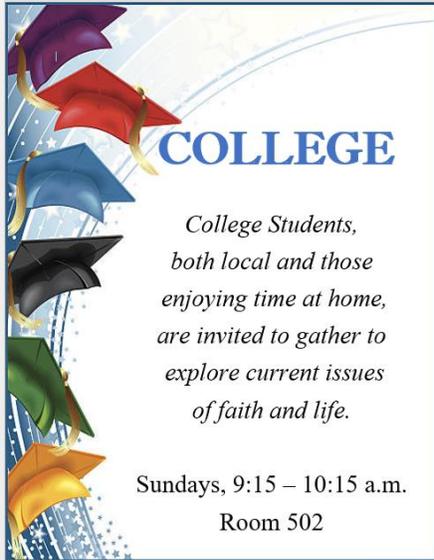


Spring into Faith with Adult Ministries!

- **Mission Team** returns from Guatemala
- Paperback Book Drive for **Rutherford County Correctional Work Center**
- Register now for **Summer 2025 Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement!**



COLLEGE MINISTRY

All college students and friends are invited to be part of the College group, meeting Sundays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in Room 502 across from the church office. A light breakfast is served, everyone is welcome, bring a friend!

ST. MARK'S YOUTH & ADULT MISSION TRIP
Henderson Settlement, Frakes, KY
July 6 – 11, 2025



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY IN THESE AREAS:

Thrift Store, Greenhouse, Infant Supply House,
Food Pantry, Home Repair, and Sewing Class

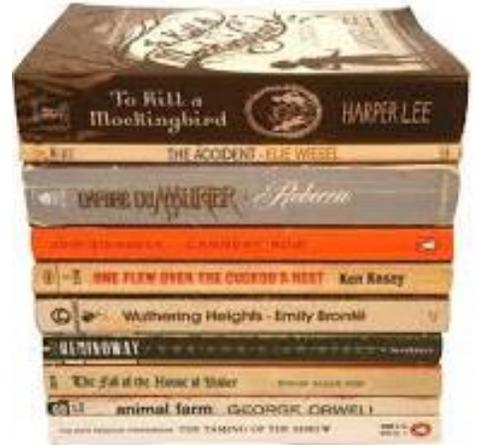
Scan here to Register!

\$50 Deposit Required at Registration

\$350/Person includes Lodging, Meals, and Programs



ST. MARK'S UMC
PAPERBACK BOOK DRIVE
FOR RUTHERFORD COUNTY'S
CORRECTIONAL
WORK CENTER
Ends May 25, 2025



The Rutherford County Workhouse on South Church Street houses over 200 people who have committed minor offenses and are serving sentences of less than one year. This facility houses men and women who go out into the community every day to perform service work within Rutherford County, from picking up garbage on the side of the road to cleaning the courthouse and other County and State buildings.

Offenders return to the facility in the late afternoon to eat, shower, and have recreational time. With 40-50 people in each unit and only two TVs, it can get very loud! Most prefer to select a book to read from the cart and take it to their bunk for the evening.

For many inmates, the books offered at the Workhouse are the first available to them in their adult lives. For some, this is the first opportunity they have had to select and read a book for pleasure, offering an escape from their environment. Many offenders take GED classes while incarcerated; our "Paperback Book Drive" helps increase overall literacy and brings the enlightenment and broadening of perspective that only literature can provide.

In addition to **gently used paperback books** for adults, we are also collecting paperback books for young people ages 9 - 17 to be delivered to the RuCo Juvenile Correctional Center.

Please bring your donations to the collection bins in the Narthex. Large boxes of books should be brought to the church office. All donations are due this Sunday, May 25th.

SERVING IN MISSION IN GUATEMALA

I recently returned from Quetzaltenango, Guatemala where I joined with staff and members of the MTSU Wesley Foundation including Beth Morris, Rev. John Weaver, Delaney Reynolds, and Katelynn Finchum, in a week of mission and ministry with ACD Guatemala (<https://acdguatemala.org/who-we-are/>). While the Wesley Foundation has sponsored several mission trips to ACD in previous years, they had not been there for two years and many changes and improvements had been made in the meantime. I was excited to be invited to travel with them and see what the possibilities might be for St. Mark's to become more deeply involved in this international mission.

Our team participated in five mission projects in three days: pouring of an 8' x8' slab of concrete flooring, delivery and installation of a EcoStove with outdoor ventilation, delivery and installation of an EcoFilter to provide clean water, painting a school classroom, and leading Bible lessons for about 45 children. The concrete slabs, stoves, and water filters aim to improve the health and sanitation of their recipients, enabling families to have clean water and cleaner, safer cooking facilities. Amidst these tasks, we sought to lift up the recipients' dignity, and to generously express God's love and hope to each person with whom we were in contact.

We also had opportunities to learn about ACD's healthy cooking classes, medical clinics, and school scholarships, and took part in several enrichment experiences, including learning to make tortillas and guacamole, touring a local Chocolate Museum and factory, visiting ancient Mayan ruins, and shopping in Antigua. All these experiences helped us have a greater understanding of the local culture and the blessings and needs of our neighbors in Guatemala.

If you would like to learn more about this trip and how you or your class or group might be in mission in Guatemala, I would be glad to share my experiences in the coming weeks!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martina Coullon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping arch over the first few letters.