



# ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH OF AIKEN MISSION IMPACT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026 Featuring Activities January – March 2026

## SEEING THE LORD AT WORK THROUGH MISSION PARTNERS – LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, INTERNATIONALLY

### WERE YOU THERE??? MISSION IMPACT CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 2026

February 4, 2026 ...

St. John's Members gathered for the **Missions Celebration Dinner** as our Jerusalem and Judea Partners shared the work they were doing to spread the mission of Christ throughout our community.



A highlight of the evening and throughout the celebration was the “gifting” of items each mission partner requested. From laundry detergent to food items, gift cards to bibles, St. John's members were generous in providing needed commodities. We truly showered our partners with blessings.



Logan Ford, Director of **ACTS**, provided a presentation on the history of ACTS and the current numbers of people enriched by their services. ACTS has been in existence since 1986 and was a collaboration of several churches, including St. John's, coming together as a ministry built on relationships. The people of God chose to show up and become an organization of neighbors helping neighbors. Four decades, that mission has not changed. ACTS cannot do it alone – it requires the partnerships of churches, community members, volunteers, and staff all working toward a common goal – a path for clients to achieve self-sufficiency with a “Hand Up – not a Handout.” In 2025, 27,671 of our neighbors received the services that ACTS provides daily.

## February 5, 2026....

After a strong kick-off, several Jerusalem Partners and Mission Leadership Team (MLT) members met for breakfast and a time of prayer and encouragement for the partners. With thirty people in attendance, Renee Reid, MLT Coordinator, offered a devotional about Jesus being the great physician and healer. The event was a time of fellowship and sharing of prayer needs. Don Hayes, Chairman of MLT expressed hope that the congregation of St. John's will "get infected" with the passion of its partner agencies.



**The Salvation Army** has provided services to the community for 100 years and has outgrown all its current facilities. It hopes over the next few months to develop plans for expansion. Of note was its service to the homeless community. The homeless shelter serves 50 men, women, and children daily. During the past year it has helped 200 people find permanent housing so that they are no longer homeless.

**Habitat for Humanity** expressed its heartfelt thanks to St. John's for being the spark that helped form the ministry. They need prayers now for work in developing a home repair program. During April they hope to hold a meeting of all area pastors/churches to enlighten the area on all the Habitat services.

**Christ Central** is providing needed services particularly in the Graniteville area through Project Hope. Daily services include help for 40-60 people through GED programs, utility assistance, clothing, and food. After the retirement of Judy Floyd last year, Christ Central is now under the leadership of Rev. William Belo. Please pray for him and all the volunteers as they work to continue these vital programs for the Graniteville and Aiken community, as a whole.

**Epiphany Ministries** offers juvenile prison services – helping youth to know they are loved by God. They need prayers to attract volunteers for the program and particularly younger volunteers who can easily relate to the youth. Since COVID, the program has lost many links in the prison facilities but hopes to reconnect with prison staff and leaders so that at least three retreats can be held this year. Please pray for open doors and open hearts.

**Life Choices** has been in Aiken for 42 years and has saved many babies. They now offer a sonogram ministry two times a week. They recognize that single parents have challenges and need reassurance and parenting skills. The Center offers a baby closet for those in need of specific items. Life Choices needs prayers for more women to come to the center if they are in pregnancy crisis.

**Overflow Foundation** works to focus on mental wellness over illness through their Clubhouse Community of Hope. Services are provided 5 days per week for those 18 years and older. Pray for those who are participating in the program and for those who need to find the program to say yes to better mental health. Pray for all to rediscover their ability to live, laugh, love, and learn and to find the next steps in their path forward.

**Low Country Church Plant** is a spirit-led movement inviting neighbors into friendship with Jesus. Upon realizing that 72% of the Summerville, SC area residents were not churched, they decided to provide “a harvest” and give residents a chance to meet outside the church walls by initiating small groups for worship, having communion at coffee tables, and provide a new prototype for bringing people into the arms of Christ. They need prayers for expansion of their evangelism efforts.

### **February 6, 2026....**

St. John’s sponsored four separate small group gatherings with the purpose to learn more about one specific mission partner’s ministry and the lives touched. A highlight was the gathering that took place at Clubhouse of Hope. All enjoyed a time of sharing and prayer.

**February 7, 2026...** Volunteers from the congregation started the morning sharing a pancake breakfast with **Grace Kitchen** and then dispersing into the community for a Day of Service. **Jack Meeks Wheelchair Ramp Ministry, Stand at the Crossroads, and ACTS** benefitted from the volunteers as they undertook specific projects to benefit the organizations. Of note was Brenda Meeks, a long-time member of St. John’s and widow of Jack Meeks, sharing her enthusiasm and appreciation with the Ramp Ministry crew.



Prayer Bus Warriors circulated throughout the morning at locations such as Aiken County Government Complex, Aiken Public Safety, Aiken County School District – Flagpole at Brookhaven, to name a few – offering prayers for our government and our dedicated educators and public safety workers.



### **February 8, 2026...**

An active time of service, praise, prayer, and education concluded with **Muffins and Missionaries** during the Sunday School hour as members of the

congregation once again gathered in the gym to learn more about the individual mission partners.

During the three Worship services, Rev. Daniel Griswold of Low Country Church Plant provided a rousing sermon entitled “That My House Will Be Full,” offering information regarding how this ministry is working to plant home churches in the neighborhoods throughout the Summerville, SC area and how this ministry will grow neighborhood by neighborhood.

## **EPWORTH OPPORTUNITIES**



Are you interested in experiencing what Epworth Children’s Home does? On March 24, a small group from St. John’s will visit Epworth in Columbia, SC. We will leave on the church bus at 9:30 AM and return around 3 PM. If interested in going, please contact Renee Reid at 803-215-8940. There are limited spaces on the bus, but we would love to fill the bus as we visit this beloved mission partner. One of our major partnering opportunities with Epworth is at Christmas as we provide gifts and gift cards to fulfill the wishes of Epworth children.

## **GREAT FACTS**

The first mission impact celebration was held in January 2008. The following year Faith Promise donations totaled \$158,225. This year to date, the Faith Promise commitments are \$314,915. Of all dollars donated, 100% goes to our mission partners who are sharing the love of Jesus to the entire world. What a tremendous testament to the members of St. John’s to your dedication and commitment to missions, ministry, and sharing the word of Christ to so many partners worldwide.

***MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR NEXT MISSIONS ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY!***

**March 29: Terry Lee from Overflow Foundation’s Clubhouse of Hope,  
Faith Center at 10 AM**

### ***MISSION LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS***

Stockton Altman	Diane Brace	Doug Davisson	Don Hayes
David Long	Jason Muckinhaupt	Logan Murray	Judy Phillips
Renee Reid	Julie Roe	Debi Rood	Julie Shade
	Rev. Will Altman, Staff Liaison		

*This Newsletter is printed quarterly by St. John’s Methodist Church of Aiken  
and its Mission Leadership Team*