



BRIGHT HORIZONS

REV. BRUCE HITCHCOCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANGIE BROWN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

“Grace, the Starting Point”

Christian behavior is not a defined set of rules, morals, or patterns of behavior that we follow in order to become worthy of God. In fact, righteous behavior flows from our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. We will never work ourselves into a right relationship with God. Our unity with God will transform our behavior to reflect the behavior of Jesus Christ.

Many people simply get this part wrong. Many people believe they cannot come to church until they clean up their act. They never do, nor will they without the living grace of God. Many Christians spend lots of time recognizing their sin and hypocrisy, bewailing it and repenting for it, believing that they are not worthy of God. They become convinced of sin, stuck on sin and never get around to grace. That’s why we have to start with grace. With grace as our starting point, we can offer up our lives to God. God takes our lives and transforms us. As we grow in grace and love, those behaviors that we call sin are changed. Our selfishness, our pride, our lust, gluttony, meanness, etc., etc. is transformed into the fruit of the Spirit. In theological terms we call it sanctification. It is a time of struggle and joy and victory.

Sanctification is an inner journey. Our faith cannot exist as an outward expression of religion without an inward journey. The great undiscovered country is not out there. It is in each of us. The soul journey with God is the only

journey worth our time and effort. I have written in this space about the things Christians do. I have written about Jesus teaching us to pray, fast and give to the poor. I have quoted the law about caring for the widows and orphans. Those things happen out of a code of conduct **AND** the inward journey. Prayer is the practice of walking through life with the living God as a companion and guide. Outward laws become inward practices because of the Presence of God. We grow to the point that we are not simply obeying the rules, but living with God. For some, an onerous rule becomes a loving gesture to Christ. Jeremiah said it this way, “I will write my law upon their hearts.”

We have heard quite a bit about the poor and their needs. You have heard many call you to give. And I ask again for you to hear the call and to give. But this time, hear the call of Christ in your life. And yes, think about the needs of the poor, and how Christ acted for and with those in need. Christ gave all to God and to the world that all might walk in unity with God. The greater challenge for us is to choose that inner journey with Christ and attend to it on a regular basis. Nothing in life is so important that it should crowd out the time we walk with God in our souls.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Bruce

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Coats Wanted	2
Matching Funds Update	2
Parish Nurse News	3
School Supply List	3
UMM Calendar of Events	4

School Supplies Giveaway

**Friday, August 21
9-12 and 1-3**

Urban Mission
301 North 5th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952



Supplies for K-12

**Students must
be present.**

**Supplies will be given
directly to Students.**

To ensure all students receive supplies, parents will not be given bags.

*"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow."
~Albert Einstein*

On August 23, I will be starting my 15th year of service with Urban Mission. When I shared this with a group of boys and girls at the Wintersville United Methodist Church's VBS last week, I realized I have been with Urban Mission longer than they will be in school!

As a child travels through twelve years of school, so many changes take place and they grow in many different ways. As an adult who chooses to stay with the same employer for fourteen or more years, we should also hope to change and grow in many ways.

Urban Mission is celebrating its' 50th anniversary this year. One can only imagine the many changes that have taken place within those years. Those changes included many staff changes including the Executive and Associate Director and Executive Secretary. The changes also included losing old programs and starting new ones. All those changes included tossing out old ideas and looking at new ones.

During the past several months we have all been told that change is good. Anyone who has his or her head on straight knows there is a lot of truth to that statement. But, any time there is change, there has to be one other element, the element of hope. You cannot expect and plan for change without hope for good results. Galatians 6:9 tells us "...and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." I believe this is God's way of telling us not to give up hope.

I think it is evident that those of us who have been here for so long have never given up hope. We have had difficult times in the past and are working our way through extremely difficult times right now. But, God has never let the employees of Urban Mission or the folks we serve down. Prayers are never placed in the ground to be buried. They are sent up to the heavens where they will be heard. Maybe that is where the phrase "Hope Floats" was originated.

I would like to close this writing by sharing something a man named Eugene Peterson has written. It is something we can all learn from.

Hoping does not mean doing nothing. It is not fatalistic resignation. It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusion. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion of fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it in his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it.

I know that even if God closes a door or two to the operations of Urban Mission, I know even more in my heart He will open another so we can continue to serve others in the way He wants us to. We just have to remember to "Let Go and Let God". And above all else, remember "Hope Floats".

~Linda L. Smith, Program Director

Good Used Coats Wanted

The time has come again to begin collecting good condition used coats. Our **Annual Coat Giveaway** will be held on **October 19, 20 & 21, 2009**.



We are in need of **coats of all sizes for children, women and men**. Donations of coats can be brought to our Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street in Steubenville. All Coats are asked to be dropped off by Monday, October 12, 2009.



~~~~~  
*Did you know?*

*In 2008, 3,977 winter coats and accessories were distributed to those in need? This was made possible by generous donors like you!*

## Matching Funds Update

In last months newsletter, we shared the news of a \$50,000 Matching Funds Challenge the Mission received. We are pleased to report that as of this printing, we have received many generous donations totaling **\$29,471**. We are more than half way to our goal. Praise God!!

Please continue to keep this endeavor in your prayers as we seek to continue the quality programs to the poor and those in need.

## Welcome JOSHUA Work Teams

**August 2-9, 2009**

**Andover First UMC  
Andover, OH**

*Host Church: Zion Un. Church of Christ  
Steubenville, OH*



**August 9-14, 2009**

**St. Timothy Lutheran  
Bemus Point, NY**

*Host Church: Toronto First United Meth.  
Toronto, OH*

## **Parish Nurse News: Handwashing & Infection Control**

With all the concern about the Swine Flu pandemic and the emphasis on hand washing, I decided that it was time to review hand washing procedures. The following are the hand washing procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Hand washing is an important practice. This simple practice that was taught to you by your mother and reinforced by your teachers is still your best protection from catching an infectious disease. Let's take a few minutes to review hand washing practices.

Hands should be washed at the following times: when visibly soiled, before and after using the bathroom, before preparing and eating foods, after touching an unknown substance, and whenever you think it would be a good idea. Studies have shown that many viruses live for a period of time on inanimate (not living) objects, so if you think that you have touched something that could be contaminated, wash your hands.

How should you wash your hands? Ideally, hands should be washed with cool or warm (not hot) running water and liquid soap. First wet your hands with water, then apply a small amount of the liquid soap. Make a lot of suds and wash all parts of your hands including between the fingers. Rinse your hands well to remove all of the soap. Dry your hands with a clean towel or paper towel. If you are in a public restroom, turn off the water with a paper towel, as the faucet may have been contaminated. You do not want to re-contaminate your clean hands.

If you are unable to wash your hands with soap and water, it is acceptable to use one of the antibacterial hand washing liquids or gels. It is recommended that the antibacterial hand cleaner contain at least 65% alcohol to be effective, so look for that number when you are buying these products. Do not use these products exclusively as the alcohol can dry out your hands. Wash your hands with soap and water when you can.

We all need to take precautions to protect ourselves and others from infectious diseases. Hand washing is a simple but very effective method to prevent the spread of infections, so always practice good hand washing techniques.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN

## **Back To School Supplies & Funds Needed**

Another school year will be beginning in a few weeks. There are many low-income children whose Parents do not have the means to purchase school supplies for their children.

In an effort to assist these families, the Mission will hold our Annual School Supplies Giveaway on **Friday, August 21, 2009** at Urban Mission, 301 North 5th Street. We are in need of the following items for the giveaway:



|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>24 Count Crayons</b> | <b>Glue and Glue Sticks</b>  |
| <b>Pencil Boxes</b>     | <b>Scissors</b>              |
| <b>Theme Notebooks</b>  | <b>Markers</b>               |
| <b>Colored Pencils</b>  | <b>Pocket Folders</b>        |
| <b>Filler Paper</b>     | <b>Composition Notebooks</b> |
| <b>Pens</b>             | <b>Pencils</b>               |
| <b>12 inch Rulers</b>   |                              |

All supplies are asked to be delivered to the Mission by **August 14**. You may also send in a monetary donation in the enclosed envelope. Help us to help our kids get ready for school. We appreciate your support!!

## **Hutton House Yard Sale**

**August 1-7, 2009**

**10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

*(daily)*

**Location:**

**908 Market Street**

**Steubenville, Ohio**



Freshly baked goods, clothing, household items and much more! All proceeds benefit the Hutton House Homeless Shelter for Families.

## **Thanksgiving Challenge**

We're getting closer to our big Thanksgiving Basket distribution. It's time to collect: **Sweet Potatoes (18-20 oz can/1200 cans)** for this months challenge. If you would like more information about this project, give Linda a call at 740-282-2911.



**Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.**  
**301 North Fifth Street**  
**Steubenville, OH 43952**

**Phone: 740-282-8010**

**Fax: 740-282-8514**

**E-mail: [mail@urbanmission.org](mailto:mail@urbanmission.org)**  
**[www.urbanmission.org](http://www.urbanmission.org)**

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Steubenville, OH 43952  
 Permit No. 103

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

**Upcoming Events in August 2009**

|                    |                                                                                                       |             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1-2                | African American Heritage Festival-Sponsored by B.A.S.I.C. Circle (North End Ball Field-Steubenville) | 12-10 PM    |
| 1, 15, 22 & 29     | Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's) (No service Aug. 8)                                              | 6:00 PM     |
| 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 | Parish Nurse (Monday's)                                                                               | 11:00 AM    |
| 4                  | God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting                                                                 | 10:00 AM    |
| 5                  | Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting                                                                  | 2:00 PM     |
| 6                  | No Neighborhood Community Development Cntr. Mtg.<br>No Greater Steubenville Community Cntr. Mtg.      | No Meetings |
| 11                 | Finance Committee Meeting                                                                             | 6:00 PM     |
| 18                 | Packing for Food Distribution                                                                         | 9:00 AM     |
| 19, 20 & 21        | God's Pantry Food Distribution                                                                        | 9-12; 1-3   |
| 21                 | Back to School Supplies Giveaway (301 North 5th)                                                      | 9-12; 1-3   |
| 25                 | CSFP Senior Food Distribution                                                                         | 1:00 PM     |
| 27                 | UM Newsletter Folding                                                                                 | 9:00 AM     |
| 27                 | UM Board of Directors Meeting                                                                         | 4:30 PM     |

***Unity Kitchen Needs***

- ***Dish Cloths***
- ***Dish Towels***
- ***Aprons***

FAST FACTS:



Urban Mission Unity Kitchen is open for lunch three days a week. Over 1,500 meals are served each month. This totals to over 18,900 hot meals for the hungry each year.