

# “The Servant’s Heart”

MISSIONS AT FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MAY 12, 2021

For information about any of the ministries with whom we partner, please visit:

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“Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo” Mateo 22:39  
(love your neighbor as yourself)

## BEACH HEALTH CLINIC TO CLOSE

Thirty-five years ago First Presbyterian was instrumental in organizing the Beach Health Clinic, the mission of which was to provide free health care to uninsured people in our community. The Board of BHC has now announced that it will be permanently shuttering the facility at the end of the year. In its recent letter announcing this decision, the Board wrote in part:

“It is with mixed feelings that the Board of Directors of the BHC realizes “the handwriting is on the wall”. We all have loved volunteering at the BHC and working together with all of you as a team. But, it is time for us to cease operations and close the Clinic. At our Board meeting on 4/8/2021, the Board unanimously voted to close the BHC. Our plan is to cease taking new patients into the medical clinic as of 7/1/2021 and the dental clinic as of 6/1/2021, and cease seeing all patients as of 12/1/2021. We are not alone in having to take such steps. All over the Commonwealth “free” clinics are closing. Many of those that are not closing, like our neighboring much larger Chesapeake Care Clinic, are now accepting patients from an entire region -for example Chesapeake is accepting patients from all over Hampton Roads. Many other clinics are transforming into clinics for underinsured and uninsured people by charging the uninsured according to a sliding scale fee schedule and accepting Medicaid and Medicare patients. Thus, they are healthcare businesses and becoming Medicaid and Medicare providers, a major undertaking requiring many more staff, sophisticated billing systems, sophisticated computerized medical record systems, and paid and/or contracted providers. We cannot go in this direction.”

FPC can take great pride in the part it played for so many years. “For everything there is a season” Ecclesiastes 3:1.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

In consultation with Gethsemane Community Fellowship and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, we instituted a new delivery schedule in May. On the first and third Thursdays of the month we will deliver groceries to Gethsemane on Brambleton Avenue in Norfolk. On the second and fourth Thursdays we will deliver groceries to Mt. Olive on Birdneck Road. These churches are responsible for getting the groceries into the homes of families in their local communities with food insecurity issues.

During the months of Jan-April 2021 FPC fed 235 families through these partnerships. We feed 15 families every week.

## DEATH IN CHIAPAS

On May 7th, Santiago Feliciano Cruz, younger brother of Pastor Pablo, died at home in Yaxoquintela from complications of diabetes. He was a kind, decent and caring man to all who ever worked with him through Hebron USA over the years. His death leaves a big hole in the heart of those who knew him well. Our church worked with “San” from 2007 to 2018.

## 2021 CHIAPAS MISSION TEAM

FPC will send a construction mission team-our 13th-to Chiapas to work with the Tzeltal-speaking people July 3-11, 2021. We will work on the sanctuary of *Iglesia Nueva Vida* (New Life) in Ocosingo, conduct Bible school and fellowship with members of this church. The team will room at the home of Pastor Pablo and his wife Jan. The team members are:

Paco Nesbit	Randito DuVall	Cam Proctor
Valeri Umstetter	Emily Lowery	Michael Fox
Kevin Gardiner	Isabel Gardiner	DeAnn Worth
Alan DesJardins	Doreen DesJardins	

DeAnn, Alan and Doreen are frequent Chiapas travelers who reside out-of-state. They agreed to join our team so that we would have the required critical mass of travelers.

## THANK YOU ROBIN BRANCH

Due to time constraints imposed by the family hotel business, Robin Branch has found it necessary to resign from her position as the administrator of the FPC Food Pantry. We were lucky to have Robin’s leadership in the years leading into the COVID pandemic when the operation of the Food Pantry was turned upside down. In response to the pandemic, Robin and Randy DuVall reimaged the Food Pantry, which led to the delivery of food to hungry people. That effort continues unabated. We will miss Robin’s leadership.

## DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS’ SABBATICAL

At its April meeting, Session approved the request of Randy DuVall to take a three month leave of absence from his unpaid position as Director of Missions. Randy has served in this volunteer role since mid-April 2014. He will be working in Chiapas June 24-July 20 as Mission Trip Coordinator for Hebron USA. He will be away from church August-October. Randy and Leslie are planning to travel extensively during his time away. During his absence Cathy Benton will supervise the Food Pantry and the Mission Committee will handle all other mission related activity. We wish Randy and Leslie the best.