



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

December
2006



EMMANUEL . . . God With US!

Recently, Urban Mission was asked to comply with regulations concerning when we pray or worship. The rules stated that we were not to pray immediately before serving USDA food products. In response, we have moved our devotions before lunch to 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Everything remains the same for Saturday Night Mission Rejoice Services. We still need churches and pastors to volunteer to lead worship and feed folks a nice meal. On days when a local church brings the food to cook for a lunch, we can pray anytime we want. Local churches often bring meals for Unity Kitchen on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. The pastors and lay folks are also invited to pray and lead devotions on those days.

A rumor reached me that we were, "Taking God out of the Mission", because we were complying with USDA rules. That is simply not the case. God can never be removed from anywhere. Basic theology teaches us that one of the attributes of God is omnipresence. God is everywhere. Even more importantly, God is in our hearts. There is not one ministry at the Mission that is not inspired by God and graced with God's Presence. There is also not one staff member who works without the Presence of God.

It is popular today for some Christians to perpetually rally against taking God out of the classrooms, the pledge of allegiance, courthouses and even to declare that entire congregations are, "dead". It is almost like what the religious folk did in the days of Jesus. Remember John 1:1, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him". They did not have room for Jesus due to personal concerns and issues. We get uptight about a changing society that we can't control and all of the sudden we want to stop doing the things Jesus taught us to do. A dear Christian lady once told me that she thought missions began at home, so she decided not to give a package of diapers to babies outside of her community. The delivery point for the diapers was a town three miles away that served her community.

If Jesus came to our nation to be born into the world, His birth would most likely occur at a free clinic or hospital that serves the poor. Mary and baby would quickly end up in a homeless shelter. Not one church would sponsor the young family. Jesus would be wrapped in donated clothes. Shepherds would not visit him, but poor folks, addicts and prostitutes would. The street people of the night would hear Angels sing! It is not at all clear that Mary and Joseph could be married in a church. Many churches won't marry couples in trouble. The young family would have had to move. There would be no room in town for them. The police frown on vagrants, especially poor ones.

It is a simple but often overlooked concept. When we make room for Jesus Christ in our hearts, then there is room for everyone else. If we fail to make room for Jesus due to whatever idol we worship, there will be room for anyone else. Make room for an outcast like Jesus. Make room for others in your heart and there you will find the true joy of Christmas.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

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Healthy Bingo

**Unity Kitchen
December 13, 2006
12:30 p.m.**



Healthy Bingo is a game designed to teach cancer education in a non-traditional way.

Members of the WIAACC of Jefferson County will give health information between the bingo games and participants will have opportunities to win health and beauty prizes. All are welcome.

*Event Sponsored by:
Women in Action Against
Cancer Coalition*

Christmas at Urban Mission

Christmas Kids Program

Christmas is the time of the year when I have the wonderful responsibility of registering children to be adopted for Christmas toys by folks like you.



I started with **583 children** 12 and under and as of this writing I have narrowed that number to **181**. Praise God! Stockings are coming in to accommodate the more than **200 teens**. Once again...Praise God!

I am asking everyone to please consider adopting one of our children if you have never done so. These children are ages 12 and under. I have all the information you need to help these families have a wonderful Christmas. I will tell you that many of these little ones have bicycles as one of the items on their wish list. Just remember when you were a child and had a bicycle on your wish list. They are probably on sale just about everywhere right now.

If you would like to adopt more than one child, I will give you siblings from the same family. If you would like to take part in this program, please give me a call at 740-282-2911 and let me know before I run out of names! The children and myself will be waiting for your call.

-Linda L. Smith, Program Director

Mitten Tree



Our mitten tree is filling up with socks, underwear, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens! Can you help us provide these items? Donations of these items can be brought to the Mission by **December 8**.

Candlelight Christmas Service

On **Saturday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m.**, our Mission Rejoice families will be treated to a special **candlelight service**. This will be a night full of worship, music, joy and fellowship as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Operation Teen Stocking!

We have over **200 teens ages 13 to 18 years old** who will be receiving a **stocking** filled with goodies. Items that can be included are toiletries, hair accessories, make-up, fast food restaurant gift certificates and any thing you think a teen would like.



If you would like to be a part of this program please call Linda at 740-282-2911. She will be happy to provide you with more information. Please have the stockings to the Mission by **December 8, 2006**.

Santa's Recycle Shop

December 20 & 21, 2006

9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00

Urban Mission Warehouse

311 North 6th Street

Steubenville, Ohio 43952

We have several families who missed the sign-ups for our Christmas Kids Program. In order to help these families have gifts for their children, we will have **Santa's Recycle Shop** on **December 20 and 21**.

There is still time to donate items for this program. If you have any used toys, games, books and etc., please consider donating them for this program. We ask that these items be in very good condition as they will be Christmas gifts for children. If you would like to donate, please deliver them to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street by **December 15**.



Christmas Distributions

December 14 and 15, 2006

9:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00

Distribution of the **Christmas Kids Toys, Teen Stockings and Mitten Tree Items** will be held on Thursday and Friday at the Urban Mission Main Offices, 301 North 5th Street, Steubenville.



Thanksgiving Goal Met!

Our Turkey Meter has reached the top! We have reached our goal to provide families with **1,200 Food Baskets** with all the fixings for **Thanksgiving Dinner!** It would have been impossible to have done this without your help. Thank you to the individuals, groups, churches and schools



Pictured with Rev. Hitchcock is Ms. Neely and students from All Saints Catholic School in Steubenville, OH who collected funds to provide families with Thanksgiving Baskets.

who took part in raising funds to help meet the need.

We also thank those of you who took part in this years Thanksgiving Challenge in collecting different food items

over the past several months. Each item donated, both funds and food, helped us reach our goal. Thank you again and may God bless each of you abundantly!

Mission Rejoice Calendar Open



It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2006! During the last year, many churches and groups have come to host a Mission Rejoice Service. These host churches either preached, prepared a meal or both.

Mission Rejoice is a community effort for all denominations to come and minister to the poor in our valley. This worship service is held each Saturday here in our beautiful sanctuary from 6-8 p.m. A meal is served following the service. We invite singing groups and welcome different styles of worship.

Perhaps your Church, UMW, Youth Group, Sunday school class or Missions group would like to come and be a part of this ministry. All are welcome. **We are scheduling for the 2007 calendar year.** Please consider taking part.

If you would like to be a part of this awesome ministry, please call Rev. Toni Hubbard at 740-282-8010 and sign up or to receive a brochure.

Parish Nurse News: Safe Toys and Gifts

December is "Safe Toys and Gifts" month. Let's take a few moments to review toy and gift safety tips.

Check the package of the toy that you wish to purchase. Toy manufacturers are required to list the safe age ranges on the packages. The toys have been inspected and must meet guidelines about such things as size and removability of parts. Toys that are made for infants and toddlers must not have small pieces that are easy to remove. Children place many things in their mouths and can swallow or aspirate a toy part that has been removed. That is why it is very important for you to check the age limits on the toy packages.

In addition to checking the package, check the toy if at all possible. Even though a toy has been approved for a certain age, it may not be appropriate for a particular child. Play with the toy and judge the safety and suitability of the toy for the child. You may discover something about the toy that makes it inappropriate for the child. Unfortunately we often hear news stories about children who were injured or killed while playing with a toy that was considered to be age-appropriate. Remember to think safety first.

It seems that every year there are favorite toys that

many children want. If your child expresses an interest in a certain toy, shop early for that toy. Unfortunately, there have been incidents in which persons have been injured while trying to buy a particular toy. Remember to be courteous when you go shopping, because the person next to you may not be a very nice person and you do not want to have any problems. Remember to think personal safety when shopping.



Watch the news for reports about toys and other children's items that may be recalled for safety reasons. If you have any of these items, follow the instructions for returning the items and receiving a substitute or reimbursement.

When buying gifts for other members of a household, remember to consider the ages of all persons in the home. Refrain from buying gifts that might injure a child, such as items that have a flame or become hot. Young children may be attracted to these items and suffer burns when touching them.

Remember to think safety when you are out shopping for Christmas gifts and toys. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

-Michaelene A. King, R.N., M.S.Ed., M.S.N.

DECEMBER 2006
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Upcoming Events in December 2006

2, 9, and 16	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6-8 PM
4, 11 and 18	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
5	God's Pantry hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
6	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
7	Urban Mission Board of Directors Meeting Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:30 PM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM
8	Lupus Support Group Outing to SHS Orchestra Concert	7:00 PM
12	Packing for Food Distribution Finance Committee Meeting	9:00 AM 6:00 PM
14	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
14 and 15	Christmas Distributions: Main Offices, 301 North 5th Street (Christmas Kid's, Teen Stockings, Mitten Tree)	9-12; 1-3
16	Mission Rejoice Candlelight Service	6:00 PM
18	Lupus Support Group Meeting-Martin Luther King Center	6-8 PM
19	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
20 and 21	Santa's Recycle Shop: Warehouse Ministry Center, 311 N. 6th	9-12; 1-3
25- 31	Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday	Closed
	<i>Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!</i>	



Holiday Closing

Urban Mission will be closed **December 25, 2006 - January 1, 2007** to allow our employees to spend time with their families.

The Mission will reopen **Tuesday, January 2, 2007** for regular business hours. There will be **no Mission Rejoice on December 23 or 30.**

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!