

Social Ministry: Food Pantry Collections

786.1 lbs Total for Jan-Nov donated to MSM

107.8 lbs Weekly Donations (Dec)

893.9 lbs. 2018 Total to Main Street Mission



NOW Collecting

- > Lightly used clothing
- > Lightly used shoes
- > Books
- > Small household goods

Drop donations in collection boxes in the Narthex and by the mailboxes. Look for the label "One Can Do More"



MSM Bridges Training

Register now for this 4-session workshop offered Jan 15, 17, 22, 24 from 6:30-8:00pm. Classes are held at Main Street Meeting Place, 306 S Main St, China Grove. Register online at:

www.marketandmeeting.org/bridgestraining.

This training is for those interested in exploring why the gap of economic class is widening, how we can respond without creating further dependency and how to practice smart charity while working toward a more healthy and sustainable community.



Council Action Report (December 16, 2018)

- Minutes from the November 11, 2018 Council meeting were unanimously approved.
- A motion was made to approve a standard operation letter that will be sent to all funeral homes. This letter is to be signed by each funeral home and returned to Grace Lutheran. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.
- A motion was made to send an informational letter to Libby Coggins acknowledging a change in burial records. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried.

| Quilting Schedule Everyone is welcome to join! | |
|---|--------------|
| 6:30 pm | 9:00 am |
| Jan 8, 22 | Jan 9, 23 |
| Feb 12, 26 | Feb 13, 27 |
| March 12, 26 | March 13, 27 |

Opportunities to Serve in 2019!

Council members have each selected a ministry team to represent. They will be looking for team members to help guide the ministries of Grace. Committees need all type of peoples...various ages, idea folks, doers, visionaries, analysts, long-time members, new members, parents, grandparents, singles...the more the merrier, really! Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of a ministry team. Council members will refer to the Time and Talents survey, but if you aren't directly asked to serve on a committee that you are interested in, please seek out the council member representing that committee.

Cemetery: Brent Yost

Christian Education: Leslie Sechler

Communications: Duane Nolan

Evangelism: Mike Stout

Finance: Gary White

Property: Tony Sechler

Security/Risk Management: Monty Brown

Social Ministry: Monty Brown

Stewardship: David Miller

Worship and Music: Karen Hurst

Survey says...

There were 131 surveys submitted—a great response rate! The Council is reviewing the survey responses and will develop a summary report. Due to the open-ended nature of most of the responses, this will take time. Thank you for your thoughtful input and please trust that all responses will be reviewed and given consideration as we work to strengthen our congregation.

Raymer Missionary Report

-Submitted by Emily Weddington

Tanzania, like many African nations, has a national language (Swahili) as well as several regional languages. There are translations of the Bible in Swahili, but not in many of the regional languages, including the Alagwesa language. One of the missionary goals of the Raymer family is to translate the book of Luke into Alagwesa, the heart language of the people group with whom they are living and serving. The Alagwa people live in 15 villages in central Tanzania. As I thought about this task, it reminded me of the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story."

"I love to tell the story... of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story;
'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it,
More wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story;
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God's own holy Word."

I have known Justin and Kristen for many years and they are two of my dearest friends. They have always told Jesus's story in the way that they lived and loved. Now, in Tanzania, they are telling His story to those who have never heard it. They are telling His story by loving and caring for their neighbors: demonstrating basic first aid and wound care techniques, sharing more efficient farming techniques, and teaching local children. And they are telling His story, quite literally, by translating the Bible into the heart language of their neighbors.

In order to accomplish this task, Justin and Kristin, along with their children and team, have undertaken the monumental task of learning a new language. Here are a few details about the language and the process:

"We're learning Alagwesa a little each day. (Ana slaam latsa Alagwesa.) Often my tongue gets

twisted and the sounds are close, but not quite right. It gives me great empathy for my English students when we practice saying words and the letters e, s, t, and l get them tripped up. The following link will take you to an Alagwesa language lesson produced by some of our villagers and friends. Hear for yourself some Alagwesa for yourself; or to hear what gets me tongue twisted daily." ~Kristen

<http://eu.aimint.org/pray/connectjunior/tanzania/>

An Alagwesa Language Lesson:

- Fiona's favorite new word: "Gu/ut" means to sleep. We tell our friends good night by saying "Ah sye Gu/ut" (sleep well).
- Whitaker's favorite new word: "sohn/sah" (baby chicks). Currently our hen is expecting her first brood and is sitting on eleven eggs (kh'onohoo).
- Justin's favorite new word: "Beejijijiji" (earwig). They seem to find their way under our kitchen door each night. If you aren't sure what an earwig is, feel free to Google it. They live in North Carolina too.
- Kristen's favorite new word: "Puhnya-punya" (ankle).

In early December, Kristen reported the following: "We have almost finished all the initial steps of the translation of Luke into Alagwesa. Now each team reviews the other teams work and the community listens to the translations and help offer feedback on language and clarity. Praise Jesus!" How timely given the readings of Luke so commonly shared in the telling of the Christmas story.

Be sure to check out new pictures of the Raymer family on the bulletin board beside the nursery.

**Raymer Family
Missionaries in Tanzania
Nov/Dec 2018**



This NC State cap has a lot of miles under it.



Justin is making a bucket filter for the water tanks. They are lined with mesh to catch any bugs that make it into the water supply via the gutter or the roof.



