

"Reaching Others" is part of the Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church. In order for us to do God's work in our community and beyond to reach others, we support the following organizations through monetary donations, volunteer hours, and collections for items they need to carry out their ministry. Together we make a team to help those in need - spiritually, emotionally, or physically.

Church-wide Offerings

Four times each year, our church joins congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the shared work of mission and ministry in these offerings:

- Christmas Joy
- Pentecost
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Peacemaking

Mission Outreach

The Mission Committee provides guidance to the congregation for missions (local, national, and international), for benevolent giving, publicizes mission opportunities, and maintains mission awareness.

Recipients of our mission giving include, but are not limited to:

- Anson Jones Ballet Folklorico
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Brazos Valley
- Boy Scouts Troop 257
- Elder Aid
- First Presbyterian Children's Center (for family scholarships)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Health for All Clinic
- PET Project Texas
- Presbyterian Children's Homes
- Churches in Presbytery of New Covenant
- Project Unity
- Salvation Army
- Seafarer's Ministry
- SOS Ministries
- Still Creek Ranch
- Stop Hunger Now
- Student Scholarships (seminary, mission, YAV)
- Texas Ramp Project
- The Prenatal Clinic
- United Campus Ministry
- Voices for Children

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our church established a pilot program that provides supervised activities to middle school students who attend a neighborhood school and have nowhere to go after school on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. At FPC in a secure setting, trained volunteers provide tutoring, snacks, and play games.

EYEGASSES

Our church collects gently used eyeglasses and gives to the Bryan Breakfast Lions Club to be refurbished and distributed to those in need.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women (PW) meet from September through May to study the Bible, enjoy fellowship, and undertake service projects.

Service project activities include:

- Donate food items to the Brazos Church Pantry
- Collect Campbell's soup can labels to purchase computer supplies for schools
- Participate in Habitat for Humanity builds
- Donate school supplies to Jones Elementary School
- Provide layettes and personal care bags to The Prenatal Clinic
- Collect books for Reading Is Fundamental
- Prepare and contribute Christmas Gift Boxes to Seafarers' Ministry (Port of Houston)
- Provide school supplies to Still Creek Ranch for boys and girls
- Donate Christmas presents to Twin City Mission
- Donate cosmetic samples to residents of Phoebe's Home
- Provide desserts for United Campus Ministries' weekly dinner and Bible study
- Help host International Students' Dinners
- Provide used eyeglasses for those in need working in conjunction with the Lions Club, and
- Special service projects (e.g. Bryan ISD homeless students, Japanese tsunami relief, etc.).

In addition, the PW collects special offerings such as the Least Coin Fellowship, Birthday Offering, and Thank Offering. These efforts support mission projects both overseas and in the United States.

This brochure is presented to inform members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of service opportunities as they seek to be faithful in their service to others through mission and outreach coordinated by:

Community Services Committee
Mission Committee
Presbyterian Women
Men's Group
Youth Programs
Children Programs

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**PREACHING CHRIST
TEACHING DISCIPLESHIP
REACHING OTHERS**

First Presbyterian Church
Bryan, Texas

Be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

—James 1:22

Community Services

The Community Services Committee plans and implements the contributions of time, money, and individual drive to facilitate the ongoing needs of the following local organizations:

ANSON JONES SCHOOL

Anson Jones Elementary is part of the Bryan Independent School District. Jones Elementary serves students in Grades K-5. Our campus contains regular education classes, bilingual education classes, dual language classes, and services for special education students. Anson Jones Elementary is named after Dr. Anson Jones the last president of the Republic of Texas.

<http://fc.bryanisd.org/jones>

BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY

The Brazos Church Pantry is an ecumenical, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving environment for the distribution of food to those below the poverty line in Brazos County; regardless of race, color, creed or cultural background. The pantry is open two hours a day, six days a week and operates with no paid staff. More than thirty local churches provide contributions and the help of about 100 volunteers. The Pantry receives food for distribution in three ways: by donations from churches and community organizations; by purchasing available items from the Brazos Valley Food Bank (at a fraction of what it would cost retail); and occasionally purchasing from other sources.

<http://www.brazoschurchpantry.org>

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and making the right to simple, decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat brings together individuals, churches, businesses, and other organizations from all sectors of the community to build simple, decent homes for low-income families. <http://habitatbcs.org>

HEALTH FOR ALL CLINIC

Founded over 20 years ago, Health For All, Inc. is a nonprofit free health care clinic. Health For All serves the “Working Poor,” i.e., it serves low income patients in the Brazos Valley who do not have health insurance and do not qualify for government programs such as Medicaid, Medicare or County Indigent funds. Using a team of volunteer medical professionals, a small staff, and a large number of volunteers and community partners, the clinic can provide free doctor visits, pharmaceuticals, specialist exams, counseling services, lab tests and much more. Funding for the clinic is provided by local donors; no state or federal funding is received.

<http://www.hlth4all.org>

HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER

The mission of Hope Pregnancy Center is to bring glory to God, ministering in a Christ-centered environment to the needs of those experiencing crisis pregnancies. Pregnancy tests, sonograms, counseling, and educational classes are offered. A “baby store” provides diapers, baby clothes, car seats, and other baby items through attendance at the classes. <http://www.hopepregnancy.org>

PHOEBE’S HOME

Founded in 1978, Phoebe’s Home, a program of Twin City Mission, provides emergency shelter, meals, transportation, and recreational activities to victims of domestic abuse and their children. Their facilities can house up to 45 individuals, with the average stay being 30-45 days. Phoebe’s Home serves victims of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, as well as victims of teen dating violence. All residential and non-residential participants are offered case management, legal advocacy, and individual, family and group counseling by a licensed professional counselor (LPC). All services are provided at no cost.

<http://www.twincitymission.org/phoebeshome.shtml>

THE PRENATAL CLINIC

The Prenatal Clinic provides community centered prenatal care and health education to medically indigent pregnant women in the Brazos Valley. Comprehensive, accessible and affordable prenatal care and health education are the best ways to improve pregnancy outcomes. The goal is to reduce illness and death associated with the prenatal and perinatal periods, specifically to reduce the number of low birth-weight infants and the rate of newborn mortality.

<http://www.bcsprenatal.org>

PROJECT UNITY

Project Unity is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes collaborative partnerships among and between community-based programs. It coordinates among 80 local agencies and has identified a systematic method of bridging gaps in service delivery and enhancing coordination of care provided to local residents. In addition, it operates Safe Harbour visitation center providing a safe, child-friendly environment for children to visit with their non-custodial parent when family conflict results in court-ordered supervised visits. Through Texas Families Together and Safe, and Family Strengthening, Project Unity helps increase protective factors and decrease the risk for child abuse/neglect. It also offers a variety of case management services through Special Health Services. Project Unity truly fills in the cracks so that our neighbors don't fall through!

<http://www.projectunitytx.org>

STILL CREEK RANCH

Still Creek Ranch was founded in 1988 to serve children that need a second chance on life. They accept boys and girls from all over the world to live in a Christ-centered, structured environment. The children live in family cottages and are provided with a private Christian education and a variety of vocational, spiritual and extra-curricular activities. Still Creek Ranch is completely funded from private donations. They do not accept any government funding, grants or United Way funding. First Presbyterian supports Still Creek with a monthly donation, drives for various supplies, and also volunteers. www.stillcreekranch.org.

TWIN CITY MISSION

Twin City Mission has operated in the Brazos Valley since 1963. They provide temporary shelter for homeless men, women, and families. In addition, they provide transitional housing services, which helps bridge the gap between emergency shelter and self-sufficiency. Twin City Mission also operates the Community Closet, which provides clothing and furniture to individuals and families; the Community Café, which provides free meals to anyone in the community; and four resale stores, offering furniture and household appliances at garage sale prices. Twin City Mission also operates a Youth and Family Services program, which offers free services, including individual and group counseling to at risk youth and their families. <http://www.twincitymission.org>

Youth Outreach & Service

The youth of our church are actively involved in outreach and service.

MISSION TRIPS & CONFERENCES

Our youth participate in a variety of mission and service-oriented opportunities serving the needs of others.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Super Bowl weekend, our youth engages the larger congregation in their efforts to receive monetary and food donations for the Brazos Church Pantry.

LABOR READY

Each month our youth prepare and assemble lunches for local Labor Ready workers.

Children Outreach & Service

ELEMENTARY MISSION PROJECTS

Each year, elementary-aged children (K through 6th grade) participate in a mission weekend. Children learn from guest speakers about mission opportunities in our community and what they can do to help. Children and their parents meet at the church to work on mission projects around the church building. Children in the 5th and 6th grade also meet once each semester to work on a service project. This gives the children a chance to understand issues outside of the church and for them to know that they did something important to help.

Men’s Groups

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP

Men of our church participate in the Texas Ramp Project, a non-profit organization, which brings freedom to the homebound by building safe, durable wheelchair ramps for people who cannot afford them.

