



Rowan

One Church One Child

Ministry

Rev. Jon Hunter

Program Coordinator

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Member Churches

Bethel Lutheran
Bethel UMC
Cedar Grove AME Zion
Church of the Word of God
Coburn Memorial UMC
Dorsett Chapel UCC
First Calvary Baptist
First Presbyterian - Salisbury
First UMC - Salisbury
Freedom United Church of God
Gethsemane Missionary Baptist
Grace UMC
Grace Worship Center International
Lebanon Lutheran
Main Street UMC - Salisbury
Maranatha Bible Church
Milford Hills UMC
Mount Olive Full Gospel Baptist
Mount Tabor UMC
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist
New Life In Christ
Oak Grove UMC
Park Avenue UMC
Providence AME Zion
Providence UMC
Refreshing Springs Christian Ministry
San Mateo - St Matthew's Episcopal
Second Presbyterian
Shiloh UMC
Soldiers Memorial AME Zion
St. Matthew's Lutheran
The Tower of Power United Holy Church
Woodleaf UMC
Word Of Life Family Worship Center

Fall Meetings

Advisory Board

September 11, 2009 @ 12 Noon
RCDS—165 Mahaley Avenue

Pastors and Coordinators Meeting

October 12, 2009 —12 noon or 5:30 pm
Location—TBA

The Message

VOLUME VII

SUMMER 2009



The Director's Pen

The partnership that Rowan County DSS has with 34 local churches through the Rowan One Church One Child program is one of the most rewarding initiatives that DSS has been involved with in a long time! Through ROCOC, our social workers have the opportunity to share with the faith community the many unmet needs of children who have been abused and neglected. Many of these children are in foster homes but others are in the homes of relatives. A few are still living with their parents, while DSS is providing careful oversight to assure the children are safe from harm.

ROCOC provides an opportunity for the faith community to become involved in very tangible ways. Whole congregations and individual church members have provided specific things for specific children. We let our churches know that there was a need for cribs for three new-born

babies, who were sleeping on sofas and in the same beds with their parents. Very soon, someone had donated money to purchase cribs and someone else donated a crib! We let the churches know about a mother who was being reunited with her five children, but she needed furniture for her apartment before the children could be returned to her from foster care. Churches responded with furniture, and now mother and children are all together and doing very well. We let our churches know that the children in our caseloads have low self-esteem and receive little attention and praise. Churches responded with birthday parties, complete with gifts! For the past two years, there have been end-of-school celebrations at the park, just to recognize the educational achievements of foster children.

In addition to the donations, your prayers for these children and their families cannot go

unrecognized. In our society, all children are in need of prayerful support, but that need is even greater for children who do not have the love and care of family and a stable home. Thank you for keeping them in your prayers.

Through all the efforts of our ROCOC member churches, you have helped abused and neglected children know that they are a vital and valuable part of our society. You have not only helped the children but also you have helped their foster and biological families. Your help has made a positive difference in the life of a child.

Rowan County Department of Social Services

Sandra Wilkes—Director

Tom Brewer— Children's Services Program Administrator



ROCOC Coordinator

God is Good! The abundance of God's grace and mercy continues to flow through you to the children and families that are served by DSS Children's Services Division. You are touching many lives in Rowan County. I continue to praise God for the success and growth of the ROCOC

Ministry. Please let your churches know how grateful our Advisory Board and Social Workers are for your generous gifts of material goods and financial contributions.

I have the joy of seeing the face of:

- a teenager brightened because the teen is able to attend camp or a school field trip, have their birthday recognized or get clothes from the ROCOC Clothing Ministry.
- a birth mother, relative caregiver, or foster parent who receives baby clothes,

Advisory Board Members

DSS Staff

Jon Hunter
 Sandra Wilkes
 Tom Brewer
 Beverly Mobley
 Frances Gallimore
 Micah Melton Ennis
 Stanley Price
 Kris Sapper
 Peggy Thorneburg
 Johna Wiseman

Community Members

Nilous Avery
 Martha Baker
 Fred Clarkson
 Regina Dancy
 Dianne Guions
 Norma Honeycutt
 Marion Melton
 Darlene Murphy
 William Peoples
 Melissa Shue

Thank You!

We are grateful to all member church's and friends of ROCOC who have donated 115 material and financial contributions during January 1, 2009 - July 1, 2009.

These gifts have helped 105 children from January 1, 2009—July 1, 2009.

Teenage Links
 Birthday Party

Wednesday
 September 16, 2009
 3:45 p.m.—5 p.m.

More churches are needed to work together to help with the party.

ROCOC COORDINATOR

diapers, strollers, hand knitted afghans, cribs or other necessary items to properly care for their baby.

- a child who receives toys, games, bikes, videos, books, clothes, shoes, school supplies, coloring books and crayons.

Without you, I would not have the privilege of presenting your gifts to the parents, relative-caregivers, children and teenagers that you help. Thank you for that honor and privilege.

As of June 30, 2009, Mr. Jeff Morris and Rev. John Tucker are rotating off of the

Advisory Board. We are grateful for their service, advice and the contribution of time that they have generously given to our staff, fellow board members and clients. JOB WELL DONE!! JEFF AND JOHN!!!!!!

On July 1, 2009, we welcomed our new Community Advisory Board Members: Dr. Nilous Avery—Pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church; Rev. Fred Clarkson—Priest at St. Matthew's and San Mateo Episcopal Church; Mrs. Dianne Guions—ROCOC Coordinator at Mount Olive Full Gospel Baptist Church; Mrs. Norma Honeycutt—Execu-

tive Director Partners In Learning at Catawba College; Mrs. Melissa Shue—Parent, Former DSS Foster Parent and MAPP Trainer.

At our next Board Meeting on September 11, 2009, Mr. Morris and Rev. Tucker will be recognized for their service during the last two years. We will also welcome new board members.

Jon

Foster Care and Adoption Units

The Children's Services Staff of Foster Care and Adoptions units continue to be amazed and thankful for the gracious support of Rowan One Church One Child member churches! The work that we do is often so difficult and emotionally draining. Sometimes, we get down and out and feel that we are not making a difference. And then someone donates a crib for one of our families. Or we are greeted as we come in from a home visit by church folk hosting a birthday party for our teens. Or a relative caregiver calls and says they received the nicest gift card from an anonymous donor through Rowan One Church

One Child and that it came at just the right time. Or Jon Hunter reminds us that our foster children, foster families and staff are being remembered in prayer by our member churches and other friends in the community.

These moments encourage us to keep on making those daily efforts. Gifts like these remind us that we are not at this alone, but we are in the midst of a community that surrounds its children and families with love and care and prayer. Thank you for helping us to protect and provide for our foster children, and for helping us identify "forever families" for those children who will not be able to safely go

home. Thank you for helping our teenagers to feel special on their birthdays, and for throwing a big "school's out" party for foster youth and their families. We appreciate every dime that is donated, and seek to use each dime wisely. But in addition to the money that you all generously provide, your hands-on support means more than words can adequately describe. THANK YOU, Rowan One Church One Child! Thank you for all you do because you help us to keep doing too!

Micah Melton Ennis

Current Needs

- | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------|
| School Supplies and book bags | Cribs | Towels |
| Diapers (all sizes) | Strollers | Wash cloths |
| Baby and toddler clothes (boys and girls) | Toddler Beds | Sheets and crib sheets |