



FaithWorks Update

Putting Our Faith To Work
So All May Know That Faith Works

Vol. 1 Issue 4
Fall 2022

The Wright Way

Written by Dr. Rev. Wright Culpepper
Executive Director

Turning Casted Stones Into Foundations of Hope



Yes, I've read those posts.

We all can handle a few rocks hurled our way, especially from fearless keyboard warriors.

You know, some people don't quite understand the underlying reasons for homelessness, poverty, or hunger. They don't like what they see, and without examining the circumstances, they cast stones at those who are on the front lines, while others want to be a part of the solution.

Truthfully, stones sting greatly as they land on those who work so hard in offering compassion day in and day out. Yet, the amazing people who form the FaithWorks staff and the volunteers who assist lovingly continue the work which God calls them to do.

The good news is that the downtown community is finally seeing what has always been there. Those who gather outside the Well in the late afternoon and night have no place to go. Until recently, they had places to sleep, but their former nighttime places no longer exist. An old warehouse by the river was razed. A businessman, who created some outbuildings near the shrimp boats, died. The once abandoned downtown buildings that a local realtor left unlocked are now occupied by new owners or businesses. These were the places guests at The Well sought shelter at night. Once they fought alone to survive the night. Now they've formed a community of support. People judge the outward, and unless they are willing to stop to understand, they cast stones.




We are grateful for the many who are working on solutions. Next year, 2023, will be a transformational year as FaithWorks joins with other organizations to begin an enlightenment effort to teach, train, and deploy teachers, healthcare workers, law enforcement, and clergy. New awareness will help us all understand and meet the needs of those who suffer from mental illness, depression, and isolation. Our poor, elderly, lonely, and those who are homeless will transformationally benefit. Our healthcare system, mental health providers, law enforcement, justice systems and our community at large will also benefit.

Our goals for 2023 are ambitious. We intend to take the stones cast our way in 2022 to build a new and improved ministry that will help many of our neighbors in 2023.

And this work won't come easy. We are already serving record numbers at Sparrow's Nest due to rising inflation. We are assisting a higher number of persons transitioning from the streets to safe housing. We are helping many who lost their way during COVID to find their way to healthcare, counseling, and helpful resources.

Your gifts of financial resources, time, talent, and prayer change lives. Our faith is strong, our resolve is firm, our love is great. We will continue to do difficult things to help redeem the lives and souls of others even when we take some fire from a few who don't understand - yet. And we do this with your help.

Ministry Highlights

	Monthly Families Fed:	409
	Assistance for 266 Families:	\$61,600
	Once Homeless Now Employed:	36

* January 1 through August 31, 2022

FaithWorks Stewardship

For every dollar you donate, FaithWorks can provide \$10 in nutritious meals for a family struggling to make ends meet.

Friendly Express Helps Feed Families

In the summer of 2013, Friendly Express began donating a portion of all fountain and coffee sales on Fridays to local food pantries in support of their commitment to hunger relief.

After speaking to all their employees, they discovered the overwhelming need was to help feed people in our coastal Georgia communities. "Feeding Families on Friday" was conceived and has been a faithful partner for ten years.

Every Friday, when a customer buys any size fountain drink or coffee, they donate ten cents for each cup sold. Friendly Express donates this to food pantries like the Sparrow's Nest. Since 2014, Friendly Express has donated more than \$43,000 to help the families served by FaithWorks.

Friendly Express, Inc. operates thirty-four locations in southeast Georgia, with 12 locations in Brunswick and Saint Simons. We appreciate the employees and their commitment to end hunger in our community, one sip at a time.



Linda Highsmith, Susan McSherry, Linda Newberry, Robert Cooper and Nancy Krabill toasts Friendly Express

Okefenoke Foundation Supports Families With Grant

The OREMC Foundation works closely with the Sparrow's Nest to serve the needs of neighbors in need of assistance.

OREMC is a community development initiative of Okefenoke REMC supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties the electric co-op serves.



Michele Hutchins (right) presents a donation to the FaithWorks team, Rev. Wright Culpepper, Sparrow's Nest Manager, Sabra Slade, and Development Director, Charles Molloy.

It's A Good Year for Open Doors

In 2020, a generous FaithWorks supporter donated a house on Goodyear Avenue in Brunswick. Even though a fire had damaged much of the home, its bones were good. The donor put their trust in FaithWorks to rally the community to rescue the home for a neighbor in need.

With the help of numerous volunteers and donations from supporters, the extensive renovations are now complete. The restoration is a great example of how our community comes together to lift each other during difficult times.

The Open Doors ministry offers transitional housing for previously homeless individuals who have found work while pursuing permanent housing and stable employment opportunities.



Sharing God's Abundance – Celebrating Blessings

Written by Sabra Slade
Manager, Sparrow's Nest

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are approaching!

Each year, we offer a turkey or ham to Sparrow's Nest guests during November and December. Last year, we provided 708 turkeys and hams, up from 310 in 2020.

The number of families coming to the Sparrow's Nest for food assistance has increased significantly because of inflation. Based on recent trends, we anticipate needing more than 1,000 turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This is a significant undertaking for our volunteers with procuring, storing, and frequent pick-ups from local grocers each week during the upcoming holiday season. Supply chain issues and limits on our ability to purchase in bulk at a reduced rate made this especially challenging in 2020 and 2021, but we were successful.



Solomon Perez, Alec Eaton and Dicky Zell helped neighbors by donating hams and turkeys to the Sparrow's Nest.



Kelly Johnson, Sabra Slade and Sharon Baer receive ham donations and prepare them for distribution.

Our hope this holiday season is to have a “turkey team” to help with these efforts. In November we focus primarily on turkeys and then hams in December. We will start distributing turkeys and hams October 31st during our Sparrow's Nest guests' regular monthly visit.

What do we need and how can you help?

Donations!!! Your gifts of cash and food will help a neighbor who is experiencing tough times.

We will start accepting turkey and ham donations on Monday, October 24th through the week of Christmas. We receive donations Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm or by appointment at 2911 Altama Avenue.

Additionally, we are searching for two new or gently used large chest deep freezers (9-18 cu. feet). We are also looking for additional delivery drivers who

could be on-call for food deliveries to those who are homebound or elderly as well as turkey or ham pick-ups from donors. These individuals need to be able to transport and lift bags or boxes of food.

Please let us know if you can help spread a little holiday cheer to our neighbors. Contact Tab 912-261-8512 ext. 114 or Sabra 912-261-8512 ext. 110.



Thomas Mitchell, Garret Fauth, Nathan Coptsias and Alex Packard, one of our most talented turkey teams helped collect food donations in 2021.

How To Get Involved

To host your own food drive or find out how to get involved with Sparrow's Nest or any of the other FaithWorks ministries, call Tab Miller (912) 261-8512, extension 114. You can also visit us online to find out more about volunteering in our community at www.FaithWorksMinistry.org

Growing and Living My Faith

Written by Reverend Tab Miller
Director of Operations and Volunteer Ministries



When I was a senior in high school, the Twin Towers fell. Along with many of my generation, this moment brought home the reality of real brokenness and suffering in our world. No longer could I be insulated from the fact that many were in pain daily. The moment called so many of us beyond the menial grind of a 9-to-5 career to doing something constructive for the sake of humanity.

Whatever my career might be, I knew I needed to focus on making a difference in a hurting world. I spent a lot of time searching for answers in books. And books have served me greatly. But I needed to put my faith into action.

I had often heard missionaries come home to speak about their miraculous adventures in ministry abroad, and I had countless books testifying to the same. So, I went, and I found myself on a Navajo Reservation, and for the next 15 years, I traveled to and from home to the Reservation. When I was there, I sensed that I was doing the work I was called to do. Yet, when I would come home to Glynn County, there would be periods when I would feel like I had to go back to the mission field to make a difference. Then Rev. Wright Culpepper invited me to come and see the hidden needs here at home. I have since realized that the conditions were not so secret.

“Seeing men and women come to FaithWorks for no other reason than to give their time and energy to help those in need has been one of the most life-giving experiences of my life.”

-Tab Miller

When I joined the FaithWorks team, my understanding of what I was searching for deepened. No amount of book studying, sermon listening, or sermon preaching, all of which I have done plenty of, can strengthen faith like putting faith in action by serving others. Going to the places forgotten by society, I have found a place where God’s love can abound. God has not forgotten those cast aside, and those cast aside are not too proud to receive love and grace.



Tab Miller, Director of Operations and Volunteer Ministries, with Eugene Cornelissen, a guest at The Well.

As the Director of Operations, I have found serving in the background where no one is looking is often the best place to see miracles of God’s love and service. As the Director of Volunteer Operations, I have also found that my faith in my fellow human thrives. Seeing men and women come to FaithWorks for no other reason than to give their time and energy to help those in need has been one of the most life-giving experiences of my life. Now, I get to see it every day. I hope anyone looking to connect with God and others in this way would come and see me and let me help connect them to this ministry.

Get involved in your community www.FaithWorksMinistry.org

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