

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

A family affair: New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church

For more than 10 years, New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church has been cooking and serving dinner for community residents in the Urban Ministries of Durham Community Café. Their leader is Sharon Farrow, who is in her third year as president of the Missionary Circle. A nurse at Duke Medical Center, Sharon says she recognizes a lot of people from the community that she serves dinner to at UMD. Sharon says doing this makes her feel good. “It makes me more appreciative of the small things in life and I realize there are always a lot of people less fortunate than us today.”

Sharon coordinates it all, but she gets lots of help, starting with her family. They assist with picking up and distributing the food that will be prepared. The Missionary Circle members, as well as church members, assist with preparing the food. The food is either prepared at home or at the church. The menu can include fried chicken, turkey and dressing, spaghetti with red sauce, potato salad, butter beans,

corn, collard greens, yams, string beans, white potatoes, peas and a multitude of deserts.

“Whatever anyone from church makes, we use it all.” This creates a true sense of community love and offers an unusual variety to those coming through the line.

The group arrives at the shelter 45 minutes before dinner time to set up and prepare. They have anywhere from 15 to 25 volunteers. Not only do the adult members assist, but they also have Junior Missionaries who help prepare the desserts, drinks and assist with serving the food.

Getting young people involved is an important part of this faith community’s mission, Sharon explains. “Missionary means reaching out to

others in need in our community. Not only do we assist with feeding the homeless, we collect toiletries and donations for Central Children's Home and the Food Pantry. The work involves visiting the sick in their homes, hospitals and nursing facilities. Providing an act of kindness in the time of need can make a big difference in a person's life.”

Who pays for all this yummy food? Sharon explains that each year, they have a certain amount that is requested in their church budget. Some members also give donations to help support the missionary circle. “If it wasn't for the generous support of our church it would be impossible for us to support our outreach ministry.”

New Red Mountain Missionary Baptist Church serves every other month on the third Monday. In Sharon’s words, “We are very excited to be a part in giving back to our community.”

