



*Clifton Park Baptist Church*

## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### Serving Over Church Service

*Clifton Park Baptist Church Cancels Church Service to Participate in First Annual Day of Service*

Silver Spring, MD (August 28, 2013) – Plans are well underway for Clifton Park Baptist Church’s (CPBC) **First Annual All-Church Day of Service**. On Sunday, September 8, 2013, **two hundred** CPBC members will perform **acts of service** in the Silver Spring community!

The church will cancel its second service on September 8 and will instead scatter across the greater Silver Spring/metropolitan area in various volunteer service projects. From teens to seniors, members will partner with local organizations – including A Wider Circle, Carroll House Men’s Shelter, Martha’s Table, African Immigrant Refugee Foundation, IMPACT Silver Spring and Montgomery County Department of Parks – to sort donated furniture, feed the homeless, provide support to under-resourced neighbors and help keep our local parks and streams clean. Even the youngest of CPBC’s congregation will participate in the Day of Service by donating books and activity kits to children attending New Hampshire Estates Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD.

“The day of service allows our congregation to move from just talking about love and what love is supposed to look like to actually **demonstrating what love looks like** in the community,” said Rev. Essentino Lewis, Jr., Pastor of CPBC. “We will go wherever the people are and do whatever we need to do in order to express the love of Christ that we describe to people.”

While performing volunteer service across the DC Metropolitan area is not new for a lot of organizations, this one is unique. Rarely, if ever, will a church cancel its worship services, especially to engage in community service projects. However, CPBC felt that it was an appropriate response to replace its normal Sunday worship service where congregants hear the message of doing for others and loving their neighbors, and replace it with real actions of love and concern for the neighboring community.

The Day of Service is a natural extension for the church that already engages in community outreach. CPBC’s successful outreach program, Project Neighbor Care, is a community market that partners with the Capital Area Food Bank to offer free fresh produce, seasonal clothing and household items to hundreds of households every first Saturday of the month. “In 2012, Clifton Park served some 1,500 individual households and is well on its way to doubling that number this year,” said Nana Dolce, CPBC’s Community Outreach Coordinator. “On average, Project Neighbor Care serves 250 households each month.” Stemming from this dynamic initiative, the congregation wanted to do more for the larger community of Silver Spring, MD through the Day of Service.

For more information on CPBC’s Day of Service, visit [www.cpbc.net/dayofservice](http://www.cpbc.net/dayofservice).

Clifton Park Baptist Church has been serving the Silver Spring community since 1950. Under the current leadership of Rev. Essentino A. Lewis, Jr., the church serves almost 500 members and is involved in diverse outreach programs for the community. For more information about CPBC, visit [www.cpb.org](http://www.cpb.org).

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