



# BRIGHT HORIZONS

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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### 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 **\$18,787**, toward our goal. With your help, we can make Thanksgiving special again this year for those in need!

## "Who Will Meet the Needs?"

Catherine of Siena said this about Christian Prayer and Contemplation, "The secret of Christian contemplation is that it faces us with Jesus Christ toward our suffering world in loving service and just action."

Two elements of this sentence are striking for Christians. Notice how the phrase, "...faces us with Jesus Christ toward..." points out where we stand and with whom we stand. Our place and our companion are clearly defined in prayer. We are faced toward our suffering world. That is the place of Christians in our world. Christian prayer and contemplation leads us to an awareness of suffering in our world and gives us the desire to do something about suffering. The more we find ourselves on our knees in prayer, and the more we spend time in the prayer closet the more we will find ourselves in loving service and just action for the suffering of the world. Prayer leads to service and action. "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" (James 2:15, NRSV) Prayer leads us to provide clothing, food and shelter to those in need.

The second striking feature of this quote from Catherine is the companion who faces the suffering world with us. We do not face suffering on our own. It would easily overwhelm us. We face suffering and work to relieve it because Jesus Christ stands with us. One implication of this phrase is to recognize the unity be-

tween those facing suffering. The song says, "We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord, We are one with each other..." So often our work seems to be something accomplished in isolation. We tend to think and act as lone rangers in the church. A fundamental truth of Christianity is our union with Jesus Christ and our union with other Christians. No one can face the suffering of the world, even our little piece of the world, without being overwhelmed, burned out, put out and put away. Where-ever we go, whatever we do, whatever we say, Christ is present with us.

In addition, all those who stand with Christ facing the suffering of the world also stand with us. We believe in the Communion of the Saints! As it gets colder the needy among us become desperate to get utilities turned on, food becomes a higher priority, and the homeless seek shelter. Any failure to meet the immediate need leads to a crisis. People who are desperate to receive help and people who are desperate to give help find themselves in an emotional confrontation that leaves everyone drained, nerves on edge, and bitterness in the heart. Only when we stand unified in Christ do we have the ability to give love and grace, food and shelter. The heart of who we are and the desire to do what we do is found in prayer and contemplation. Pray. Connect with Christ. Connect with fellow Christians. Stand together to face the suffering, love the suffering and serve the suffering.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

# Thanksgiving 2004

## THANKSGIVING BAG PACKING

West Virginia:

**Tuesday, November 9**  
Starting at 9:00 AM

Ohio:

**Tuesday, November 16**  
Starting at 9:00 AM

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

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

West Virginia:

**Thursday, November 11**  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ohio:

**Wednesday, November 17**  
9:00 AM– 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM  
**Thursday, November 18**  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

# Christmas at Urban Mission

## Operation Christmas Stocking!



The list is now ready to add the names of those who want to participate with this wonderful program. This project involves filling a Christmas stocking (holiday gift bags work wonderfully also!) with toiletries for a teen female or male. The stockings (approximately 200-250) will then be presented to teens 13-18 years of age just before Christmas.

Items that can be included in the stockings are... **soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, comb/brush, shampoo, conditioner, cologne/aftershave, talc powder, lipstick/compact, hair spray, hair combs, barrettes, nail polish, cotton balls, Q-tips, jewelry, blank cassette tapes, restaurant gift certificates (McDonalds, Burger King, etc.).** Please have the stockings back to Urban Mission on or before **December 7, 2004.**

## 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 10, 2004.**

## 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 **Monday, December 10.**

## Santa's Recycle Shop



Each year we have several families who do not make the deadline for getting their children registered in our Christmas Kids Program. In order to help these families have toys for their children, we will have "Santa's Recycle Shop" on **December 21 and 22 from 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 3:00.**

If you have any used toys, games, etc. please consider donating them for this program. We ask that these items be in very good condition (toys in good working order, puzzles without missing pieces, books not colored or written in, etc.). If it is possible for you to help provide items for this program, please deliver them to the warehouse located at 311 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Steubenville, OH by **December 17, 2004.**

We are also in need of volunteers to help during the Christmas Season. If you would like to help or need further information, please give Linda a call at 740-282-2911.

## Thanks for the Coats

Thanks to each of you who supported our coat giveaway. As we prepare this newsletter, the coat distribution is in progress. Thanks to the groups that donated "new coats". You know who you are. Thanks to all the men and women who collected and brought coats in. Each year, you always come through. Thanks so much!

*-Sharon Kirtdoll, Community Developer*

## Lupus Support Group

Lupus Support Group Meeting

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004  
6:00 p.m.*



Trinity Medical Center East  
Conference Room 1

## Blessings at the Warehouse

During the summer months, the warehouse was blessed with many wonderful donations of fresh cut meat. Praise the Lord, our Savior for touching the hearts of the people and businesses of the Ohio Valley. 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. Thanks once again to all of you.

*-The Hunger Ministries Committee*

## Doll Doctor



The doll doctor is busy restoring gently loved dolls to be given to children in need at Christmas. Please drop off dolls that are no longer being used at the Warehouse.

## Parish Nurse News: Spirit of Thanksgiving

We are holistic beings, which means we are made up of body, mind, and spirit. We nourish our bodies and minds on a regular basis, but how often do we nourish our spirits. The Thanksgiving holiday is fast approaching. Let's look at ways to nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits this Thanksgiving.

We nourish our bodies and minds with the traditional celebration of Thanksgiving. We enjoy a large meal with family and friends. We eat comfort foods like pumpkin pie with whipped cream. We watch parades and football games on television or relax and enjoy a conversation with loved ones. All of these activities focus on nourishing the body and the mind. What can we do to nourish the spirit?

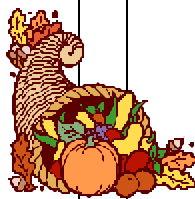
When I was studying history in grade school, I learned that the first Thanksgiving feast was celebrated by the Pilgrims. These people were early immigrants to our country. They suffered many hardships. One year they had a good growing season and harvest. They wanted to thank God for their good fortune so they celebrated with a feast and thanked God for their blessings. What can we do now to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving?

There are many opportunities for us to give thanks for all of our blessings. We can use our time, talents, and treas-

ure to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. Many churches have special services for Thanksgiving, including ecumenical services in which several churches come together to celebrate. There are opportunities to give to those who are less fortunate than us. Many organizations collect food to give to those in need, both at Thanksgiving and other times during the year. Some organizations offer Thanksgiving meals to those in need and you can volunteer to help cook or serve this meal. Finally, donate money to one of these charitable causes for use throughout the year to help those who are less fortunate.

Another way to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving is to thank God through prayer. Before you begin your Thanksgiving dinner, don't forget to say a prayer of Thanksgiving. You can use a standard grace or you can make up your own prayer. We always turn to God when we are in need or have problems, but how many times do we take the time to thank him for all his gifts to us? If you don't normally give thanks before eating, start this tradition at your Thanksgiving dinner this year. Begin this year to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving and continue that celebration throughout the year. Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

*-Michalene A. King, RN, MSED, MSN*



**NOVEMBER 2004**

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**LABEL**

### **Upcoming Events in November 2004**

1	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
2	Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
3	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
6	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
8	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
9	West Virginia Thanksgiving Packing Day Finance Committee Meeting	9:00 AM 6:00 PM
11	WV Thanksgiving Distribution	9-12
13	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
15	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
16	Ohio Thanksgiving Bag Packing	9:00 AM
17	Ohio Thanksgiving Distribution Lupus Support Group Meeting	9-12; 1-3 6:00 PM
18	Ohio Thanksgiving Distribution	9-12
20	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
22	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
25-27	Mission Closed for Thanksgiving	Closed
29	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM

### **Hutton House Needs**

The Christmas Season is coming up and Hutton House is in need of items to help our "Homes" get into the Christmas Spirit. Do you have any old decorations, Christmas trees or other items to share with the Hutton House (in good condition)? If so, please give Debra a call at 740-282-8903 or you may drop items off at the Warehouse, 311 North Sixth Street.

Thank you for helping others share in the spirit of the season.