

**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY**  
**ORDER DEADLINE: MAY 7**



On Mother's Day, May 13, you are invited to honor your Mother—and other women who are important to you—by making an alternative gift that helps a mother and family in need.

Get started now by selecting the gifts you wish to symbolically present, using the form printed below. Note how many of each you wish to purchase, complete the recognition section as to whether your gift is in "honor of" or in "memory of," and then write your check payable to FUMC, with "Mother's Day" on the memo line. Place the check and the order form in the offering plate or deliver to the church office.

The deadline for "Alternative Gifts for Mother's Day" is 12:00 noon on Monday, May 7. Recognition of your gift(s) will be in the bulletin on Mother's Day.

\_\_\_ \$10 - A blanket is equivalent to a loving hug—4320 distributed last year in USA.

\_\_\_ \$18 - Seeds for a community garden in Nicaragua.

\_\_\_ \$30 - Books for 15 students in Vietnam.

\_\_\_ \$50 - Fabric and sewing supplies for women gaining new skills for a start-up business.

\_\_\_ \$80 - A seven-day first aid and emergency response training for a community volunteer in Myanmar.

\_\_\_ \$150 - Active solar fruit dryer, with a 110-pound capacity for a family in Republic of Georgia.

\_\_\_ \$525 - A hand pump well in Myanmar, including materials, labor, and water quality testing.

If you would like to offer mothers across the globe hope for a better tomorrow, fill out the form below or online at [fumcaustin.org/mothers](http://fumcaustin.org/mothers) or contact Tami Kellberg at [tami@fumcaustin.org](mailto:tami@fumcaustin.org) or 512-478-5684 (ext. 226).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Donor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (In case of questions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed (Make check payable to FUMC)

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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## FAITH IN ACTION



**TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION**  
By Robbie Ausley

As members of Texas Methodist Foundation President's Advisory Board, Kaycee Crisp and I have learned that the purpose of TMF goes beyond financial services which for years was their primary role for churches like ours. We have witnessed their broader purpose to empower Methodist church communities to achieve their God-inspired potential. We both have been inspired by their growing Leadership and Grants Ministries, both of which encourage innovation and thinking "outside the box."

The Leadership Ministry (<https://www.tmf-fdn.org/leadership-ministry/>) facilitates conversations that help clergy and lay leaders to continually discern their purpose and discover innovative ways to steward their communities' potential. Through their Learning Communities and Learning Projects, they provide a platform for learning and exploring ways to creatively and courageously lead.

The Grants Ministry (<https://www.tmf-fdn.org/grants/>) identifies and invests in sustainable ministries that create measurable, systemic change. In addition to their own endowment, they do this by connecting donors with causes most important to them. Last year they awarded over \$1M in grants to help steward the potential of innovative ministries such as grant recipient CitySquare, a ministry we toured a few weeks ago in Dallas. The blog of CitySquare's CEO, Larry James, provides insight into this passionate ministry (<https://www.tmf-fdn.org/blog/people-power-from-the-community-for-the-community/>).

By serving on TMF's President's Advisory Board, Kaycee and I have gained a new perspective of TMF's expanded purpose and role, and we hope this information, as well as these links, will also broaden your understanding of TMF's mission and ministry. If you are interested in finding out more about TMF ministries, feel free to contact Kaycee or me.



**BACK TO THE MOUNTAINTOP**  
By Emily Buchanan

In 1992, I reached a milestone at FUMC. As a freshman in high school, I was finally old enough to go on the Appalachia Service Project with the youth group. That summer, I traveled three days with 27 other youth and adult volunteers to Virginia, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. I spent the following work week on the roof of a family's home, laying tar paper and nailing shingles on a brand new roof, all while counting coal trucks driving to and from the nearby mine. The service to the family, the glimpse of life beyond my own comfort zone, and the fellowship among teammates were very powerful reminders of my closeness to God in that moment. It was literally a mountaintop experience that I would go on to repeat twice more during my high school career.

In the years after high school, I watched fondly as new teams eagerly made the annual pilgrimage, a little envious of what I knew would be a life-changing trip for them, and hoping to one day get the opportunity to return. When Abby was born in 2003, I resolved to go again once she reached high school. I turned down requests to join earlier teams, anticipating when I would go with her. But now, what had seemed like forever away has arrived. Yes, she is a freshman in high school, and we both signed up to join this year's ASP team last fall.

What I hadn't known in all that waiting was that I would make the same trip with my mother as well. Mom was the one who sacrificed over and over again to allow me, my sister, my brother, and my dad to make the trip, each multiple times. But she has never gone—until this year. I am so happy to have her join me and Abby on this trip. FUMC has had three generations of family members go on ASP but, never to my knowledge, have they all three been on the SAME trip. That was worth the wait—for me and for mom. I am excited to share this meaningful trip with two of the most important women in my life. Add to that the fact that this team also includes three adults who joined me in the mid-1990s and the daughter of a former teammate and dear friend, and I'm ready to go! But, we need your support.

This year's team of 25 youth and adults is headed to Magoffin County, Kentucky, to make homes warmer, safer, and drier, to serve families in one of the poorest regions of our nation, to find fellowship among our own teammates and those we'll meet along the way, and to move just a little closer to God. The team will be selling stock in the trip as a way for the congregation to offer financial support. Stock sales begin May 6. Please consider making an investment in this life-changing trip. Three generations of Berger women (and 22 others!) will thank you for it!