



October

2019

AT-A-GLANCE

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

BUZZWORD: COLLABORATION!

REV. ALEXIS COLEMAN

We're all familiar with buzzwords that seem to come out of nowhere and then become a "thing." Remember when there was no such thing as 4G, 5G, *Insta*, or even *Millennial*? And yet, depending on the circles in which you travel, there's a good chance that you now hear these words pretty regularly. One buzzword that has been in the corporate world for years has hit the non-profit world in a renewed way in the last few years. That word is collaboration.



Simply defined, collaboration means working together to get something done. Collaboration is such a biblical principle. Throughout the Bible, men and women worked together with God to accomplish that which they could not accomplish on their own. One of my favorite stories of collaboration is in the book of Nehemiah, when the people came together to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. Some of the people stood guard against armed invaders while others did the work of rebuilding.

In the corporate world, collaboration between teams has been the norm for years. In the nonprofit and church worlds, not so much. But in both arenas, that is changing rapidly. With the proliferation of nonprofits and with new tax laws, philanthropic dollars aren't as plentiful and don't stretch as far as they used to. Additionally, many funders (DUMC being one of these), have gone from input/output-based models to outcomes-based models. Outcomes typically take far longer to measure and take greater investment on the front end. This means that funding dollars must stretch even further.

Many nonprofits who used to work in silos are now finding it necessary to work together to achieve the outcomes their funders are requiring. When collaboratives work, it's a WIN-WIN-WIN (another buzzword) for everyone! A WIN for funders, a WIN for the nonprofits (working together often results in less duplication and less burnout), but most of all it's a WIN for client partners as they begin to experience the fullness of life Jesus desires for all people (John 10:10).

As you read this Month-at-a-Glance, you'll read about some amazing collaborations happening right here in our community: Bags of Hope, North Mecklenburg Economic Mobility Collaborative, and Hope to Home. I hope you hear the buzz and decide to join in!

Joy and peace,

OF SPECIAL NOTE THIS MONTH

MAD SUNDAY

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

The Make-A-Difference collection for October is for Room in the Inn.

We are collecting:

Men's Briefs - size Medium

Men's Round neck T-shirts - sizes Large, X-Large, and XX-Large

Women's Panties - sizes 7 - 8

Men's and Women's white sport socks

Place donations in the MAD baskets in the Gathering Space or in the marked bin outside the Church Office.

Cancer Care

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

7:00 - 8:30 P.M. ROOM 220

The topic for October will be "Building Friendships," facilitated by Karla Tuttle.

FX (Family Experience)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Come join our family program for parents and children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Childcare is available. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. with a free dinner following the show.

Register on the DUMC website under events.

Film & Spirituality

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Ever want to challenge traditions?

Chocolat is the story of what happens in a quiet French village when traditions are challenged.

No one remains unchanged! Film and Spirituality will be showing and discussing this classic film starring Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp from

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Room 213.

No membership, no fees!

Bring a snack and drink to enjoy during the movie.

BAGS OF HOPE BRINGS HOPE TO LAKE NORMAN AREA

BY ASHLEY NYDISH

Bags of Hope is a local nonprofit that seeks to bring hope to the Lake Norman and North Charlotte areas by supplying weekend food provisions to elementary, middle, and high school students who experience food insecurity.

North Carolina has consistently ranked among the top 5 states with the highest percentage of citizens experiencing food shortages.



Last school year we provided over 300 weekend food bags each week of the school year to children at Blythe Elementary, Community School of Davidson, Cornelius Elementary, Davidson Elementary, Grand Oak Elementary, Huntersville Elementary, Torrence Creek Elementary, and Winding Springs Elementary School, as well as Bailey Middle, Bradley Middle, J.M. Alexander Middle, and Hopewell High.

Our services cover 37 weekends during the school year, with extra provisions given for longer breaks such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break. Children are identified by their teachers and school counselors as experiencing food insecurity.

Many of us will never know how it feels to be hungry or to worry about from where our next meal will come, but for many families in our community, this is a daily reality. I continue to be blessed and humbled to work with the counselors at our schools and our amazing volunteers who generously share their blessings and put DUMC's mission statement into action.



Have you heard about the North Mecklenburg Economic Mobility Collaborative (NMEMC)?

A small task force began meeting in July 2018 to address the issue of the lack of Economic Mobility in the North Meck area. You may be aware that in a study done of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, Charlotte ranked 50th in upward economic mobility. In North Mecklenburg, the statistics are dismal for many of our neighbors.

- * One-third of North Mecklenburg workers earn between \$15,000 and \$40,000, and one-fifth earn less than \$15,000 a year.
- * Only 1% of homes in North Mecklenburg were priced under \$100,000 in 2016 and 2017.

When the NMEMC formally launches in January 2020, we will divide into working teams to address the systemic issues which prevent our neighbors from moving forward economically. These issues include but are not limited to: Affordable Housing, Access to Affordable Health Care, Adequate Transportation, Local Living Wage Employment Opportunities, Job Training.

Rev. Alexis Coleman serves on the Steering Committee for NMEMC and will keep you posted on event dates and ways you can participate.

THANK YOU DUMC!

My name is Jennifer Hayes and I am a counselor at Huntersville Elementary. I want to thank the members of DUMC for supporting this needed program. It has changed the lives of many of our students.

I do not think many community members understand the true poverty that exists in our Northwest Learning Community. Most social services are dedicated to the Charlotte area, and families do not have access to services that are a far distance. At Huntersville Elementary, we have over 20 students that experience food insecurity over the weekend and holiday breaks. Our students depend on the food and look forward to picking up their bag each week.

Last year I had one student who told me her favorite day of the week was Friday because she was so excited to see what her "food angel" had packed in her bag. I have had many students tell me that they cannot afford a snack at school so they carefully take out five items from the bag to save for a school snack the next week. The students are very appreciative of the sustenance and most never take the program for granted. I have had many families call me when they are back on their feet and request to give their bag to someone who is in crisis.



As educators, we strive to take a "whole child" perspective. A student cannot learn if he or she is hungry. Socially and emotionally, these bags not only ensure that students come to school on Monday morning well fed, but they also lessen their anxiety about their food situation over the weekend or break.

I cannot express enough how valuable this program is to our school and our students. Thank you for seeing a problem in our community and your willingness to help. Knowing that our students won't go hungry is so very important when we send them home each weekend!

Jennifer Hayes
School Counselor
Huntersville Elementary

A BAGS OF HOPE PACKING PARTY!

A Bags of Hope Packing Party will be held on Thursday, October 17 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Bags of Hope Warehouse, 18535 Old Statesville Rd, Unit H, Cornelius. The warehouse is located on the back of the building. This event is open to all ages!

Help us fill backpacks with food for area students. Register for a time slot at www.davidsonumc.org/event-registrations/.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH HABITAT?



One of the great accomplishments of Davidson UMC has been its involvement with Our Towns Habitat for Humanity for over 20 years. We've either built on our own or partnered to build more than 20 homes in the Lake Norman area. In 2018 we celebrated with Yanelly and her sons as we dedicated her new house in memory of Ken

Johnson, who led many of DUMC's builds over the years and was an ardent supporter of Habitat. Ken passed away in May 2017.

In May 2018, Rev. Alexis Coleman joined the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity and learned more about the need for critical repairs in our community, in addition to the ongoing need for new affordable homes. As reasonably priced land for new homes becomes more and more scarce, Habitat's focus will have to shift to critical repairs. Critical repairs are those which help keep people (often seniors) in homes that they already own. Some of these are repairs which volunteers are able to help with some of these repairs; others must be done by contractors. In May of this year, a small team of DUMC folks helped replace the porch rails for an elderly woman in Cornelius. Her home also needed a new HVAC system.

In November DUMC will be joining another church to partner on a new home in the Huntington Green neighborhood of Huntersville. Our Missional Impact Partner, Caterpillar Ministries, is located in Huntington Green. We specifically asked to build there in order to strengthen our presence in that neighborhood. At this time, Habitat is finalizing the permit process for the house and we will be able to announce the start date soon.

In the meantime, we contributed to the current Faith Coalition build in Mooresville and will have 4 volunteer spots on November 9 as that build wraps up. This project will kick off our November Missional Impact Days, so save the date if you'd like to work on interior hardware inside or landscaping outside. More project details will be released soon. Affordable housing is a critical need in the Lake Norman area.

DUMC will continue to faithfully partner with Our Towns Habitat for Humanity for the foreseeable future.



HOPE TO HOME

What if . . . 3 nonprofits got together with a vision to provide lasting solutions to housing instability through a network of collaborative partners who believe that all people possess the capability to make transformative life choices?

And what if . . . those same 3 nonprofits worked out a model to make their vision a reality?

And what if . . . the model necessitated participation by other community partners to help provide houses for families to live in and learn in while also receiving ongoing case management services and guidance to become stable homeowners in the future?

And what if . . . they invited the community to participate in the vision as well?

And what if . . . DUMC said "yes!" to the invitation?

Hope to Home is a new collaboration of Hope House Foundation, the Ada Jenkins Center, and Our Towns Habitat for Humanity. Each of these nonprofits is a DUMC Missional Impact Partner. One of our May 2019 Getting Ahead graduates is the first Hope to Home program participant. She and her family were devastated by a hurricane last year and came to live at Hope House with only the possessions they could get in their car. They are now living in the first teaching house, which has been provided by the Town of Davidson. They are doing well and are well on their way back to stability. This family is now in DUMC's Bridge Builders program!

The Missional Impact Strategy Team (MIST) will be working with the Hope to Home program to look for ways that DUMC can help make the Hope to Home vision a reality for more families. In the meantime, if you or someone you know has a low-income property available for sale or rent in the North Mecklenburg area, please contact Janice Hinton at janice.hinton@adajenkins.org to learn more about Hope to Home.

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 Sherry Carpenter (scarpenter@davidsonumc.org or 704-892-8277).

Joe and Sybil Banks
Kim Browning
Alex Dahan
Judy Feigl
Lance Fenderson
Genevieve Ferment
Cheryl & Shawn Greenwood

Kitty Hamilton
Bailey McKee
Carole & Woody Naman
Dylan Shellenbarger
Charles Walker
Ashleigh Whaley
Alice Younts
Emmaline Younts

SYMPATHY to:

- * The Langhorne family in the death of Mary's mother.
- * The Smith family in the death of Marilyn's brother.
- * The Kelly family in the death of Robert's mother.
- * The Burnette family in the death of Jan's brother.

DUMC PUMPKIN PATCH IS OPEN!



Stop by and get your pumpkin and fall décor from the DUMC Pumpkin Patch located at the

Molly McKay House.

Hours are: Monday - Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds go toward youth choir trips, retreats or missions, and other youth events. Anyone can work in the patch to earn/donate "pumpkin dollars" or community service hours.

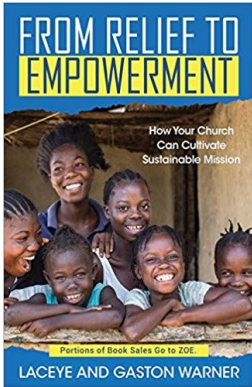
LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Gail Spach, DUMC Librarian

Making a More Significant Impact in the World

This quarter's **Connect through Missional Impact** on October 6 focuses on opportunities at Davidson United Methodist Church to participate in collaborative and transformational missions that lead to self-sustaining solutions in our community. The library can support you and your family's desire to grow deeper in the knowledge and love of God and in your understanding of foundational concepts about poverty, systemic injustice, and contemporary best practices of mission engagement.

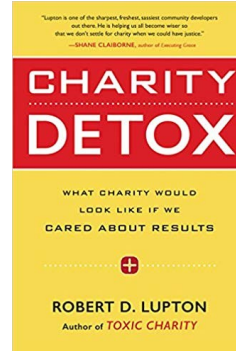
These books, found in the Social Justice section, present some of the ideas that DUMC's Missional Impact Strategy Team has been using as a guide to missions.



***From Relief to Empowerment: How your church can cultivate sustainable mission* by Lacey and Gaston Warner**

The authors of this book are elders in the United Methodist Church. Lacey is also an Associate Professor at Duke Divinity School, while Warner is the CEO of ZOE, a Christian non-profit that empowers over 2800 orphans and children in 7 countries by means of microloans and education in nutrition, disease prevention, and civil rights. ZOE was founded in 2004 as a relief organization with feeding programs and visits from medical missionaries—much needed in emergency situations.

As time went by, leaders decided to address the underlying causes of poverty and focus efforts on sustainable empowerment programs that facilitate self-sufficiency. ZOE encourages US churches to sponsor a working group—Davidson United Methodist Church sponsors 3. This book explains the theory behind empowerment ministries, using ZOE as an illustration.



***Charity Detox* by Robert D. Lupton**

Robert Lupton outlines strategies for missions with long-term effects. This book and *Toxic Charity*, by the same author, are critical training materials for many non-profits that invest in economic development and

community collaborations as a means of fostering systemic change. These strategies result in more efficient use of mission dollars and a more powerful impact in the world.

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