

Pastor's Corner

June 2020

I committed many verses of Scripture to memory as a child. I find it very helpful as an adult to quote Scripture, especially when called to ministry at a moment's notice. I remember learning a verse of Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew 25; it continues to inform me and this church in our outreach efforts. Jesus said, "In as much as you did it unto one of the least of these my children, you did it unto me (25:40)." The larger context of this passage of Scripture revolves around Jesus teaching about his genuine followers at the Culmination of the Ages. Jesus emphasized that true followers ministered to the hungry, provided for the homeless, gave clothes to those who were in need, ministered to the sick, visited prisoners. Jesus also

Lake Toxaway UMC

June Newsletter

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
PO Box 83 Lake Toxaway, NC 28747-0083

Focus on Outreach



Our Mission Statement

We, members of LAKE TOXAWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, want to spread the love of Jesus Christ by being stewards of His blessings of money, materials, and time to the residents of the greater Toxaway area (including, but not limited to, the local communities of Lake Toxaway, Balsam Grove, Quebec, and Sapphire), the residents of Transylvania County, the residents of designated disaster areas, special needs outside our immediate area, and international missions (including UMCOR).

emphasized that the very individuals who cared in these ways demonstrated a gentle humility in their ministries. In fact, they were not even aware they had done these acts of ministry!

I hope we, Lake Toxaway UMC, carry a sense of humility in our ministries of outreach. Perhaps for this reason, we fail to tell our outreach story well. I am thankful that we do not seek attention in our outreach efforts, but we need to tell the story to each other. This way we catch the vision of being in ministry with others and as a church family. I have rejoiced as this congregation has dreamed about moving to a place where we might have a 50/50 budget (50% for operations and 50% for outreach). We have adopted a simple but ambitious budget this year. I have good news: we have a healthy cash balance. We will be able to honor the financial

Ministry Operations

The aspirational goal is to utilize approximately 50% of the church's annually contributed funds for outreach. The 2020 budget forecasts that 41% of anticipated contributions will be used for outreach.

The outreach committee feels strongly about verifying the mission statement of each charity we serve and confirm annually that their operations are consistent with their goals and ours. The church/committee is dedicated to the process of hand delivering checks to each charity, when possible, to reflect the heart and caring spirit in Christ of the congregation of Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church.

Our congregation will bi-annually receive a list of charities (see included) that we have served and the contributions to each.

2020 Quarter 1 Non-profit Partners with Total Contributions \$17,000

The Sharing House \$5,000
God's Way Food Pantry \$1,500
North Toxaway Baptist Church Food Pantry \$1,500
The Haven \$1,500
Bread of Life \$1,500
SAFE, Inc. \$1,500
Cops for Kids \$1,500
The Center for Women \$1,500
The Children's Center \$1,500

The Outreach Committee also recommended to the Administrative Council additional contributions to benefit the following: Trans World Radio, Friends of Israel, Our Daily Bread, Gideons International, Samaritan's Purse, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Mission to the World and UMCOR (Tennessee tornado disaster) relief.

2020 Volunteer Days at The Haven

- April 17
- August 14
- May 29
- October 2

commitments we have made to various organizations. I believe we can make our budget even in the midst of uncertain financial times.

Additionally, I want to invite more of you to consider places where you might offer yourselves in direct ministry, both year-round residents and summer residents. We have opportunities to provide food for the homeless shelter. We have opportunities “to adopt a college student” and provide cards of encouragement and occasional gifts to them during the academic year. One of our present scholarship recipients asked “her family” for gift cards to buy gas as she drives back and forth to the Community College she attends. We need individuals to volunteer to send cards of encouragement to persons in our congregation and

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church has for years assisted in the feeding of the less fortunate. The Haven here in Transylvania County is a not for profit LTUMC partner. We are committed to supply food for the shelter on the weekends listed above. Every member of the Outreach Committee has realized the blessing it is to buy or prep meals and then deliver them to the shelter in Brevard. We ask for your help by agreeing to sign up for one of the dates above. We will work with you to let you know how easy and meaningful this ministry can be. If you are interested or would like more information send an email to Saunders at Administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

Serving the Youth of Our Community

LAKE TOXAWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

The LTUMC Scholarship Committee (members may be ad hoc) is part of the LTUMC Outreach Committee. The program currently provides fifteen annual scholarships with awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Scholarship recipients are interviewed and must meet given requirements: a Rosman High School graduate having a need for financial assistance, provide application and associated required documents, seek to learn a trade, earn a certification or college degree and are recommended by the school’s faculty. A list of recipients is tucked into the back of each pew within our church.

Getting Involved

And as Jesus said, “...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Each of us has gifts to share. Let us work together to minister to each other, our church, our community, our nation and the world. We ask for your help. “Peace be with you.”

Fred Markert, chair, on behalf of the Outreach Committee: Kay Blackstock, Gerrie McSwain, Cathie Fussell, Char Holbrook

community. There are several ministry partners where volunteers are limited due to the current Pandemic. I know many of you tutor a student, take food to sick neighbors; these are the acts of ministry Jesus taught us to do in His name.

This newsletter highlights a number of the ministries the Lake Toxaway UMC supports financially and with volunteers. Read about these ministries. If one pulls at your heart, I would encourage you to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in you. Pray how God wants you to respond and I trust we will meet our financial budget and grow in our direct ministries of outreach.

In joyful anticipation of the Holy's Spirit's movement among us,
Marcus

Finance Committee Update

Budget Summary May YTD		
	Budget YTD	Actual Spend YTD
General Contributions	\$111,031.00	\$43,423.00
Operating & Staffing Expenses	\$73,311.00	\$73,031.00
Gifting/Outreach Expenses *	<u>\$51,688.00</u>	<u>\$39,050.00</u>
* Reflects primarily first quarter spending, checks will be sent in June for second quarter Outreach Expenses	\$13,968.00	\$68,658.00

Our Finance Committee reports our Staffing expenses and Operating expenses are on track through May 2020. The remainder of our expense budget is for Gifting/Outreach which are generally paid at the end of each quarter. This expense is on track with our plan since the next quarterly payment will be made in June. Our General Contributions, however, are currently well below our planned budget through May 2020.

The Administrative Council approved the use of past years' reserves to supplement General Contributions when developing our 2020 Budget; however, General Contributions are down relative to giving in previous years. Some of this is expected since the pandemic has required services to be limited to less than ten attendees.

A Word from Council Chair

Tom Blackstock

A budget commitment such as the one we made can work for a short period of time, but it is not a solution for the long term. Revenues are down. If you are like me and forget to give because we are not going to church on Sundays, please catch up your giving by sending a check to the church address at the top of this newsletter. And, if you are seasonal and you give your tithe elsewhere, please give some consideration to what we are doing with our local outreach partners and if the Spirit moves you, please consider sharing part of your tithe with us. As the Chair of Administrative Council, I would like nothing more than for LTUMC to become "The" outreach church for the area and adopt this year's aggressive outreach budget as a baseline on which we can build going forward. Together and with the power of prayer, we can do this.