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## The Good News

### WHAT IS REACH?

We are often asked exactly what is reach? REACH is a ministry where parishioners with a common mission organize various activities to ensure that ECA is an active, giving member of the community around us. It includes OutReach, which is the community and InReach which is our ECA Community. Some of the activities we currently support are:

**Happy Cookers** Prepare meals for parishioners or community needs during difficult times.

**Southern Comforters** Create fleece blankets with crochet edges to be donated to the Linus Project and distributed to Children's Hospitals and First Responders to give to children in crisis.

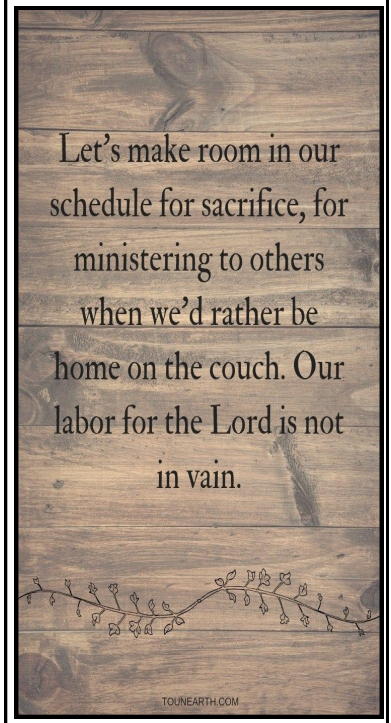
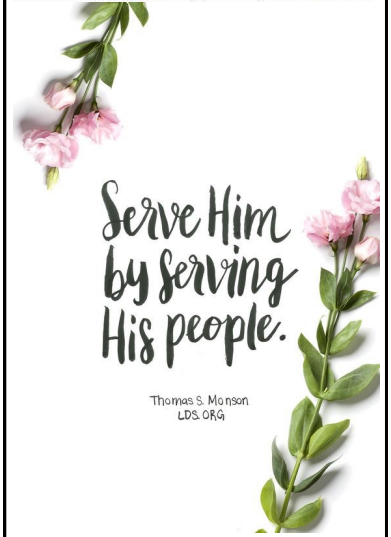
**Never Alone** This is a group who provides free food to residents of Cherokee County, Georgia, who have a legitimate need of food. We can help by sorting food, maintenance around their property, donations, etc.

**Papa's Pantry** Papa's Pantry is a Christ Centered non-profit organization that helps people to get back on their feet by providing food assistance and stability training. Papa's is not owned or operated by a particular church or denomination, nor does the organization seek government funding. We help by donating and volunteering at the center.

**Must Ministries** An organization that has helped 30,000 people experiencing poverty in eight (8) counties. 80% of all dollars go directly to supporting your neighbors in need. We donate food, clothing and volunteer wherever we can.

**Georgia Aquarium VIP Program** The Georgia Aquarium Veterans Immersion Project provides therapy for military participants of all abilities (from quadriplegia or amputations to post traumatic stress or traumatic brain injuries) are welcome 365 days a year to swim or dive in our 6.3 million gallon gallery, Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot. Guests float alongside whale sharks and manta rays coming face to face with some of the ocean's largest creatures. ECA donates funds each year for three (3) participants.

**ACE Open Hearts** This is a camp that was founded four years ago at ECA to provide fun and food for the underprivileged children in our local area. We serve about 35-40 students each year and have many fun and exciting activities to teach these children to give back to their community as well. ECA Members can volunteer to assist with the activities, food preparations, planning and clean up as well as financial donations. Camp this year will be held the last two weeks of June on the ECA grounds.





## WHAT IS REACH? (CONTINUED)

**Softer Streets** Softer Streets provides durable, water-resistant, easily portable sleeping mats to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. These mats provide insulation, reduce bug infestations, and help prevent chronic injuries from sleeping on cold, unyielding surfaces. ECA participates by making financial donations and we hope to soon be volunteering to help prepare the mats for donation.

**Family Promise** This is an organization for families in transition in the Cobb County Area. They hold a yearly golf tournament to raise funds for their cause and we make a donation as well as have members who volunteer and/or play golf in the tournament.

**Church of the Common Ground** This is an Episcopal worship community without walls for the homeless in downtown Atlanta. They hold Sunday services in Woodruff park, Morning Prayer on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday morning is a foot clinic at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The ECA youth will be visiting to provide lunches to the homeless a few times during the year. All are welcome to join in.

**Sr. Game Day** A group of people get together one Saturday a Month from 10:00 am—11:30 am to play games and bring happiness to the residents at Benton House. A good time is had by all!

**Wheelchair Foundation** This is a group of high school students who are in a Robotics Club. They decided to make an electric wheelchair for a child who cannot afford one, but is really in need of one. They had great success and are now building more. We have made a financial donation to this wonderful group of kids!

**McCleskey Food Pantry** There is a food pantry that is available once a month at McCleskey Middle School. They are in need of volunteers to work from 4:00—6:00 once a month to assist with the selection and distribution of the food to families in need. You do not have to make a commitment, but are welcome to sign up for only the months you are available.

**Simple Needs** This is an organization whose mission is to meet the simple needs of children, people experiencing homelessness, and others in need, while inspiring our community to do the same. We can volunteer one Saturday a month to assist with accepting and sorting donations.

**Emmaus House** Grounded in the Episcopal tradition, Emmaus House provides education, opportunity, assistance, and advocacy in partnership with our neighbors in Peoplestown. ECA provides children's gifts at Christmas as well as assists with various events during the year.

Reach also makes financial donations each year to *Camp Mikell, University of the South (Father Paul's Alma Mater), Episcopal Relief & Development, Episcopal Community Foundation, and Appleton Ministries.*

***Did you know ECA was active in so many community projects? We are and can use all the time and talent you can offer! And if you know of another place that we can make a difference, please to not hesitate to contact a REACH Committee member, or better yet, come to our meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month to share. Everyone is invited to assist ECA in being a Servant in our Community.***

***“To minister means to love and care for others. It means to attend to their physical and spiritual needs. Put simply, it means to do what the Savior would do if he were here.”***

***David L. Beck***



## ECA YARD SALE IS A SUCCESS!!!

The annual ECA Yard Sale was held on Saturday, May 18th. Thanks to the time and talent of so many members, it was a HUGE success!! We had many items donated and lots of help to price the items. On the day of the sale, there were many hands to help set-up, assist customers and to clean up. This would not be possible without so many people devoting their time. After all the funds are tallied, we will have a total of over \$4000 to use toward helping our community and our members. Thank you for your help in reaching out to our community.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OPEN HEARTS CAMP

ECA will be holding our 4th **Open Hearts Camp, June 17th—July 28th** from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, for underprivileged children in our community. We interact with the children by making crafts, playing games, having water activities and more. We also provide lunch for them each day. It is always tough to decide who has more fun, - the kids or the volunteers! Please consider joining us in offering a camp for those who otherwise have nothing to do for the summer. If you are interested in participating, please notify Lainey Gaines.

### SENIOR GAME DAY

The next Sr. Game Day at Benton House will be **Saturday, June 29th** and **Saturday, July 27th**. Come have fun and play Bingo with the residents!

### MUST MINISTRIES

Don't forget that as you clean out your closets, we collect clothing for MUST Ministries. All sizes of men's, women's and children's clothing in good condition are appreciated. They also are always in need of proteins: beans, peanut butter, canned meats, tuna fish. You can bring them to the church office, or contact Carolyn Higgins.

### SOUTHERN COMFORTERS

The next meeting of the Southern Comforters will be after the 10:30 service in the Activities Building on **June 23rd**, and then will pick back up in September. Even if you can't crochet, come and we will teach you! You will have all summer to practice!

### YOUTH TO VISIT CHURCH OF COMMON GROUND

**May 26th**, and take lunch for the participants. Everyone is welcome to join them!

### GENESIS RECOVERY CENTER

ECA will be providing dinner for the 12 residents on **Sunday, June 2nd**. If you would like to participate, contact Lorraine Mills.

### NEXT REACH MEETING

The next REACH meeting will be held on **Monday, June 17th at 7:00 pm** in the Activities Building. Come and see what REACH is all about and what you can do to help spread God's love in our community..