

JUNE MISSION OF THE MONTH MIGRANT MINISTRY

June is the month for celebrating fathers. Fathers sacrifice a lot for their families. One of the most extreme examples is the sacrifice that migrant workers make: they leave their families behind as they move from farm to farm, working the crops in the heat of the summer. Some even bring their families in tow, and the families work together in the fields. Their working and living conditions are difficult. They do without what many of us would consider the bare necessities. Migrant workers enable us to enjoy the locally-grown, fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables that we eat every day. The Missions and Outreach ministry encourages you to remember these workers with thanks when you bite into a ripe, juicy peach this summer or visit the Farmers' Market and see the bounty of produce available there.

Trinity Presbytery has established a ministry for migrant workers in our area, with Saxe Gotha church taking the lead and Batesburg-Leesville church hosting. Several initiatives are part of this ministry. The ministry begins June 5 and will run through August 7 this summer, on Tuesday evenings. This year SVPC will provide the meal for the migrant workers on July 31.

We are not preparing food this year, but will be serving prepared food. We will need volunteers to help with packaging supplies from 9:30 – 11:00 that morning, and volunteers to meet at 4:30 that afternoon in the Atrium to travel to the migrant camps to serve and to socialize with the migrant workers. It is recommended that we wear old shoes and comfy clothing, and plenty of bug spray. This year we are serving 2 men's camps and one women's camp, so we need lots of volunteers of all ages! No special expertise is needed – just a thankful heart! Contact Patsy Bower (home 865-3920; cell 803-261-6067; e-mail pgbsc105@yahoo.com) or Amy Cassibry (acassibry1@gmail.com) if you are interested in this intergenerational mission opportunity.

Donations of personal items are welcome and encouraged – toothpaste/toothbrush, mouthwash, men's deodorant, shampoo, soap, lotion, socks, etc. We have had quite an outpouring from our congregation of these items in previous years, with every single item picked up. Please place your donations on the metal shelves in the Atrium between now and July 31. Monetary donations are also welcome via the offering plate or business office – please mark "Migrant Ministry".

As we celebrate and give thanks for fathers this month, let us remember the sacrifices of our own fathers, and of these migrant workers, for their families.