

# Missional Opportunities

First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

- #1 Hollis Academy
- #2 Neighborhood Focus
- #3 Glory Ridge
- #4 Boxes of Love
- #5 Habitat for Humanity
- #6 Restoration LaRomana (Dominican Republic)
- #7 Miracle Hill Ministries
- #8 Cross Cultural Network
- #9 Bel-Aire Community Outreach

## *What is* **MISSIONAL?** (a short answer)

Jesus told us to go into all the world and be his ambassadors, but many churches today have inadvertently changed the “go and be” command to a “come and see” appeal. We have grown attached to buildings, programs, staff, and a wide variety of goods and services designed to attract and entertain people.

Missional is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the “come to us” invitations with a “go to them” life. A life where “the way of Jesus” informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture. It speaks of the very nature of the Jesus follower.

— Rick Meigs

# Join us in Missional Ministry!

Choose a ministry and make a difference.

#1

## Hollis Academy

**Mission:** In the Fall of 2010, FPC entered into a partnership with Hollis Academy Elementary School, seeking to impact our community by sharing the love of Christ with students, parents and teachers there. Hollis currently has close to 750 students with over 99 percent of them receiving free and reduced lunches.

**Time frame:** School year

**Ages:** Adults and young adults

**Opportunities:** Mostly individuals, but also groups

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:

- **Room Parent**—committing to help out in a classroom 2 times per month for an hour or two each time; flexible times; help with end of year and Christmas parties as well; an amazing way to build relationships.
- **Reading Buddy**—paired with a 1st grade child to read with them once or twice a month (or more if you'd like) from 12:00-12:20; volunteer can pick a time of the week/month that works best for them.
- **Feed the Children Ministry**—sends home food for the weekend with 110 students; looking for volunteers to pack food bags at the church once a month or to hand out the food bags one Friday per month (1st, 2nd, or 5th Friday); takes about an hour once a month.
- **Good News Club**—after-school Bible study with the students; meets on Thursday afternoons; volunteers are there from 2:00 until 4:00pm; club runs September-November and January-March.
- **Mentoring Program**—paired with a student of volunteer's same gender; weekly commitment during lunch (about 20 minutes); building a relationship with a child in need of positive adult role models.
- **Refresh Baking Ministry**—baking a cake for teachers on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (our way of encouraging and supporting the staff at Hollis); can volunteer to bake once a year or once a month.

**Many other ministries** happen throughout the year. These, however, are our biggest service areas. If you'd like to be a part of this life-changing ministry, please contact Beth Simmons.

**Contact: Beth Simmons**  
787.3159, [simmonsfam@charter.net](mailto:simmonsfam@charter.net)

**Mission:** Create hope and opportunities for Greenville's at-risk students in grades K5-12 through year-round Christ-centered educational and social enrichment. Provide academic support, spiritual enrichment, and life skills development through a free faith-based program. Together with our partner organizations, we are transforming the next generation of Greenville's at-risk families to experience Christ-centered lives of positive influence.

**Time frame:** Year-round

**Ages:** Adults; Summer Enrichment age 12–adult

**Opportunities:** Volunteer and financial, groups and individuals

**Core Programs:**

**After School Program:** Provides assistance with daily homework and builds character for students in grades K5-12 during after school hours; includes a healthy meal, 90 minutes of focused academic time, daily spiritual enrichment, structured exercise, and prayer.

**Friday Night Club:** Provides under-resourced students in grades K5-12 and their families a free weekly time of fun, food, and fellowship; includes organized recreation, group activities, family devotion time, and a hot meal.

**Summer Enrichment Program:** Immersive summer day camp for at-risk students in grades 2-12. The highly structured faith-focused program meets the needs of students through physical, spiritual, educational, and social training. Elements of the camp program include music and worship, arts & crafts, Bible Study, academic development, sports and recreation, practical living skills, and off-site field trips.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:**

- Afternoon Meal Helpers
- Homework monitors
- Reading Buddies
- Math Tutors
- Arts & Crafts Captains
- Recreation Leaders
- Friday Night Club Meal Sponsors

**Contacts:** Keith Groce, 704.7848, [kgroce@neighborhoodfocus.org](mailto:kgroce@neighborhoodfocus.org)  
Becca Jopling, 230.5627, [bjopling@neighborhoodfocus.org](mailto:bjopling@neighborhoodfocus.org)

**NeighborhoodFocus.org**

#3

## Glory Ridge

**Mission:** Non-denominational Christian camp founded in 1973 by Rev. George Moore, former pastor at FPC. The camp is located in Madison County, NC, on 35 acres overlooking the French Broad River. Local and out-of-state groups use the camp as both a weekend retreat and a week-long workcamp center to reach out to the surrounding community. Glory Ridge's rustic facilities have all been built by volunteers over the years and the camp has always emphasized the combination of *work and worship*.

**Time frame:** Usually spring or summer  
Sign up for email/opportunity alerts.

**Ages:** All welcome

**Opportunities:** Groups and individuals

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:

- Trails and grounds maintenance
- Construction
- Interior cleaning

**Contact:** Scott Taylor  
[d.scott.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:d.scott.taylor@gmail.com)  
[GloryRidge.org](http://GloryRidge.org)

#4

## Boxes of Love

**Mission:** FPC provides financial and volunteer support as a sponsor to churches and organizations that distribute boxes containing a family Thanksgiving meal to those in need.

**Time frame:** Saturday prior to Thanksgiving

**Ages:** Adults and children

**Opportunities:** Individuals and Groups (classes, small groups, families)

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:

- Sponsor boxes (\$30 per box)
- Volunteer to help pack boxes (adults only)
- Volunteer to help distribute boxes, meet the families, and offer spiritual help when needed at the distributing church location.

**Contact:** Carl Evans  
[carl.h.evans@gmail.com](mailto:carl.h.evans@gmail.com)

#5

## Habitat for Humanity

**Mission:** Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, Habitat Greenville strengthens the lives of current and future generations by providing affordable and sustainable home ownership opportunities by partnering with the community to serve qualified families.

**Time frame:** As needed  
Sign up for email/opportunity alerts.

**Ages:** 16+

**Opportunities:** Groups and individuals

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:

- Construction help—*NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED*
- Lunches and water for construction folks
- Nurturing families

**Contact:** Karen Olson  
672.6345, [karen@habitatgreenville.org](mailto:karen@habitatgreenville.org)  
[HabitatGreenville.org](http://HabitatGreenville.org)

#6

## Restoration LaRomana (Dominican Republic)

**Mission:** To engage in holistic ministry in a cross-cultural environment as Christians from the U.S. and the Dominican Republic come together to minister among those who need to know the kingdom of God is near to them (Luke 10:9).

**Time frame:** Summer of each year

**Ages:** 12 and up

**Opportunities:** Groups, individuals, and families form a team of 30 participants. Cost including travel is about \$1,200 per person.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:

- Medical clinic and pharmacy services
- Construction assistance (training provided)
- Christian education and evangelism through VBS

**Contact:** Rick Sturgis  
[ricksturgis82@gmail.com](mailto:ricksturgis82@gmail.com)  
[RestorationLaRomana.org](http://RestorationLaRomana.org)

**Mission:** FPC partners with Miracle Hill Ministries to help provide food, shelter, and hope to homeless children, women, and men in our community. Miracle Hill operates adult shelters for the homeless, children/youth shelters, and thrift stores. They also operate two highly successful, Christ-centered addiction recovery programs (one for women and one for men) and recruit Christian foster families. Along with meeting physical needs, their mission is that each person hears the Good News of Jesus Christ and moves toward healthy relationships and stability.

**Time Frame:** Year-round

**Ages:** Adults and Young Adults

**Opportunities:** Groups and Individuals

**Miracle Hill Ministries Facilities in the Greenville County area:**

- **Boys' Shelter**—safe refuge for at-risk, abused, or neglected boys aged 11 to 21 years.
- **Children's Home**—home for unwanted, neglected, or abused children aged birth to 18 years.
- **Greenville Rescue Mission**—shelter for homeless men and families
- **Shepherd's Gate**—shelter for homeless women
- **Overcomers**—7-month residential Christian addiction recovery program for men
- **Renewal**—6-month residential Christian addiction recovery program for women
- **Thrift Operations**—provides operating funds for Miracle Hill's ministries and jobs for the community and graduates of the Renewal and Overcomers programs

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:**

- Participate in or help execute one of the four quarterly church-wide projects (Yellow Bag Project, Overcomers' Graduation, etc.)
- Mentor a teenage boy at the Boys' Shelter
- Mentor a woman or man in addiction recovery (Renewal or Overcomers)
- Help at the reception desk at one of the centers
- Lead morning devotions at Overcomers or Renewal
- Assist in preparing or serving meals at Shepherd's Gate or Rescue Mission
- Provide a meal and a fun activity once a month at Overcomers or Renewal
- Provide foster care for children in need
- Handy man, barber, gardening, or lawn services
- Drive men/women in recovery programs to appointments, etc.
- Take boys on activities (hiking, fishing, bowling, etc.)

**Contact:** Ed Brakmann, [edwardbrakmann@gmail.com](mailto:edwardbrakmann@gmail.com),  
407.242.9071

**Mission:** A ministry to international students who study or work at several universities and colleges in the Upstate led by Florin and Amy Palaghia. Through CCN we have the opportunity to touch the world right here at home.

**Time frame:** Activities and events scheduled throughout the school year and summer. Each school year is kicked off with the “Southern Hospitality Banquet” in FPC’s Fellowship Hall, during which international students from several area colleges and universities enjoy gathering together with some Americans to learn about each other and to highlight upcoming CCN activities. See <http://joshuasway.org/happenings/schedule>.

**Ages:** Adults ages 18 and up. (International students and scholars we work with are ages 17-45.)

**Opportunities:** Groups and individuals

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:**

- **Friendship partners:** Extend friendship and hospitality to students who are lonely and far away from home. The American friendship partner contacts them through email, a phone call, or Facebook every week or two, and also invites the student friend to get off campus and go to lunch or dinner once every 4-6 weeks, preferably in the friendship partner’s home. *It is in the context of hospitality and friendship that we gain to opportunities to naturally discuss the things that matter in life and share our faith.* We do not ask American friendship partners to create events or activities for their international student friend but instead to invite the student into the natural rhythms of their lives (child’s soccer game, outing to the Greenville Drive game, a trip to the grocery store or shopping), include the student in it.
- **Conversation partners:** Establish friendship with students who are in need of practicing their English language skills. The student and American conversation partner meet for a minimum of 1 hour a week over lunch, coffee, or a walk to talk. It is as easy as saying “hello.” As with friendship partners, students greatly desire to have an American partner to help them practice.
- **Hosting “Stories of Jesus”:** Bible study with internationals that meets weekly on Fridays, 6:30–8:30pm

**Contacts:** Florin and Amy Palaghia,  
[fpalaghia@joshuasway.org](mailto:fpalaghia@joshuasway.org)

[JoshuasWay.org/what\\_we\\_do/cross\\_culture](http://JoshuasWay.org/what_we_do/cross_culture)

#9

## Bel-Aire Community Outreach

**Mission:** Rebuilding and evangelizing one of Greenville's largest and roughest inner-city neighborhoods. First Presbyterian Church has partnered with Bel-Aire Community Outreach (KB Charitable Trust) for 25 years.

**Time frame:** Year-round

**Ages:** **Youth outreach:** primarily age 7 through high school;  
**Neighborhood outreach:** all ages

**Opportunities:** Small Groups or individuals: After School, Speaker/Testimonies, Summer Camp; Summer Interns (college-age students), Building supplies, mentors.

### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR:**

- Summer Camp each year (5 days a week all summer): volunteers, supplies, snacks, trip opportunities
- After School "Camp" 3:30–5:30pm daily
- Community contacts to partner with Bel-Aire
- Annual financial sponsors (\$125 year)

**Contact: Kaitlin Bunge**  
[kaitlin@belairegvl.org](mailto:kaitlin@belairegvl.org)

**P.O. Box 25301, Greenville, SC 29615**  
**233.7626**

**[KBCharitable.org](http://KBCharitable.org)**

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

200 West Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29601  
864.235.0496 • [FirstPresGreenville.org](http://FirstPresGreenville.org)

last update September 2020