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Golf journey will aid ramp ministry

Updated: 5/1/2011 11:38 PM By ASHLEEY WILLIAMSON - Staff writer

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You can help raise funds for a St. John's United Methodist Church program by participating in the United Methodist Men's annual golf tournament on May 9.

The tournament at Houndslake Country Club will raise money for the Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and play will start at 9 a.m.

The Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry was started more than 25 years ago. It is made up of the United Methodist Men, a group of volunteers who help design and construct wheelchair ramps for people in need across Aiken county.

"In some cases, this may be the only way for recipients to regain access to their homes after stays in hospitals and nursing homes," said Midge Rothrock, St. John's UMC communications director.

The average ramp built requires about \$700 worth of pressure-treated lumber, as well as fasteners and other miscellaneous items, Rothrock said.

"These services are provided without regard to financial capability of the homeowner," Rothrock said.

Last year's tournament raised \$7,500.

"We always hope for at least \$10,000; that's what we'd like to see this year," said Steve Lathrop, president of United Methodist Men.

"Normally we do eight to nine ramps a year," Lathrop said. But more are being built this year. Three ramps are scheduled to be built in May, and the group will have completed 11 ramps already by the end of this month.

The tournament will include breakfast sponsored by HarborChase during registration and a hamburger and hot dog buffet lunch sponsored by Houndslake at 1 p.m.

There will also be prizes raffled off for \$5 a ticket. Additionally, a hole-in-one contest will be held at a selected hole and could send one lucky golfer to Hawaii for a one-week stay at the Ritz, said Lathrop.

The tournament is open to all members of the community. Entry fees are \$75 per person and include breakfast, lunch and play. Pre-registration is available until Thursday by picking up a form at the church, located at 104 Newberry St., N.W.

For more information or to preregister, call 648-6891.

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