

BRIGHT HORIZONS



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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West Virginia Signups

Food Sign ups for the Weirton Distribution will be held on Monday, **June 7** and Tuesday, **June 8** from **9-11** and **1-3** at the Dunbar Recreational Center, 300 Kessel Street, Weirton, WV.

Please bring the following information.



- A form of identification
- Birth certificate, medical card or social security card for all children living in the household.
- Verification of income or food stamps.
- Written verification of address.

"What Would Jesus Do?"

The media slugfest around President Bush and John Kerry remind me of people asking Jesus questions not because they wanted an honest answer but because they wanted to trap him. The way questions are asked shape the answers and trap both Bush and Kerry. Each one has commercials written to shape the candidate, the truth and the campaign in a manner that will appeal to some group of voters. It seems to me that the truth gets lost in the midst of all the shaping, questions/traps and issues.

Here are a series of questions that need answers from our leaders: America is the greatest wealth producing nation in all of history, why can't we give health care and nutritious food to children and the elderly in our society? Why can't democrats and republicans form a unity government around the idea of ending waste in the Government? Some say if we eliminate waste in government, we would have all the money needed to care for our poor and some to spare. Why can't the government live within its means? If individuals keep budgets like the fed they would be bankrupt. If companies operated like the federal government, they would go out of business. Why is every Senator in Congress a millionaire? The average wage in all of America is still in the \$30,000—\$35,000 range. Is it a good idea for wealthy people to design and implement laws for middle and low-income people? Why is wealth in this country concentrated in the hands of a few? Why is this situation worse than it was in 1970? Why is the spending power of the average American less now than it was in 1970?

In America, the rich get richer and the ranks of the poor are exploding. What will you do about this as president or a member of Congress?

Sooner or later leadership has to decide upon caring for the nation as a whole or enriching a few at the expense of the rest of the country. If there was anything that Jesus detested upon this earth it was religious hypocrisy. When an individual uses position and power to rule over another in an inappropriate way, or enrich themselves, it is hypocrisy. Religious hypocrisy is as present today as it was in Jesus' day. No clearer example of this exists than when a religious leader or organization embraces the Democratic or Republican parties and uses the position or organization to help elect or defeat one or the other. All of us vote and that is fine. But, we cannot compromise our faith in God with faith in a political entity. Do not be fooled by the politics of the day. The parties will do and say anything to get in power or remain in power. That way they can continue to enrich themselves while most Americans fall into poverty or work harder for less.

Whatever your particular political leaning are, please vote. Also, ask some of the questions raised in this article of the party you support. Change happens only when we participate in the process. Finally, ask yourselves what would be in the heart and mind of Jesus during the election year. Those are the issues for all who follow Jesus.

- Love, Pastor Bruce

K-Kid's Dinner a Success!

Paul wrote, "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 3:13-14*. He also wrote, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." *Philippians 4:11*

The Annual K-KIDS Dinner is the only fundraiser for our Summer Program. This dinner takes lots of planning and the preparations start months in advance. The goal is to have everything ready to go prior to the day of the dinner. Of course, you have to leave room for any errors that may occur. But, nothing is worse than having those errors one hour before the dinner is to begin!

And even though no one could tell when the dinner started at 4:00 P.M. that is exactly what happened with this year's dinner. The plans were all laid out but a few last minute, unexpected changes occurred. This could have caused complete panic, but with God's grace and the wonderful crew at the Wintersville United Methodist Church, the dinner started on time and a wonderful evening it was!

There are so many to thank for the success of this dinner and I cannot list them all here. Some key folks are as follows...the congregation and youth group of the Winters-

ville UMC (location of event and workers), to ALL the many churches who provided pies and desserts, to Gayle Johnson (Second Baptist Church for putting together the ham loaves), Paula Bush (Wintersville UMC-decorating the tables), the Program/Evaluation Committee (the planning committee), Karen Felix (for picking up supplies), to Ralph Washington (for being there after the dinner to help clean up) and to everyone who came to eat and support this dinner.

We all know the passion and love Jesus had for the children. And that passion and love is still present in today's world. That is why there are summer programs such as ours. These programs are in place so that the children will be taken care of during the summer months. And without fundraisers such as the K-KIDS Dinner, the programs would be non-existent.

It takes many folks to put this dinner together from beginning to end. And even though we were afraid there was not going to be a beginning, the end result was wonderful. I guess Paul really had it right when he wrote, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Knowing that God is in control of all we will do, our accomplishments will be great.

-Linda L. Poe, Program Director

Community Children's Summer Program

The Urban Mission's Community Summer Program is set to begin on June 29 and will run through August 6, 2004. The program will be a collaborative effort between First Westminster Church, Calvary Fifth UMC, Quinn AME Church and the Urban Mission. Tutoring, Music, Bible Lessons and Field Trips are planned with much more in the works. The program is open to children ages 6-13. Parents can register your child at Urban Mission. Please bring the child's medical and insurance information as well as their most recent report card. Sign your child up for a fun and constructive summer. Volunteers are also needed, if you are an older teen or adult, you can help in many different ways. For more information please call Jacky or Cory at 740-282-8010.

Thanksgiving Challenge 2004

It may seem a little early to start planning for the Thanksgiving Holiday but with an organization like Urban Mission, many months of planning and preparing must go into events like our Thanksgiving Baskets. Last year, our Thanksgiving Challenge to collect items was such a success that we are going to do it again this year! For those of you who participated last year, come on back! And for those of you who didn't, come on board!

Each month, from June through October, we are challenging everyone to lend a hand. A different product is going to be collected beginning with Chicken Noodle soup for the month of June. This challenge will greatly reduce our costs for purchasing these items for Thanksgiving.

This can be a fun project for churches, groups, businesses and families. You can issue a challenge among yourselves while helping Urban Mission to get those needed items.

The month and item are as follows:

June – Chicken noodle soup (2400 cans)

July – Cranberry sauce (1200 cans)

August – Sweet potatoes (18-20 oz can/1200 cans)

September – Vanilla frosting (1200 cans)

October – Yellow cake mix (1200 boxes)

If you have any questions concerning this fun project or you want to participate, please call Linda at 282-2911.

Congratulations Ms. Kirdoll

Sharon Kirdoll, Community Developer has been nominated by the Steubenville District United Methodist Women for "Woman of the Year". Each district nominates a woman and one will be chosen as woman of the year at the East Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church this June in Lakeside, Ohio. Congratulations and way to go Ms. Kirdoll!



Volunteers Needed

We need volunteer nurses and beauticians for the Summer months. Children are out of school and the attendance has increased and so does the need for first aid and medical care. If you can volunteer a few hours please stop in or call Sharon at 740-282-8010. Any time that you can give is greatly appreciated.



Fast Facts:

Did you know that in 2003, volunteers donated 36,576 hours of service to the Urban Mission? This is made possible by thousands of willing folks with a heart to serve others in need.

NCDC News

Grant Applications for Minority Health Month Available

Grant Applications (RFP) will be available in this month to fund Minority Health Education/Screening Program in Ohio for 2005. Applications must be 501(C)3. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Sharon Kirdoll at 740-282-8010.

Annual Shoe Giveaway a Success

Thank you to all the churches, organizations and individuals who helped with the annual shoe giveaway, either by volunteering or donating shoes. It was a great success! We distributed over 3,000 pairs of shoes handbags and other accessories. It was wonderful to be able to offer items in such good condition to the public. Special thanks to Patti West and her volunteers who faithfully serve each year. Thank you again for making this program possible. There is no way we could do this without people like you.

Trinity Mobile Unit

The Trinity Health Van Mobile Unit will be at Urban Mission on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 from 9:00 AM—12:00 PM.

Parish Nurse News: Swimming Safety



According to statistics from the CDC, there were 3,482 unintentional drownings in the United States in 2000. 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

other 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
- Use effective barriers around pools, ponds, and other drowning hazards
- Avoid swimming after dark
- Avoid using alcohol or other drugs prior to and during recreational water activities
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (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

Swimming and recreational water activities can be fun, but they can also be dangerous. Additional information about recreational water safety can be obtained by visiting the Centers for Disease website www.cdc.gov. Before you engage in water recreation this summer, take time to learn safe behaviors and practice those behaviors every time that you engage in those activities.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

June 2004

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LABEL

Upcoming Events in June 2004

2	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m.
2	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
5	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
7-8	West Virginia Registration Signups (See Inside)	9-12;1-3
7	Parish Nurse	11:00 a.m.
8	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
12	Mission Rejoice: Mt. Pleasant Friends	6:00 p.m.
14	Parish Nurse	11:00 a.m.
15	Food Packing Day	9:00 a.m.
17	Ohio Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
19	Mission Rejoice: Word of Life Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
21	Parish Nurse	11:00 a.m.
24	West Virginia Food Distribution Board of Directors Meeting	9-12 4:30 p.m.
26	Mission Rejoice: Faith UMC, North Canton, OH	6:00 p.m.
28	Parish Nurse	11:00 a.m.
29	CSFP Senior Food Program	1:00 p.m.
30	Lupus Meeting	6:00 p.m.

Joshua Work Teams

6/6-6/11: Smithville UMC; Smithville, OH
Sacred Heart-Griffin, Springfield, IL

Host Church: Bell Chapel

6/13-6/18: Huron UMC; Huron, OH
Rockport UMC; Akron, OH

Host Church: Starkdale Presbyterian

6/20-25: Johnson Church, Norton, OH

Host Church: First Westminster

6/27-7/2: Faith UMC; North Canton, OH

Host Church: Richmond UMC

Hope Box

Our Needs for Hutton House are:

- Laundry Baskets
- Curtains, Curtain Rods & Hooks
- Good sweepers
- Complete twin beds
- towels/wash cloths
- Dish towels/dish cloths
- Working Electric & Gas stoves
- Working Refrigerators
- Cleaning items
- Mop/Brooms/Dust pans & Buckets
- Personal care items
- Kitchen Table and chairs

