

February 2009



# Bright Horizons



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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### Mission Statement

The Urban Mission is a concrete witness of Jesus by serving the needs of the poor and disadvantaged.

### Goals

- \*Provide ministries and services for people in need that are beyond the usual capabilities and mission of local congregations.
- \*Supplies groceries and meals for all who do not have sufficient or adequate food;
- \*Provides temporary shelter and safe haven in a structured home-like environment for homeless families;
- \*Provides leadership and program development in and for the African American community;
- \*Improves the housing of low-income households;
- \*Makes health care services and information more accessible for the poor;
- \*Provides services, programs or ministries to address other specific physical, spiritual, social or emotional needs of the poor and disadvantaged;
- \*Recruits and enables congregations, judicatories, organizations, groups, businesses, and individuals for voluntary community service.

## A Renewed Sense of Hope

Hope is in the air. A new President helps to heal the historical wrongs of racism and demonstrates to us the possibility of collective change. President Obama is a man who believes in "The Audacity of Hope." Many Americans are hoping Obama can change the hopeless and ignorant state of government. Many are hoping that the economy can be stimulated by President Obama. Others are hoping that a different foreign policy can help the ills of the world. The media seems to be making Obama out to be a savior. People are talking about the trip to Washington as a pilgrimage. There is concern that we are going too far with the hope we are placing in President Obama.

What difference does hope make? *"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your works of faith and labor of love and your steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Thessalonians 1:2

For the people of God, hope is our faith and love in action. Hope is not the idea that something good is coming in the future, and in the meantime we wait in a hopeless existence of evil and death. We have experienced God in a relationship characterized by grace and love. 1 John 1:1 teaches us that we have heard, seen and touched, the living Jesus Christ. He is our hope. The marvelous verse listed above places hope alongside works of faith and labors of love. The reason Christians engage in works of faith and labors of love are due to the hope we have in Christ. We experienced Jesus Christ engaged in works of faith and labors of love. We have experienced that hope, and now live in that hope.

Hope is not simply an idea in our minds. It is not simply informative. Hope is lived. Hope is experienced. Hope is performative. Hope is alive in the hearts of all God's people. Many people are able to change opinions, behavior, and eliminate fear from their lives due to the presence of hope. As we have begun in Christ so let us continue in Christ until all our hope is fulfilled.

I cannot help but reflect upon Rev. Robert Henthorn, Rev. Fred Gaston and Rev. Robert Hutton. These founding directors worked in circumstances far different from today. They were each driven by God to work out the hope they had in Christ by helping those in need. I wonder what they would say about the Urban Mission of 2009. I wonder if they would recognize the hope we have in Christ as the foundation of our ministry. Some might think that fifty years is a long time to hope. It is better to think that because of hope we have served for fifty years and long for the opportunity to serve another fifty years in hope. Such is the living hope we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

One last thought on Christian hope; hope is the source of our joy. It is possible to live in a limited world with a limited capacity to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ because of the hope we already have in Christ. We know that the future is filled with peace, love, joy and new life! Live in hope!

**Love, Pastor Bruce**

## Another Milestone Reached

Milestones, we are all faced with them and most of the time we pass right through them, hopefully without any difficulties. I recently passed through one of those milestones. On January 19, 2009 I celebrated my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was really tested for months with the thought of becoming 60 years old. When I was a little girl, everyone who was 60 was old. I certainly wasn't ready to join that club!



My husband and family surprised me with a wonderful birthday party the Saturday before. I had family members there whom I have not seen for several years. There was also the presence of several classmates, some who have already joined the "60" club. It was an absolutely wonderful evening. Not only did we share the dance floor dancing to that "Old Time Rock and Roll", we had a good time talking about the years we

had shared together.

As I shared the evening with my family and friends I came to a realization. And the next day as I traveled back through the memories of the night before, I was made aware of the realization again. It is not a burden, but a blessing to now be a member of that "60" Club. As long as I can remain healthy and busy, I will take as many more years as possible to add to that number.

This year, Urban Mission is also reaching a milestone. We will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year of service. We started out with a few steel mill workers playing board games at a card table in a back room. We have been so blessed to grow to who we are and what we do today.

In the years I have been privileged to work for Urban Mission I have seen staff members and volunteers come and go. Some I started to work with from the beginning and continue to do so. But most importantly, I have seen the work we do continue to grow. The people we serve have become friends. Together we will share in the passing through this milestone.

We will be planning some activities during the year, so watch for those newsletters and please be sure to read them so you will know what we are up to.

I would just like to say thank you to everyone who has and continues to support the work we do. By the time the next "50<sup>th</sup>" is reached, there will be a new staff in place. The old staff will pass through their own milestones. But I know in my heart, God will continue to bless the work being done here.

As my sister and I were jitter-bugging together on Saturday night, I asked her if she thought we would be doing this when we were 80. She answered 'God willing.' The same is for Urban Mission. Thank you God for those milestones. Just please keep them coming!

**Linda L. Smith, Program Director**

## Applications Available

### **Robert Hutton Memorial Scholarship**

Applications are available beginning February 15 to low-income students **of any age** wanting to pursue **higher education**. Proof of income and letters of acceptance and reference are required in order to be eligible for a scholarship. Other evaluation criteria will include community and church involvement.



For an application, stop by Urban Mission or call us at 740-282-8010 and an application will be mailed to you. **The deadline for applications to be submitted is April 10, 2009.**

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**JOSHUA Home Repair** Applications are available now to area low-income homeowners. Stop in and pick one up or call and one can be mailed to you.

In order to be eligible, you *must* own your home and provide proof of income and ownership. Please be aware that JOSHUA projects are *not* completed on a first come, first served basis, but rather by the abilities of the groups coming and the work that needs to be done. **The deadline for applications is April 1, 2009.**

## Hunger Challenge 09



Many folks have been calling in to ask about when the annual hunger challenge would be beginning. *Good news!* It's just around the corner.

The Hunger Challenge matching funds drive by Rhode Island Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein will begin on March 1. Mr. Feinstein will *proportionately* match donations of **funds** marked for **HUNGER** and donations of **non-perishable food items** from **March 1 thru April 30, 2009 only**.

Mark your calendars and pinch your pennies between now and **March** and help us fight hunger in the Upper Ohio Valley. Watch for additional details of the challenge in our March newsletter.

## ***Hutton House Accepting Vehicles***



**Do you have a used vehicle you would like to donate to Charity?** Hutton House is accepting vehicle donations for our homeless families. By donating a vehicle, you can receive the full "Fair Market Value" tax deduction.

We will provide your vehicle to a family with an adult licensed driver, free of charge. Vehicles will be used by these families to assist them in their transportation needs and help them to continue to work and become self-sufficient, productive members of our community. If you are interested in donating a working vehicle to the Shelter, call Debra at 282-8903.

## ***Mission to Celebrate 50 Years!***

### **A Celebration of 50 Years of Ministry:**

The Annual Dinner & Anniversary Celebration is set for May. Watch the upcoming newsletters for details!



## ***Health Education Program***

The Lupus Support and Education Program has made some changes for the New Year. We will no longer conduct two support group meetings each month. The monthly meeting will be held at the Martin Luther King Center on **February 16, 2009 at 6:00 PM.**



Other meetings will be scheduled with Lupus patients at their convenience in order to provide support and education to our target population. Community education programs will be scheduled in the months of April and October.

The number of young women who have been diagnosed with Lupus is alarming. Our goal is to provide education and support to them throughout the month with new outreach workers. If you know someone in our area who has Lupus, please call me at 740-282-8010 and we will contact him or her. Funding for this program is provided by Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

***Sharon Kirtdoll, Project Director***

## ***Parish Nurse News: Child Passenger Safety***

**February is National Child Passenger Safety Month.** During this month we need to remind ourselves that our children must be safe whenever they are passengers in any motor vehicles. States have laws about child passenger safety which include the use of car seats.

The first time that a child needs to be in a car seat is when he/she leaves the hospital after birth. No child is ever safe riding in the arms of an adult. Expectant parents should make sure that they have a car seat designed for a newborn baby on the day that they are taking their child home. Expectant parents can check with the hospital prior to the child's birth to see if there is a rental program for car seats or to see where an appropriate car seat can be rented or purchased. A good time to ask these questions is during prenatal birthing classes.

As a child grows, a new car seat will need to be purchased. Make sure that the car seat is appropriate for the child's weight and developmental level. Never



put a young child in a car seat in the front seat, especially a front seat that is equipped with an airbag. If the airbag inflates, the child can be injured or killed. Children are safest riding in their car seats in the back seat.

Throughout the years there have been changes in the rules that govern car seat use for children. It is important for parents and grandparents to know the latest rules. In Ohio the Ohio State Highway Patrol offers inspections of car seats. When you get your car seat inspected, ask the Trooper if there are any changes in the law, so that you will be compliant with the law and your child(ren) will be safe.

Remember to set a good example by always wearing your seat belt. Make sure that when your child rides with other adults that they use the proper safety measures as well. We need to protect our precious children at all times.

***Michalene A. King, PhD, RN***



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Upcoming Events in February 2009**

2	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
3	God's Pantry Hunger Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
4	Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
5	Neighborhood Community Development Center Meeting Greater Steubenville Community Development Corp. Meeting	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
7	Mission Rejoice Service	6:00 PM
9	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
10	UM Finance Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
14	Mission Rejoice Service	6:00 PM
16	Parish Nurse Lupus Support Group Meeting	11:00 AM 6:00 PM
17	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
19	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3
21	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
23	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
24	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
26	UM Newsletter Folding UM Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM 4:30 PM
28	Mission Rejoice Service	6:00 PM

**Coming next issue:**



*Look for our **Ministry Report for 2008** to see how your efforts and prayers have made a difference in the lives of those in need within our community.*