

Essex Churches Together

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Our Mission: "Essex Churches Together is a Christian group united in partnership to provide and coordinate resources and services to assist all Essex County residents in need."

ECT Celebrates 1-Year Anniversary

The May meeting marked the 1-year anniversary for *Essex Churches Together*. The members celebrated the accomplishments and plans for the future.

Representatives from these churches in Essex County have regularly attended: Tappahannock Memorial United Methodist, Upper Essex Baptist Church, Angel Visit Baptist Church, St. John's Episcopal, Lebanon Methodist, First Baptist in Tappahannock, Grace Episcopal, First Baptist, Loretto, Vauter's Episcopal, Tappahannock Presbyterian, Antioch Baptist, Rappahannock Christian, and Zion Baptist. We recently welcomed a representative from Good Hope Baptist. At large members include Larry Van Doren, Tove Oster, The Rev. Ann Reeder Riggs, Mary Lynne Krusz, and JoAnne Ruffa.

Establishment of a Red Cross Chapter

Response to disasters has been a goal for ECT, and to that end the establishment of a Red Cross Chapter in Essex County has been a major thrust.

ECT invited the public to a meeting at which Red Cross district representatives Kate Hanley and Carole Purdy informed the group about services of the Red Cross, both educational and disaster response. The importance of Essex having a chapter is that we would be in a network to receive assistance from other counties and the National Red Cross in a major disaster.

After several public meetings a training meeting has been set up for Saturday, August 13 from 9:30-noon. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Church on Marsh and Water streets across from the Essex Library.

ECT representatives have been charged with announcing these meetings and recruiting volunteers for this crucial service to our community. It is a goal of ECT to have at least 2 volunteers from each church.



For more information about ECT contact Alice Roye at alicer2@verizon.net or 443-2021

Chairs for Bay Aging Adult Day Care

Twenty chairs were purchased for Bay Aging Adult Care as a result of donations from three churches: Lebanon Methodist, St. John's Episcopal, and Tappahannock Presbyterian. This project was carried out through ECT.

The Adult Day Care is one of the special interests of ECT, and activities there and needs for volunteers are publicized at each meeting. A young family from Vauter's church is volunteering there each week to entertain the clients, and Tappahannock Presbyterian is committed to having a Bible Study every Thursday.

Church support for the Adult Day Care is crucial. Volunteers are needed to

- sit and talk with the clients
- give manicures
- help with gardening projects
- provide entertainment such as singing or musical instruments

If someone in your church is talented in painting a wall mural this would be greatly appreciated. Contact Michelle at the Adult Day Care Center for details (445-8711).

Food Shortage Addressed this Summer

The Community Services center has had some difficulty with receiving enough food from the Central Virginia Food Bank in Richmond to supply Essex residents who depend on this source. Several churches have had special canned good drives to help fill in.

St. Timothy's church donates on a regular basis every month to the Community Services.

Antioch Baptist Church regularly serves about 90 families with canned goods and food from the Virginia Central Food Bank.

Young People Offer Valuable Service

Mrs. Oster reports that a recent project by young people was a rewarding experience for the Community Service Center as well as for them.

With advance planning by their sponsor, children attending a camp at St. Margaret's visited a couple of days and completed much needed tasks such as cleaning the shelves, floors, and bathrooms of the Center; sorting and labeling clothes; sorting canned goods; tending outside flower beds; and whatever else was needed at the time. She suggested church groups might like to volunteer in this way and she will be happy to talk to anyone about such a project.

Announcements from Churches

Bible School dates have been shared throughout the summer. Tappahannock Presbyterian Church has moved to the Teakwood Office Park, opposite Walmart, for Sunday services and week-day office and activities.

Thoughts for the Future...

....: Kathy Hughes introduced the idea of our youth doing mission work in our own neighborhoods or in Essex County. This will be explored further, possibly for next summer.

....There may be opportunities in the future to help with fund-raising for the Red Cross of Essex County

...There may be an effort to have Vacation Bible Schools staggered throughout the summer with the publicity coordinated so that attendance can be larger at each VBS

....If your church is not represented in ECT we invite you to send a representative to join us the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 PM at the Essex Public Library.

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