



## Mission Haven Update – July/August 2024

### PICNIC AREA: *Expansion*

About 17 years ago, John Washburn (whose father, William, was a volunteer missionary teacher in the Congo) completed a Boy Scout Eagle Equivalent project by building a wooden picnic table and a brick patio behind our house at 211 Inman Drive. The finished patio was roughly 12' x 15' with a border and included stepping stones to the driveway. Note that his father, William, was the son and grandson of Presbyterian missionaries! Read more about his family [here](#).



Several years later, Presbyterian Women at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta added a firepit to the area and purchased red lawn chairs to create a space for fellowship. Over time, a grill, a smoker, and an additional picnic table were added to create a comfortable space.

The patio area became a gathering place for the mission co-workers and their families where they exchanged stories of their experiences, shared meals, and nurtured relationships.

Thankfully, most of the original patio has withstood rains, storms, and regular usage. A few bricks were uplifted by the forces of nature, and the wooden table has, understandably, seen better days.



In 2022, the Presbyterian Women in Savannah Presbytery collected two sizable memorial gifts to commemorate the faithful service of Faye Wray and Sharon Smith who were very active in Presbyterian Women.

With this generous seed money, we were able to expand the patio footprint to 15' x 35' and purchase three new weather-proof picnic tables.

We are excited about the new, improved space which will accommodate our community and foster new relationships in the years to come. Our gratitude to the women of Savannah Presbytery AND to Presbyterian Women in all seven southeastern states who bless us with bountiful donations that support our mission co-workers here in Decatur.

For more photos of the patio project, click [here](#).



**Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer**