

Mission Trips and Activities
Presbyterian Church, Bound Brook

Support for Mission Trips and Activities:

- We support the efforts of our youth groups as they seek to care for others. The Senior Highs annually travel to the Appalachian region to participate with the Appalachian Service Project in a week-long building/repair effort for families living in Appalachia; and the Junior High have ongoing efforts to raise funds to support the work of World Vision in Zambia. In addition, as part of our commitment of Mission Commission budget and through World Vision, we support two children in Zambia.
- Adult work trips. We have supported four work trips, two to the Katrina affected area, and two as adult Appalachian Service Project trips, one in 2009 and one in 2010.
- In the past we have supported adult mission trips to Costa Rica to work with Miguel Soto Cruz of Arbofilia and in San Isidro, CR, to connect with Casa del Banquete, the mother church of the Bound Brook Casa del Banquete which worships in our sanctuary on Saturday night.

Other activities:

- Peace On Earth Market (POEM). The Peace on Earth Market brings to the public's awareness organizations involved in responsible trade, social and environmental practices. It is an eclectic fair trade bazaar where one can purchase everything from the Women's Bean Project soup mixes assembled in Colorado, to beautiful olive wood figures carved in the Holy Land, to handcrafted jewelry from the Tiger Hill Project in India, to Equal Exchange's roasted and salted pecans grown by a small cooperative in Georgia. A wild variety of items literally from soup to nuts! This market event, open to the community, takes place on the first weekend in November, with the main event occurring all day Saturday. POEM enables us to offer support to many different handicraft and nonprofit organizations around the world, as well as support mission efforts of church groups. In addition, it involves the cooperative effort and work of many church members and organizations, including Presbyterian Women, the Deacons and the Youth Groups.
- Support of Michael and Deanna Womack, Volunteers in Mission serving the Lebanese Evangelical School for Girls and Boys in Hazmeih, Lebanon (just north of Beirut).
- During the seasons of Lent and Advent, we support Palestinian Christian craftsmen through the sale of hand-crafted olive wood items. During Lent the main themes are the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection, i.e., beautifully carved Last Suppers of various sizes and many different crosses, and during Advent the main theme is, of course, the birth of Jesus, and we offer beautifully carved nativity scenes in many different sizes.

These items are sold for the price put on them by the Palestinian Christians and all proceeds are returned to them.

- Legge Scholarships. Money earned as interest on the Born-Legge trust is used every year to provide scholarships to church members in college and other post secondary education. Each year in April we announce this scholarship program and request interested and eligible church members to apply for a scholarship. In May, the Mission Outreach Commission meets to read and approve the applications. In early June, each recipient is introduced to the congregation during one of the services and asked to say a few words about her/his education program.
- Camp Johnsonburg “camperships.” Each year the Mission Outreach Commission encourages church member children to attend a week of camp during the summer months at Camp Johnsonburg, the camp supported by the presbyteries of New Jersey. Each child or youth attending camp receives support for the cost of the camp.
- Support of Casa del Banquete, a Hispanic congregation under the direction of Pastor Jose Vasquez. Casa del Banquete worships weekly in our church sanctuary. The relationship with Casa del Banquete grew out of the flood of 1999 when over 200 persons were housed in our buildings for 10 days, many of them Hispanic, and many of those were from Costa Rica. A small church was formed early in 2000 and through ongoing relationships with members of the church, Jose asked if it would be possible to meet in our church. Beginning early in 2002, Casa del Banquete has met regularly in our sanctuary and has now grown to a congregation of over 150 members.
- Support of Casa de Esperanza. Under the direction of Joyce Antila Phipps, Esq., Casa de Esperanza, a faith-based community service agency located at 600 Mountain Ave (just north of the cemetery), offers immigration and related legal services to immigrant communities in Central New Jersey at a reasonable or nominal fee. Casa provides services to clients regardless of race, religion, ethnic group, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation. Grounded in the belief that all persons are children of God, Casa also engages in advocacy for the rights of immigrants and for a just, humane, and fair immigration policy.
- On a regular and ongoing basis, the Mission Outreach Commission supports local nonprofit organization providing services to members of the larger Raritan Valley community such as:
 - the South Bound Brook Food Bank and the Food Bank Network, Somerset County;
 - the Resource Center of Somerset County (formerly known as the Resource Center for Women and Their Families), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide services to people affected by domestic abuse in Somerset County. The Resource Center provides crucial services to empower victims of abusive relationships as well as

- advocating safety and prevention;
- the Somerset Jail Chaplaincy, an ecumenical group of men and women who are committed to minister to the most alienated persons in our society - the incarcerated; the Somerset Chaplaincy to the Elderly which provides regular chaplaincy services to residents in all eldercare facilities in Somerset County not being serviced by another agency;
 - the Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry located at Trinity House, 14 Stone Street, New Brunswick which is home to Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries as well as Lutheran Campus Ministry. At Trinity House students will find a TV/DVD, a tiny chapel, a study area, and kitchen facilities. Students are encouraged to drop by and make themselves at home, grab a soda or make a cup of tea, say a prayer, engage in conversation...or not. Simply study. Dinner and discussion takes place every Wednesday night;
 - the Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP), a faith based, interfaith and community funded, assisted and supported, grassroots organization that provides assistance to the homeless, near homeless, working poor families, and individuals in Somerset County Regions who are not able to obtain assistance from government or other private agencies, and are therefore denied a opportunity to receive the basic humane assistance they need and deserve;
 - Camp Johnsonburg, a place where city kids meet country kids, where black and white discover common ground, where the rich and poor of means and spirit are valued equally, and where each is encouraged to take another vital step toward realizing oneness in Christ;
 - the Batten Disease Support and Research Association, an international support and research networking organization for families of children and young adults with an inherited neurological degenerative disorder known as Batten Disease; and Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity;
 - Somerset Chaplaincy for the Elderly. This agency provides regular chaplaincy services to residents in all eldercare facilities in Somerset County not being serviced by another agency and supports and enhances the role of those who care for the elderly; and
 - Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, works to improve the lives of low-income families throughout Somerset and Hunterdon counties by helping them build and buy their own simple, decent homes. We provide financial and volunteer support for the work of Habitat.