

Mission Fair Enlightens St. Matthew's

The last Sunday in September 2007 was a big day for St Matthew's Mission Committee. Those who had the opportunity to listen to our guest speaker, speak with her in Fellowship Hall, and visit with one or more of the mission groups came away with a better understanding of the many mission projects supported by our St Matthew's community.

The stage was set with a beautiful worship service. Our guest speaker was Ms. Florie Liser, the Assistant U. S. Trade Representative to Africa. Florie challenged us to participate in mission work, think about missions differently to include all the things you buy and do, and to be active in assuring that our country does for the world poor what it is fully capable of doing. *Her complete remarks can be found on our church website under sermons.*

After the service, the congregation proceeded to the Fellowship Hall where fifteen different groups and organizations in our church that represent us to the community at large were represented.

They included:

Volunteers in Mission which sends teams to projects outside the Bowie area;

Appalachia Service Project;

Our effort to support students in Liberia under **Operation Classroom;**

Disaster Response Team;

Christmas in April program which repairs homes for local residents in need;

The **United Methodist Women Outreach Projects;**

Crop Walk which raises funds to combat hunger;

Project Warm Hearts which provides gifts for prisoners to give to their children;

Shelter Meal effort for the P. G. House, Men's Shelter;

Our **Church Shelter;**

The **Housing Corporation** provides low-cost housing for qualified residents;

The **Knit Wits;**

Title One School effort which provides clothing and other support to needy Public School children;

Bowie Food Pantry;

The effort to fight malaria known as **Nothing But Nets.**

A booklet is available which contains a brief description of all of our congregation's outreach/mission efforts. It is entitled "**Opportunities to Serve God, the Church and Others**" and can be found in the literature rack in the Narthex. Get active in one of our programs and you will find your presence here at St. Matthew's significantly enhanced.

There is always room for one more. Volunteer!

*Blessings to all...
Peter Saderholm
Chair, Council on Missions*