

# Heart and Hope

*Lake Christian Ministries*

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

On September 9, 1992, Lake Christian Ministries opened in the Rucker House in Moneta as a satellite of Bedford Christian Ministries serving families of southern Bedford county and northern Franklin County. The facility operated M-W-F, 9:30 to noon, offering food, clothing and financial aid. Twenty five years later, LCM is still operating, open M-W-F, 9 am to noon plus the last Tuesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 pm. In addition to food, clothing and financial aid, LCM also provides household goods and the New Tomorrows program (see summer newsletter, available at LCM website: [www.lakechristianministries.org](http://www.lakechristianministries.org)) and two mobile pantries, including one In Penhook.

In the early planning of LCM, four Churches were involved: Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Morgan Baptist Church, Resurrection Catholic Church and Trinity Ecumenical Parish. When the doors opened at Rucker House, seven were involved. Today 14 Churches are partner members of Lake Christian Ministries.

On November 9, 2017 at 11:30 am, Lake Christian Ministries will celebrate a quarter century of serving our communities by hosting a 25th Anniversary Event and Annual Membership meeting entitled "Share Our Story." Made possible by the generosity of the Capps Home Building Center, the event will feature Gayle Turner, a professional storyteller who will tell the story of Lake Christian Ministries' first 25 years in an entertaining and interactive way and paint the Vision for Lake Christian Ministries for the next 25 years.

The Board of Directors has worked hard to craft a new Vision for LCM for the years to come, along with a new Mission Statement and goals for achieving the Mission and leading LCM to its new Vision. The new Vision will encompass continuing to meet the basic needs of the Neighbors we serve, but it will also address the broader issues of poverty in a much more comprehensive way.

The 25th Anniversary celebration will take place at Trinity Ecumenical Parish beginning at 11:30 am on November 9, 2017. Because of high interest and the capacity of TEP's Fellowship Hall, tickets are required. Those who received invitations should by now have confirmed their attendance to allow time for LCM to mail out your tickets. If you never received an invitation or have lost it and wish to attend, please let us know immediately at [lcmexdr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmexdr@gmail.com).

Over the course of the last few weeks we have spoken to many people who were part of the early discussion and creation of Lake Christian Ministries. The most frequent comment: "It is hard to believe it has been 25 years." Added Stan Carey, one of LCM's original founders: "I am looking forward to celebrating with you." A word of caution for those attending: In 25 years the number of stories is enormous and the storyteller will be challenged to tell a representative sampling of them in a one-hour presentation. I hope you will enjoy the stories that are told, even if yours could not be among them. Our storyteller tells us that every story has been valuable to him.

David English, Executive Director





## LCM Announces New Donor Program

Lake Christian Ministries recently announced the introduction of its Planned Giving Program. As a result, there is now a way for LCM's loyal donors to make a gift that will extend its impact for years to come and ensure that the organization can continue to meet the critical needs of those in poverty. A gift to LCM's new Planned Giving program will typically be made during or at the end of an individual's lifetime as part of their broader financial or estate planning.

David English, LCM's Board Chairman and Executive Director, said, "The Planned Giving Program will have two major impacts on LCM. First, it enables us to better plan our services for the future by helping define what resources will be available. Second, it enables us to provide more timely services to our Neighbors since we will not need to wait for the results of our end-of-year fundraiser to identify the level of resources that will be available."

While the new program is just getting underway, English believes that a number of LCM supporters have already made provisions for a bequest to the organization in their estate planning. "I ask those who have already made a bequest to LCM in their wills to contact me so that we can recognize you for your gifts, either anonymously or as Founding Members in LCM's new Sustainers Society," English said.

The administration of the Planned Giving Program will be through the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, the program's fiduciary. This partnership provides complete assurance to the donor that their gift will be used as they have directed in the fund agreement. LCM has set up two long-term funds with the Community Trust—the LCM Endowment Fund and the LCM Support Fund. Gifts for either fund can take many forms, to include cash, current gifts of non-cash assets such as stock or real estate, and planned gifts such as charitable bequests in a will, retirement plan assets, life insurance and charitable trusts.

For additional information on LCM's Planned Giving Program, please contact David English at [lcmexdr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmexdr@gmail.com) or by telephone at (540) 297-3214.

### A Special Thank You to Our Grantors...

Grant funding is an important source of support for LCM, providing nearly \$60,000 each year (20% of the funds needed to aid our Neighbors in need). As of September 15, 2017, LCM was blessed with support from the following grantors:

The **Bedford Community Health Foundation** provided \$9,000 for denture services to LCM Neighbors who reside in Bedford County.

The **Foundation for Roanoke Valley** provided \$5,000 for denture services to our Neighbors in Franklin County.

**Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation** awarded \$2,000 for purchasing healthy food supplies for the hungry in the communities Food Lion serves.

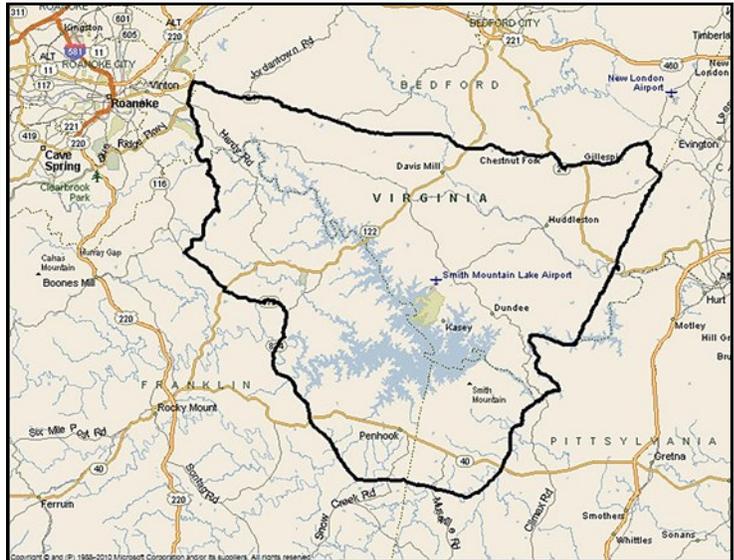
**The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust** awarded \$10,000 for healthy food supplies and nutrition education to our Neighbors in Bedford County.

**The United Way of Central Virginia** awarded \$10,000 for the Food and Milk Voucher Program for Bedford County neighbors.

**The Lane Foundation** awarded \$2,000 to support the Milk Voucher Program to improve nutrition for the children of our Neighbors in need within LCM's SML service area.



Lake Christian Ministries  
**Service Area**



**About LCM's New Newsletter Style**

This newly-designed Newsletter helps celebrate LCM's 25 years of serving SML Neighbors. Thanks to Jim Laseter for suggesting the "Heart and Hope" title, to Lynda Imirie for designing the masthead, and to Don Blanchard for layout and production. We hope you enjoy the new look and your feedback is welcome.

Jerry Hale, Editor

LCM is an outreach ministry of local churches, organizations, businesses and individuals serving families in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties since 1992.

**Member Church Profile...**

**Bethlehem United Methodist**

First in a series profiling LCM's SML-area Member Church Partners

**Founded:** 1804 as a log cabin church built on Halesford Road, a mile northeast of Board's Store. Construction of current brick building began in 1928 and was dedicated in late June, 1929.

**Pastor:** David Lord, since 2007.

**Congregation:** Aprox. 500 members, with about 225 attending services at either 8:30 or 11:00 am on a typical Sunday. Communion is offered every first Sunday of each month.

**Church Vision:** "Outward bound, together, with Christ" - to be Disciples who reach outside the walls of the church to those in need physically and spiritually.

**Notable Missions:** Covenant with Szeged UMC in Hungary; Men's Peanut Ministry; United Methodist Women; Bethlehem United Methodist Preschool; "Wonderful Wednesdays" meal, fellowship and small group discussions.

BUMC is very involved in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) that sends volunteers to help when disasters strike.

**Church Office: (540) 297-7957**  
 Open Mon-Thurs 8-2; Friday 8-12.  
[www.bethlehemunitedmethodist.org](http://www.bethlehemunitedmethodist.org)



Our 6th annual JCMW at SML State Park had 21 teams and 348 people participating. The fundraiser is in memory of Jim Cameron, LCM's Executive Director from 2003-2010. Nearly \$43,000 was raised for neighbors-in-need in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties.

Pictured is the team from Bethlehem UMC.

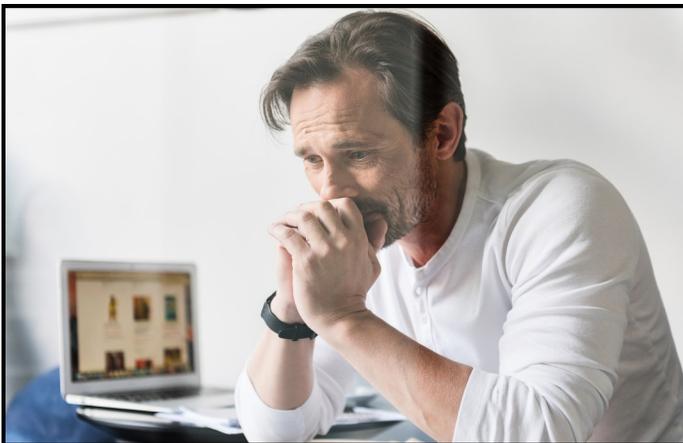
## George's Story: A Tumble into Situational Poverty

Working in a very stressful headquarters environment reporting to top management, George, a college grad with two advanced degrees, became increasingly isolated from co-workers who were in full mutiny of his boss.

Coupled with three changes of corporate presidents within 3 ½ years, George's intense stress caused him to exhibit related symptoms such as short-term memory loss, increasing disorganization, social isolation and pre-diabetes syndrome. Battling severe sleep apnea and resulting morning migraines, George was tested and found to have dangerously low levels of blood oxygen. George was also having problems with POE (planning, organizing and executing), a sign of severe sleep apnea.

After bringing his struggle with co-workers and hard evidence of tampering with workers' analyses (both his and others) to the attention of human resources, George was fired.

Long-term unemployment seized him and he attempted to start a business, creating a founding team and seeking investments. George had successfully raised venture capital in the past for a personal project as well as for a client. This time he was unsuccessful and as a result became increasingly depressed and more isolated from his wife and teenage children.



Unable to cope with his unemployment, depression and confusion, George's wife of 23 years announced that she had started divorce proceedings. George lost his insurance and home and moved into a shared residence with several renters while trying to find employment and living on credit cards.

Shortly, in the Fall of that year, the financial crisis hit and all his credit sources ended nearly overnight.

With nowhere to go when the owner of the house evicted all occupants so he could sell the property, George, with the help of his roommates' gracious gifts for gas money, was able to travel to his sister's home in Richmond, VA. His sister had an extra room and offered it; otherwise George would have had to go to a homeless shelter. George jokes that his sister "...takes in stray cats and stray brothers."

A short time later, his sister also took in their mom, Frances, who was entering the last stages of Alzheimer's and had become increasingly combative with her other daughter and caregiver, Linda. In Richmond, George worked for Walmart—in receiving and later in electronics. There, George became friends with a gentleman who frequented the store. This new friend and Christian approached a close friend of his—the CFO of Dominion Power—who offered to help. George declined an interview, no longer feeling confident taking on the responsibilities and pressures of a senior financial analysis position.

George, his sister and his mom relocated to the SML area (a new job for his sister) and George got a transfer with Walmart. The first morning after the move to Moneta, Frances was found wandering their new neighborhood by a Sheriff who had been called. In response, George tendered his resignation in order to devote full time to caring for their mom—until she passed away two years later. Gaps of employment, being over qualified for subsistence jobs and under qualified (due to time away from the technical work) for career jobs still haunt George today.

Estrangement from his children deepened George's depression. But anxiousness dramatically increased when he learned that his son, Michael, had developed severe depression, quit going to classes, and didn't register for his Spring semester at Georgia Tech. George's former wife called to say that Michael had just been committed to a hospital and was on a suicide watch. Michael didn't plan on attending Spring semester because he had bought a handgun and intended to kill himself! Luckily, his sister realized Michael was in serious trouble and convinced mom to commit him. During the conversation with George, his former wife admitted that during counseling, Michael confided with his psychologist that "he was afraid he would end up like dad."

With that devastating news, George walked through the doors of Lake Christian Ministries wanting to talk

## George's Story Cont.

with someone about his fears. A MOM volunteer introduced him to a New Tomorrows coach. That began a 20 month journey with his coach to sort out the situation: developing credentials, addressing physical and emotional issues, and supporting an employment search all part of a plan to develop resources and confidence about the future. While George continues to feel significant loss and grief about family and his decline into poverty, he has become more anchored in a caring community.

George has realized that situational poverty comes at a great price. Because of this hard-earned realism, George knows that poverty comes to many people regardless of background, education and ambition and that rebuilding self-confidence, emotional and physical resilience is critical to making a productive transition. He knows his journey will continue to take immense effort and commitment to rebuild his resources toward a future story.

## Our Christmas Wish List

By Lynda Imirie

"All I want for Christmas..." is for over 300 LCM Neighbor children we serve to know that Christmas is a celebration of God's love, His gift to us. As He gives His love to everyone, rich or poor, young or old, black or white and every color in between, so too do we give gifts during this time of year.

Beginning mid-October, we will be asking parents at LCM to tell us what clothing/sizes their children need, and what toys (3-4) they would love to have Christmas morning. These requests will be shared on Angel Trees at local churches and businesses throughout the SML community.

### ***If you are willing and able:***

Take an Angel and fill its requests.

Or buy a nice toy (no Happy Meal or Cracker Jack toys, please) & put it in a toy collection box for LCM.

Or simply make a cash donation to LCM for "A Child's Christmas" and we will do the shopping for you.

**If you would like to volunteer to help shop or pack these gifts, call 540-721-3492.**

And please...everyone...please, please pray for the children enrolled in this program, and for the generosity of those who want Christmas morning to be bright and merry for all God's children.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

To help our neighbors have a blessed and plentiful Thanksgiving, all the fixings of a traditional turkey dinner will be distributed at LCM Saturday, November 18th. Earlier in the week, the SML Lions will help pack the meals, which include a turkey breast, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn bread, green beans, applesauce, margarine and dessert, proportioned per family.

The Youth Group at Resurrection Catholic Church come on Saturday morning to help distribute the dinner bags to our neighbors. Each bag costs approximately \$20. Donations to help us purchase these items will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to LCM with "Turkey Dinners" noted on the memo line.

## Meeting Basic Needs

### ***In the first 8 months of this year, LCM:***

- Had **2,376** visits for food
- Gave out **1,112** milk vouchers
- Distributed **243** Easter baskets
- Distributed **3,100 lbs.** of fresh produce from Giving Garden
- Provided **\$62,683** in financial aid to **166** households
- Provided **20,767** clothing items
- Provided **1,672** household items
- Provided **487** major household items

### ***The average approved aid request was \$378***

- **67%** of financial aid provided was for electricity
- **34%** of services were provided to children
- **24%** of services went to persons **55** and older
- **58%** of Neighbors live in Bedford County and **40%** of Neighbors live in Franklin County

# LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC.

P.O. BOX 695  
Moneta, VA 24121

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #78  
Roanoke, VA



## Your Help Is Appreciated!

Please complete the information below and mail this form with your check to Lake Christian Ministries.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:  \$25     \$50     \$75     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of / In Memory of (Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_

For: Thanksgiving

For: A Child's Christmas



Please mail this form and make all checks payable to:  
Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121