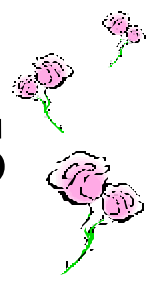




BRIGHT HORIZONS



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

“The Miracle of Transformation”

The prophet Amos wrote powerful words in a poetic manner. My favorite verse is 5:24. *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream.”* (NIV) Connecting social behavior with the power and grace of a river in nature is beautiful. Amos writes many other things that take on forces of nature that can be intimidating and overwhelming. Have you ever stood by the Niagara River as it falls over the cliffs? The noise and power of the water are awesome. Have you ever seen the grace and grandeur of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe? The falls are extensive and require you to walk a path to see all of the falls. Such is the call to justice and righteousness in our land.

Jesus made matters of justice and righteousness fairly easy. We know the words very well. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the widow and orphan. The parables teach us too. The Good Samaritan, The Loving Father or Prodigal Son, The Rich Man and Lazarus show us how to be just and right in our land. Jesus even tells us exactly what to do. Matthew 14:16b says, *“You give them something to eat.”* Now that is as plain and clear a word from the Lord Jesus to his disciples that you will ever hear. In that time, the disciples were unable to fulfill the command of Christ. They depended upon the miracle of Jesus to get the job done. Today, we still depend

upon the miracle of Jesus Christ to feed the crowd. Like the disciples of old, we give, or offer, Jesus what we have. Jesus takes what we have and makes a meal for the whole crowd. Notice how Jesus does not demand of us what we do not have. He only asks for what we have.

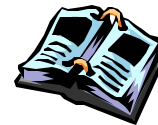
The crowd is bigger in our day. Last year in January, we gave away 530 bags of groceries on distribution day. This January we gave away 703 bags of groceries on distribution day.

The words of Jesus, “You give them something to eat,” are louder than many rivers falling. There is a direct connection to feeding the poor and being a disciple of Jesus Christ. The words are compelling and awesome. The words are a challenge and path that must be followed. Feeding the hungry is not an option, but is a holy calling of all Christians.

I invite you to come to Urban Mission of the third Thursday of every month so that you can witness the miracle of feeding the crowd. Perhaps you would like to come to the Mission Monday through Wednesday of each week and watch the miracle of the Unity Kitchen. Last year, more than 19,000 hot meals were served there. Bring what you have and who you are and watch Jesus transform you and the crowd.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

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Mark your calendar!

April is Minority Health Month!

Kick-off Event:
Friday, April 7, 2006
12:00 Noon

Second Baptist Church
 717 Adams Street
 Steubenville

**“Health Matters:
I’m taking charge!”**

Jelly Beans Needed!



This year’s Easter treat bags will be given to the families at the April 20 food distribution.

We are in need of **700 bags of jelly beans** by **Friday, April 14, 2006**. If you or your church group would like to participate in helping Urban Mission with this project, please contact Linda at 740-282-2911.

Free Money?

Sounds too good to be true, doesn't it. Usually, I run away from people telling me anything too good to be true. But, facts are facts. This year, Urban Mission has a once in a lifetime opportunity to collect free money. You are saying, come on pastor. No way. The offer is simply this, through a challenge grant, Urban Mission can collect two dollars for each dollar donated for this year's annual food drive. That is right. For every dollar donated to Urban Mission, there is a two-dollar match. \$1 becomes \$3. \$100 becomes \$300. \$1,000

becomes \$3,000. \$10,000 becomes \$30,000 and so forth. Our goal is collect \$50,000. That \$50,000 will become \$150,000. When we have raised the money, we will then apply it to the Feinstein Hunger Challenge for funds marked for Hunger during March and April. Therefore, we have a two for one match and then a percentage match that comes from Mr. Feinstein.



*Racing toward the goal...
Eliminating Hunger!*

The need for food is growing. In January of 2005, the Mission distributed 534 bags of groceries. In January of 2006, we distributed 703 bags. In February of 2005, we distributed 597 bags of groceries. In February of 2006, we distributed 702 bags. For the first two months of this year we have distributed 100+ each month over last year. This is a major increase. The Unity Kitchen numbers displays a similar increase in need. In 2004, the Unity Kitchen served 17,000+ hot meals. In 2005, 19,000+ hot meals were served.

As an agency ministering to the poor, our hope is that generous people, like you will have compassion for the hungry and make a donation to Urban Mission. Every dollar you give will be matched by two dollars and then the Feinstein match.

Some things really are a deal too good to be true. We Christians have always known of such things. Is not the gift of God in Jesus Christ really Good News!? We can go a long way toward ending hunger in our valley with this one time opportunity. Will you help the poor, the hungry, and those without shelter? Please consider a donation to feed the poor and help the Mission reach the goal of \$50,000.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

"Volunteers: The Seeds of Our Success"

Friday, April 21, 2006

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Wintersville UMC

702 Main Street

Wintersville, OH 43953



Jesus used many illustrations while teaching. One of the more familiar illustrations is found in the 13th chapter of the book of Matthew. It is the story of a farmer sowing grain in his fields. As he scattered the seed across the ground, some fell beside a path, and the birds came and ate it. Some fell on rocky soil where the seeds sprang up quickly but they withered and died, for they had so little root. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns choked out the tender blades. But some fell on good soil, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as he had planted. And in his usual way, Jesus went on to explain to his disciples the meaning of this story.



After a few versions of explanation, Jesus told them..."All right, I am the farmer who sows the choice seed. The field is the world, and the seed represents the people of the Kingdom: the thistles are the people belonging to Satan." And He went on even further with other explanations of the Kingdom of Heaven.

I have a tiny flowerpot in my office with these words written on it..."He who plants a seed and waits for the harvest believes in God." This certainly pertains to our volunteers. It is their faith in God that allows them to plant those very seeds Jesus talked about in His stories. The field these seeds are planted in is our world, both locally and beyond. And as any good gardener takes care of his bounty, attempts are made to keep the thistles from taking over. So many seeds are planted, and not every one will reach maturity. But, there are those that do. And of course, they will continue to multiply because of the first planting and nurturing they received. Please join us as we celebrate the Harvest of 2005!

Volunteer awards for 2005 will be presented at this year's luncheon. Please RSVP to us by Friday, April 14, 2005 at 740-282-2911. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating a fruitful year of ministry.

-Linda Smith, Program Director

Celebration & Scholarship Dinner

Urban Mission's annual celebration and scholarship dinner was held on Thursday, February 16 at the Rose banquet hall in Steubenville. This was a celebration of a fruitful year at Urban Mission. A portion of the proceeds will also go toward providing four (4) scholarships to area students wishing to further their education.

The theme of the night was "A New City: Loving Transformation". There were two main speakers for the evening. The first was Rev. Doug George of Finley UMC who spoke concerning the need for the educational scholarships in our area. The second speaker was Rev. Toni Hubbard of Urban Mission, who shared poignant stories of the appreciative people who visit the Unity Kitchen for lunch. A PowerPoint presentation was also made showing how together, this community has touched the lives of its most vulnerable citizens by providing food, shelter and other most basic needs.

Urban Mission thanks each of you who supported the dinner either by attending or donating. We also thank those who gave of your time, goods and talents in 2005. We could not have accomplished all of what we did

Annual Shoe Giveaway



Spring is almost here! It's time to start collecting your good used shoes for our annual **shoe giveaway**, set for **May 10, 11 and 12, 2006**. We need shoes for children, women and men. We will also collect handbags and hats. Please be sure shoes are in **good, wearable condition**. Shoes can be dropped off at the Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street, Steubenville by **Friday, May 5, 2006**.

Applications Still Available

Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarship applications are available to any students of any age wishing to pursue higher education.



JOSHUA Home Repair applications are available to area low income homeowners for minor home repairs.

If you would like an application for one of these programs, please stop by Urban Mission or give us a call at 740-282-8010 and one can be mailed to you.

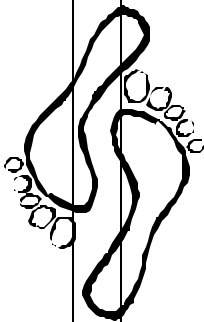
Parish Nurse News: National Foot Health Month

What do you know about keeping your feet healthy? Let's take a few minutes and talk about care of the feet.

How many times do you walk around barefoot? Every time you walk around without protection on your feet, your feet are in danger of being injured by stepping on something. We should all wear foot protection, especially when we are outside.

What type of daily foot care do you perform? Feet should be washed thoroughly every day including between the toes. Feet should be patted dry including between the toes. If the skin on your feet is dry, you should apply lotion. Dry feet are prone to breaks in the skin. You should also inspect your feet daily for any injuries. If you cannot see your feet, ask a family member to inspect your feet. Report any changes in your feet to your doctor or your podiatrist for evaluation and treatment.

What about your toenails? Do you keep your toenails cut? Do you have any problems cutting your toenails? If you have decreased circulation in your legs and feet from diabetes or other health problems, you should have your toenails cut by a podiatrist. If you cut yourself while cutting your toenails, the cut may not heal properly because



of the decreased blood flow to your feet. The area could become infected or other complications could occur.

Do you have problems with your toenails? Consult your doctor or podiatrist for any nail problems including fungal infections or ingrown toenails. Do not try to treat these problems yourself, as you could develop complications. Get professional treatments from a doctor or podiatrist.

Do your shoes fit properly? Improperly fitting shoes can lead to problems with your feet. Make sure that you buy shoes that fit properly and are comfortable. If you have problems with your feet such as bunions or hammer toes, discuss treatment options with your doctor or podiatrist.

We need healthy feet in order to walk, so follow the above recommendations and take care of your feet. If you have any questions about foot care, consult your doctor, your podiatrist, or the parish nurse. They can answer your questions and make recommendations for keeping your feet healthy.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

March 2006
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LABEL

Upcoming Events in March 2006

2	NCDC Meeting (Urban Mission) Greater Steubenville CDC Meeting (Urban Mission)	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
4	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
6	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
7	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
8	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
11	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
13	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
14	Packing for Food Distribution Finance Committee Meeting Lupus Support Group Meeting (Martin Luther King Center)	9:00 AM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
16	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12;1-3
20	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
21	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
23	Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM
25	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
27	Parish Nurse Lupus Support Group Meeting (Trinity East Medical Center)	11:00 AM 6:00 PM
30	Newsletter Folding	9:00 AM