

## Additional Ministries

### Comfort Makers

A dedicated group of women meet weekly to make “comforts” from donated fabrics. These hand-made blankets are given to RAM for folks who may be experiencing a need, to Avery Habitat for Humanity at the dedication of each new home, and to friends and members who are celebrating a marriage, new baby, or other special occasions.

### Prayer Shawl

This group of church friends meets regularly to knit, crochet or weave shawls and lap-ropes for anyone who might appreciate such a gift of love. Each shawl is dedicated with prayer and symbolizes not only the warmth and caring of friends, but also represents our being surrounded by God’s love.

The Missions Committee oversees the benevolence giving of our church, which typically amounts to more than 20% of the church’s operational budget annually. Committee responsibilities include evaluating requests for support, coordinating appropriate responses to need, and providing oversight of these efforts. The committee also encourages members of the congregation to become involved in the many opportunities and activities available for service to others.

You may request a copy of the church budget for more details about exact funding amounts.

### Banner Elk Presbyterian Church

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## Banner Elk Presbyterian Church

## Missions and Ministry

## ~ Benevolent Support for Local Missions ~

### Reaching Avery Ministry (RAM)

RAM is a local ministry which provides clothing, food, heating and financial assistance to residents of Avery County. Our congregation supports RAM by donating items for their thrift store which is located in Newland, as well as budgeting funds through our benevolences. Individuals also make monetary donations to the ministry.

Our church supports other programs coordinated by RAM:

- ◆ **“It’s Time for a Change”** provides diapers and baby formula to families who need assistance. Usually, these items are purchased for RAM from individual donations as well as funds from our Missions budget.
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Food Boxes** provide a way for our members to assist families who are identified by RAM as being in need of food for a Thanksgiving meal. The church supplies frozen turkeys; individuals donate and pack generous boxes of food items not just for the one meal, but for several days.
- ◆ **Avery Project Christmas** assists qualifying families by providing gifts for their children. Donations of toys, games, clothing and designated funds are given to RAM so that a “store” can be set up for two days of shopping by parents who are able to select and wrap appropriate gifts at no charge.

### Feeding Avery Families

This group of local volunteers collects food and donations to provide a monthly distribution to those who need assistance in Avery County. They currently distribute over 500 boxes of food each month, year-round. Our church supports this ministry though the work of many volunteers and individual donations as well as budgeted funding.

### Blue Ridge Partnership for Children

Formerly known as Smart Start, this organization began in 1993 as a public-private partnership which now continues as a merged entity with Mitchell and Yancey counties, staffing an office in Newland. It provides age-appropriate programs, assistance and funds to families of children who are under five years of age with the hope that these children will be better prepared to begin school ready to learn.

### SCOTTIE

SCOTTIE is a mobile pre-school classroom, staffed by a certified teacher, which delivers educational opportunities for young children in Avery County who are unable to participate in traditional programs. It is funded as a part of the Avery County School system, with additional help from private donors, like our church members.

## ~ Benevolent Support for Local Missions ~

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Budgeted funds for this program support the Avery County Habitat for Humanity, which was organized in 1990. Approximately two homes each year are built in partnership with the families who will own and live in them. Volunteers from our church work regularly to advance the goal of providing affordable housing for those who qualify.

### **Yellow Mountain Enterprises**

This program, begun in 1980 in our church basement, provides vocational, residential, social and support services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They provide a wide variety of work opportunities, scaled to the abilities of each client, believing that all people deserve the opportunity to lead productive lives and to earn a paycheck. Their thrift store provides work opportunities and receives donations of clothing and small household goods. The office, workshop, thrift store and 6-bed home are all located in Newland.

### **Company of New Pastors**

This is a new program within our presbytery which provides important mentoring assistance and support for pastors during the first five years after graduation from seminary

### **Volunteer Avery County**

This organization matches volunteers with opportunities to help fulfill needs of assistance by providing funds and resources to meet emergency situations that “fall between the cracks” and cannot be provided by any other agency or organization.

### **Lees-McRae College**

Founded by the Reverend Edgar Tufts, Lees-McRae College has enjoyed a long relationship with generations of members of our congregation for over 100 years. Our outreach to students takes several forms including CLUTCH, our weekly college fellowship group, as well as providing two spaghetti meals to all students prior to exams at the end of each semester.

### **New Opportunity School for Women**

Operating in conjunction with Lees-McRae College, this three-week residential program provides education, counseling and mentoring for qualifying women from the Appalachian Mountain Region. These services help improve their career, personal and social skills, benefitting those who attend, as well as their families when they return home.



**Banner Elk  
Presbyterian Church  
Missions and Ministry**

## ~ National and Global Missions ~

### **Presbytery of Western NC**

The office for our Presbytery is located in Morganton, NC. Eighty-five percent of the funds given to Presbytery remain with the Presbytery for its work in Western North Carolina; 1.4% is forwarded to the Synod of our region and 13.6% goes to the General Assembly, the governing body for the Presbyterian Church USA.

### **Haiti**

Members of our church have participated in many mission trips to Haiti since the first one in 1997. They have provided medical care, building assistance and Christian education and support. All of these efforts are coordinated through Grace Mission, based in Florida.

### **Guatemala**

Since 1996, our church has been in a covenant relationship with Arca de Noe, a small, rural church in Morelia, as part of a larger partnership relationship between our Presbytery and two Guatemalan Presbyteries. Members of our congregation have visited many times over the years, providing assistance with education, housing, and clean drinking water systems. In addition to budgeted funds, some of our church members donate additional monies to support educational scholarships and job training programs.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

This special offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People program, coordinated by our General Assembly.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Taken on the Sunday of professional football's Super Bowl, this special offering is used to alleviate hunger in our area and throughout the world. Each year, our young people help collect funds at the end of our worship service. All funds received by our church are then matched by the Presbytery's Hunger Committee to increase the impact on local hunger needs, as these monies are given to RAM for their use in Avery County.

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

This annual offering is part of our Presbyterian Advent tradition and helps provide much needed assistance to PCUSA church workers and their families at times of significant financial need. Part of this offering also goes to Presbyterian-affiliated racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

### **Living Waters for the World**

This ministry was begun by the Synod of Living Waters (PCUSA), based in Springdale, TN., during the 1990's. Volunteers are trained and equipped to build simple water treatment systems in communities around the world where they are needed, to set up these systems and to teach people in those locations how to operate and maintain them.

### **English Language Institute of China**

We are financial partners with Gordon Causby, a child of our church, and his wife Hui, who serve in a non-profit organization that teaches English in Asian universities, building relationships, one student at a time.