



BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

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Value of Life

She is a broken individual. The history of her breaking is long and sickening. There is no need to go into detail. You have heard the story before. Some mild brain dysfunction, childhood sexual abuse, “dummy classes” at school, left with only one crowd for acceptance . . . drugs, sex, drinking, homeless, poverty, addiction, prostitution, survival and now she does not care what happens. “I don’t care if I live or die.”

Last Mission Rejoice featured the pastor of a three point UM Charge serving Holy Communion. I worked with the kids that evening. We finished before worship. I looked in and saw the broken women on her knees, hands shaking, tears on her face, receiving the Divine Meal. It broke the hearts of all who watched a woman wanting to receive God’s Grace and be changed. She said, “I gotta change. I’m gonna die if I don’t. I need Jesus. I want God. I need help.”

She heard the invitation to the Lord’s Table. She heard the invitation of God to come and so be changed. Transformation will be long, difficult, filled with failure, victory and blessed assurance. She is a living illustration of Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” It is a terrible mistake to think that people caught up in the misery of addiction, prostitution and poverty want to live this lifestyle. They ache and beg for life to be different. I wonder how many times I have thrown cold water on the spiritual embers of longing for a new life by communicating condemnation with the look on my face, the attitude in my actions and inflection in my voice.

It is a terrible mistake for Christians to think we in the church are the ones living out the gospel story of Jesus. The incarnation of the Holy One is a daily experience for those living on the edge of society and the edge of life. They teach us over and over how badly we need God’s grace. Perhaps the reason our society ignores and exploits the poor is that if we look too closely we will see ourselves and feel compelled to help personally. Maybe the reason the ranks of the poor are swelling, with the attendant exploitation is that a close look at the poor will reveal not only ourselves, our brokenness, our sorrow, but also the face of Christ who is so eager to offer us new life. If we see Jesus in one another we will have to make room for all the actions of grace. Giving, loving, serving, and caring will suddenly become top priorities. That means other things will have to go! And we are so reluctant to “let goods and kindred go.” Is our fervor for professional sports ok in the light of poverty? Are the second and third TV and DVD combo ok in the light of human exploitation?

Broken and exploited human beings leads to the simple question, “What is a human being worth? In our world human beings are not worth the cost of health care. People are not worth more than \$5.15 an hour. Retired human beings are not worth health care. Nor are they worth the pensions they have earned. Little people are not worth the schools and education needed to grow and thrive. It appears to me that human beings are not worth much in America. What is a person worth in the eyes of Jesus? What is a human being worth in your eyes?

Thanksgiving Update

Thanksgiving is just a few short weeks away! Registrations have been completed, food ordered, and with your help we will be able to provide all the ingredients for a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for 1,500 families.

Each basket costs \$35 to put together and will be distributed to low income families throughout the Ohio Valley. Your help with this project is greatly needed to achieve our goal of \$52,500. Contributions can be sent to the Mission marked “Thanksgiving”.

As of this printing, we have received **\$24,517**, which is a little less than half of our goal. Thank you for helping us make Thanksgiving special again this year for those in need!

Love, Pastor Bruce

Thanksgiving 2003

THANKSGIVING BAG PACKING

West Virginia:
Tuesday, November 11
Starting at 10:00 AM

Ohio:
Tuesday, November 18
Starting at 10:00 AM

Lunch will be served for volunteers. Please RSVP at 740-282-2911 if planning to help.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

West Virginia:
***Thursday, November 13**
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ohio:
Wednesday, November 19
9:00 AM– 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM
Thursday, November 20
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Correction: The WV Distribution was listed as November 14 in a previous Newsletter. The correct date is*
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003.

LEFTOVERS DAY

Recently I received a calendar showing that November 29th is "Leftovers Day". With so many enjoying the fruits of their labors from November 27, we thought we would ask you for your leftovers the following week. You will have the opportunity to share your leftover food with those who come to our soup kitchen.



This will be a tremendous blessing in many different ways. First of all, it will bless us not to have to purchase the food for that particular meal. Second, it will bless our cooks so that all they would have to do is heat up the food. Third, it will bless the people who will have the pleasure of enjoying your leftovers. And lastly, it will bless you because we know that God says it is more blessed to give than to receive.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with tremendous amounts of food leftover! May God bless you as you think back on all that you have to be thankful for.

-Deborah Schaffer, Associate Director

Christmas at Urban Mission

Operation Christmas Stocking!



Christmas is coming fast and we've already started a list for those who want to participate in **Operation Christmas Stocking!** This project involves filling a Christmas stocking or Holiday gift bag with toiletries for a teen female or male. The stockings will then be presented to teens 13-18 years of age just before Christmas.

Suggested items to include: Soap, toothbrush/paste, deodorant, comb/brush, shampoo, conditioner, cologne/aftershave, talc powder, lipstick/compact, hair spray, hair combs, barrettes, nail polish, cotton balls, Q-tips, jewelry, blank tapes, restaurant gift certificates (McDonalds, Burger King, etc.).

Please have the stockings to Urban Mission on or before **December 5, 2003**. If you have any questions concerning this project, please call Linda at 740-282-2911.

Christmas Kids Program

It's November already and our Christmas Programs are in full swing! Have you signed up to be a part of the **Christmas Kids** Program yet? This provides Christmas gifts for low-income children, ages 12 and under. Very often these gifts from friends like you are the only ones left under the tree at Christmas. If you haven't yet adopted a child, please call Linda at 740-282-2911 and help us with the Program. All gifts should be returned to the Urban Mission by **Monday, December 15**.

Mitten Tree



Once again we will have a **Mitten Tree** that will be filled with all sorts of items such as socks, underwear, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for children and adults. Donations of these items should be brought to the Mission by **December 12**.

Coat Giveaway a Success!

On October 20-22, the Mission held it's Annual Winter Coat Giveaway. Thanks to the generous donations of many Churches, Clubs and individual donors, we were able to provide 1,531 coats to men, women and children of this community. Blankets, shoes and other clothing items were also given to those in need.

A special thanks to a generous donor who gave \$2000 to cover our special needs list and to help us reach our 2003 Thanksgiving goal of \$52,500.

The efforts of the volunteers are also appreciated. Nineteen volunteers provided 140 hours of service during the giveaway. Sorting and organizing the coats would have been impossible without their help. We are truly grateful for the love that both donors and volunteer workers have shown to those in need.

“Ye Gave Me Meat”

During the summer months, the warehouse was blessed with many wonderful donations of fresh cut meat from the Jefferson County Fair. In total, there was 2,019 lbs of meat donated to the Mission. A big “*Thank You*” goes to all of the generous donors from our community that made this possible. We are truly grateful for this donation because it has allowed us to provide meat during our food distribution to children, seniors and other low-income individuals who very often are not able to share in such resources.

The Bible says in Matthew 25:35: “For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink . . .”. Thank you donors for being obedient to God’s Word by providing for your neighbors. Be assured that as you have given unto them, you have given unto Jesus.

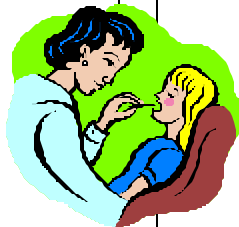
-Ralph Washington, Warehouse Director

Parish Nurse News: Flu Season

This is the time of year when you will be hearing about flu shots. You may see flu shots advertised by the health departments or see that they will be given at a local store. Your doctor may advise you to have a flu shot.

People 65 years or older or those who have chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart or lung disease, health care workers and people who have extended contact with the public should consider getting a flu shot. Flu shots are also recommended for children with some chronic diseases such as asthma. If you are unsure whether you are a candidate for the flu shot, check with your family doctor or the parish nurse.

There are many viruses that cause the flu. Each year the vaccine is made up of the three most common viruses that caused flu during the last season. In order to assure immunity, flu shots must be received every year regardless of whether you had one the previous year. If you have had flu shots in the past with no problems, then it is probably safe to go to one of the community sites. If you have



had reactions to shots before, then you should check with your doctor. If you are allergic to eggs or have had a reaction to the shot, you will probably not be able to receive the shot at a community site, such as at a store or a church. These places do not have emergency equipment available in case you would have a bad reaction to the shot. If there is any question about where to get the shot, then get the shot from your doctor. Your doctor knows your medical history and can treat any potential problems that might occur.

Many people die or have permanent problems following a case of the flu, not from the flu itself, but from complications that develop so getting a flu shot is often a very good idea. It is true that the flu is usually a self-limiting disease, but why take the chance? A flu shot can keep you from getting the disease. Flu season is right around the corner. Flu shots are inexpensive and offered in many locations, so roll up your sleeve and get some protection.

-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN

NOVEMBER 2003

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Upcoming Events in November 2003

1	Mission Rejoice: First Presbyterian, Toronto	6:00 PM
3	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
4	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
5	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
8	Mission Rejoice: Mt. Pleasant Friends	6:00 PM
10	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
11	West Virginia Thanksgiving Bag Packing	10:00 AM
11	Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
13	West Virginia Thanksgiving Food Distribution	9-12
15	Mission Rejoice: Carrolton Baptist Temple	6:00 PM
17	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
18	Ohio Thanksgiving Bag Packing	10:00 AM
19-20	Ohio Thanksgiving Distribution	9-12;1-3
22	Mission Rejoice: Word of Truth	6:00 PM
24	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
27-28	MISSION CLOSED: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
29	No Mission Rejoice	

Hutton House Needs

Our Homeless Shelter is need of your help. We are in the process of completing the renovation work on the 7th street shelters and our apartments are in need of the a few items:

- **Complete Dish Sets**
- **Curtain Sets**
- **Pictures for Children's Rooms**
- **Kitchen Table and Chair Sets**

If you have any items that you can donate to make the shelter feel like "Home", please call Debra at 740-282-8903