

Deacon Mercy & Justice Ministry Update... Fall 2018

*The Deacon Board leads our congregation in works of mercy and justice.
We also partner with local ministries, supporting them with funds and practical items.*

Deacon Fund: *Through your generosity, we are able to help those at Knox who are experiencing financial difficulty.*

You can contribute to the Deacon Fund in the following ways:

- (1) give electronically via secure electronic funds transfers– [contact Betty Clark](#), Knox accountant.
- (2) write checks payable to Knox and use the Deacon Fund giving envelopes in the pews; these envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office
- (3) give online using the [Knox website](#); choose the "Deacon fund". You can also use our App. Look for "Knox Presbyterian Church" at your favorite app store.

If you are struggling financially, please [contact Bebe Larson](#), our Deacon Case Coordinator or [Darryl Hondorp](#), our Deacon Moderator. Our goal is to support those in our care with wisdom and grace while maintaining confidentiality.

Dicken Elementary School: *a nearby public elementary school that we have supported in a variety of ways over the years to assist others in our community.*

Each year we collect backpacks with school supplies to help students and their families prepare for school startup. This year we collected and delivered 50 backpacks.

Starting the second week in November, we will collect Thanksgiving baskets with items for a complete meal. Look for an announcement in the Sunday bulletin, weekly email and website, and a display table in the atrium with a shopping list.

Deacon contact: [Dan Milot](#).

Family Life Services (FLS): *(now located at 840 Maus Ave., Ypsilanti) empowers women to make informed, life-affirming choices by providing: pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, education on pregnancy options, resources and referrals. FLS offers Bible studies, parenting classes, support for healthy relationships, and individualized care for women who have experienced pregnancy loss through miscarriage or abortion.*

We support FLS through prayer, volunteering, and financial stewardship during the Baby Bottle Boomerang drive (winter), the annual FLS Banquet (March), and the Walk for Life (September). Our gently used baby items support moms who participate in the FLS education programs.

Is God calling you to serve in this life-changing ministry? Please visit [their website](#) or call 734-434-3088.

Deacon contact: [Karen Schleh](#).

Friends in Deed (FID): *a local aid agency that "fills in the cracks of services not offered elsewhere". FID provides direct assistance (e.g., assistance with utility shutoff) and a furniture program.*

The Knox family has assisted with car and furniture donations in the past, as well as volunteered to move furniture, answer phones and provide other clerical support. "Circles" is a relatively new program offered by FID that uses relationships across socioeconomic lines to move families out of poverty. A family in poverty is matched with several middle- or upper-income partners for at least 18 months. Circles is looking for more volunteer partners.

Deacon contact: [Gail Blaauw](#).

Hope Clinic: *a Christian organization in Ypsilanti that provides medical and dental care to uninsured low-income adults and children; provides for emergency and basic needs; and offers laundry facilities and a pantry stocked with food and personal items.*

NEEDS:

1. Food and personal items donations– place them in the wicker baskets located by the doors to the Worship Center.
2. Help serving meals on the third Sunday each month; [contact coordinator Jim Acheson](#).
3. [Volunteer](#) help in their office and in their dental and medical clinics.

Deacon contact: [John Brace](#).

Hill House: *on Stone School Rd. is a place where people without a home can do laundry, shower, eat, rest or do projects during the day. It is also a community center for people to support each other in making changes in their lives and in the world.*

Sunday evening meals are provided for 30-50 people each week, followed by a community meeting. Our Knox team prepares, delivers and serves meals four Sundays each year. If you are interested in assisting with meal preparation and/or serving, [contact Deacon Barb Dick](#).

NEED: The next meal will be served on Sunday, Nov. 11. We will need help with food prep on Saturday and Sunday, and serving food on Sunday evening.

Salvation Army's Ken and Marianna Staples Family Center: *is a 35-bed temporary shelter that assists homeless families, individuals and veterans with temporary supportive services needed to help them return to stable housing in Washtenaw County.*

Knox supports Staples with a monthly financial contribution, periodic bulk financial gifts, childcare one Tuesday per month, and a yearly drive to help replenish their supplies for their gifts to outgoing clients, which they refer to as Blessing Baskets. We look forward to Staples' director Ms. Takisha Jones coming to update us on their ministry during the Oct. 28 Sunday worship service.

OCTOBER NEED: Blessing Baskets (household items and cleaning supplies) for Staples residents moving into new housing. [Visit the Knox website](#) or see the display table in the atrium for a detailed list of suggested purchases. This year Staples has made a special request for new twin blankets and comforters.

Deacon contact: [Nancy Hillaker](#)

Villa at Parkridge Healthcare *(formerly Bortz Nursing Home): provides nursing/rehab, Alzheimer/dementia care and assisted living for seniors.*

Deacons Barb Dick and Migi Cherif visit weekly Tuesday mornings; they also hold an informal worship service for some of the residents. Contact them if you are interested even for one week. They would love to have others from Knox join them!

Deacon contacts: [Barb Dick](#) and [Migi Cherif](#).

We encourage our Knox family to connect with the Deacon contacts listed above to learn more about engaging in works of mercy and justice in our community.