



Bright Horizons



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

January 2006
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Human Relations Day Sunday, January 15, 2006

On this special day, United Methodist congregations are asked to contribute to a special offering that supports thirty Community Developers Programs throughout the country.

Neighborhood Community Development Center (NCDC), a program of Urban Mission, is a program of the General Board of Global Ministries founded by the Human Relations Day offering. Community Developer, Ms. Sharon Kirtdoll seeks funding for community programs including Math Excellence for elementary school students, Health Education and Prevention for the African American Community, Affordable Housing Development for area residents and Lupus Education and Support Program for Jefferson County residents.

Human Relations Day encourages us to learn more about the diverse community we live in.

The Joy and Pain of Following Jesus

Urban Mission celebrated another great holiday season. We saw over 500 kids sponsored for gifts this year. We saw another 196 families (588 people) go through the Santa's Recycle Shop. Unfortunately, we still had to turn away another 80-100 families because we ran out of toys. The joy and the sorrow are always held together in our hearts. We have pride and joy at our communities' generosity and we have sorrow and pain at the growing number of people living in poverty. Life is like that. We all live with the tension of joy and sorrow.

We laughed and cried with joy over the visit of a young man we once helped. He visited to pass on the blessing he had received at the Mission during a past Christmas. He wrote a wonderful letter to those he blessed. You can read his letter later in this issue.

We have cried with people we had to turn away. We listened to the anger and frustration poured out by people wanting to provide a Christmas for their children. We simply did not have the toys to give or money to buy more toys. Not everyone celebrated Christmas with toys in the Upper Ohio Valley. Everyone can celebrate the Birth of Emmanuel. It happened long ago, His birth happens now and it will always happen for those who find Jesus Christ born anew their hearts.

As a Christian and a pastor, it is my joy to share the good news. It is also my great joy to share the truth in love.

The coming year promises to be a difficult one. By the end of January, a total of 1,340 jobs will be lost. The old Weirton Steel Mill is a ghost of its former glory. The work force numbers only 1,300. The Mission, in cooperation with ISG, will take on the task of providing food relief to families without jobs. We usually attempt to raise \$50,000 the first quarter of each year. This year we will raise our goal to \$100,000 in order to provide food for 2006. Mid-Ohio Food Bank is aware of the drastically increased need and will work with us to supply food relief.

We have been so blessed by the provision of God and you over the years. As so, we ask with humility, to please consider helping with the needs of the blessed poor in our Valley. You will be hearing more about our attempt to meet the need of so many new families over the coming months.

At the beginning of this article you read about a former volunteer who needed the help of Urban Mission. His return and desire to help those in need enabled us to help two young families have a joyous Christmas this year. Our role continues to be that of a broker. Whatever comes into the Mission by way of donated items, monetary gifts and blessings of God, goes right back out to those in need. What a joy to stand in the middle and see your generous service, to see God's hand at work in many lives and to experience the joy and the pain that goes with following Jesus.

Love, Pastor Bruce

The Best Gift-Christ



During the past few weeks we have had a lot of gifts arrive at Urban Mission. They were all different shapes and sizes, some small and some large. They were all wrapped in pretty paper and ribbons and our sanctuary was lit with the love coming from those packages.

But the most important part of each of the gifts was the nametag. Each of the gifts had a tag with the name of each child. That tag represented the fact that someone took the time to make sure a child had gifts for Christmas morning. Not just any child, but the child whose name was on that tag. And, it is just that way for you and I on Christmas morning. We may have gifts wrapped in pretty paper under our trees. And we know the giver of those gifts took time to shop in order to find just what they wanted us to have. And we make sure we take the time to thank those who gave us such lovely gifts.

But for all of us, our **best gift** was provided long ago.

This gift was not wrapped in paper and bows but in swaddling clothes. It was not placed under a Christmas tree but placed in a lowly manger. Did it have a name tag on it? Indeed it did. Not with just one name but with millions of names. And those names are still added on a daily basis.

The Bible tells us God knew what our names would be before we were even born. God wanted to give us the best gift we could possibly receive. Do we take time to thank Him for this wonderful gift?

I want to take the time to thank everyone who helped make this Christmas the best ever. I do not have the space to list everyone, but you know who you are. And most importantly, I thank God for each of you. May you know the importance of having your name on **THE** nametag provided for you many years ago. May each of you be blessed with a healthy and Happy Holiday Season. Love to you all...

-Linda Smith, Program Director

Parish Nurse News: Eye Care

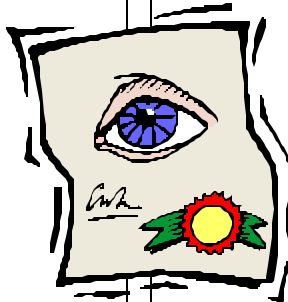
January is National Eye Care Month. Let's take a few minutes and talk about one of the diseases that affects the eyes—glaucoma. Glaucoma is the third leading cause of blindness in the United States.

Glaucoma is increased pressure within the eye, which is caused by a backup of fluid in the eye. A special fluid called aqueous humor is produced within the eye. This fluid circulates through the eye structures and then drains from the eye. If there is a blockage in the canal through which the fluid drains, the fluid builds up and causes increased pressure within the eye. This increased pressure compresses the optic nerve, causing damage to the optic nerve. This optic nerve damage can lead to blindness.

There are no specific symptoms of glaucoma. Some symptoms that might point to glaucoma are the need to frequently change eyeglass prescriptions, vague visual disturbances, mild headache, and impaired dark adaptation. Glaucoma is detected by abnormal intraocular pressure (IOP) measurement. To determine if there is any visual loss from glaucoma, a visual field test is performed.

There are several types of treatments for glaucoma. Glaucoma can be treated with special eye drops and/or

oral medications. If these treatments are not successful, surgery can be performed. Surgical treatment can be done by either laser surgery or traditional surgery, in which a section of the eye's drainage canal is removed. These treatments can alleviate the pressure within the eye, but cannot repair any optic nerve damage that may have occurred.



It is very important to have your eyes checked on a regular basis. Check with your ophthalmologist or optometrist about the frequency for your eye examinations. Eye examinations can include not only vision testing, but examination of the internal eye structures and intraocular pressure measurement. Conditions that can lead to permanent loss of vision may be found and treated.

January is National Eye Care Month, so take care of your eyes. Make an appointment for an eye examination if you have not had one within the last year. Make sure that your examination includes a measurement of intraocular pressure. If abnormal intraocular pressure is found, follow through with the treatment prescribed. Although glaucoma is a serious condition, it can be treated.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MEd, MSN

NCDC News: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebrations



Kickoff of Community Celebration
Saturday, January 14, 2006, 7:00 PM
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
221 North 7th Street, Steubenville, OH

Musical Concert honoring the legacy of Dr. King, featuring the Martin Luther King Memorial Mass Choir under the direction of Mrs. Delores Wiggins.

30th Anniversary Community Ecumenical Service
Sunday, January 15, 2006, 6:00 PM
Second Baptist Church
717 Adams Street, Steubenville, OH

Guest speaker: Dr. James Baber, Vice President of JCC.



MLK Commemorative March
Monday, January 16, 2006, 9:00 AM
Martin Luther King Center
Market Street, Steubenville, OH

March from Martin Luther King Center to Steubenville High School.

Community Celebration
Monday, January 16, 2006, 10:30 AM
Steubenville High School
North 4th Street, Steubenville, OH

Shelby Zarotney, WTOV 9 Anchor, music and special presentations, essay winners and more.

The Fifty Dollar Bill

To the person that receives this card: A few years back I was unable to find a job. I was forced to work off my cash and food stamps from welfare that I received for my children and I. I worked at the Mission doing community service. My time spent there allowed me to befriend a lot of people, one of those being Rev. Bruce. He knew the problem that I was having with no job and three children. Christmas was also coming up soon at the time. One day he pulled me aside and told me that a man came to see him that at one time had been down on his luck but was doing better for himself and his family. So he gave Rev. Bruce fifty dollars to give to someone to help them like someone once did for him. He also told him to use the fifty dollars as he saw fit. Rev. Bruce choose to give that money to me. I don't know why he choose me but he did so I thanked him and used the fifty dollars to buy my children a little something extra for Christmas. So now, I am returning the favor.

This year I am doing well and I want to give this fifty dollars to someone that needs it. So whomever Rev. Bruce chooses to get this card, I know it is not much but I hope it helps out in some way. I felt I should explain the story about the fifty dollars and how I received it, now that I am giving it to you. You need not know my name but now you know my story of the fifty dollar bill. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. **-A friend in Christ**

P.S. If you ever happen to get on your feet and can manage to donate the fifty dollars back to Rev. Bruce to help someone else, please pass on your story of how you received the fifty dollars.

Editors Note: This is a portion of a letter that was given by a young man the Mission helped who is now in the position to help someone else. Whether we have a "little" to give or a "lot" to share, it all makes a difference in someone else's life.

Hutton House Happenings

What will this New Year hold for families that find themselves in need? With your help they will find the Urban Mission staff saying we can help with the food, a temporary place to stay, a good cooked meal and any other need. This is what your donations helps us to do to touch the lives of others to give hope when all someone sees is hopelessness. Below is a letter I received from a Hutton House Shelter guest. I am sharing it with you so that you can see how your donations to the Mission help those in need.

-Debra Bryan, Shelter Director

Dear Hutton House:

I was living with family and we could not see eye to eye so I had to move out. I called the shelter office crying and came in to talk to the staff. So I was able to move in here at the Hutton House and while here I have received food, referrals peace for me and my children and everything I needed to live comfortable. The staff at the shelter are great and the biggest and best of all is how I was still able to decorate for Christmas. I had nothing for my kids for Christmas and they made sure my children had presents for under the tree even a present was put under the tree for me. Debra helped me by giving me a positive outlook about the saturation me and my children were in and helped me realize this is just a step to a new beginning.

Thank you!

Parish Nurse Out of Office



The Parish Nurse, Barb Cameron will be on vacation through January 16, 2006. She will return to the office on **Monday, January 23, 2006.**

*Annual Fundraiser and Scholarship Dinner
February 16, 2006; 5:30 - 7:30 PM
The Rose by Clara's Catering
680 Lovers Lane
Steubenville, Ohio 43953*

On Thursday, **February 16, 2006**, Urban Mission will hold the **Annual Fundraiser and Scholarship Dinner** at The Rose by Clara's Catering. This will be a special evening of food, fellowship, celebration and inspiration that you will not want to miss. The dinner will be **5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** We invite you to be a part of this important evening in which we will be sharing vital information about the needs of our community.

This fundraiser and scholarship dinner will be a combined effort of the Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors of Urban Mission. The focus of the dinner will be different from previous years. This will be an effort to raise funds for the support of the community programs for Urban Mission including hunger and homelessness and also to raise funds in order to provide Scholarship monies to area students to further their education. Included in the change of focus will be that our Annual Volunteer awards will be given out during our Annual Volunteer luncheon later in the year. This night will focus more upon raising the awareness of the needs of the Upper Ohio Valley and how those able to support the Mission can help.

We invite all those who are able to attend this important night to contact the Mission to reserve your ticket today. Tables are available for churches and groups. Individual tickets are also available for **\$20 per person**. The deadline for dinner reservations is **February 10, 2006**.

If you have any questions about purchasing tickets, or making a donation to the Annual or Scholarship Fund, please call the Mission at 740-282-8010.

Reservation Form

*Urban Mission Annual Fundraiser and Scholarship Dinner
Thursday, February 16, 2006*

Name: _____

Phone: () _____ Number of Dinner Reservations: _____

Amount Enclosed (\$20 per individual ticket): _____

Scholarship Fund Contribution of \$_____ enclosed.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

If you would like your tickets mailed, please enclose a **self addressed, stamped envelope**.

Reservation Deadline: February 10, 2006

Coming Soon

Jefferson County

FOURTH STREET HEALTH CENTER

701 FOURTH STREET - STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952

- A primary care health center with a physician on site
- Serving the medically underserved population of Jefferson County
- Making available quality health care
- Decrease the disparity in health care in Jefferson County



January 2006

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Upcoming Events in January 2006

2	Offices Closed-Happy New Year	Closed
7	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
9	No Parish Nurse	
10	Hunger Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
11	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
14	No Mission Rejoice-Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Events	See Page 3
16	Closed for Martin Luther King Day-See Inside for Holiday Events	See Page 3
17	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
19	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
23	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
26	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
28	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
30	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

Joshua Home Repair applications and Robert E. Hutton Scholarship applications will be available beginning February 1, 2006. More info concerning these programs to come!

**Hope Box
Our Needs for Hutton
House are:**



- 2006 Calendars
- Dish drainers, mops, brooms, dust pans, buckets, kitchen garbage cans
- Towels, wash cloths, dish towels, dish cloths and throw rugs
- Coffee pots & can openers
- Cooking utensils, silverware, pots/pans and sets of dishes