



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

### **The Columbia Food Bank**

For over 40 years, Saint Paul Episcopal Church has been feeding people. We began with a daily hot lunch program, which over time developed into a food bank that currently provides sufficient food for individuals and families to make 22 meals. Screening takes place each Monday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Saint Paul. For those eligible through the screening, food is distributed on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. We have volunteers from many religious Denominations; while food and monetary donations are received from churches, social and fraternal organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals. Our service area includes the Boroughs of Columbia and Mountville and the Townships of Manor and West Hempfield.

Each year we feed about 2,500 people representing over a 1,000 families. The food bank raises over \$30,000 a year and collects about 45,000 pounds of food each year. For additional information, go to: [www.columbiafoodbank.org](http://www.columbiafoodbank.org).

### **Free Community Breakfast**

On the second Saturday of each month, Saint Paul offers a community-wide free hot breakfast from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. All are invited to attend and share a homemade hot breakfast of ham, eggs, pancakes, toast, coffee, and juice.

Volunteers primarily come from Saint Paul; however, there are some from other churches.

In addition to this monthly breakfast, the parish also offers a free Christmas morning breakfast from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

In months that there are five Saturdays, the Impact Christian Center offers a free breakfast on the fourth Saturday of the month at Saint Paul and on the first Saturday of the month, The Columbia Christian Fellowship serves breakfast. Both Impact Christian Center and The Columbia Christian Fellowship use the St Paul kitchen and parish hall for their breakfast. On average, these three churches serve about 2,500 meals a year.

In addition, there are two other churches that serve a free monthly breakfast and one that serves a free monthly lunch.

### **Free Community Dinner**

On the third Saturday of each month, St Paul serves a home-cooked dinner from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The menu varies each month and volunteers from the parish cook and serve the dinner restaurant style. This meal is open to anyone in the community that wishes to just come and enjoy the food and the fellowship.

In addition, Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church serves a free dinner monthly and another Vision Columbia (Mennonite) serves a free dinner weekly.

On average, these free dinners serve about 90 people each time.

### **Transitional Housing**

Saint Paul Episcopal Church supports the Home of Hope in Columbia. This program is designed to take someone from homelessness to permanent housing using the programs of various community organizations and churches.

Mentoring, financial planning, budgeting, home repairs, cleaning – are all the skills we need to help a family get a “hand up” rather than a “hand out.”

## **Emergency Winter Shelter**

In 2006, the Columbia Ministerium founded an Emergency Winter Shelter. Coordinated by the Outreach Ministry arm of The Columbia Presbyterian Church – hands Across the Street – this ministry provides a place for the homeless in our community to stay during the winter months (December 1 through March 31).

Saint Paul Episcopal Church is represented on the Steering Committee and works with this committee to identify space, get needed supplies, get volunteers, and raise money for this emergency winter shelter. Six churches provide space (Columbia Church of God, The Columbia Presbyterian Church, Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church, Saint John Lutheran, Vision Columbia (Mennonite), and Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Each church takes two to three weeks during the winter and provides a place for people to sleep during the coldest months of the year. At least five additional churches that do not have space provide volunteers.

Guests arrive between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. and are provided with a hot meal. In the morning, they are provided coffee and donuts and are usually gone from the shelter by 7:00 a.m. During the winter months anywhere from 3 – 15 guests stay at the Emergency Winter Shelter

## **Day Center**

In 2010, it was felt that there needed to be some ministry for the homeless that would provide not only a place to stay during the day, but provide assistance to those coming in order to help them end their homeless situation. The Day Center, housed at The Columbia Presbyterian Church, provides a place to stay from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the same period of time as the Emergency Winter Shelter (December 1 through March 31). In addition to a place to stay and a lunch, each guest participates in “A Program of Change” that works on an individual situation - whether it is lack of work, addiction, healthcare, etc. In this way we work, in partnership, with the individual to bring about an end to homelessness. On average there are 5- 9 people at the center during the day.

## **Celebrate Recovery**

Celebrate Recovery, is a recovery ministry to those men and women who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse or from severe trauma, or any form of addiction. The ministry uses the Saint Paul Episcopal Church Mary Elizabeth Bair Parish Hall each Friday evening for a light meal, prayer, and recovery sessions. Each session begins with dinner at 6:30 and concludes about 9:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery is held every Friday night and is sponsored by New Vision Christian Ministry.

## **Columbia Ministerium**

The Columbia Ministerium is the organization of the churches in Columbia that enables the different denominations to work together to help identify, alleviate, and solve a number of problems in the community. The Ministerium works in partnership with the civic government of Columbia, businesses, and other service organizations to address community needs. A major undertaking of the Ministerium is the Columbia Community Life Network, which brings together a diverse group (governmental, social, and medical service providers, non-profit organizations, businesses, and others) to provide a coordinated response to the social needs of the community. This focus is not only on emergency needs but also on the long-term solutions to problems.

The Columbia Ministerium does not run programs itself but is a way for each church to learn about the needs of the community and how we can respond together as the Body of Christ. The Ministerium meets monthly (except July and August) on the first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

## **Power Pack Ministry**

This ministry provides food for families for the weekend during the school year. Each week volunteers fill bags with food and recipes that a family can use to feed themselves over the weekend. These bags of food are distributed each Thursday. The ministry is coordinated by The Columbia Church of God. This ministry reaches approximately 200 families each school year.

## **The Summer Feeding Program**

Because of 70% of the school-age children in Columbia are eligible for free or reduced cost breakfast and / or lunch during the school year, every school-age child in Columbia is eligible for the Summer Feeding Program. This ministry, coordinated by The Columbia Presbyterian Church serves, lunch every week-day during the summer. Over 4,000 meals were served this past summer at three locations in Columbia – The Columbia Presbyterian Church, Saint John Lutheran Church, and the VFW.