

*We will share Christ by reaching out to neighbors near and far to share the gospel in deed and word through the provisioning of human needs, both physical and spiritual.*

**Matt. 25 and 28**

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# Mission Possible

## Angels Among Us



This year, the Salvation Army has a record number of children – 7,782 – in need of Christmas gifts. It is our hope that ESUMC can help make Christmas a little merrier for these children by providing gifts of clothing.

We took 750 angels and placed them in trees located around the church. There are about 250 remaining angels.

Angels have names, ages and sizes indicated.

Please consider picking-up an angel or two, and ***bring your angel tree gifts to the altar on Sunday, December 11.***

Angels can also be dropped-off in the collection bins marked Angel Tree.

**ESUMC FOOD DRIVE**

**DECEMBER IS CANNED MEALS MONTH**



## *60,000 Meals to Pack in 4 Hours*

*12/17/2011*

### *We Need You!*

On **Saturday, December 17**, Stop Hunger Now is coming to ESUMC.

Our goal: package 60,000 meals in four hours!

The meals we package will go to impoverished people around the world and will be used in school feeding

programs in places such as Haiti and Liberia.

In order for this to happen we need you! Stop Hunger Now meal packing is an easy, fun event for all ages!

Sign up today!

There will be two shifts in the Youth/Bulla Building Gym:

- 10:00 -12:00
- 1:00-3:00

Sign-up online at [www.esumc.org/missions](http://www.esumc.org/missions).

“Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

Isaiah 58:10





## Cards & Cookies for Troops

On Sunday, Dec. 4, ESUMC's **Military Appreciation Team** will be writing Christmas cards to the troops. If you have extra Christmas cards (any number—large or small) please donate them to these efforts to share Christ with those serving in the military. Cards can be dropped-off in the Military Appreciation Team collection bin in the reception area. The team will also be collecting Christmas cookies. The cookies should be brought in on Dec. 4, to the choir room (leave them on the counter). If you wish to join us for the writing and boxing activities please contact Ann Daniel at [annbyrd1@gmail.com](mailto:annbyrd1@gmail.com).

## Gently-Used Blankets Needed

Have a gently-used blanket, winter hat, scarf or gloves? Bring them to church on Sunday, December 4th and the Young Adults will distribute them to our homeless brothers and sisters in Moore Square. Items can be placed in the collection bin next to the first floor reception desk.

## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety. Edenton Street UMC is proud to be a part of these efforts and to offer an opportunity for our members to put our faith and love into action to help make affordable housing and better communities a reality for everyone.



Photo: Steffan Hacker

**ESUMC's next build dates:**

**December 10, 2011**

**January 28, 2012**

There are both morning and afternoon opportunities to participate. Please contact Maggie Stroud at [stroud\\_maggie@yahoo.com](mailto:stroud_maggie@yahoo.com) to get involved, or go to [www.esumc.org/missions/housing-and-construction.php](http://www.esumc.org/missions/housing-and-construction.php) to sign-up to serve.

No special skills are required. Just a desire to help!

## Chasin' the Challenge— A Run to Walk

On June 22, 2010 Chase Mann suffered a paralyzing diving accident while on a youth mission trip. The accident has confined Chase to a power wheelchair with astronomical costs for day-to-day care, special equipment and unending rehab. Proceeds from this event will help pay for some of Chase's uninsured, injury-related expenses.

**Come support Chase!**

**Sunday, December 18**

**5K Run—2:00 PM**

**3K Walk—2:30 PM**

**Register at [www.chasinthechallenge.org](http://www.chasinthechallenge.org).**



## Concert to Benefit WIHN

Treat yourself to an excellent concert of Christmas music featuring the Three Triangle Tenors and pianist Thomas Warburton and support the Wake Inter-faith Hospitality Network (WIHN).

**Three Triangle Tenors**

**December 18**

**3:00 PM**

**Highland United Methodist Church** (1901 Ridge Road)

Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors (65 and older) and students. All proceeds from the concert go to WIHN.

## Advent Opportunities

Looking for more hands-on opportunities during Advent? Try contacting:

Raleigh Rescue Mission—(919) 828-9014 x 126

Salvation Army—(919) 834-6733

Church in the Woods—(919) 772-7050

## Hurricane Relief Mission Trips

### *Spend a Weekend in Service*

“...whoever  
is kind to  
the needy  
honors  
God.”  
Proverbs  
14:31

ESUMC is organizing mission trips down east to help with ongoing relief efforts for those impacted by Hurricane Irene. More than 15,000 families filed claims with FEMA in the three weeks following the storms. To help, we are working with the Methodist Conference, which has been instrumental in the relief efforts.

In mid-October, a couple of Edenton Streeters went to Aurora, NC to see the damage. A local church is serving as the base, and the conference has been taking applications from people in need. The repairs are estimated to take 1-2 years in areas that are typically low income.

The water flooded most homes to the level of 2 ft. above the 1st floor. It came in quickly and left quickly. The type of work includes pulling everything out of the crawlspace, taking up the floor sheathing, cutting the sheetrock 2 ft. above the floor, removing insulation, replacing with new materials, etc.

A typical weekend will be:

- leave Friday evening, carpool, eat dinner on the way to the local church (a 2-1/2 hour drive) (2)
- work Saturday-Sunday morning
- return Sunday afternoon

We will sleep at the church. Meals will be basic breakfast/lunch, and eating dinner out to help the local economy (no cooking required).

Trips are currently being planned for each month through June (as well as a spring break trip).

**To sign-up or learn more, contact Stuart Jones at  
[stuart@stuartjonescustomhomes.com](mailto:stuart@stuartjonescustomhomes.com).**

***"A life isn't significant except for its impact on other lives."***

***Jackie Robinson***

## *Our Homeless Neighbors*

**“You shall also  
love the  
stranger,  
for you were  
strangers in the  
land of Egypt.”  
Deuteronomy  
10:19**

Recently, an ESUMC Ministry Team on Homelessness was formed to look into ways to help those who spend the night on our doorsteps, as well as opportunities for our church to be further involved with efforts to end and prevent homelessness. After the first team meeting, co-chair David Smoot and team member Ramone Primous spent some time with a few of the folks who were getting ready to spend the night at ESUMC. David had this to share:

*I met several of the homeless at our doorstep: Bill, whose girlfriend just landed in county jail, and John Timothy Matthew, a 60-year-old man who sleeps inside a 55" flat-screen TV box. I also met Tony and Octavia. Octavia huddled quietly under her blanket as we talked. Suddenly, she spoke up and said, "I don't want to be disrespectful or anything. . . " "Uh, oh," I thought to myself. She went on to say, "I know we're supposed to trust in God, but He's not working fast enough for me. I mean, I thank Him every day when I wake up and I got clothes and everything, but I'm tired of nothing ever getting better." Tony and Octavia go to the shelter regularly but they draw such a high number on the queue that they know they won't go in. They're aware of places like Raleigh Rescue Mission but they don't want to be separated for the 30 days when you commit to the program. John Timothy Matthew heard her desperation and urged her to hang on. "You're about to run into a blessing, right around the corner!," he encouraged her, "Didn't you always hear "It's darkest right before the dawn"?" "Yeah," Octavia said, "but it just keeps on being dark." Octavia is 17 weeks pregnant and sleeping on a concrete slab with Tony, John Timothy Matthew, Bill, and five other homeless men.*

*It's really hard and complicated to respond to the homeless. Anyone who tells you there's a simple black and white answer is wrong. All we can ask is, "What would Jesus do?"*

Please keep all of those sleeping on our doorsteps (and other outdoor places) in your prayers, as well as the ministry team as it seeks to help those in need and discern God's calling for ESUMC's ministry with our homeless brothers and sisters.

If you missed the forum on homelessness that was held in October, you can check-out a DVD from the church library.

There are many opportunities to serve and minister to those in need in our community and around the world. For more ways to get involved, please contact Renae at [rnewmiller@esumc.org](mailto:rnewmiller@esumc.org) or at 832-7535 x 231.