



## Reaching Out

### COMMUNITY MINISTRIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATLANTA

## To Those in Need

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25:35 - 36

## The Vision



“A huge door of opportunity for good work has opened up here.” 1 Corinthians 16:9

The vision of Community Ministries is to be led by the Holy Spirit to:

- Discern what it means for us to act justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.
- Partner with other churches and agencies in our ministry among the poor.
- Assess the what, why, and how of our ministry.
- Integrate ministry among the poor into the total life of the congregation.

In so doing First Presbyterian Church will become a stronger faith community whose ministries and mission among the poor are intentionally created and informed by being rooted in our biblical, confessional, and theological understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Following the Spirit's lead will:

- Encourage greater participation by our members in acts of charity and Christian service.
- More effectively support the weak, aid the afflicted, and love and serve the poor by learning from other churches and agencies to improve our own ministries among the poor.
- Leverage our skills, resources, and experience by sharing with other churches and agencies ways to uplift their ministries among the poor.

As a member of First Presbyterian Church, come join us in this challenging, exciting, and fulfilling ministry of Jesus Christ.

## Sunday Morning Prayer Breakfast

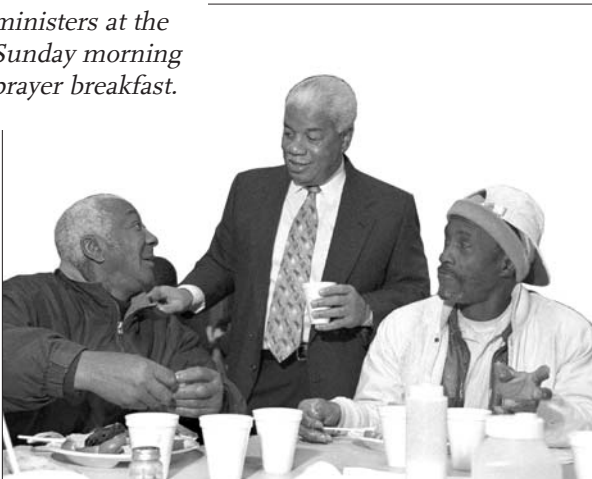
Each Sunday morning from 7 A.M. until 8:15 A.M., the Church hosts a breakfast and devotional in Fifield Hall for as many as 500 men, women, and children who are homeless. Preparations begin at 6 A.M.

How can you help?

- Help prepare or serve breakfast one or more Sundays a month. Contact Nancy Harris at 404-250-0069. Plan to arrive between 6 and 6:15 A.M.
- Help clean up after breakfast any Sunday morning from 8 to 8:45 A.M. in Fifield Hall. Just show up or call 404-228-7766 beforehand.
- Help set up for breakfast on Saturday afternoon, purchase supplies, or pick up donated food from vendors.

For more information, contact Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766 or at [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org).

*Rev. Charles Black ministers at the Sunday morning prayer breakfast.*



## EVERY MEMBER CAN

Every Member CAN collects nonperishable food items for the Venable Food Pantry.

How can you help?

- Bring food items every week and deposit them in the bin located near the reception desk in the main building or in the Community Ministries office on the 2nd floor.

For more information, contact Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766 or at [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org).

## THE VENABLE FOOD PANTRY

The Venable Food Pantry distributes food to the working poor who need emergency assistance in making ends meet because of illness, temporary job loss, or reduced work time.

In 2003, approximately 123,000 pounds of food was dispensed through the pantry. That's nearly 62 tons of food, and the pantry meets or exceeds that total each year. The need for food is always great, but the November and December holidays present the most critical demands. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1 to 3 P.M.

The Food Pantry needs volunteers who can:

- Donate a couple of hours on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday to help interview people, pack food bags, and distribute food.
- Help with picking up food at the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- Help with donations of canned goods.
- Help one afternoon a week, packing food bags and serving clients.

For more information, contact Nita Pierce at 404-228-7724.

## MEN'S CLOTHING CLOSET

Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3 to 5 P.M., the Clothing Closet enables homeless men to take showers, shave, get clean clothing, and have their clothing washed. It also provides work clothing for the working poor.

The Men's Clothing Closet has an enduring need for pants and jackets, plus clothing appropriate as the weather turns colder in the fall and winter. To the security desk in the lobby of the Community Ministries building, you may:

- Bring donations of men's clothing, especially shoes, dark pants, work pants, tee shirts and socks.
- Bring sample size toiletry items and disposable razors.

Contact Joseph Wallace at 404-228-7766 or 404-228-7747 for more information.

## JUDITH A. RICHARDSON FOOT CARE MINISTRY

Every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 P.M., volunteers provide footbaths and foot care for homeless men, after they have taken their showers at the Clothing Closet. Church members may:

- Volunteer to provide foot care one or more Wednesdays a month. Training is provided.
- Serve as a team member for the Foot Care Ministry. Purchase supplies, handle publicity and recruit volunteers.

Call Coordinator Dan Richart at 770-682-8418 or Tony Palmer at 404-467-3707.

## MENTORING MINISTRY

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1 to 4 P.M., volunteers counsel, pray with and provide various services to help homeless men and women who are disabled. Church members may:

- Volunteer to greet or counsel with visitors to this ministry. On-the-job training is provided.
- Bring or provide soup or sandwiches for the guests.

To volunteer or for more information, contact Alan or Nancy Harris at 404-315-3225.

## ALICE BROWN ART THERAPY

The Alice Brown Art Therapy Ministry, in partnership with Community Outreach Support Services of Grady Memorial Hospital, provides a ministry of compassion and friendship to indigent persons with severe psychiatric disabilities.

Through the use of various art materials, clients are given the opportunities to express their feelings and experiences. The group process offers the clients a safe and caring environment where acceptance and affirmation can be given and received.

For more information, contact Suzanne Fincher at 404-228-7776.



*Artwork created  
by Art Therapy  
Ministry client.*

## HUNGER ISSUES COMMITTEE

First Presbyterian Church has a number of ministries in the war on hunger. Several of these ministries deal directly with hunger, and this committee helps direct all First Presbyterian Church efforts through:

- Coordinating efforts related to the Venable Food Pantry (handle publicity, organize periodic food drives, promote Every Member CAN, and recruit volunteers).
- Working with representatives of Project Connect to plan the Annual Empty Bowl Dinner, publicizing and selling tickets.
- Promoting the Annual Hunger Walk that benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank.
- Serving on the Presbyterian Answer To Hunger (PATH) Board, a long-standing ministry of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

For more information, contact Adele Shepherd at 404-365-8876.



First Presbyterian Church organizes a number of ministries in partnership with other churches, organizations, and institutions. The following listings describe those ministries.

## THE GENESIS SHELTER



The Genesis Shelter provides transitional housing for homeless newborn babies and their families. First Presbyterian Church is one of the founding member churches of this vital ministry to newborns and their families. The program provides homeless families with shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round.

With its complement of services, Genesis Shelter helps to stabilize families by offering job training and other life skills needed to help parents meet the needs of their children and families in order to keep the family together.

For more information, contact Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766 or at [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org).

## MIDTOWN ASSISTANCE CENTER

Formed in 1986, the Midtown Assistance Center (MAC) comprises 10 congregations along the Peachtree Street corridor that seek to serve the needs of the working poor in midtown Atlanta. MAC provides temporary emergency financial assistance in the form of rent, utilities, transportation, and non-perishable food. First Presbyterian Church takes a special offering each Communion Sunday for MAC. Volunteers to help interview persons seeking assistance are always needed.

For more information, contact Dorothy Chandler at 404-681-5777.

## FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES



The inner city chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chapter at Carver High School continues to reach students in middle and high schools in the Atlanta Public School System. First Presbyterian Church provides support for the annual college tour and for scholarships for the students to attend camps in the summer. Mentors and sponsors are always needed.

For more information, contact Rev. Charles Black at 404-228-7747.

## OUR HOUSE

Our House is a facility that provides daycare and after-school care for the children of families living in shelters in the Decatur area.



*A child care and support center for homeless families.*

For more information, contact Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766 or at [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org).

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Each year since the mid-1980s, First Presbyterian Church has partnered with other Atlanta churches to build one or two Habitat houses for working families in need of affordable and decent homes. Church volunteers need not be skilled, but be available to work one or more of the seven Saturdays needed to complete the house. Volunteers will enjoy a most rewarding day helping others.

To volunteer for the next Habitat house, contact Bill Earnest at 404-351-8030 or Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766.



*Celebrating and dedicating a new home built by Habitat for Humanity with First Presbyterian Church volunteers.*

## OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY

The Open Door Community is a ministry where resident volunteers and staff live with the disadvantaged and poor. They advocate for the homeless as well as provide meals, showers and clothing. They also are involved in prison ministry.

For more information, contact Mary Joe Dellinger at 404-228-7766 or at [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org).

## JAMAICA PARTNERSHIP

In a unique relationship, First Presbyterian Church and Hillside Presbyterian Church have formed a joint effort to work with the people of Jamaica to develop a friendship and share our mutual gifts as we get to know each other on a personal level. This is not a mission of giving, but one of learning from each other and building relationships. Frequent trips to Jamaica by a team from both churches will develop a bond that will transcend cultural, economic, and political differences.

For more information, contact Connie Lee at 404-228-7741.



*Members of First Presbyterian Church and Hillside Presbyterian Church arrive in Jamaica.*

## VISITATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

This ministry, a collaborative effort between the Fulton County Juvenile Court, the Fulton County DFCS and First Presbyterian Church, offers the opportunity for birth parents and children in state custody to visit each other. The goal of the program is to help prepare families for reunification. In its first year, the Visitation Program witnessed several reunifications of children with families.

- Volunteers are trained by the Court to observe visits and complete reports that are forwarded to the Court.
- Volunteers commit to two Thursday evenings per month to supervise a visit, to greet the families, or to coordinate volunteers.

For more information, contact Nancy Gettinger at 678-291-0250 or at [NHerrbach@aol.com](mailto:NHerrbach@aol.com).

## ATLANTA ENTERPRISE CENTER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Founded in 1984 and now a partner ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta Enterprise Center (AEC) provides homeless and other high risk persons with opportunities for self-sufficiency through job readiness training and assistance in finding and holding full time jobs. Through counseling and clients' acceptance of personal responsibility, AEC has helped 1,141 persons gain full time employment over the past 3 years.

Contact Jim Morgens at 404-364-0967 to volunteer to help with office duties or to learn more.

## SLATER ELEMENTARY

First Presbyterian Church has a long history of working with the Carver Homes Community in Southeast Atlanta. This effort is continuing with assistance to Slater Elementary School as math and reading tutors to provide individual instruction and to mentor young people who need support in reaching their academic potentials. Two hours per week or per month will make a difference in the life of a child. An orientation session is required. Contact John Marriner at 404-209-5160.

## EDNA RAINE WARDLAW COKER WOMEN'S SHELTER

The Edna Raine Wardlaw Coker Women's Shelter provides a safe, supportive transitional living environment for guests with the goal of achieving self sufficiency in an independent living situation. The Shelter accommodates up to 12 guests at any time, serving over 60 women per year. Each year over 150 volunteers participate by spending the night, bringing dinner, or serving as coordinators for the volunteer calendars.

- Volunteer to spend the night at the Shelter (two volunteers stay each evening, and many come with their family, including children). New volunteers work paired with an experienced spend-the-night volunteer.
- Volunteer to bring dinner for our guests and volunteers (max. 15 persons).
- Volunteer to serve as a coordinator who calls the food or overnight volunteers to remind them of their assigned day.

To volunteer, call Gail Ramey at 404-228-7767 or e-mail her at [garamey@mindspring.com](mailto:garamey@mindspring.com). For more information on the Shelter or volunteer opportunities, call Harrilee Cheshire at 404-355-3930.



*Women's Shelter resident (holding cake) is congratulated for moving on by church staff Mary Joe Dellinger (bottom left) and Rev. Charles Black along with three other shelter residents.*

To learn more about Community Ministries or to volunteer, please contact Mary Joe Dellinger, Director of Community Ministries, at 404-228-7766 or [mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org](mailto:mjdellinger@firstpresatl.org). You may also call Rev. Charles Black, Associate Pastor of Community Ministries, at 404-228-7747 or [cblack@firstpresatl.org](mailto:cblack@firstpresatl.org).

## Community Ministries

of First Presbyterian  
Church of Atlanta

Come join in this challenging,  
exciting and fulfilling ministry  
of Jesus Christ.

Produced Fall 2004  
by the Communications Council  
for the Community Ministries Council  
Editor: Tom Lombardo