

Christmas Gifts to Staunton: Another Sydenstricker ministry that has been in service over 20 years is our annual “Christmas Gifts to Staunton” for the patients at the Western State Hospital in Staunton, VA. Each year we obtain a non-identifying list of all the patients and their requests for a Christmas present. The individuals and families of our congregation then select one or more patient’s names, purchase the requested gift(s), wrap them and bring them to the church for dedication. Then a group of volunteers load all the gifts into their cars/trucks and make a day trip to Staunton to deliver the gifts to the hospital, adding a stop for fellowship over a shared meal. Maybe it’s because we are not able to visit directly with the patients that we truly feel we are the hands and feet of Christ as we deliver the gifts. We will never meet the recipients, but they know that Christians are the ones who have given to fulfill their humble Christmas requests. Watch for announcements in the late Fall Steeples and weekly bulletins for information about signing up to participate. Champion: Jim Noble