

Cold Weather Shelter: Christmas Week

Our congregation will be hosting the Cold Weather Shelter families during the week of Christmas. This ministry serves Howard County singles and families who are without a home during the winter. Guests are pre-registered and supported by Grassroots, a local year round service to the homeless. The shelter is open 6 PM to 7 AM daily. We will stay open all day on Christmas, and a few additional hours on the Sunday morning.

Neighbor to Neighbor

This past spring, we gathered together food for a neighboring elementary school, for their students who receive no or low cost lunches while school is off for Spring break. Nearly 100 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall to fill backpacks with food so that these children would have breakfast and lunch while school was closed. This Fall, volunteers of Neighbor to Neighbor ministry helped teach over 80 local families how to connect with one another while playing board games. Growing healthy families is one of our strongest values.

Good Samaritan Orphanage

For 8 years, we have partnered with Good Samaritan Orphanage in Mbeya- Songwe, Tanzania to transform the lives of more than 200 AIDS orphans. As the ministry has become more self-sustaining, we have expanded our reach. Our current goal is to make a better life for the

entire poverty stricken village of Songwe, starting with books and desks for primary schools, as well as building a vocational school and satellite teacher's college on the GSO campus. GSO changes the future in Tanzania by growing up godly, future citizens and leaders.

St. John is the US base of ministry for GSO. We coordinate educational opportunities, transfer financial gifts from other congregations and individuals, and travel to Tanzania have a firsthand understanding of GSO's work.

God's Mosaic Ministry

"This is what heaven will look like!" Pastor Brian has championed multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-congregational ministry at St. John for the past decade. In addition to our commitment to our African brothers & sisters, we sponsor several unique congregations at St. John by offering free use of our space with a hand extended in mutual service to the Kingdom. Our ministry partnership is well established with Pastor Thomas Han and Living Water Baptist Church, with their Korean and English speaking services. They meet for worship and fellowship every Sunday afternoon and pray daily in our sanctuary. We engage together in worship, discipleship and summer children's ministries. "Casa de Dios" church meets three times a week in our sanctuary, representing immigrants from 11+ latino countries. Pastor Perez's congregation has joined with us in prayer ministry and helped us with property projects. We also support Zo

Church, a fellowship of Burmese refugees, and their leaders Albert Pau, with coaching, teaching and a place to gather. Our hope is to more deeply explore what it means to be one Body in Christ by sharing family and individual discipleship training among our mosaic partners. Perhaps we will be called upon to lead other congregations in doing likewise.

The St. John family: Caring @ StJohn

Our Caring@St. John program helps those within our faith community who need encouragement and support in challenging times. When someone in our congregation makes a need known, either for a meal or two during a time while healing after surgery, or perhaps help with an immediate emergency need for, (gas, groceries, etc.) our Lay Pastors coordinate an appropriate response.