



November 2017 AT-A-GLANCE

DAVIDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | PO Box 718, 233 S. MAIN STREET | DAVIDSON, NC 28036

GOING FISHING... OR, WHAT'S UP WITH MISSIONS?

Rev. Alexis Coleman

Most of us have heard the old adage, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime." Sometimes this saying is both wise and true. Sometimes...well...maybe there's more to the story. Let me explain.

When I was first appointed to DUMC almost two and a half years ago, I was amazed by all that was going on in missions here. It was stunning to see all the places you were serving and all the ways you were serving outside the walls of the church. The Missions Budget – the 10% that our church tithes to missions – felt like a "loaves and fishes" miracle to a pastor who had tried (and failed) to convince a previous congregation that missions really should be a part of the annual budget.

During my first several months at DUMC, as I was adjusting to the rhythm and pace of ministry in a large church and getting to know you, I was also out visiting the agencies and organizations that the missions budget was supporting through a fairly complex grant process. Every agency and organization was passionate about its work in either the local community or the global community. Some were giving fish, others were teaching to fish. I was impressed by them all.

In January 2016, I attended two conferences in Atlanta. The first was the Large Church Mission Connection (LCMC). This is an annual gathering of the Missions pastors/directors of the 100 largest churches in the US. I arrived on the second day of

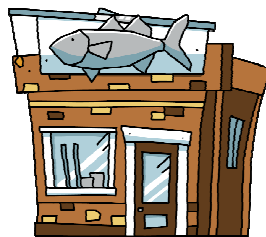
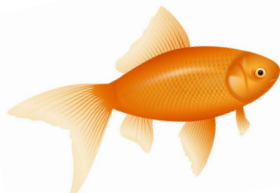
the meeting, only to realize that the missions folks in the room were speaking an entirely different language. They were using words like sustainability, transformational, outcomes, co-ops, and collaborations. To be honest, I felt awkward and out of place...like a fish out of water.

When the LCMC ended that afternoon, I drove to another church for the "Beyond These Walls" conference. The keynote speaker that evening reminded us that the church is not about us – it's about the people who aren't here yet. The rest of the conference was excellent: inspiring worship, amazing food, compelling speakers, and a variety of workshops to choose from. I chose a series of workshops called Missions 3.0, led by Rev. Tom Bassford of Significant Matters. After decades of leading and doing missions, Tom (like other deep thinkers in the missions field) had realized that the needle of poverty and need wasn't moving in a positive direction. Those who had been given fish had come to expect to be given fish. Perhaps even more alarming, those who had been taught to fish still weren't able to make ends meet.

Tom, along with many others, began to ask a new question: *How can churches and other faith-based organizations pursue their missional goals in ways that lead to self-sustaining solutions for the people and communities they are trying to help?*

A vision for DUMC began to take shape in my thoughts and in my heart. Tom Bassford came to DUMC in September 2016

Continued



OF SPECIAL NOTE THIS MONTH:

IMPROVING LIVES IN GUATEMALA

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30 • 7:00 P.M.

ROOM 216/218

DUMC's Guatemala Mission Team will hold an information session about its next trip: March 3 - 11, 2018.

Questions? Contact Rev. Berta Spencer (bertaspencer@gmail.com).

10 LESSONS FOR MEN...

AND HOW OUR PARTNERS CAN HELP

A 10-SESSION CLASS BEGINS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:00 - 9:30 A.M. • ROOM 220

All men of the church - regardless of marital status - are invited.

Register at www.davidsonumc.org/event-registrations.

Questions? Contact Jerry Hancock (jerry@meninbalance.org).

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 5, 12, & 19

10:45 A.M. - NOON • ROOM 210

Meet others, learn about involvement opportunities, find out about United Methodist theology. Register and request childcare through Charlotte Thomas (cthomas@davidsonumc.org).

BRING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO LIFE IN DAVIDSON

It takes over 150 people to recreate Bethlehem during the Town's annual "Christmas in Davidson" - nightly, November 30 - December 2.

Contact Heather Smith (hsmith@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

SEVERAL STUDIES FOR ADVENT WILL BE OFFERED

Watch for details!

GOING FISHING, *continued*

to share his ideas with us and other churches who wanted to hear more. Many members of our Missions Team attended that conference. Additionally, a Peer Learning Community (PLC) of 6 well-resourced churches (including DUMC) in the Western North Carolina Conference was formed. Each church committed to work with Tom for 2 years as we each transition our missions model to answer the big question above.

The first PLC meeting was in May. At the end of that meeting, our PLC team had 6 action items to complete by this November. The PLC team has been working in conjunction with the Missions Team to accomplish all 6. You'll find most (but not all) of the results of our work on the Missions pages of the new DUMC website (www.davidsonumc.org/missions); hard copies are also available at the Connect Center and in the Church Office.

You will see our new vision statement, our new mission statement, and the new core values of our missions work at DUMC. In addition, we have better defined our missions involvement. Where are we giving fish? Where are we teaching to fish? We've also added a new component to our missions work - helping someone buy their own bait shop. We've learned from Tom that the people we want to help often don't have access to opportunities to create their own wealth. But, this is where the needle of poverty really gets moved.

In more formal terms, what we're talking about is "creating conditions to increase the wealth-generating assets of a community" (Tom Bassford). This type of work takes a much deeper commitment of time and resources. It will be leading edge work for us, but there are experts we can reach out to. Our Missions Team chair, Dawn Hewitt, reminds me often that we will have to "fail forward" as we learn and grow in this work. When we make mistakes and take missteps, we will learn from them and move forward.

Give a fish. Teach to fish. Help someone buy their own bait shop. It takes all 3 to move the needle of poverty. While the Missions Team will be distributing the financial resources of the church differently in the future, we continue to celebrate each person's and each small group's ministry and mission. We will be collecting information in a survey soon so that we can get more people in the congregation involved where others are already serving.

On November 1 & 2, all 6 teams of the PLC will be meeting with Tom and his team as we determine our next steps. You are welcome to come in at any time to observe, to hear the lectures, to sit at DUMC's table and brainstorm and vision with our team.

Lastly, the Missions Team has a presentation to share with anyone or any group who is interested in learning more. In the presentation, we explain more about our new missions partnership model. We want everyone in the congregation to understand what is happening with your missions dollars. We want your feedback. You can contact me (acoleman@davidsonumc.org) or Dawn Hewitt (drhewitt11@gmail.com) to schedule a time for us to visit.

I've been thinking about all the fish stories in the Bible. Sometimes disciples are called to fish for people, sometimes they're called to fish for fish. Either way, it feels good and right in this season to remember that it's fishing season at DUMC. Give a fish. Teach to fish. Help someone buy their own bait shop. Let's go fishing!

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Since 1996, DUMC has worked with the Urban Ministry Center (UMC) in Charlotte to provide shelter and food for homeless neighbors three nights a week during the winter months, December - March. Through Room In The Inn (RITI), we offer a warm, safe place to sleep in the Dale House, serve dinner and breakfast, then return the guests to the UMC in the morning.

The program is a unique way for people of faith to become directly involved with people who are homeless. The simple goal is to keep homeless people from freezing on cold winter nights. A greater goal is to provide a loving relationship to homeless, at least for a night. We served over 600 women, men, and children during the 50 nights of last season.



We need **coordinators** to be responsible for the night, **bus drivers** to pick up and return our neighbors to the UMC, groups and individuals to **serve and provide food**, and individuals to **stay overnight**.

Judy and Doug Martin will be available to answer questions following worship on November 4 & 5. You can also reach them directly at 704-948-0181.

CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE

Looking to take your next step at DUMC? Look to learn, grow, and serve by becoming a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry is a lay-caring ministry being used in over 12,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and 29 other countries. This ministry provides one-on-one emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, or other life difficulties. Learn more at www.davidsonumc.org/stephenministry.



If you have gifts for Christ-centered caring, encouragement, and listening, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. The next training session will begin in January 2018. Contact Rev. Linda Zastovnik by December 18 if you would like to participate.

If you think you might benefit from a relationship with a Stephen Minister or you would like to discuss the process of becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Linda or Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken (704-892-8277).

SHARING THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

HARVEST PROCESSION: NOVEMBER 18 & 19

One of the tangible ways DUMC celebrates Thanksgiving as a congregation is to provide the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal for 300 of our neighbors who don't have enough resources to purchase what they need for themselves and their families. The Ada Jenkins Center identifies those families and gives them a ticket to participate.

Beautiful brightly colored shopping bags will be available in the Chapel and in several locations around the church from November 4 - 17. Pick up as many bags as you are able to fill. In each bag, you will find a shopping list. Simply take the list with you to the grocery store (make it a family mission trip and take everyone with you!). Purchase all the items on the list and place them in the bags.

Important note: We will not have the space in the Fellowship Hall this year to sort and repackage the bags, so please take care to provide the items on the shopping list as they are listed.

Attend worship on November 18/19, during which you will be invited to bring a bag to the altar as a thanksgiving offering to God. You may also wish to make a monetary donation to offset the cost of providing each family with a gift card to purchase a meat of their choice. Special collection baskets will be available in each aisle.

Following the 6:00 p.m. worship service on November 18 and the 11:00 a.m. worship service on November 19, we will need help moving the bags from the worship space onto the truck. Everyone is invited to help. We keep a count of how many bags are loaded so that we know how many bags each family will receive the next day.

On November 20, volunteers will gather at the Ada Jenkins Center lower parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Between 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., our neighbors bring their tickets and pull through the parking lot to pick up their bags and gift cards. Distribution will take place rain or shine, hot or cold (coffee and hot chocolate are provided). If you would like to help, sign up at www.davidsonumc.org/event-registrations.

MISSIONS MALL: SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 12 & 19

What!? Missions Mall in November? For this year, yes. Due to the timing of Advent and Christmas and the events which need to take place in the Fellowship Hall in December, the Missions Mall has been moved to November. Missions Mall is a way to support many of the missions of the church by purchasing alternative gifts and "gifts with a purpose" for everyone on your Christmas shopping list. You may not even need to do any black Friday shopping this year! Bring your cash & checkbook so more money goes to missions than credit card fees.

ANGEL TREE: SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 3

What!? Angel Tree in November? For this year, yes. Our Angel Tree provides the gifts for our Christmas JOY Store. The JOY Store, to be held December 8 & 9, is DUMC's way of providing an opportunity for low resourced families in our community to purchase Christmas gifts for their children at a greatly reduced cost. It preserves parents' dignity by empowering them to choose nice gifts while paying a little bit for them. Please return angel gifts by December 6. If you would like to help during the Joy Store, sign up at www.davidsonumc.org/event-registrations.

PRAYER LIST

Names remain on this list for two issues, unless otherwise requested. To add your name or that of a friend or loved one, contact Jonna Eichorn (jeichorn@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

Joe Banks	Sandy Kenley
Sibyl Banks	David Krakar
Everett Baxter	Paul Leland
Marsha Brodsky	Candy Mullins
Kim Browning	Jeff Mullins
Lynn Burrell	Woody Naman
Tiz Callihan	Fred O'Neal
Thad Chesson	Stephen Pace
Jason Ellenberger	Carolyn Parton
Kaye Elliott	Joe Plummer
Judy Feigl	Ginny Poulton
Shelby Ferguson	Bruce Ricketts
Jan Frahm	David Spencer
Jean Fuerst	Dorothy Varner
Ruth Haring	Jon Vickers
Barb Hertzell	Banks Williams
Charlie Holder	Charles Yarborough
Jan Hubbard	Margie Younts
Melita Jordan	Barbie Zukauskas
Elsie Joseph	

SYMPATHY to...

Jim Blythe in the death of his mother.
Steve Stum in the death of his mother.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kristen and David Weggel in the birth of their daughter, Portia Katrin, born September 12.

CONGRATULATIONS to Grace Barkley and James Cassino, who were married on September 23.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mallory Akins and Loren Brinkman, who were married on October 7.

CONGRATULATIONS to Meredith Wylie and Christopher McNally, who were married on October 14.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kristin and Brannon Everidge in the birth of their twins, Walker Ross and Lily Jane, born October 19.

COLLECTION BIN

MAD: November 4 & 5

This month is a reverse Make-A-Difference collection. We ask that you TAKE several bright yellow bags to fill with items for our annual Harvest Procession, November 18/19.

Winter Coat Drive

New/gently used coats for men, women, and children will be collected throughout November for donation to Crisis Assistance Ministry and other local agencies. Place coats in the marked bins outside the Church Office.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: A Holy Curiosity - Not Just for Kids!

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when one contemplates the mysteries of eternity... Never lose a holy curiosity."
- Albert Einstein

Godly Play is a Montessori-style class for children Grades K - 5 that meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. In this class, the children are presented with simple and beautiful materials that tell a biblical story. The children are invited to ask questions and to wonder about the story and materials and how they relate to their lives.

Children are naturally inquisitive about everything, but as we age, our curiosity begins to fade. Uncertainty can make us uncomfortable. We steadily form opinions and become fixed in our understanding of how things are and should be. However, Jesus invites us to become like little children and to reignite our curiosity. In the Gospel accounts, Jesus asks many questions, even in response to those put to him. His questions, his teachings, and his actions are more often than not provocative; they jolt us into exploring new ways of thinking and doing things.

These books, available in the DUMC Library, beckon us towards cultivating a holy curiosity, a vital force for spiritual growth no matter our age:



November

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4 & 5

Rev. Alexis Coleman

11 & 12

Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken

18 & 19

Rev. Sally Langford

25 & 26

Rev. Linda Zastovnik



DAVIDSON
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CHURCH

P.O. Box 718 | 233 SOUTH MAIN STREET
DAVIDSON, NC 28036
704-892-8277 | WWW.DAVIDSONUMC.ORG