

Merry Christmas!



The Destin Snowbirds are filled with the Holiday Spirit after having been entertained by the Emerald Coast Community Band at the last meeting of 2022, Tuesday, December 13. And that Holiday Spirit is a “giving” spirit!



Snowbird president Ruth Ann Beckett presented a \$250 check from the snowbirds to Destin Chamber Chair Jason Belcher, for the benefit of the Harvest House Food Pantry and Thrift Store at that same meeting, and that was only the beginning.

On Thursday, December 15, several snowbirds volunteered their time at the annual Angel Tree Program sponsored by The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities in Fort Walton Beach. According to Lieutenant James Milner of the Salvation Army, over 400 families including over 1,000 children reached out for help this year. Their needs were met by the generosity of thousands in the surrounding area.



Many of the snowbirds who have arrived in Destin early, are planning to stay throughout the holidays. Audrey and Joe Wolschlag from Illinois have always attended Faith Assembly Church on Geronimo Street while here. For years, they joined with other church members for a journey to an impoverished part of Florida in a horse-drawn buggy filled with food, clothes, and toys, to distribute to the needy. “That ended with the pandemic,” Audrey said. But the group will still gather for a celebration of the birth of Jesus and then offer a nice dinner to all the attendees.

That is also what Cornerstone Presbyterian on Beach Street does for their congregation, according to Duane and Phyllis Hall. “We only have about three to four snowbird couples right now,” she said. However, most churches know that the majority of snowbirds come for the months of January and February.



That's when the new music director at Resurrection Catholic Church in Miramar Beach, Gabriel Wanous, hopes to build his choir. "We hope the snowbird parishioners will feel free to join us," Wanous said. Anyone interested can reach him at, "music@resurrectionbythebeach.org."

Destin United Methodist Church has been known for their choir, which has traditionally included many Destin snowbirds. "The choir is smaller now than it has been in the past due to COVID," said Charles Cassell, a past president of the snowbird club. "But music director Kim Cannon is in the process of rebuilding it and will surely welcome anyone who is interested in joining them," he added. United Methodist is also the church that offers services on the beach. More information can be found on their website and Facebook page.

The Destin area is rich with religious opportunities. A Google search yielded nearly 50 churches within a 10-mile radius of my home in Miramar Beach. Snowbirds who have decided to stay for the holidays will not have any trouble finding a place to celebrate the reason for the season.

The snowbird club also offers many opportunities for those who are looking to volunteer their time. Activities that need chairpersons include the craft club, euchre, and the writers group. Of course, the greeters' group, under the leadership of Jackie Herlin (708-975-0040) is welcoming volunteers, and the prize committee, under the leadership of Sandy and Gene Holzer (destinsbprizecommittee@gmail.com) is always open to more help. Snowbirds who have strong backs are needed to help the storage crew. Contact Linda Zukonik (810-441-7042) or Tom Franklin (218-230-3212). Call Linda or Tom also, if you need to get into the storage lockers before the next scheduled opening which will be Tuesday, January 3, from 2 to 3 p.m.

As always, all this and more can be found on our website at, "thedestinsnowbirds.com." Our group Facebook page is The Destin Snowbirds. Please join us!

