



BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

"The Redemptive Power of Grace "

I am amazed by the collision of grace and rules. At the Mission, we operate as an "act of mercy" for all who come to us. We are the concrete witness of Jesus' love for the least, the last and the lost. We are the hands and feet of Jesus loving those who some deem unlovable. Yet, we struggle with the rules. Recently, we asked several people to leave the hospitality room for one week. The behavior went beyond what we could accept as safe for all concerned. Most of us felt bad about asking people to leave. The reaction was very strong and very negative. People cried, begged and pleaded. Many protested the decision claiming innocence. Folks are still angry three weeks later.

The staff went through a period of justification. We reasoned our way through the decision to ask people to leave for a week. "They deserved it." "There was nothing else we could do." "There have to be rules for behavior, or it becomes an out of control mess." "They pushed us and forced us into this decision." "It is for the safety and comfort of all." I do not regret the decision. But, I am keenly aware of how much we sound like the Pharisees and Synagogue Rulers who thought it best for one man to die for the whole nation. I am also aware of how some churches accept only those who fit our social status, meet our expectations concerning behavior, and who believe the way we do concerning doctrine and issues.

Religious folk like us are expert builders and prolific users of barriers to keep folk away. We can base our identity and our fellowship upon the smallest shades of difference between us. The negative reaction that was so strong came because we preach and model God's love and grace. Being banned from the Mission for a week seemed a horrible condemnation to those asked to leave. The destitute, addicted, prostitutes, unemployed, and uneducated are constantly subjected to a steady stream of rejection and condemnation. Religious people do it too. We easily play games with how close or how far our fellowship will be based upon our position on issues, where we went to seminary, our district location, or where someone serves in the annual conference.

The grace of God is radical in accepting all. There are no provisions to reject anyone who is different than we are. The scripture says, "For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him might have everlasting life." The word except does not exist in this sentence. The object of God's love is the whole world. That is all of us. God's grace constantly questions our rejection, fear and hatred of those we deem beneath us. God's grace confronts our callous disregard of people loved by the Divine. The very grace that gives us life challenges us to live and be that grace for others. I know it is a bit trite, but it comes down to how we want Jesus Christ to receive us. We know that we do not measure up to the rule book. We are sinners, yet Jesus Christ opens wide his arms and embraces us with love and grace. Praise God!

-Love Pastor Bruce

In this Issue	
Thanksgiving Challenge	2
Parish Nurse News Swimming Safety	2
Summer Program Update	3
Mission Rejoice Picnic	3
UMM Calendar	4

Mission Rejoice Picnic

**Saturday
July 29, 2006
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.**



Swimming, Games, Food and Fellowship. See page 3 for more information.

Festival of Caring

Urban Mission will be one of the many ministries participating in the Festival of Caring in Mansfield, Ohio on Saturday, September 16, 2006.

The Ohio Valley District is sponsoring a bus trip to the festival. For information on the bus, please phone the District Office at 740-264-1601.

Thanksgiving Challenge

This year's challenge is underway and we have already received cans of chicken noodle soup. If you weren't able to bring your soup in yet, that is OK. The item for **July is cranberry sauce** and you can bring your soup in when you bring the cranberry sauce!!

The schedule for the rest of the summer is **August: Sweet Potatoes; September: Vanilla frosting; October: Yellow cake mix.**

Remember to challenge each other with this project. Shop at stores like Aldi's and Wal-Mart and watch for sales at other stores. For those of you who helped with Easter... pretend you are shopping for jellybeans!! If you have any questions, give me a call at 740-282-8010.

-Linda Smith, Program Director

**Urban Mission Offices Closed July 3 & 4
for the Independence Day Holiday.**



Help Needed at Hutton House

In the last newsletter we gave an appeal for help with swing sets for the homeless shelter's children. To those who helped with this request, thank you so much. We are still in need of two additional swing sets for the Seventh Street and Market Street shelters. We would also like to fence in the Market Street site play area and we need funds to do this.

For those of you inquiring into the other needs at Hutton House, the items we are currently accepting are refrigerators, gas/electric stoves, electric washers/dryer. These items should be in good working order. If you would like to donate swing sets, funds to help purchase them or other items, please give Debra a call at 740-282-8903. Any help you can provide for our children and families would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all of your support in making a temporary place feel like home for the families at our shelters.

Parish Nurse News: Swimming Safety

Now that summer is here, many of us will be swimming. Every year we hear stories about unintentional drownings, which occur frequently in children. Thousands of people die every year in the U.S. from drowning. In addition, for every child who drowns, six receive emergency care for near-drowning or non-fatal submersion injuries. Half of these children require hospitalization. Non-fatal incidents can result in serious injuries including brain damage. Drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death in children aged 1 to 14 years. Most drownings in children aged 1 to 4 years occur in residential swimming pools and most of these children were last seen in the home less than 5 minutes before they drown. Alcohol use is involved in between 25% to 50% of deaths associated with water recreation for adolescents and adults. What can be done to keep water recreation safe? The National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety has devised a list of safe behaviors for water recreation. These behaviors include:



- Use the buddy system when swimming or engaging in water recreational activities.
- Never dive into an unknown body of water or into a backyard pool unless it is specifically designed for diving.
- Supervise children near water or pools.
- Avoid using alcohol or other drugs prior to and during recreational water activities.
- Learn (CPR) and encourage adolescents and adults to do the same.
- Establish a rescue station near pools or ponds with clearly posted emergency numbers and first aid procedures

Additional information about recreational water safety can be obtained by visiting the Centers for Disease website www.cdc.gov.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MEd, MSN

Welcome CAC Summer Workers:

*Brianna Cash
Jalil Harvey
Alouise Harris*

Welcome Joshua Site Supervisors:

*Doug Devor
Adam Shelton
Sara Thomas*

Lupus Program Begins New Year



The Lupus Education and Support Program will expand its education program to Belmont and Harrison Counties. Two educational events are planned in each county. These meetings are in addition to the ones held on the last Monday of each month at Trinity East at 6:00 p.m.

For information on the Lupus Program, please contact Sharon Kirtdoll at 740-282-8010.



“Children of Promise” Summer Youth Program Update

The Community “Children of Promise” Summer Youth Program is in full swing. Over 50 children are participating in Science, Reading, Arts and Crafts, Drama and many more activities. Several field trips are also in the works. A schedule of activities for the remainder of the program is listed below. We are still in need of volunteers to help with the program. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents, please contact Anthony or Seaslle Grimes at 740-282-8010.

The **14th Annual Street Carnival is coming up on Saturday, August 12, 2006.** This is a day of free food, fun, games, prizes and entertainment for the children and adults of our community. As you can imagine, it takes many helping hands to put on this free event. We are in need of your help to make this event successful. If you, your church, group or organization would like to take part in the carnival, please fill out the “Carnival Help” form or contact Anthony or Seaslle Grimes at 740-282-8010.

Summer Program Activities Calendar

July 2006

- 4: No Program Classes
- 5: Character Building
- 6: Center of Music and Arts
- 7: Picnic at Austin Lake
- 11: Birthday Bash
- 13: Center of Music and Arts
- 14: Carnegie Science Center
- 17: Game Day
- 19: Pirates Games
- 20: Center of Music and Arts
- 21: Summer Program Closing



August 2006

- 12: Annual Street Carnival

Carnival Help Registration Form

Get Involved!!!

14th Annual Street Carnival - August 12th

Name/Group: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

- We will provide prizes
- We will provide hot dogs (__ pkgs)
- We will provide hot dog buns (__ pkgs)
- We will help with the serving of the food.
- We will make a donation (\$ _____)
- We will provide a game or booth.

**Send to: Urban Mission Street Carnival
301 N. 5th St., Steubenville OH 43952.**

Kirtdoll Receives Award



Pictured are the award winners, Sharon Kirtdoll and Carol Crock.

At the East Ohio Annual Conference in June 2006, Sharon Kirtdoll, Urban Mission Community Developer, was one of two lay persons to receive the Van Board Dunn Ecumenical Award.

Rev. Roger Skelley-Watts, Chairperson of the Commission on

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (COCUIC) presented the award for local ecumenical activities and national affiliation with interreligious organizations. Congratulations Ms. Kirtdoll!

Mission Rejoice Picnic

Jefferson State Lake Park

Saturday, July 29, 2006

2:00-6:00 p.m.

Plans are underway for the Annual Mission Rejoice Picnic. Currently, we do not have a host church for the event. The host church brings their volunteers and grills, prepares and serves the meal. The host church also provides hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, diced/sliced tomatoes and onions, baked beans, macaroni and/or potato salad, watermelon, desserts and munchies (chips, pretzels, etc.). Urban Mission provides plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware, condiments drinks and etc.



This is a fun day with swimming, games, bingo and fellowship. If your congregation has some barbeque specialists and others who would like to share in a great day, the invitation is open for you to join us. If you have any questions that will help you in making your discussion to join us, please give Linda a call at 740-282-2911.

July 2006

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

Phone: 740-282-8010

Fax: 740-282-8514

E-mail: mail@urbanmission.org

www.urbanmission.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in July 2006

1-4	Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday. No Mission Rejoice on Saturday, July 1.	Closed
5	No Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting in July. Next Meeting, August 2, 2006 at 2:00 PM	No Meeting
6	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corporation Mtg.	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
8, 15 & 22	Mission Rejoice Services (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
10, 17, 24 & 31	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
11	God's Pantry Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting Lupus Support Group Meeting (call 740-282-8010 for location)	10:00 AM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
18	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
20	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
25	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
27	Newsletter Folding Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM 4:30 PM
29	Mission Rejoice Picnic	2-6 PM
31	Lupus Support Group Meeting (Trinity East)	6:00 PM

Joshua Work Teams

7/9 -14: Christ UMC
Host Church: Starkdale Church

7/16-21: Champion Presbyterian
**Host Church: Two Ridges
Presbyterian Church**

7/23-28: UMC of Anoka
Host Church: Bell Chapel UMC

7/30-8/4: Willoughby Hills UMC &
Gladbrook UMC
Host Church: Richmond UMC