

St. Paul's Mission Newsletter

Winter 2024



To share the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by direct involvement with those in our community, and around the world through missionaries.

Meet the Mission Committee:

Debbie Moll, Mission Chair: We are pleased to announce that Debbie Moll has graciously accepted to take on the role of Mission Chair for the Mission Committee. Debbie has been a member of the Mission Committee for many years and was the Missions Chairperson at the Methodist Church of the Master in Howell NJ for a few years. She also brings with her years of experience from her career in Nursing Management. She has the gift of leadership and a heart for missions, making her the perfect person to follow up such an amazing leader as Leslie was for us. I think she says it best when she describes her personal calling:



From a young age, I have harbored a deep desire to be on the mission field, providing care for the less fortunate in faraway lands. While life's circumstances may have delayed this calling, and maybe never to faraway places, I believe that now is the time God has chosen for me to step into this role. Despite initial fears and uncertainties, my recent experiences, including working with the Anchor Kids Ministry have reminded me that God is enough, and He has a plan.

Debbie, thank you for stepping up and taking on this task. Leading a committee is never easy and we are so glad to have you!

Recent Mission Activities:

Jersey Shore Rescue Mission Coat Drive:

This October we continued our tradition of collecting coats, hats, scarves, and all the warm things for the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission Coat Giveaway. The coat drive provides hundreds of free winter coats to men, women, and children in our community. On November 18th they gave out 1,900 coats to around 400 families.

HEART Craft Fair:

Thanks to everyone that came out to support the Mission Committee and all the local vendors at this years HEART Craft Fair on November 18th. The Mission Committee once again prepared light breakfasts, lunch boxes, soups, and baked goods. Thanks to you, a total of \$1,571 was raised to support the mission ministries at the church!

Thanksgiving Dinner:

One of our Mission Committee's favorite events is our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The week of the dinner volunteers were hard at work prepping 25+ turkeys, stuffing, glazed carrots, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, and so much more! On Thanksgiving we were flooded with volunteers from our church and community that were here to welcome and serve our guest. Thank you to everyone that helped with providing food/funds, preparing the food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up for this amazing event!



Salvation Army Angel Tree:

Our Angel Tree is always one of the highlights of the Christmas Season. This year 100 names with requested items were hung from our tree. The final day for drop off was December 10th and the gifts were overflowing! There were so many that they didn't fit into one picture. The toys, clothes, coats, and bikes filled the pews surrounding the tree and lined the front of the church. A team of volunteers showed up the next day to load all the gifts into the rental truck that Home Depot donated to us. Thank you so much for bringing joy to many children in our community!

Upcoming Mission Opportunities



Rise Against Hunger:

On Sunday, April 21, 2024 we will be hosting our annual meal packing event with our mission partners Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger targets remote communities within areas that are designated serious or higher on the Global Hunger Index. These communities are the hardest to reach, have limited to no outside communication, and have poor infrastructure. With the support of partners, like us, they provide expertise to

empower the communities to become self-sufficient. Their work starts with providing meals through local school to incentive attendance and enable kids to get an education. When the meals are boxed at a meal packing event they are the last hands that will touch them until they are opened at the school to be given to a child in need.

Packing 25,000 meals sounds like a tall order, but with all of us joining together it is so much fun! No matter your age or level of mobility we have a job for you! From our energetic runners to the powerful fill team to our meticulous weighers, there is something for you to do. We are looking for 150 people to join us so we can complete our task in about 2hrs. And yes, we have beaten that time in years past! We are also still accepting donations to purchase the meals. The food, packaging, and shipping costs are covered by us for a total of ~\$9,500. Please join us in supporting this amazing organization.

Haiti Lunch Program Update:

Thank you to all who continue to donate to the Haiti Lunch Program. As Carol shared with us during her update, things in Haiti are not good. Our friends at the orphanage had to leave through a hole in the wall to escape the escalating gang violent in Bon Repos. The church and school that we sponsor in Ganthier continues to be a beacon of light and hope in an area that continues to see an increase in violence and gang activity. We send them \$1,200 a month which was originally meant to feed 100 children. The school has seen a drastic increase in enrollment due to families



fleeing from surrounding communities to Ganthier. We are asking for you to prayerfully consider becoming a monthly partner for the Haiti Lunch Program. The current donations do not cover our commitment amount and the Mission Committee has been supplementing it from the general Mission funds raised. We are looking for. If 60 families were to give just \$20 every month to the Haiti Lunch program it would be self-sufficient.

Monthly Communion Offerings:

January: Love Lifts Us Up
February: Rise Against Hunger
March: Dayspring Ministry, Haiti
April: Interfaith Neighbors
May: Jersey Shore Rescue Mission
June: Nafasi Project

Special Thanks

The Mission Committee would like to say a special thank you to Leslie Meneguzzo, our outgoing Mission Committee Chair. Thank you for sharing with us your time and skills. You have been amazing to work with and a strong voice for our partners. We are very thankful that you are just stepping down instead of moving away, because we plan to tap you for help time and time again. Don't think you can get away from us this easily! We are so excited to see what God has in store for you as you step into your new role in leading the new small groups ministry that launched this year.

Financial Giving

Thank you for your generous support these past few months! Our total numbers for the fall are:

August/September, Church Conference Commitments: \$1,529
October, Thanksgiving Dinner: \$1,257
November, Angel Fund: \$1,231
December, "Jesus' Birthday Offering": \$1,263

How to Give

There are many ways you can donate to St Paul's. You may donate by placing your offering in the plate, by mail, through your bank, giving online, or by downloading the Vanco Mobile App your phone. Go to <https://www.oceangrove.church/give> for more information on all the ways to give.