

Urban Mission

September 2008



Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

Inside this issue:

What Are We About	2
Outstanding Summer Closes	2
Registration/Holiday Schedule	3
Parish Nurse News	3
UMM Calendar	4

Fast Facts:



In 2007, Urban Mission distributed **2,310** winter coats and accessories in just three days.

Annual Coat Giveaway October 20, 21 & 22

We are collecting good used coats for our Annual Coat Giveaway. We are in need of coats of all sizes for men, women and children.

Please bring your coats (in good condition) to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street by October 13, 2008.



Please help us to make this winter a warmer one for our friends and neighbors in need.

The Good News of Jesus Christ

There are many things vying for our attention. The Olympics, the presidential campaigns, a worsening economy, fears of a revived cold war, the general bad news of the major media, health concerns and a wide variety of other issues demand and devour our attention, time and energy. Most times, it is difficult to focus upon the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. When the lens with which we view the world, ourselves and God is distorted, we are blinded to certain realities.

The reality in which we live and thrive is that of a gracious God who acts for our benefit. There is no possibility of God acting in any way that is not good and does not lead to salvation. Christians live in and serve a Risen God who administers mercy and love day by day. Too often we experience life as if God's Providence is nonexistent, or beyond our ability to comprehend. The riches of God are ours, but we act as poor misbegotten orphans.

Prayer is the ability to be consciously in the Presence of God moment by moment. There is no time or place beyond this glorious communion with God. The Bible is a means of prayer and grace that carries us beyond ourselves into the work and joy of God. We can know and experience the grace and work of God through the knowledge and living relationship with God, given in the Scriptures. We have access to the experience of communal worship of God on a regular basis.

We have unprecedented opportunities for good in the world. Knowledge is at our fingertips through reflection, libraries and the Internet. The ability to do good on a global scale exists now, as it never has before. Not only is the Gospel available to us as never before, but also consider the healthcare available. Our healthcare is miraculous. This good news is before us always, yet we tend to listen to the bad news as if that is the defining truth of life.

I confess to being a whiner at times. I confess to being alarmed about the economic future of our nation. I confess to paying too much attention to the sports page. A little time in the Presence of God cures my sin of paying too much attention to the trivial matters of the age. Forgiveness blossoms anew in my heart and mind. My attention is directed to the Great Mystery of Jesus and His love for us. The clouds roll away revealing the bright light of Gods truth. The opportunities God gives for good are then revealed at our feet. Martin Luther teaches us to sing the line, "let goods and kindred go", as a way of embracing God. I wonder if he would teach us to let the nightly news, blogs and newspapers of bad news go. Wesley taught us to be a people of one book. He knew the issue of focusing upon God rather than the trivial and mundane matters of the world. Let the town criers of woe shout and bluster while we build our lives and focus upon the Good News of Jesus Christ.

~Love, Pastor Bruce

What Are We About?

The secret of happiness consists not of having, but of being; not of possessing, but of enjoying. It is a warm glow of the heart at peace with itself...It is the aroma of life, lived in harmony with high ideals. – David O. McKay

In his autobiography “Just As I Am”, Billy Graham writes... “The basic questions of life are ultimately religious in nature.” *Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Is there any meaning to my life?*

Only the God who created us can give us an ultimate answer to these questions. But, as we travel through our lives, asking ourselves these questions helps to answer the question...what are we about?

We begin to try to find out what we are about very early in our lives, practically from birth. A large part of our lives we have parents, grandparents, brothers and/or sisters and other family members working to help create us to what we are about. During our growing years, infants through our teen years, examples set by those closest to us are helping us to understand who we are.

And it doesn't stop there. As we mature from young adults to mature adults, many other factors help us to continue to ask these same questions. But, there is one influence that will always help us to understand what we are about. Just because our God is the only one who can give us the ultimate answer, it does not mean He cannot help us to understand what He wants us to be. If we talk to Him, lean on Him and follow His lead, the clues to the answers to the questions are there.

And so it is with Linda Smith. I knew as a teen God had a special place in my life. And I have trusted Him with my life, my family and the many decisions I have had to make traveling through this life of mine. It was

God who led me to Urban Mission thirteen years ago and what a ride it has been. From starting my very first day with both feet running to where I am today has been so rewarding. The knowledge I have acquired and the people I have met and worked with have made it all so worthwhile.

But, I continue to listen to what God has to say to me and we have made the decision together it is time for me to move on to something else. I have no idea what that ‘something else’ is, but judging from the ride he just took me on, it can only be great.

It is with such gratitude and love that I want to say Thank You to everyone who has crossed my path during my time at Urban Mission. The time I have spent with you has helped me learn to be...What I Am About. God Bless!

~Linda Smith

Editors Note: *It is with both sadness and joy that we bid farewell to Linda. Sadness in that we will miss her presence and spirit. She served with excellence and grace. She undoubtedly has left a permanent mark on each of the programs she's overseen during her 13 years at Urban Mission. Joy that she will be following God's lead as she steps into the next roll that He has for her. Wherever God leads her, we know she will continue to serve Christ and His children with the same passion and love she showed to each person that walked through her office doors at the Mission!*



An Outstanding Summer Closes

As the end of another outstanding summer draws near, we take a moment to reflect on the many activities that took place. On August 9, our **16th Annual Street Carnival** was held. Over 900 children and adults attended the free event. Guests enjoyed games, entertainment, rides and lots of carnival food, including hot dogs, snow cones and a new treat, fried Oreo cookies.

On August 22, our **School Supplies Giveaway** was held. Over 475 bags of supplies complete with paper, pens, folders and more were given away free of charge to area students. This year, generous donors even provided new backpacks for the giveaway. What a blessing!

Our **JOSHUA Work Mission** program was held from May through August. Sixteen groups from Delaware, Illinois, Minnesota, New York and all over Ohio repaired stairways, completed painting and plumbing jobs and built wheelchair ramps for low-income homeowners.

All of these activities took many hours of preparation and work. Thank you to every person who donated time, funds and prayers. Special thanks to our seasonal staff members, Angela Suggs, Carnival Director, Bill Morris, JOSHUA Director and Doug Devor, Adam Shelton and Kathryn Chojnacki (K.C.), JOSHUA Site Supervisors.





Registration and Holiday Schedules

REGISTRATION FOR THANKSGIVING CHRISTMAS KIDS & COAT DIST.

October 20, 21 and 22, 2008
9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

PACKING BAGS FOR THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Beginning at 9:00 AM

THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

Thursday, November 20, 2008

9:00 – 12:00 **only**

CHRISTMAS TOY DISTRIBUTION

December 11 & 12, 2008

9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

The following information is needed for registration:

- A form of identification
- Birth certificate, medical card or social security card for each child in the household.
- You must know the source and the amount of income for anyone in the household having income.
- Written verification of address (utility bill, rent receipt, etc.)

If you know of someone who could benefit from our services, please share this info with them and encourage them to register.

Thanksgiving Challenge



Update!!

We are four months into the Challenge with one more to go! Everyone is doing great so far.

Our September challenge item is:
Vanilla Frosting
(1200 cans).

Parish Nurse News: Foodborne Illnesses



There has been a lot of news lately about another outbreak of an infectious foodborne illness. Let's take a few minutes and review information about foodborne illnesses and the measures to prevent the spread of foodborne illnesses.

Foodborne illnesses can be caused by consuming contaminated foods and beverages. Many of these illnesses are caused by infectious organisms including bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Infectious foodborne illnesses are spread in several ways including through contaminated food, contaminated drinking water and swimming water and from toddler to toddler at day care centers. Some common foodborne infectious organisms include Campylobacter, Salmonella, E. coli 0157:H7 and a group of viruses.

Foodborne infections are linked to certain foods, which include raw meat, poultry and eggs, unpasteurized milk, and raw shellfish. Foods that mingle the products of many individualized animals, such as bulk raw milk, pooled raw eggs, or group beef are particularly hazardous because a pathogen present in one animal may contaminate the whole batch. Fruits and vegetables consumed raw are a particular concern as washing may decrease but not eliminate contamination. Some recent outbreaks have been linked to fresh fruits and vegetables that were processed under less than sanitary conditions.

Consumers can protect themselves from foodborne infections by following these precautions:

☐ Cook meat, poultry, and eggs thoroughly. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160° F and eggs should be cooked until the yolk is firm.

☐ Avoid cross-contaminating foods by washing hands, utensils, and cutting boards after they have been in contact with raw meat or poultry and before they touch another food. Put cooked meat on a clean platter, rather than back on the one that held the raw meat.

☐ Refrigerate leftovers promptly as bacteria can grow quickly at room temperature. Any leftover foods that cannot be eaten within 4 hours must be refrigerated and divide large volumes of food into smaller containers to cool more quickly when refrigerated.

☐ Wash produce, including fresh fruits and vegetables under running water to remove visible dirt and grime. Remove and discard outer leaves of lettuce and cabbage. Be careful not to contaminate fruit and vegetables while slicing them on a cutting board and avoid leaving cut produce at room temperature for many hours.

☐ Wash your hands with soap and water before preparing food and avoid preparing food for others if you have a diarrheal illness. Wash hands thoroughly after changing a baby's diaper, especially before preparing foods.

Report any suspected foodborne illnesses to your local health department and cooperate with any investigation. Foodborne infectious illnesses are caused by different organisms and are spread in several ways. Take the necessary precautions to ensure that you will be safe. You can learn more about foodborne illnesses by visiting the Center for Disease control at www.cdc.gov.

~Michalene A. King, PhD, RN



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

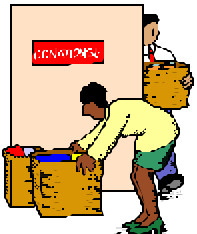


Upcoming Events in September 2008

1	Offices Closed for the Labor Day Holiday	Closed
3	Lupus Education and Support Program: Trinity East Medical Center	6:00 PM
4	Neighborhood Community Development Center Greater Steubenville Community Development Corporation	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
6, 13, 20 & 27	Mission Rejoice (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
8, 15, 22 & 29	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
9	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 6:00 PM
10	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
15	Lupus Education and Support Program: MLK Center	6:00 PM
16	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
18	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
23	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
25	UM Newsletter Folding	9:00 AM
25	UM Board of Directors Meeting	4:30 PM

UNITY KITCHEN NEEDS

- Kitchen Dish Towels
- Kitchen Rags
- Aprons



HUTTON HOUSE NEEDS

- Deodorant