

Mission Projects Available to the 40 Days of Community
At First Presbyterian Church

Fellow cruise passengers, welcome aboard!

One of the primary purposes of **40 Days of Community** is to lead our church to reach out to our community in tangible expressions of love and good works. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

There are myriad ways in which your group can do so, and you may wish to pursue your own good idea on how to glorify God in our community. Great! Go for it. But, if you have a large question mark over your table as to what you and every member of your small group might do, I’ve been playing the role of Off-ship Activities Director of our little cruise and have composed this list of possible destination stops for you. Find one that uses the unique gifts that God has assembled at your table and have a good time. By intention it should be external to our church. If we did something that just benefited First Presbyterian Church, that’s a bit like putting His Light that shines through you under a basket. We might be warm and comfy under that basket, but there are so many others that need that warmth, too. Let your light shine for others to see. Your project should be largely completed by Easter, or at least ready for implementation. Your group may be expected to provide all resources needed for the project. Raising those resources are just part of the experience.

Not sure about your idea? Bounce it off of me and let’s see how we can shape it for our community. Otherwise, see if one of these strikes a chord in your group-

Recipient Organization: Literacy Pros of Jacksonville. Teaching adults to read.

Location: 118 E. Monroe Street

Project description: Create a file on “Dollar Store” students. Call each name listed on cards and interview them with a set list of questions. Tabulate results.

Contact: Sara Van Cleve, 387-5587, www.literacypros.org (Sara is recovering from her recent difficulties, but I can get you an alternative contact, should you choose this. Only one group is needed for this task.)

Recipient Organization: Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. A variety of services, including shelter, are provided for individuals and families.

Location: 611 E. Adams Street

Project description: Assemble toiletry tube sock sets. Using a new pair of tube socks, stuff one into the other, and then fill with small toiletry items. Pass out to guests during feeding Sunday. Multiple groups can participate in this.

Contact: Sara Dougherty, PR Coordinator, 394-1646. www.sulzbachercenter.org

Recipient Organization: Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless.

Location: 611 E. Adams Street

Project description: Participate in the Thursday morning preparation of and the Sunday serving of lunch at the shelter. Probably only one group will be needed during our 40 Days period.

Contact: Billy Hohmann, 825-9185

Recipient Organization: Builders Care. Provides critical construction services to the indigent elderly and disabled people who cannot afford it.

Location: Various. Of particular interest is a Volunteer Day on the third Saturday of every month, which starts at the Jax Municipal Stadium at 7:30 AM. March 20 is the next one.

Project description: There are various construction possibilities here, but the very busy contact person has been difficult to pin down for specifics. Still, if hammer and nails are your thing, check them out.

Contact: Bill Wilson, 727-3443. builderscare.org

Recipient Organization: Children's Home Society. An orphanage with several campus buildings. They also have oversight for many foster children in our community.

Location: 3027 San Diego Road

Project description: CHS is in need of several kinds of landscape and building cleanup projects. Their preference is to have these projects occur during the weekday, but could arrange for a weekend overseer to be present.

Contact: Adrienne Cartagena, 493-7738, adrienee.cartagena@chsfl.org

Recipient Organization: Children's Home Society

Location: 3027 San Diego Road

Project description: CHS has several age groups which would love to have interaction with others. The minimum age of the volunteer would need to be 14. Interaction would be after school, or perhaps during Spring break.

Contact: Adrienne Cartagena, 493-7738, adrienee.cartagena@chsfl.org

Recipient Organization: Children's Home Society

Location: 3027 San Diego Road

Project description: CHS is in need of several hundred Easter baskets for not only their residents, but for those in foster care as well. This is a project that could be accomplished off-site.

Contact: Adrienne Cartagena, 493-7738, adrienee.cartagena@chsfl.org

Recipient Organization: Hope Outreach Ministries. A host agency which lets out space in their building for other charitable agencies which otherwise could not afford that space. Our own Ken Durkee is very familiar with this vital service.

Location: 2137 N. Liberty Street.

Project description: Numerous projects exist in the main facility which could involve repainting, light fixture repair, plaster repair and window repair. This could be as large or as small as the serving group would be comfortable in handling.

Contact: Pastor Eric Lockett. 891-0645

Recipient Organization: Compassionate Families, Inc. for the families and friends of homicide survivors.

Location: 218 Broad Street

Project description: Lead up to and including May 14-16. Camp Maddie is a grief camp for youth, held in Keystone Heights. Need coordinators to facilitate and implement uplifting activities.

Contact: Margaret and Glen Mitchell, 354-0007 or 721-3326. glen.mitchell@rgma-jax.com
compassionatefam@aol.com

Recipient Organization: Dignity U Wear. Provides clothing to help those in need look presentable during job interviews and in the workplace.

Location: 136 N. Myrtle Avenue

Project description: Clothes sorting and repair are the big needs here and multiple groups could become involved.

Contact: Michelle Charron, 636-9455.

Recipient Organization: Second Harvest Food Bank. A food distribution network.

Location: 1502 Jessie Street

Project description: Small groups could collect food and also come sort it for distribution.

Contact: Leah Bezares, 353-3663

Recipient Organization: Downtown Ecumenical Services Council

Location: 215 Ocean Street (Inside our own campus!)

Project description: The clothing room needs staffing assistance to select clothes for specific recipients. During the week, the room gets very busy, so extra hands are always helpful.

Contact: Mary Spuhler, 358-7955 ext. 99

Recipient Organization: The Sanctuary on 8th Street. Offers a wide variety of enriching and creative after-school programs and activities designed to minister to the whole child.

Location: 120 E. 8th St.

Project description: No specific project is suggested, but for ideas that would fit your group, give them a call.

Contact: Kristin Booth, Program Director. 356-3588. www.sanctuaryon8th.org

Recipient Organization: The Bridge of Northeast Florida. Provides comprehensive educational and social programs to youth and families with self-sufficiency as a goal.

Location: 1824 Pearl Street

Project description: No specific project is suggested, but for ideas that would fit your group, give them a call.

Contact: Judith Brown, 354-7799 ext. 137. www.bridgejax.com

While civic social activities are not primarily what we have in mind (for even the Gentiles do that), yet these can be marvelous opportunities to show our community the love we have for one another and to be invitational to the curious and hurting. If shaped within that mindset, we can indeed show God's love in these ways. While you wouldn't be so overt to set up a booth and hand out tracts, wearing an FPC T-shirt and a warm smile just might touch the person whom God has channeled toward you for an invitation. Colleen Dwyer, 630-3537, cdwyer@coj.net, is the Development Coordinator for **Jax Parks** and looks forward to hearing from you about your interest in any of these activities:

Location: Beachwood Park, 11758 Marina Drive

Project description: Movies In the Park, 3/19/10, 6-8 PM. Three volunteers are needed to assist with refreshment distribution and event logistics.

Location: Balis Community Center, 1513 LaSalle Street

Project description: Arts on the Go, 3/26/10, 6-8 PM. Five volunteers are needed to assist with the implementation and management of various arts and crafts projects for families.

Location: Hanna Park, 500 Wonderwood Drive, Jax Beach.

Project description: *Get Out There!* Super Celebration Kickoff on April 9th. Various activities need volunteers to assist with setting up and tearing down, building kites, parking, refreshments and event logistics.

Location: Kids Kampus at Metropolitan Park near the Stadium.

Project description: Kids Kampus Survivor and Fitness Fair, an exciting outdoor competition for children ages 12 and under. Saturday, April 10th. Volunteers will assist with event set up and tear down, guiding youth through activities, refreshment distribution and event logistics.

Location: Walter Jones Historical Park, 11964 Mandarin Road.

Project description: River Celebration Day. Volunteers will assist with event set up and tear down, guiding youth through activities, refreshment distribution and event logistics.

And there are SO many other possibilities. The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Our Lord commands, "Go, and make disciples." They very, very rarely come to us. Are you ready? Let me know what your group will decide to do. For those activities that require only one group, I will try and navigate you to another selection, should another group have claimed "dibs" on it.

May the Father richly bless your offerings of service.

Larry Wagner, Mission Projects Coordinator (and highly favored of Penelope).
745-1416, Lorenz_w_2000@yahoo.com.