

First Baptist Church opens Food and Clothing Mission

By Marsha Cox
A Ministry of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon

First came the vision, next came the prayer for guidance and help, immediately came the telephone call. Then came the work and more work mixed with more prayers. Finally the vision became a reality for the First Baptist Church when in October 2000 the door to a new food and clothing mission on Church Street was opened.

The youth at First Baptist, along with the former youth minister, Jesse Adkins, began feeling a real need for a large ministry that would encompass and bring physical and spiritual aid to those in need in our community. They began with a prayer that was answered the very next day with a call from James Lambert offering his vacant office building to the church for such a project.

The work began in the spring on the very old structure with many members pitching in to use their talents in the huge restoration. The many hours of labor on the project served also to bring the members closer as the building finally began to take shape. Since opening in October the mission has helped over 200 families. Co-directors Julie Ham and Kim Singleton envision later expanding to add discipleship classes, etc. Volunteers are at the mission each Monday-Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The mission statement that hangs on the wall reads: "Our mission is to physically and spiritually minister to the hungry and the thirsty based on the words and commands of Jesus in Matthew.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36.

As in most volunteer projects, there are times when the pantry gets low on food and fresh volunteers are scarce but the faith of the directors and mission board remain strong that God will provide and with his help they can make a

difference.

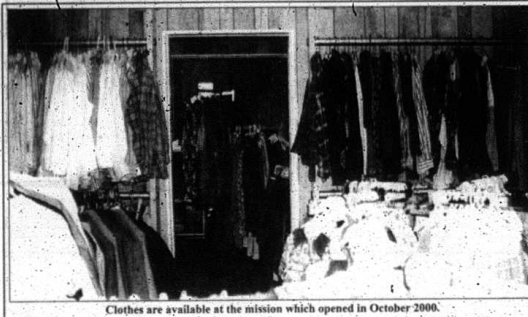
There is a beautiful poem written by Helen Marshall that echoes this faith:

"A song we sing, we cannot know
How far the sound of it will go;
How long its echo will be heard.
We can but pray that every word
Each note in this, the song we sing,
Will find its resting place and

bring
Some little measure of repose.
Some strength, some happiness to those
Who hear our song. If just one smiles
To hear its echo down the miles,
Then, we should be content and know
Our song was meant—God willed it so.



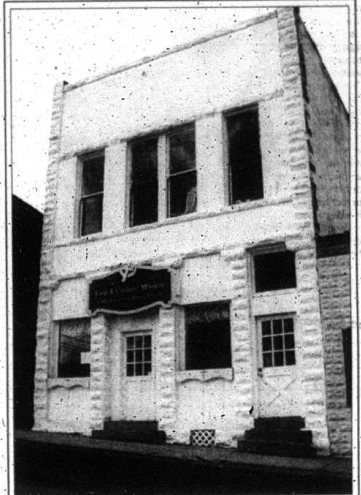
Non-perishable food donations are welcome at the First Baptist Church's Food and Clothing Mission.



Clothes are available at the mission which opened in October 2000.



In keeping with the International Kiwanis initiative titled "Young Children: Priority One," the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club is pleased to present a \$1,000 check to the First Baptist Church Mission to assist them in feeding and clothing young children in our community. The Kiwanis Club feels the very nature of modern life means that all of us are increasingly dependant on each other. We will survive only if we can find some way to remember that face, and act accordingly. Accepting this donation from Kiwanis president Donald Coyle is Mission board member Shirley Cox and co-director Julie Ham.



The Food and Clothing Mission, a ministry of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, is located on Church St. in Mt. Vernon.

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10:15 A.M.

For information, call (606) 256-5246

Mike Bryant, Senior Pastor
Michael Bryant, Associate
Matthew Bryant, Associate

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First Baptist Church Food and Clothing Mission

will be receiving Seed Potatoes to be given away. Please come by and pick up an application on Monday, Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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