



Bright Horizons



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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Human Relations Day Sunday, January 14, 2007

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

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.

"Life in Christ"

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:4-7

As a child, I learned this scripture by singing a chorus based upon the first verse. This verse comes to mind as we reflect upon the New Year. A commentary for the New Revised Common Lectionary by Soards, Dozeman, and McCabe taught me to pay attention to the prepositions in this text as a guide to reflecting on **"Life in Christ"**. Is there any other way to think about life!?

Each verse contains a phrase to focus upon. The phrase in verse four is, **"..in the Lord..."**. This phrase reminds us the life and service in Christ is not a duty to be performed, but a life lived in the Presence and Power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Too many of us live life and experience Christian service as a duty separate from a living relationship with Jesus Christ. The Presence and Power of the Lord transforms duty to fellowship with God. In the Lord we have all the power and energy needed to meet the needs of our world. Determine to live and serve in the Presence and Power of the Lord this New Year!

Verse 5 states that, **"The Lord is near"**. Near is a relative term with a wide variety of meanings. In this case, near means very near, right next to, or even the appearance of the Lord is expected any moment now. One of the reasons we work so hard for people is that this is the work of the Lord who is near. This verse is a motivation for us to redouble our efforts to serve the people of God.

Verse 6 teaches us to orient our lives and our requests **"to God"**. Some folks in our area orient themselves toward the Steelers. Others in our State orient themselves toward the "Buckeyes." These folks begin preparations for game day by saving money, buying regalia and enormous amounts of food and drink to celebrate. They paint their faces strange colors. They go without shirts on cold days. They cheer themselves hoarse. They are often in extreme euphoria or agony depending on the outcome of the game. A game is decided by which way the ball bounces. Would that those who orient themselves to God show such enthusiasm, (without some of the idiocy). Orienting ourselves to God for our needs, wants, hopes, dreams, liberty and security is an assured outcome; not depending upon the bounce of a ball. Why do we choose to orient ourselves to meaningless games that disappoint more than they please us?

Verse 7 provides us with our last phrase. It is **"in Christ"**. The source of all life is Christ. Our maker, our identity, the One who calls us, our hope, our salvation is in Christ. Each of these phrases call us to live a life formed in and by our relationship with the Living God. The results of this life are Joy, Gentleness, Peace and Assurance in Christ. What kind of New Year can we experience living in the Power and Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ? The possibilities surpass our understanding, yet our hearts and minds are protected by Jesus Christ. Let us join together with Jesus Christ on a new journey of love, compassion and ministry.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

An Amazing Christmas Season

Going to church on Sunday mornings during the holiday season is wonderful. Candles, pine and poinsettias are everywhere. The congregation singing together the holiday hymns and carols is beautiful. Everyone shares with each other of how busy they have been, getting ready for the festivities.

Recently, our pastor chose the title "I'll Be Glad When It's Over" for his sermon. I found this title amusing because I had barely gotten started with everything I needed to do at home. But, I knew with a few marathon nights, I would be ready.

As I listened to the words Pastor Arnold spoke I realized what he was trying to get across to his congregation. I pondered on those words as he spoke them.

These past few months have been extremely busy. Getting ready for the holidays at Urban Mission means making sure our "families" are taken care of. There is a lot of planning and coordinating needed to make these programs work. But, it doesn't stop there.

These programs would not work without the love and support from our friends who share in the work accomplished by our staff. It takes teamwork from inside and outside the walls of our offices. It takes support from the staff for

those working the programs. It also takes support from everyone wanting to make sure every child and teen is provided for on Christmas morning.

As I reflect back on this year's Christmas Season, I do so feeling the love from everyone who helped make sure our 583 children were taken care of and there were more than enough stockings for our 200 teens. When I looked around the area of our Santa's Recycle Shop, I was amazed with the amount of toys that were donated.



A few of the volunteers that helped sort and organize toys at Santa's Recycle Shop.

Yes, I too was ready for it to be over. Because when it was over, I knew all of our children had been taken care of. I knew they would be waking up and finding out Santa really *did* come.

I could make an attempt to list everyone who helped, but I know I would miss someone. You know who you are and I want to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you. Thank you once again for your love and support. May God bless you and yours, with a healthy, happy and safe New Year.

-Linda L. Smith, Program Director

Parish Nurse News: Winter Safety



Now that winter has arrived, we need to review some safety tips for handling the cold weather. Remember that snow and ice arrive with the cold weather and we must be observant to keep ourselves from injuries.

Remember to dress properly at all times. It doesn't matter how long you will be outside in the cold weather, you must wear your coat and other protective clothes. A short run to the mailbox or curb without adequate warm clothing is a shock to your body, so don't forget that coat. Hats and gloves are important too. We lose a lot of body heat from our heads and our fingers get cold quickly. Warm socks and shoes or boots are also important. The fingers and toes are susceptible to frostbite, so don't let them get wet or cold. Wear layers of clothing if you are going to be outside for a period of time. Layers keep you warmer and you can always remove some layers if you get too hot. Cover your nose with a scarf if the air is really cold and you plan to be outside for a period of time. Breathing cold air can be irritating to the delicate lining of the respiratory tract.

Always carefully check any surface after precipitation has fallen to see if the surface is slippery before walking. Sometimes it is difficult to tell if a surface is just wet or if it is icy. Check with your hand or foot to see if the surface is icy. Remove any ice before attempting to walk on the surface. One slip on an icy surface can lead to one or more broken bones. Snowy surfaces can also be slippery, so be careful when walking in the snow. If you must re-

move snow from your driveway or sidewalks, remember to take your time and don't overdo. If you haven't done any strenuous exercise in a while, it is better to hire someone else to clean these surfaces.

Remember to protect delicate skin during the winter months. If you need to wear sun block during the summer, then you need to wear it during the winter months when you are outside. Skin becomes dry and chapped during the winter. Apply lotions or creams as needed. Use a chapstick or special preparations on your dry lips. Do not lick your lips when you are in the cold. Don't forget to wear that protective clothing when outside.

If you think you have developed frostbite from overexposure to the cold, seek medical attention immediately. Do not rub your hands or feet. When a person has frostbite, little ice crystals form within the layers of skin. Rubbing the area can lead to skin damage. If you have fallen and you are not sure about your injuries, seek medical attention immediately. X-rays and an examination by a trained medical professional are needed to diagnose a broken bone. If you have overexerted while outside and you experience chest pain, shortness of breath, dizziness or any other unusual symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. It is better to be checked out and sent home than to not be checked when you have a potentially serious problem. Remember to protect yourself always during the cold winter months.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

Community Events



Martin Luther King Community Celebration Events

Musical Celebration Concert

Saturday, January 13, 2007
7:00 PM

Quinn Memorial AME
515 North Street, Steubenville, OH

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

31st Annual Community Ecumenical Service

Sunday, January 14, 2007
6:00 PM

Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church
708 North 5th Street, Steubenville, OH

Guest speaker: Dr. Tellis Chapman, Pastor of Galilee Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

MLK Commemorative March

Monday, January 15, 2007
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 15, 2007
10:30 AM

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

Music, special presentations, essay winner and more.

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

Mission Rejoice News



Youth Group Activities

The youth group of Urban Mission had an amazing time all throughout last year. We were blessed with many fun packed Saturdays that allowed us to grow in fellowship and discuss important topics enabling us to live according to God's plan for our lives. A youth group would not be a youth group without games so, of course we had lots of fun playing exciting and challenging games. We also had the opportunity to host a day-long retreat in the fall where we explored the importance of living a life of chastity.

Starting the last Saturday in January, we will begin a new semester as we explore topics including integrity, virtue and the impact we have on the world. We hope to see everyone ages 11-19 as we kick off the year bigger and better than ever.

The children's ministry offered every Saturday at Mission Rejoice provides a wonderful opportunity for your children to play, do crafts and have fun while learning about Jesus. Bring your children (ages 2-10) to discover what the "Crown of Stars" is all about. For any questions about the Mission Rejoice Youth program, please contact the Mission at 740-282-8010 or myself at 716-510-9674 or stacy.adams@adelphia.net.

-Stacy Adams, Youth Group Coordinator

Calendar Open For Host Churches



We are currently scheduling churches for the 2007 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 here in our beautiful sanctuary. Churches can provide the meal and preaching or one or the other. To obtain additional information at the program or to schedule your night of ministry, please call Rev. Toni at 740-282-8010.

Merry Hearts at Hutton House



Christmas was a merry one for the families at Hutton House. Thanks to the many donations from friends of the Mission, each child at the Homeless Shelter had a Christmas tree and gifts to open on Christmas morning! Joy filled each apartment as the shelter guests experienced the outpouring of love from the community on Christmas morning. **"A cheerful heart is good medicine."** -Prov. 17:22a

We appreciate the love and concern that you shared and pray that God will continue to bless you. Thank you again!

Debbie Bryan, Shelter Director

*Annual Celebration /Scholarship Dinner
Thursday, February 22, 2007; 5:30 PM
The Rose by Clara's Catering
680 Lovers Lane
Steubenville, Ohio 43953*



On Thursday, **February 22, 2007**, Urban Mission will hold the **Annual Celebration/Scholarship Dinner** at The Rose by Clara's Catering. This will be a special evening of food, fellowship and inspiration that you will not want to miss. The dinner will be held **from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** A special program is being planned to celebrate an exciting and fruitful year.

Each year Urban Mission provides four (4) scholarships to area residents to further their education. A portion of the nights proceeds will go to provide these scholarships.

We invite all those who are able to attend this special evening to contact Urban Mission to reserve a ticket. Tables are available for churches, businesses and groups. Individual tickets are also available for **\$20 per person**. The deadline for dinner reservations is **February 9, 2007**.

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. We look forward to seeing you all at the dinner celebration!



*Reservation Form
Urban Mission Annual Celebration /Scholarship Dinner
Thursday, February 22, 2007*

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 9, 2007

Please mail to Urban Mission Scholarship Banquet, 301 North 5th Street, Steubenville.

January 2007

**Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
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Steubenville, OH 43952**

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Fax: 740-282-8514

E-mail: mail@urbanmission.org

www.urbanmission.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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LABEL

Upcoming Events in January 2007

2	Offices Closed-Happy New Year	Closed
3	Lupus Support Group Meeting: Trinity East	6:00 PM
4	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting No January Greater Steubenville CDC Meeting	4:00 PM
6, 13, 20, 27	Mission Rejoice (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
9	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
10	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
14, 15, 16	Martin Luther King Memorial Celebration Events	See Page 3
16	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
18	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
22 and 29	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
23	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
25	UM Newsletter Folding Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM 4:30 PM
	<i>Bible Study with Rev. Toni: Friday's</i>	4:00 PM

Applications to be Available

Joshua Home Repair applications and **Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarship** applications will be available beginning February 1, 2007. More info concerning these programs to come!

