

The monthly meeting of MCEF was held at 7:00 p.m. at the One Stop Shop. There were 22 in attendance representing 17 churches. The meeting was opened by the President, Pat Hubert. Karen Tucker, Treasurer, opened with prayer. Agenda was adopted by general consent.

Black Creek, Debbie Ward
Broadus Baptist, Karen Tucker, **Treasurer**
Church of the Redeemer, Ed Soniat
Cool Spring Baptist, Ann Kennedy
Fairfield Presbyterian, Nancy Gallihugh, **Secretary**
Fairmount Christian, Gail Ellis
Fairmount Christian, Marshall Johnson
Gethsemane, Mary Britton, **Vice President**
LDS – Chickahominy, Diane Fulcher
Northside Baptist - Trudy Carlton
Mechanicsville UMC, Marcy Jervey
Messiah Lutheran, Donna Combs
Messiah Lutheran, Pat Hubert, **President**
Messiah Lutheran, Gladys Hubert
New Song UMC, Alan Fearnow
New Song UMC, Lyn Spencer
New Song UMC, Susan Spencer
Restoration Church, Carol Dean
Shady Grove UMC, Susan Jenkins
Shalom Baptist, Linda Wade
Truth Baptist, Wendy Pursel, **Secretary**
Walnut Grove Baptist, Charles Rasnick, **Sr. Rides Coordinator**

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT –

- Minutes of the September meeting were approved as posted. Minutes will now be listed on the website at the very bottom under **More Information**. You will no longer have to go to a member only page. Minutes contain good information to include in church newsletters, committee reports, bulletins, etc.
- Our contact information for churches has been updated. If you have any changes or corrections, please be sure to give any new information to Wendy Pursel.

MCEF PHONE ACTIVITY –

The phone activity has been busy, but mostly for general information, as financial assistance is now handled through the website. If you are interested in being involved in answering the phone, please contact Nancy Gallihugh at inn Galli@comcast.net. The current schedule runs through December 2, 2023, and volunteers are scheduled 2 weeks at a time. This is a job that you can do from home with your computer. Training, Phone and Wi-Fi are provided.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY

In October there were 54 requests for financial assistance and 28 were helped with 6 pending. These are folks who need to pay down to within \$500 to be helped. Those not helped were either out of our zip code area, were recently helped, or asking for help with something MCEF isn't able to do. The need is great, as Dominion Energy has actually begun disconnecting if bills are not paid. The online application for financial assistance, which is found on our website, has created a smoother and more efficient process. If the client does not have access to a computer, (s)he is directed to a property manager to give assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2023 income/expense accounting.

Income- \$11,490.33

Expenses- \$21,918.73

Acct balance end of month-\$276,623.15

Balance 11/13/2023- \$270,389.16

Year to date budget analysis was provided and discussed.

There was a motion to approve the report subject to audit.

The vote was favorable.

HANOVER SENIOR RIDES- MCEF STATUS REPORT – Nov. 13, 2023

During the month of October 2023, MCEF gave 161 (one-way) rides in Mechanicsville and ACES provided 22 (one-way) rides in the Ashland, Elmont, and Hanover Courthouse areas.

Overall, Hanover Senior Rides provided a total of 183 (one-way) rides for the month of October.

2023 monthly ride totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MCEF-	102	120	139	141	138	203	134	164	145	161		
ACES -	<u>42</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>22</u>		
Total -	144	154	165	161	158	223	149	188	157	183		

The total rides for 2023 is 1682 rides – ACES provided 235 and MCEF has given 1447 rides.

We currently have a total of 106 riders (MCEF has 89 and ACES has 17 riders).

Operations Manager, Aimee West, and our Ride Coordinators continue doing a great job in managing the daily operation of the program by scheduling rides, providing information, and communicating with the riders and drivers. We added one new volunteer driver in October and another volunteer has a completed background check and the AARP Driver Safety training course. We still have a need for two additional volunteer ride coordinators.

ONE STOP SHOP (OSS) ACTIVITY: For October 2023

Total sign ins – 198 (representing 611 persons in household)
Total new clients – 13
Total # bags of food given out – 287
Total # bags for second helping – 30
Total bags of clothing given out – 95
Total bags of linens given out – 9

Pat Hubert noted that huge numbers are coming in for food so far in the beginning of November. Year to date, 1,698 sign ins, 151 new clients, 211 second helpings.

**DONATIONS OF FOOD AND CLOTHING ARE ACCEPTED
THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 2-3:30.**

Donations are appreciated at the times listed above; however, they will be accepted during open hours. Please consider that larger donations during open hours could disrupt the flow of clients.

FOOD PANTRY/VOLUNTEER

Volunteer applications accepted anytime. Teenagers and up can volunteer for weekdays. 8 and up can volunteer for Sundays with parents. Please see the updated volunteer application on the MCEF website. Download, fill out and submit to MCEF by mail or in person. Once your application has been processed and accepted, you will be sent a link to SignUp Genius in order to sign up for available volunteer dates/times.

During October, 41 Thanksgiving bags were given out. After Thanksgiving, no Holiday bags will be given, and any surplus Thanksgiving items will be put out on the shelves. In addition to the donations that are coming in from churches on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, Mary Britton reported that she is going to the store to keep shelves stocked about 1-2x per week.

Current Needs For The Food Pantry

Current needs include:

Canned pasta, jelly, condiments, and rice/pasta side dish pouches.

Your donations are appreciated, as the need is great.

CLOTHES CLOSET (and linens)

Thank you for the donations made this month. The clothing closets have been busy - 95 bags of clothes were given out - ¾ of those were adult clothes. A reminder to PLEASE hold any spring/summer donations until Feb. or March.

Our current **winter wear** needs include:

- Women's extra large size tops and pants
- Pajamas for the entire family
- Socks and underwear (especially larger boys and adult sizes) boxer/brief style for men and boys
- coats/jackets (washable, ¾ length most popular)
- Toddler and children's clothing (especially boys)
- Bed linens and towels

IF donating shoes, please make sure they are work/leisure styles, in very good condition, and the size is clearly visible - tennis shoes are most requested.

We do not have a need for formal wear, men's suits, or items that need to be dry cleaned.

Your donations are appreciated - Thank You!

BACKPACK MINISTRY

MCEF continues to help support this ministry. There has been a large increase in the numbers for the schools helped in Eastern Hanover, serving approximately 15 schools.

Items needed most for backpacks - Chef Boyardee Microwavable Pasta Cups
Donations for this ministry may be dropped off at the MCEF One Stop Shop.

T4T (Tools for Teachers)

This ministry is currently in a temporary home, in a 600 square trailer donated by Grace Christian Church, until about January. This size is perfect. Please take a look at your churches to see if you have comparable space that could be donated as a permanent, rent free space, beginning in January. Traffic 6 days a month and only by volunteers.

Tools for Teachers has filled 334 orders this school year to Hanover County Middle and High School teachers. These orders are at a value of \$7,822, saving teachers from paying out of pocket for student and classroom needs. Donated items may be dropped off at the MCEF One Stop Shop.

FUND RAISING

- Connect your Kroger Plus Shopping card to MCEF #GD661 on your Kroger profile.
- Eat at Chicken Salad Chick (dine in or carry out) on the 3rd Monday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Mention that you are supporting MCEF at the register.
- NASCAR will be on Easter Weekend – March 30 and 31. If you can help this year, please let Pat Hubert know. (814-449-2612)
- Currently looking into a possible 911 concert.

NEW BUSINESS

- This Thanksgiving marks MCEF's 48th Anniversary!
- Adjustments have been made in clothing to address the “needs” rather than the “wants”, and clients are accompanied by trained clothing volunteers in the closets.
- Current need - someone who has experience in grant writing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The treasurer presented a draft of the MCEF 2024 Proposed Budget. An explanation of the balanced budget approach was given. Although there is an increase in money going out, there is also a very healthy bottom line in the bank. Senior Rides also has a more accurate budget prediction. The treasurer expressed that the board has confidence in this budget, and it is a blessing to see how God provides. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget, and it was accepted by general consent.

ANNOUNCES/EVENTS

- Nov. 18 - 42nd Annual Craft Bazaar - Church of the Redeemer, 9-3
- Shalom Baptist will host a hygiene drive in November.
- *Scrooge the Musical* at Fairmount Christian – performances from Nov. 30 - Dec. 10 - visit the Fairmount website for more info.
- December 1-3 and 8-10 – Broadus Baptist's Living Nativity. Tickets go live on November 1.
- Dec. 1 - No Room At The Inn - flier coming soon
- Dec. 7th - Chickahominy Health District Free COVID/FLU shots - 9-12 in MCEF OSS parking area, for those with and without insurance.
- Dec. 16-17 - Carols of Christmas - Northside Baptist - 7:00pm
- Dec. 19 - Holiday Pops Concert - Hanover Arts and Activities Center - 7:00pm
- Restoration Church food drive in December.

The group shared any prayer concerns followed by the Lord's Prayer.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Please remember that the MCEF meetings are the second Monday of the month unless otherwise notified.
(put it on your calendar)

Next Meeting - Monday, December 11, 2023 -at One Stop Shop – 7:00 p.m.

Wendy Pursel, Secretary