baja Baked Potato fundraiser, September - Baja Mission Report Dinner, October - World Food Day Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, and in December, in conjunction with the Chancel, Bell & Children's Choirs, the Christmas Joy Fund Dinner and Christmas Music Program.

I hope this report has given you a good overview of the Mission Committee's work during the past year. The exact financial figures for the Mission Committee's endeavors can always be accessed in the monthly Treasurer's Reports on-line anytime at the church's website <http://www.sec-stn.org/>, then click on the "Session" link.

I want to thank the 2011 Mission Committee Members: Nancy Swisher, Mary McNamara, Earl Flower, Jean Flower, Betty Landes, Patsy Easley, Sue Gochenour, and Dan Williams. I also want to thank Treasurer Jerry Fry from the Stewardship & Finance Committee, who works diligently to manage the funds and to make sure they are available in a timely manner when help is needed.

But the biggest thanks, as always, goes to YOU...the members of Second Presbyterian Church...for your kind heart and generous giving. During a period of economic slowdown and an ever increasing need to help those out of work, out of their homes, out of food, and out of hope...you have been there to help. Please continue to do so in 2012, so that as Christians we can continue to follow these words from Isaiah (58:10) "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom shall be like the noonday sun."

– Bob Ridle, Chair