

To: UMC Mission Rivers District Churches - Missions Committee Chairperson
From: Bethany United Methodist Church, Smithfield, VA
Re: Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission

July 14, 2026

We would like to thank the Mission Rivers District for the grant we received for our mission project, The Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission in Kentucky. This grant helps Bethany UMC in Smithfield to once again make our annual mission trip to the Henderson Settlement in time for Christmas. We will make the trip on November 30-December 1 this year. We will be taking toys and other needed items for their annual Christmas event. Again, our goal is to carry Christmas gifts to the neediest children of Bell, Knox, and Whitley Counties in Kentucky and Claiborne County in Tennessee. These are the counties that are served by The Henderson Settlement, one of the poorest areas in the United States.

Each year, over 200 of the neediest families are served, with over 500 children receiving gifts. We delivered gifts from 13 churches last year. We are inviting all churches on the Missions Rivers District that are able to contribute to the Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission by collecting and donating the following items this year:

- New toys or other age-appropriate Christmas gifts for children aged newborn to 18
- New pajamas, underwear and socks for children aged newborn to 18
- New and barely used warm winter coats. *Please make sure used coats are washed or dry-cleaned.*

If your church decides to collect items for Henderson, it would be great if you could let us know by sending us an email, just stating your plans. Then, once you have collected items for Henderson, please contact us by phone or email and we will arrange to meet you at our church or another meeting place for delivery. November 14 is the deadline for us to receive items. If possible, please put all items into small to medium sized boxes, not garbage bags, to allow more efficient loading of the truck. Please label each box with the name of your church and a short description of contents of the box such as new toys, pajamas, coats, etc. It does not need to be a detailed inventory list.

If your church or another organization would prefer to send a monetary donation, that would certainly be appreciated too. We will use the money to purchase Christmas items on the list. **A check can be made out to Bethany United Methodist Church with “Henderson Mission” in the memo line. The check can be mailed to 13088 Mill Swamp Road, Smithfield, VA 23430.**

Thank you for any help you can give. The parents and children of Appalachia are so appreciative. If you have any questions, or wish to reach us about collecting items for delivery, our contact information is below:

Linda West – cell 757-876-3944
lwest562@gmail.com

Della Carrico – cell 757-377-7252
dellacarrico@gmail.com

God Bless You,
Linda and Della
Bethany UMC

You may turn this over and post it on your church bulletin board.



Christmas at the Settlement

Bethany UMC Smithfield, Va is a collection point for donations to the Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission project, sponsored by the Missions River District of the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The mission of Henderson Settlement, as part of the body of Christ, is to lift up Jesus Christ by providing basic needs in Appalachia through God's love.

2026 Donations Accepted

- New Christmas gifts for children aged newborn to 18
- New pajamas, socks and underwear for children aged newborn to 18
- New and gently used warm winter coats

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Details and background information are on the back of this notice.