



# Bright Horizons



**Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director**

**Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor**

January 2009  
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## God is - with Us

Wow! Last year was a challenge! There were times when there was the very real possibility of not having enough toys for kids and enough food for the hungry. There were also times when many things looked bleak. Yet in God's marvelous time and way, all needs were met in outstanding moments of generosity and hope. We, through your efforts and the community efforts of our region, helped more children receive toys and more people receive food than in any previous year of the Mission's existence. That is saying a lot!

**This year, we are celebrating 50 years of service to the Upper Ohio Valley!** This celebration is all about God being faithful to the many people who have served and supported the Mission throughout the years. From the beginning, Urban Mission has depended upon God giving visions, dreams and calls to service. Those dreams and visions came in a wide variety of circumstances. From times of plenty to times of economic depression, in times of high population to times of shrinking population, in times of disaster to normal times, God has been faithful in giving the dreams, visions and calls. God has also been faithful to meet every need encountered.

Now is a time of economic difficulty for our nation. It is a time of change in the highest office in the land. It is a time of hardship for our region. It is also a time of hope. Hope is that which God gives to people everywhere who can learn to listen and see beyond what is right in front of them. I will never see poverty the same way I saw it before visiting Haiti, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Urban Mission. Poverty is an invitation to generosity and a sure sign of God's Presence and Compassion. I will never see the impoverished people the way I did before living with them, learning from them and being loved by them. The impoverished are the wonderful people of God with whom we are blessed to share in God's Kingdom. The riches and wealth of Urban Mission are overwhelming and never ending. Our wealth is God's love and grace. These things never run out. That is a good thing for our need of God's love and grace never ceases.

There was a quiet moment to reflect upon all the wrapped-up Christmas gifts gathered in the sanctuary for children. From the organ up front to the porches in the back, from sidewall to sidewall there were toys and bikes in every possible place. God's goodness was on display for all to see and experience. During our food distribution another moment of reflection occurred. I was looking at a record crowd of people in the lines. What gifts God gave the Mission! Our meeting and sharing God's love transformed all involved. I encourage you to look past the economy and the need. Look to God for all the joy and love you can stand to experience. It's all right there!

Thank you for your generosity this past year. As we look ahead, thank you for celebrating with us the Urban Mission's 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

### Human Relations Day Sunday, January 18, 2009

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

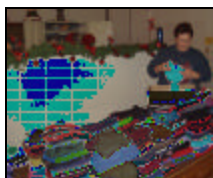


On this day, United Methodist congregations are asked to contribute to a special offering that supports thirty Community Developers Programs throughout the country.

Neighborhood Community Development Center (NCDC) is one such program supported through the General Board of Global Ministries and founded by the Human Relations Day offering. Community Developer, 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.

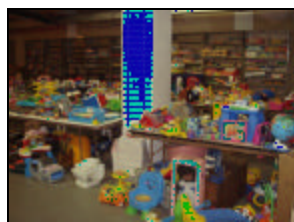
## Christmas Thoughts and Thanks

Trying to get Christmas gifts for children of our Urban Mission families was really quite a process. But, with God's help and the help of lots of "Santa's Shoppers", we got the job done! We were able to provide Christmas gifts and teen gifts bags for close to 1,000 children through the Christmas Kids and Operation Teen Stocking Programs. Many other families also received gifts for their children through Santa's Recycle Shop. What a blessing!



A volunteer organizes Mitten Tree items.

As I reflect on the whole "process" of Christmas, I am reminded of the massive effort it takes to accomplish our Christmas program goals. The beginning of our efforts started several months ago in September with paperwork preparations and then in October with registrations and computer entries of names, sizes and gift ideas. As I do the paperwork involved with placing our children, I have a constant view of the total number of names remaining to be adopted. When that last name is removed from the list, I am assuming our little ones will be taken care of. It is when the packages come back in when the real truth is known. There are children who do not have packages because someone took a name but did not bring in the gifts.



A view of toys and games donated for Santa's Recycle Shop.

I was well aware that times were tough for everyone and that they were probably going to get worse before they got better. But, we do ask that if you take the name of a child to provide a Christmas present for, if at all possible, follow through. If you are not able to do so, let us know so we can place the child with someone who can. It really helps in our organizing

process to have everyone's gifts in when we begin to set up for the parents.

Even though we hit several bumps in the road, God helped us to fill in those gaps and provide for our families. Truly the following quote expresses what Christmas was all about.

*"Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God."*

*--George F. McDougall*

The presence of God was here every time someone adopted a child, brought in new and/or gently used toys, dropped off hats and mittens and every time someone asked to volunteer to help with our Christmas programs. We thank everyone for playing a role in putting the "merry" in Christmas at the Mission. Working together, every Urban Mission child had a wonderful Christmas. May all of you be blessed with a safe, healthy and happy New Year.

**-Linda L. Smith, Program Director**

## A Joyful Christmas at Hutton House

This Christmas proved to be a joyful one for the children and parent's at the Hutton House Homeless Shelter. A family from our community "adopted" a family at the Shelter and provided gifts. Other "Secret Santa's" brought gifts and sent in donations. What wonderful expressions of God's love!

With the new year upon us, we look back on all the wonderful blessings this community provided for their homeless friends and neighbors in 2008. Thank you to everyone who donated funds, items and prayers for the Hutton House. We appreciate the love and concern that you shared and pray that God will continue to bless you with a happy and prosperous 2009!

Debra Bryan, Shelter Director

## Annual Dinner and 50th Anniversary

**Our Annual Dinner Celebration will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.** at Froelich's Classic Corner, 501 Washington Street, Steubenville. A special evening has been planned.

Along with celebrating a fruitful 2008, the Mission **will be celebrating 50 years of ministry to the Upper Ohio Valley!** From small beginnings as a Men's Mill Hostel, to becoming the largest Charity in the Upper Ohio Valley... God has been with us every step of the way!

Through the efforts of thousands of volunteers and donors over the past fifty years, Urban Mission has been lighting a pathway to hope for those experiencing homelessness, hunger and poverty.

Tickets are \$25 and are available by calling the Mission at 740-282-8010. Reserve your space by calling us today!



## Calendar Open For Host Churches

We are currently scheduling churches for the 2009 **Mission Rejoice Calendar**. We invite Singing Groups, Sunday School Classes, UMW's and groups of all kinds to serve as a Host Church.

Mission Rejoice is held from 6-8 PM on Saturday evenings in our beautiful sanctuary. Churches can provide the meal and preaching or one or the other. To obtain additional information or to schedule your night of ministry, please call Rev. Toni at 740-282-8010.



## **Martin Luther King Community Celebration Events**

**Saturday, January 17, 2009**

### ***Children's Program***

*(ages 3-6 and 7-10)*

**11:00 a.m. -2:30 p.m.**

**Martin Luther King Center  
902 Market Street, Steubenville**

### ***Musical Celebration Concert***

**6:00 PM**

**Second Baptist Church  
717 Adams Street, Steubenville**

*Martin Luther King Mass Choir under the direction of  
Mrs. Delores Wiggins, Minister of Music.*

**Sunday, January 18, 2009**

### ***33rd Annual Memorial Service***

**6:00 PM**

**Second Baptist Church  
717 Adams Street, Steubenville**

**Guest speaker:** Rev. John W. Davis of Gulfport, MS  
*Martin Luther King Children's Choir, Area Community  
Speakers, Praise Dancers and the Martin Luther King  
Mass Choir.*

**Monday, January 19, 2009**

### ***MLK Activities and Commemorative March***

**9:00 AM**

**Martin Luther King Center  
905 Market Street, Steubenville, OH**

*Continental breakfast and program with Guest Speaker,  
Rev. Lydia Spragin.*

**10:00 AM**

Community march from Martin Luther King Center to  
Steubenville High School.

**10:30 AM**

**Steubenville High School  
420 North 4th Street, Steubenville, OH**

*Essay contest winners, lunch and more.*

*Mark your calendars and plan to join us for one or  
all of these events!*

## **Parish Nurse News: National Eye Care Month**



January is National Eye Care Month. Many conditions can affect the eyes and if untreated, some of these conditions can lead to blindness. One of the leading causes of blindness is untreated glaucoma. Let's review the facts about glaucoma.

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, which 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, which include surgical and non-surgical treatments. Glaucoma can be treated with special eye drops and/or oral medications. If these treatments are not successful, surgery can be performed. Laser or traditional surgical techniques may be performed, 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. Examinations can include not only vision testing, but examination of the internal eye structures and intraocular pressure measurement. If your eye examination does not include all of the above, ask about examination of the internal eye and measurement of intraocular pressure. Conditions that can lead to permanent loss of vision may be found by these examinations and treated before the vision loss becomes permanent.

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 prescribed treatment. Although glaucoma is a serious condition, it can be treated and your eyesight can be saved.

**-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN**

## January 2009

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### Upcoming Events in January 2009

1-2	Offices Closed for New Years. No Mission Rejoice on Saturday, January 3, 2008	Closed
6	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
7	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
8	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
10, 24 & 31	Mission Rejoice Service: Saturday's	6-8 PM
13	Packing for Food Distribution UM Finance Committee Meeting	9-12; 1-3 6:00 PM
15	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
17-19	Martin Luther King Holiday Celebrations (See page 3) (No Mission Rejoice Service on Saturday)	
19	Offices Closed for Martin Luther King Day	Closed
22	UM Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
26	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
29	UM Newsletter Folding	9:00 AM

### Applications to be Available

**Joshua Home Repair**  
applications and  
**Robert E. Hutton Memorial**  
Scholarship applications will  
be available beginning  
February 2, 2009.  
More info concerning these  
programs to come!

