

## **Missions Update -- *Hope Harbour***

The Columbus Alliance for Battered Women, Inc., known today as *Hope Harbour*, provides emergency shelter, security, crisis intervention and advocacy for adults and children who are victims of domestic violence in Muscogee, Harris, Chattahoochee, Marion, Taylor and Talbot counties. *Hope Harbour* also helps victims heal from the trauma of abuse while recovering in a court mandated, undisclosed safe location, that is under 24-hour surveillance. In addition, *Hope Harbour* also provides case management, relocation assistance, counseling and support groups, assistance with temporary protective orders, legal advocacy, filing for victim's compensation, children's programs, and assistance with medical needs, employment, housing and transportation. There is also an outreach program, through which victims of domestic violence needing assistance, but **not** shelter, are served. A 24-hour, confidential, crisis hotline, always monitored and answered by specially trained staff, is also a part of the services this ministry provides. Any calls received by the hotline are assessed for safety and the callers are connected to the appropriate services.

*Hope Harbour* is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence by educating the community, and offers training to local businesses, agencies and groups on domestic violence, including education on the cycle of violence, warning signs, and discussion on how domestic violence affects the community. Age appropriate training on teen dating violence and healthy relationships, tailored to the needs of the group, are also offered.

How does St. Paul help support this ministry? We at St. Paul are blessed to be able to serve the women and children at *Hope Harbour* by financially supporting them through our local missions' budget, providing volunteers to help lead devotionals, discussion groups, children's play parties, and form on site work teams to help with cleaning and minor repair work at times. We also host seasonal cook outs and gatherings, and have helped sponsor "makeover" days for the ladies and teen agers there. We collect and donate items needed to stock the linen pantry, create "bundles of fun" baskets for the children, and help provide an Easter Basket full of goodies from The Easter Bunny for the children in residence. We have also collected baby supplies for diaper drives, helped with "stock the food pantry" efforts, and put together "welcome hygiene bags" for new residents. St. Paul also helps support their major fundraising event each year, the Celebration of Hope Luncheon, held early fall each year.

Want to know more? Email Tammy Reynolds at [tjreynolds3@gmail.com](mailto:tjreynolds3@gmail.com) or call the church office.