

- **Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC)** - In 2010, the Board of Christian Service voted to become a member church of MACC. Four times a year we will go to the soup kitchen and serve a meal to the shelter guests. We also help at MACC in other ways throughout the year.



- **Family Mission Immersion Days** - We believe in giving people of all ages, including children, the opportunity to serve in the community. Four times a year we offer Mission Immersion Days where families go into the community and work with an agency to serve an underprivileged population. These events are fun and open to all ages!



#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

*“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”*

Luke 3:11

Board members gather information from groups seeking support. Using this information, the board decides on donations that will be given. Over \$90,000 is given annually by the Board of Christian Service.

*“Let us now go forth into the world in peace; to be of good courage; to hold fast to that which is good; to render to no one evil for evil; to strengthen the fainthearted; to support the weak; to help the afflicted; to rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

-- Commissioning Statement

rev. 2011

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

*Ways to Reach Out and  
Share God’s Love*



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Congregational, UCC**

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## OUR MISSION

The duties of the Board of Christian Service (BCS) according to Church Bylaws are to: Promote benevolent, **community service** and **mission** programs both at home and abroad; Translate **Christian ideals into social action**; Promote **cooperation with other** religious and civic groups in worthwhile projects; encourage programs that help us live out our mission to share God's love.



Some of the on-going projects the Board sponsors are:

- **Hands on Hartford** (formerly Center City Churches) - We provide lunch at the soup kitchen four times during the year. We serve on Columbus Day (October), Election Day (November), Martin Luther King Day (January) and Good Friday (April).
- **Hunger Walks** – We publicize and recruit people to walk and/or sponsor walkers in both the Crop Walk in October, sponsored by Church World Service and the Hunger Walk in May, sponsored by Foodshare.
- **Rummage Sales** - There are two rummage sales a year (one in the fall and one in the spring). All the funds go to the BCS for distribution.



- **Turkey Drive** - For many years, the Board of Christian Service has collected turkeys the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The majority of them are given to Foodshare. Foodshare helps hungry people in CT.
- **Fred Wish Elementary School** – We have sponsored the Polar Express night in the past, and we send volunteer readers to the school on a consistent basis.
- **Giving Trees** - Each Christmas season, First Church sets up two giving trees that benefit several organizations. The Board of Christian Service has a tree with tags for Cromwell Children's Home and Covenant to Care.
- **Mobile Food Share Van** - Mobile Foodshare is a "Farmers Market" style food distribution service sponsored by Foodshare. It provides fresh produce and other food items to lower income people. A Mobile Foodmobile comes to First Church every other Wednesday.

• **Horace Bushnell Food Pantry** - For many years, First Church has collected food items and brought them to Horace Bushnell Food Pantry in Hartford a few times a month. There are two collection boxes at church – one in the back of the church (narthex) and one in the back lobby.

• **Adult/Alumni Mission Trip** - This trip gives both adults and young people who have benefited from the youth mission trips a chance to go again and serve people who are in need. Anywhere from 30 to 50 parishioners and friends of First Church go on this annual trip to Back Bay Mission, and they range in age from 18 on up. This week-long trip gives participants a chance to do hands-on mission work, including building and refurbishing houses for people who need a helping hand.

• **SERRV** - For over twenty years, SERRV products have been sold during the Advent season. SERRV is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty wherever it resides. When people purchase SERRV products, they make a direct impact on our global market's great injustices: the inequality in income and quality of life for people living in developing countries.

