

Morrison Heights SRV '19: Serving Christ, serving others

Special to The Clinton Courier

Sunday afternoons and evenings look a little different at one Clinton church in July. Normally at Morrison Heights Baptist Church, there is a worship service, some discipleship classes, and children's events with people dressed in casual attire. In July, however, shorts, t-shirts, and sweat are what are found.

Each year in July, Morrison Heights adjusts their normal schedule and works together on an event known as SRV, pronounced "serve." This event mobilizes Life Groups of all ages to go into the community to serve others. It began in 2017 with a desire to create a plan for the church to help others and create another way for the congregation to get to know each other.

"We wanted the month of July to be a time for our church to engage with others in our community," said Tim Rowan, associate pastor for Missions at Morrison Heights. "We had the idea of asking each Life Group to work together in some way to serve others, so we began asking people, Clinton officials, ministries, and churches if they knew of those in our area who had specific needs."

Each Life Group was assigned a project to accomplish on Sunday afternoon. After the work was done, each group then came back to the church for a fellowship meal. Their motivation for serving others is based on 1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as a good steward of God's varied grace."

As a result of SRV '17, over 300 congregates helped to meet the needs of others in 2017. Then in 2018, that number grew to 350. Dr. Greg Belser, Senior Pastor at Morrison Heights, attributes the growth to the church's desire to serve others.

"Our church loves our community and delights in helping our neighbors in every way we can," said Belser. "Our SRV efforts over the last two summers have provided great oppor-



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Morrison Heights members installing picnic tables at Clinton YMCA. Pictured are Wayne Wilkinson, Chris Purnell, Shea Whitfield and Gary Towery.



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SRV volunteers repairing a fence for a Clinton homeowner. Pictured are Robert Pittman, Caleb Cope, Todd Prather and JJ Dunn.

tunities to interact with and serve local families in Jesus' name. We are eager to continue the same in 2019."

Last year, Morrison Heights joined together to complete seventy-four projects in Clinton, Jackson, and the surrounding area. Work ranged from yard work, replacing rotted wood on houses, pressure washing houses, cutting and trimming trees, minor

home renovation, repairing fences and building wheelchair ramps.

Morrison Heights is currently preparing for SRV'19 and the opportunity to meet some of the needs within the community. Teams will work each Sunday afternoon in July from 4 to 6, rain or shine, bearing the heat for the good of others.

SRV '19 focuses on helping lo-

cal churches and ministries, as well as homeowners who are disabled or physically handicapped, widows or widowers, or others experiencing financial hardship making it difficult to make necessary improvements to their homes. To be considered for a SRV project this summer, contact Tom Rowden, director of communications, at 601-925-6479.

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