

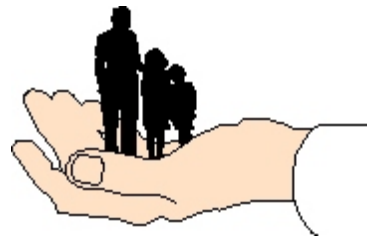
COVENANT LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MERCY MINISTRIES

Mercy Ministry continues to be an important part of our overall ministry to God's people here at Covenant Life. The Diaconate and the dedicated members of the church who make up the various sub-committees of the Mercy Committee operate a many faceted program of God centered, spiritual, and material support for our members and to a lesser degree, people in the world.

MERCY MINISTRIES

IN THE CHURCH:

Deacon's Mercy Fund Administration
Hospital Visitation
Meals to Shut-ins
Prayer Chain
Blood Bank
Tape Ministry
Transportation Ministry
Information & Reference Ministry
Food for Needy
Bereaved Family Dinners
Angel Tree
Homeless Dinner



1. **The Deacon's Fund** is a budgeted fund which is administered by a committee of the Diaconate. It is used to provide assistance to Christians and non-Christians, members and non-members, and needy in the world using written guidelines. The very generous fund which the church provides is used to aid many Christian and needy families in our community who are in great need for food, financial assistance, Christian counseling, etc. Deacons Jim Morris, George Galindo, Jim Apperson, Ed Wilson, Glenn Larson, and Rob Jacocks currently staff this committee.

2. **Hospital visitations** are scheduled by the volunteer coordinator when the patient wants visitors. Each church member needs to remember to keep the coordinator informed when someone they know is admitted. Duplicate information is gladly accepted. If you want to volunteer, please call Penny Johnston at 378-4043.

3. **Meals are delivered to shut-ins** and families with new babies. We generally will provide seven meals over one or two weeks. Here again, the coordinator needs to receive information relating to this need. She uses the church roster and will probably be calling you to provide a meal sometime in the future. Nita Schotsch, our coordinator, may be reached at 918-1621.

4. **The Prayer Chain** is composed of about 24 people, divided into four chains: Two for

daytime and two for evening. Requests are accepted from anyone having a need, and should be given by phone or in person to Gene or Allene Silvashy. They will then pass the request on to the first person of each chain. The prayer is then relayed throughout the chain. Members pledge to pray for each request daily for a week (however, some pray much longer depending on the request). Requests are always confidential. The group meets once a year to discuss the ministry's operation and to hear a guest speaker give a short talk on prayer. If you would like to join the prayer chain, you would be most welcome and may do so by calling Allene or Gene Silvashy at 923-4906. (Ruth Hulse sometimes subs for them in their absence.)

5. **The Blood Bank's** primary purpose is to facilitate and promote the donation of blood to the community blood bank by our congregation. Semi-annual blood drives are held at the church using the Bloodmobile. Members are also encouraged to donate at other times of the year at the Sarasota Community Blood Bank on US 41 west of Osprey Avenue on the south side of Mound Street. The blood bank's computer will continue to track individual contributions and group donations. If you have any questions, please call Ruth Morris 921-4162, or Amy Stubblefield, 918-2515.

6. **Tapes** of Sunday's sermon are delivered the following week to the homes of shut-ins by volunteers. If you are shut-in, please inform the office, they will direct your request to the coordinator, and he will arrange for the delivery of the tapes. The volunteers also are asked to visit with the shut-in and to keep them informed of what's happening at church. They are also asked to relay any needs or requests received during the visit to the church office. Joe Hanson (966-2666) coordinates this ministry and would love to hear from you, if you are interested in serving in this way.

7. **The Transportation Ministry** has been established to help our church family when transportation needs are essential and there are no other options available from your family, friends or public transportation. These needs can be in the category of doctors appointments, church attendance, grocery shopping, drug store needs, therapy, etc. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord by serving your fellow Christians in this time of need. It is also a wonderful time to meet, encourage, and fellowship with some wonderful Christians. If you are interested in serving in this manner or have an essential transportation need, please call Jack Dissington, 379-3425.

8. **The Information & Reference Ministry's** purpose is to help those in need of advice concerning where to get assistance with personal problems; nagging home maintenance problems; help finding reliable contractors, doctors, local businesses, lawyers, insurance agents, financial advice, help filing insurance claims, etc. We have the names of people in our congregation as well as others in town whom we would offer for your consideration and evaluation to help you solve these types of problems. We, as a church, cannot guarantee that you will be satisfied with any individual or contractor, however, you might feel more confident in dealing with fellow Christians or with people who have successfully worked for members of this congregation. Some of these services might be free and some may require a fee. Jean Georgiades coordinates this ministry and can be reached at 924-9188.

9. **Food for the needy** is collected in a barrel on the WEST side of the foyer of the auditorium on the first Sunday of each month as well as prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food is distributed to the needy of the church, to the needy outside the church who are recommended by anyone in our congregation, to Mothers Helping Mothers, or to the Salvation Army for their distribution. The Tim and Linda Shaw family coordinate this program and may be reached at 924-0224, if you know of a needy person or family. **Please remember your nonperishable food on the first Sunday of each month.**

10. **In a time of sorrow** when someone in the congregation dies, the church family arranges for food to be provided after a funeral or memorial service in the church or to be delivered to the family's home. We currently are looking for someone to be a standby coordinator who will be ready to serve when the need arises. Generally, we only need this committee to function once or twice a year. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Jim Morris at 921-4162.

11. **Hurricane or emergency evacuation:** The Mercy Committee maintains a list of congregation members who are willing to house people who are forced to evacuate their low lying or mobile homes in the event of a low level hurricane or similar event; when we are all not ordered to evacuate. If you need this type emergency assistance or would like to add your name to the list of volunteer hosts, please call the church office or Jim Morris at 921-4162.

12. **The Christmas Angel Tree Program:** We collect toys, clothes, etc. for needy kids and adults in nursing homes. Please look for this in your church bulletins around Thanksgiving time.

13. **Bethesda Outreach Ministries** is a black church in the Newtown area of Sarasota. They provide dinner for homeless people on Wednesdays of each week. We assist them in this ministry by providing the meal the third Wednesday of each month. If your family or your home fellowship would like to help with this program, please call Jim Morris at 921-4162.

14. **Ministries in the community that we support:**

A. **The Resurrection House** serves the homeless of Sarasota by providing showers, laundry services, mail boxes, counseling, some food, local phone calls, etc. for these needy people. We collect soap, personal grooming items, laundry detergent, athletic socks, underwear, and other items that will help them provide these services to these people. We also collect donated clothing and other items which we take to their Third Street Rag Consignment Shop which helps greatly in their financial support. If you have things to donate, please mark them "Resurrection House" and place them in the collection barrel on the EAST side of the foyer. Our Mercy Fund supports this ministry with a yearly donation of \$1,000. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, you might talk to Rob Jacocks or Jean Georgiades.

B. The church also supports **All Faiths Food Bank** (\$2,000 annually) and **The Salvation Army** (\$2,000 annually) through donations from the Deacons Mercy Fund. Volunteers are needed by All Faiths in food sorting especially. (Ruth McKinley would be a good person to ask about

volunteering and the work they do.) The Salvation Army also needs volunteers before Christmas to help them with their Angel Tree program. (Jean Georgiades can answer questions regarding this program too.)

C. **Mothers Helping Mothers** is an organization which is dedicated to helping poor mothers and families in great need. We collect children's toys, cribs and other furniture, maternity and ladies clothes, towels, bed linens, etc. The collection barrel on the EAST side of the foyer is for this purpose. Volunteers are always welcomed. All their assistance is free and given with love. Members who volunteer and may be asked for information are: Sue Van Der Veer, Madeline Brogan, Ruth McKinley, Glenn Larson, Ed Wilson, or Ruth Morris. (The Mercy Fund supports MHM with an annual donation of \$3,000.)

15. **A Nursing home visitation ministry** would be a wonderful ministry to start in the church.

We praise God for what he has done for us and we work hard to show Christ's love by following his command to help the poor and needy. We hope that if you have a need or if you know of someone in need, you will feel free to call on us so we may try to help. We give God all the praise!

*Jim Morris, George Galindo, Jim Apperson, Rob Jacocks, Ed Wilson, and Glenn Larson;
Deacons*

**COVENANT LIFE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**MERCY MINISTRIES
February 2000**

If you are interested in serving on the Mercy Committee, if you have a desire to start a new program in the mercy ministry field, or if you can only recommend that a need be addressed in this field, please call Jim Morris at 921-4162.

We hope that if you have a need or if you know of someone in need, you will feel free to call on us so we may help.

Jim Morris, Chairman

