

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

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If you prefer to receive the CSC Newsletter by email, please furnish your email address to cscenter1991@gmail.com.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	2 Office re-opens
	22 Inservice
February	12 Board Meeting, Noon
	13 Office Closed Mardi Gras
	20 Spaghetti Dinner
March	12 Board Meeting, Noon
	30 Office Closed: Good Friday
April	9 Board Meeting
May	14 Board Meeting, Noon
	28 Office Closed: Memorial Day
June	11 Board Meeting, Noon
July	4 Office Closed: Independence Day
	No Board Meeting
August	13 Board Meeting, Noon
September	3 Office Closed: Labor Day
	10 Board meeting, Noon
October	8 Board Meeting, Noon
November	12 Board Meeting, Noon
	21, 22, 23 Office Closed: Thanksgiving
December	No Board Meeting
December 18, 2018 thru January 1, 2019	Office Closed
January 2, 2019	Office reopens

Thanks!

**PRINTING
ZONE**
"We Don't Just Make Copies - We Make Friends"

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MEMORIAL GIFTS



STEVE BOWMAN
Stan & Janice Moss

JIM BRITTAIN
Antoinette & Phillip Turner

BERT BRANTLY
Jimmie & Eileen Catrett

GENE & RIVA FELL
John & Barbara Shaw

GENE LUNCEFORD'S SISTER
Jean Streatfeild

RAMONA JAYNE MORGAN
Rita C. Morgan

ROBERT RUMSEY IV
Antoinette & Phillip Turner

LEONARD SANNEMAN
Bill & Hope Becklund
Rod & Linda Chappelle
John & Sandra Fisher
W.R. & Julia Harland
Forrest & Susanna Lax
Stan & Janice Moss
Sandra Kay Palmer
Shirley Paulus
Karen Sabatino
Diane Urban

JOANNE SIMMA
Diane Urban

JACKIE TAYLOR
Antoinette & Phillip Turner

RAYMOND TERRY JR.
Stan & Janice Moss

Christian Service Center
Presenting Sponsor: Holy Spirit Thrift Shop

Spaghetti DINNER

Tuesday, February 20th

Serving 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church
Building B - Auditorium
1720 Gulf Shores Parkway
(located in the Winn Dixie Shopping Center)

Join in the fun!

Ticket: \$10
Dine in! —or— Drive through!
Advance tickets are available at the
Christian Service Center.
9am-Noon, Monday-Friday

HONOR GIFTS



HER CHILDREN
Helen P. Bolton

CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER
Richard & Betty Allen



SHARINGS

Volume 7, Issue 1

Christian Service Center

Winter 2018

Spaghetti DINNER

Tuesday, February 20th

Come join the fun at this year's dinner with Holy Spirit Thrift Shop as the presenting sponsor! Advance tickets are available for this financially important event, scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Building B Auditorium of Gulf Shores United Methodist Church, 1720 Gulf Shores Parkway. Diners have the option of eating in at the church campus (located in the Winn Dixie Shopping Center), or taking advantage of drive-through service for take-out. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door, or at the CSC from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday.



Since its inception in 2003, the Christian Service Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser has become the linchpin of the CSC's fundraising efforts—and a great time to boot. A whole team of wonderful volunteers pulls together every year to make this event a success, from cooks and servers to ticket-sellers and cleanup help.

Last year's Spaghetti Dinner brought in \$36,000. We served more than 700 plates—quite an increase from the 200 served our first year.



*From a Client,
In His Own Words*

I am a 43-year-old male with a wife and four children. The children are ages 13, 11, 10 and 8 years. I was in the service for eight years before moving to this area. My wife worked in real estate when we were first married. Things have been going well for us—in fact, my job with a construction company allowed my wife to quit work and be a full-time mom and wife.

Then, one day nine months ago, I fell at work on a wet area. When I fell, my feet went straight out from under me, and I put both arms behind me to catch myself. As a result, I injured both shoulders and turned my right knee. I have had four surgeries, and I am facing at least one more on my knee and one on each shoulder. The medical bills have been covered, but I only receive \$225.00 a week from workman's compensation. My wife has gone back to work cleaning condos, but the work is so slow at this time of year that she is only making about \$55.00 a week.

We have never had to ask anyone for help. I have worked since I was 16 years old. We appreciated the help with rent a few months ago and the food. If it is OK, can we get some food today? We applied for food stamps but have not heard. You asked about our balance on our pre-paid account with Baldwin EMC, and we told you it was \$30.00. With this cold weather, we will go through that in a few days, so will you put some funds on our account to get us through the month?

Thank you for the suggestion to contact the VA representative in Foley to see if there is any benefit from VA that can assist us. The doctors have said it will be some time before I go back to work. One day life is going well, and the next day the rug is pulled out from under you, and you are placed in a situation you never thought you would be in.

President's
Corner



Linda Chappelle, President

Christian Service Center was formed 26 years ago in June of 1991, and in that first year the organization saw 201 people. This past year, CSC assisted 1,957 individuals!

We provided financial assistance in the amount of \$185,870, helping families with rent, utilities, medical bills, transportation and other emergency needs.

We provided food for 1,708 families feeding 5,574 individuals 3 meals a day for a week. We delivered Christmas Spirit gifts to 80 people who are elderly or shut-in. Our Christmas Cheer program provided toys for 318 families with a total of 655 children. Christmas food boxes were given to 276 families that included 566 children, feeding 1,122 individuals. We do this with an all-volunteer team and with generous donations from individuals, churches, clubs, grants and fundraisers.

In November, Honours Golf sponsored an extremely successful golf tournament for CSC at Peninsula Golf Club raising nearly \$38,000 to assist families in need.

Terri Long and her daughter Candace of Wildflowers Boutique hosted their 5th annual Christmas Toy fundraiser for us at Fishers this past November. The event raised \$8,000 plus a bounty of donated toys to help make a Merry Christmas for children in our community. Sunny 105 runs a highly successful toy drive for Christmas toys each Christmas.

Looking forward in 2018, we are preparing for our 16th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on February 20, 2018. Lisa Christian has agreed to play and sing again this year. We are thankful to have Holy Spirit Thrift Shop as our Title Sponsor. Honours Golf will again host a golf Tournament in November, this time at Craft Farms. We are excited about this opportunity. Wildflowers is already making plans for next Christmas!

These are just some of the efforts of our community to raise funds for Christian Service Center. We are very grateful for our volunteers and generous community support that makes it possible for us to provide food and emergency aid to those in our community.

HONOURS GOLF TOURNAMENT



selling raffle tickets to helping with on-the-course contests.

We're already looking forward to working with Troon Golf again in 2018 for the second tournament. Thanks to all who participated, from the volunteers to all the golfers who came out for this worthwhile event.

The inaugural Honours Golf Charity Classic benefiting the Christian Service Center was held on Nov. 2, 2017 at the Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club in Gulf Shores. This first-ever event was a smashing success, raising nearly \$38,000. Lulu's was the title sponsor, and one hundred percent of the proceeds went to CSC programs and services.

Thank you to all the golfers who participated in the tournament, and to Honours Golf, a division of Troon Golf, for choosing the Christian Service Center as beneficiary for this event. The Erie Hall Meyer Charitable Fund was also a title sponsor. Nearly two dozen CSC volunteers provided assistance to support the tournament, doing everything from

CHRISTMAS DINNER BOX PROGRAM

CSC served Christmas food boxes to 276 families, including 566 children, for a total of 1,122 people. Volunteers from the Gulf Shores Fire Department, Baldwin EMC, and other community helpers joined CSC workers to assemble and deliver holiday food to those in need.



Diane Urban,
Stan Moss,
Amanda Woods,
Joan McDonald,
Hannah Mears



John Henderson,
Hannah Mears,
Amanda Woods



Sharon and Bill McGarry



Gulf Shores Fire & Rescue

CHRISTMAS CHEER. Christmas Cheer 2017 served 318 families including 655 children.



Chairman Mary Ann Bousquet with Peggy Hoover and Diane Thompson.



What's better than a delicious stack of pancakes on a chilly winter morning? Join members of the community at Grace Lutheran Church on February 10, from 7 to 11 a.m. for a Pancake Breakfast and Yard and Bake Sale to benefit

the Christian Service Center. Grace Lutheran is located at 491 W. 23rd Avenue in Gulf Shores.

Last year's breakfast served 540 people and raised \$3,484. In 2016, more than 600 breakfasts were served and the event took in \$3,846. The menu includes sausages, coffee and orange juice. The Pancake Breakfast is a "free-will donation" – whatever you are able or choose to give is greatly appreciated. "What touches me the most is that everything from the pancake breakfast is donated—100 percent of what is offered goes to the Christian Service Center," said Grace Lutheran Pastor C. Hope Knobler. "I'm so blessed to be in such a caring community."

PLEASURE ISLAND MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION



Thirty years ago, in 1988, three local ministers met for lunch and decided to pool their resources to unite the area's churches. Their goal: to coordinate recognition of significant dates in the Christian community, and to help provide social services for area residents in need.

That conversation gave birth to the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association, an umbrella group of churches of all denominations.

Three years after that fortuitous lunch, the association's churches teamed up with Catholic Social Services in Robertsedale, a faith-based group that was also working to assist people with basic social and financial needs. Thanks to the combined efforts of the two groups—voila!—the Christian Service Center opened its doors in June of 1991 to serve Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Fort Morgan residents.

Today, the association is comprised of "churches for everyone," and its members include Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and non-denominational houses of worship. The CSC continues to be guided by a board of directors that includes a Minister from each church.

Congratulations to the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association for 30 years of leadership and service to the community! Check out the association's website at www.ministerial.org for more information and for links to the websites of the individual member churches.

Supporting churches in the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association are:

- Christian Life The Island Church
- First Baptist Church of Orange Beach
- First Presbyterian Church of Gulf Shores
- Grace Fellowship Presbyterian Church
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Gulf Breeze RV Church
- Gulf Shores United Methodist Church
- Gulfway Assemblies of God Church
- Holy Spirit Episcopal Church
- Lagoon Baptist Church
- Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church
- Orange Beach Presbyterian Church
- Orange Beach United Methodist Church
- Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
- Oyster Bay Baptist Church
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Romar Beach Baptist Church
- Shell Banks Baptist Church
- St. Andrew by the Sea
- St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church
- St. Jude's by the Sea Lutheran Church
- St. Thomas by the Sea
- Unity Church of Gulf Shores
- Worship @ the Water

FEEDING THE GULF COAST



Feeding the Gulf Coast is a nonprofit group dedicated to its core mission of “meeting the challenge of feeding people who are hungry as a result of personal crisis or disaster.” Formerly known as the Bay

Area Food Bank, Feeding the Gulf Coast works with the Christian Service Center and other member organizations and special programs to help the needy. The organization does its work from offices in three locations: its main branch in Theodore, Alabama; a Panhandle office in Milton, Florida; and a Mississippi location in Gulfport.

According to figures from Feeding the Gulf Coast, one in six adults in the central Gulf Coast area struggles with hunger. The figures are even higher for children: one of every four children in our community routinely goes hungry.

To address the need, Feeding the Gulf has a broad geographic reach and operates an array of programs that have helped thousands of people in need throughout the Gulf Coast region. Working to be “more than just a warehouse,” Feeding the Gulf Coast is an affiliate of Feeding America, the national’s largest domestic hunger relief nonprofit. For its part, Feeding the Gulf Coast has a plethora of programs, all designed to provide assistance to people in need.

Interested in the specifics? Here’s just a sampling of Feeding the Gulf’s many programs and services:

- A Mobile Pantry Program that works with partner agencies to feed and distribute food to as many as 100 families a day;
- Disaster relief that includes providing emergency shelter at its Theodore office as needed, and coordinating with government agencies and volunteers to distribute food and aid during crises;
- “Produce drops” to dispense locally sourced fresh produce to those in need, including people who live in so-called “food deserts” with little access to healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables;
- A Community Garden Network to educate people about the pleasures and benefits of growing their own produce, using organic gardening principles.

The Christian Service Center is proud to work in partnership with Feeding the Gulf Coast to provide much-needed assistance in southern Baldwin County. A message on the organization’s website from Cathy Pope, president and CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast, sums it up beautifully. “We are proud that we provide nutritious food to families and individuals along the Central Gulf Coast who are struggling with hunger. We are honored to serve our community.”

FOOD PANTRY



“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”- 1 Peter 4:10

“What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good.” - Aristotle

These wonderful words go to the heart of what drives the many inspiring people who give of their time and talents to the Christian Service Center. We’re grateful and thankful for all they do! If you’ve yet to volunteer for the CSC and are wondering how you can help, take heart! There are many ways to offer assistance, from front office work to stocking pantry shelves.

In this issue, our Volunteer Spotlight focuses not on one individual, but on our many energetic and wonderful pantry workers, and the role they play in helping the CSC help those in need.

So what, exactly, do our pantry workers do? If you volunteer to work in the CSC pantry, your duties on any given day might include stocking and re-stocking shelves; re-bagging bulk items; filling food bins for clients; helping unload and keep track of donated food items; and working in coordination with other food pantry volunteers to keep the pantry well-organized with all items easily accessible.

Working in the food pantry requires being on your feet for periods at a time and moving food items in boxes or bags, so it’s a great way to get a bit of physical exercise while helping the CSC and being of service to the community! If volunteering in the food pantry appeals to you, please pick up a volunteer form at the CSC, or download the volunteer form from the Volunteer Page at the CSC website.

