



# Bright Horizons

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

URBAN MISSION MINISTRIES, INC.

June 2009



## The Love and Grace of God

If you listen to the pundits, commentators and philosophers plying their trade on the various forms of media, you will soon become anxious and convinced that life is not good. If you continue listening long enough you will be presented with the solution for the world's problems. Some of the key devices used to convince people that all is not well are the appeal to "things are not what they used to be," "if we don't do something now, we will never get another chance," "conspiracy theories," and of course the tried and true, "blame game." An inordinate amount of time and energy is being spent on these kinds of rhetoric. Too much anxiety is produced by this kind of communication. Very little education takes place founded upon this kind of communication. Ultimately, we pay the price with misguided actions that do not help any one.

The contrast to this situation is genuine conversation that describes difficulties, solutions and hope. In the realm of Christianity it is too easy for us to give up our center of gravity, which is God's grace revealed in the Living Christ. For us, things that are temporal, transient and not worth our time, pull us away from the Living Lord Jesus Christ. This does not mean that we ignore the plight of the world. In fact, our intense focus upon God is what leads us to take action in the world. Food, clothing, shelter and health care are basic needs that ought to be on every Christian's mind and heart. One cannot be loved by God and held tenderly in the hands of God and then ignore the plight of the children and senior citizens of our nation. Political parties do not compel us to act. Education and philosophy do not compel us to act. Pity and sympathy sometimes compel us to act, but not in a sustained manner. Christians are compelled to act by focusing upon the actions of Jesus Christ found in the scriptures, and because we are held firmly in God's love and grace.

People are experiencing an inordinate amount of anxiety and stress over the financial condition of the nation. The Urban Mission is facing that financial stress. Greater need and higher costs make it difficult. Fortunately, our position of being held in the love and grace of God has not changed. That makes all the difference in the world. We will give and serve without pause, because we are continually being loved and graced by God. It is a matter of faith, hope and love. Good stewardship and careful management is not excused by our center of gravity. We will work hard to raise the money to sustain the support we offer the poor. We have cut costs and will cut more costs. What we will not do is allow the current challenges to distract us from our position of being held in the hands of God.

And so, we find ourselves in the position of wealth and abundance. There is love and grace enough for the entire creation. There is no lack of resources forcing us to cut back on love and grace. The market is full to overflowing with the goodness of God. There is a security and sense of wholeness that goes far beyond the financial world that so vexes our lives. There is a well of joy that cannot be exhausted by all the blather of all the pundits in the world. There is a sense of hope that allows us to sing about heaven where gold is only good for paving streets, where the trap and lure of wealth is dispelled, and the people are made new in the love, grace and mercy of God. In fact, the treasure of our lives is that God is already making us new in Christ.

~Love, Pastor Bruce

### Inside this issue:

God's Pantry Food Registration	2
Hutton Memorial Scholarships Awarded	2
Parish Nurse News: Eye Safety	3
UMM Calendar of Events	4

### 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.

## Thanksgiving Challenge Time!

Believe it or not, we have already started planning for Thanksgiving! Starting this month and continuing through October, we will be doing the annual Thanksgiving Challenge. For anyone who is not familiar with this fun program, here is how it works:

Each month a different product is going to be asked for. These items will be part of the bag our families will receive at the November food distribution.

This can be a fun project for churches, groups, businesses and families. You can issue a challenge among yourselves while helping Urban Mission collect the needed items.

*The schedule for the items needed is as follows:*

**June:** Chicken Noodle Soup (2,400 cans needed)

**July:** Cranberry Sauce (1,200 cans)

**August:** Sweet Potatoes 18-20 oz can (1,200 cans)

**September:** Vanilla Frosting (1,200 cans)

**October:** Yellow Cake Mix (1,200 boxes)

If you have any questions about this project or want to participate, please give Linda a call at 282-2911.

## JOSHUA Work Projects Underway

Our first JOSHUA Team has just arrived! We welcome them and the following groups back to Steubenville and look forward to seeing what they will accomplish through the help of God.



### June 1-June 5, 2009

Sacred Heart Griffin, Springfield, IL

### June 7-June 12, 2009

Christ UMC, Ahsland, OH

### June 21-26, 2009

Lakewood UMC, Lakewood, OH

### June 28, 2009-July 3, 2009

St. John's Lutheran, Sydney, OH

We still have a few groups in need of a Host Church. The open dates are:

**June 8 & 11**

**June 29 & July 2**

**August 3 & 6**

If your Church would like to host one of the Work Teams, please call Bill Morris at 740-282-8010.

*(Note: The dates listed are the Monday breakfast dates and the Thursday dinner dates.)*

## God's Pantry Food Registration

### June 22, 23 & 24, 2009

In an effort to make it easier for both Urban Mission AND the families we serve, we are changing the date for the registration process. **This registration will ONLY be for the food program.** We will continue to do the registration for our Christmas Programs in October.

**The following information MUST be presented to register:**

- A form of identification
- 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.)

**All Registrations will take place at:**  
**Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church**  
**708 North 5th Street, Steubenville**

I will be putting together the schedule of workers and welcome all who would like to help. If you have any questions or would like to help, please call me as soon as possible at 740-282-2911.

*-Linda L. Smith, Program Director*

## 50th Anniversary and Scholarship Award Dinner a Success

On Thursday, May 14, 2009 our 50th Anniversary and Scholarship Award Dinner was held at Froelich's Classic Corner in Steubenville. The evening was opened with a welcome from our Executive Director, Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, followed by a delicious dinner.

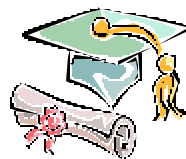
The theme for the evening was, "*Celebrating our past, focusing on our future*". As a celebration of the past, a dear friend of the Mission, former Associate and Acting Director, Joan Wood, spoke upon the history of Urban Mission. She also reflected on life-changing moments during her time with the Mission.

As a celebration of our present, four \$750 Scholarships were awarded to area students to assist them in furthering their education (see pg. 3).

Closing out the night's events was a glimpse into the future represented by the children residing in the Hutton House Homeless Shelter. Their story was told through pictures and stories in their own words read by Jennifer Vickers, Development/Outreach Director.

Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee, Cathie Caranda and all those who contributed and attended and made the celebration a success!

## Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarships Awarded



Recently the Scholarship Committee met and reviewed over twenty applications for the Robert E. Hutton Memorial Scholarship. We received many wonderful applications from hardworking students. Four of them were chosen to receive a scholarship in the amount of \$750 each to assist them in furthering their education. The awardees were:

**Chad Butler:** A 2009 graduate of Weir High School with a 3.71 GPA will be attending Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. His field of study will be Pharmacy.

**Kirbie Gray:** A 2009 graduate of Steubenville High School with a 3.48 GPA will be attending The University of Akron in Akron, OH. Her field of study will be Pre-Law.

**Catherine Pendergrast:** A 2009 graduate of Steubenville High School with a 3.41 GPA will be attending The University of Akron, in Akron, OH. Her field of study will be Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy.

**Shari Thomas:** A 2009 graduate of Steubenville High School with a 4.0 GPA will be attending The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Her field of study will be Business Management/Pre-Law.

Congratulations to these wonderful students for their accomplishments. We look forward to hearing wonderful things about them in the future.

## Annual Street Carnival in the Works

**Saturday, August 15, 2009**  
12:00-4:00 p.m.

**Urban Mission Parking Lot**

The 17th Annual Street Carnival is coming up soon. We are looking for individuals, churches and groups that would like to assist with games, prizes, volunteering, cleanup and more.

The Carnival will be held on the streets in front of the Mission and surrounding parking lots. This is a great time for the community. Hundreds of children and adults will attend this free event.

If you, your Church or group would like to help, please call the Mission at 740-282-8010.

## Parish Nurse News: Eye Safety Awareness

God gave us the gift of sight, so that we could see all the beauty in the world. We need to take every precaution available to protect this precious gift. June is "Eye Safety Awareness Month", so let's review some ways to protect our eyes.



works, make sure that the fireworks are properly discharged. It is also a good idea to wear eye protection if you are going to be close to the area in which the fireworks are discharged, as flying debris can be discharged from the fireworks.

At home there are two main causes of eye injuries. The first cause is flying particles, and the second cause is contact with chemicals.

Lawn mowers, weed whackers, and many types of saws and drills can produce flying particles. Small pieces of wood or other debris can fly into a person's eye. Many of these accidents happen so fast that the person does not even realize that there was a safety problem until the accident has already happened. That is why it is so important to wear protective eyewear whenever you are using any of these kinds of machines.

As summer approaches, we also need to think about potential eye injuries from recreational events. If you play sports, check to see if protective eyewear is recommended. If you are planning to be around fire-

Chemicals can also damage the eyes. We purchase many chemical compounds for cleaning and other purposes. If you use any chemical compounds, read the instruction label carefully. You may need to use this product in a well-ventilated area or you may need to wear protective eyewear when using this product. Remember that caustic substances splashed in the eyes can cause permanent eye damage and loss of sight.

If you sustain an eye injury, seek emergency treatment immediately. Call 911 or go straight to the emergency room. The health care professionals will know what to do for your injury. Do not try to treat yourself as this may lead to permanent damage. Remember to protect your eyes and your precious gift of sight.

*~Michalene A. King, PhD, RN*



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**Upcoming Events in June 2009**

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Parish Nurse (Monday's)	11:00 AM
2	God's Pantry Hunger Committee	10:00 AM
3	NO Program/Evaluation Committee	No meeting
4	Neighborhood Community Development Center Mtg. Greater Steubenville Community Dev. Corp. Mtg.	4:00 PM 5:00 PM
6, 13, 20 & 27	Mission Rejoice Service (Saturday's)	6:00 PM
9	Finance Committee	6:00 PM
16	Packing for Food Distribution	9:00 AM
17, 18 & 19	God's Pantry Food Distribution	9-12; 1-3 Daily
22, 23 & 24	God's Pantry Food Registration at Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church, 708 N. 5th Street	9-12; 1-3 Daily
25	UM Newsletter Folding No Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 AM
	Unity Kitchen: Open Monday through Wednesday	12:00-1:00 p.m.

**Hutton House Needs**

- ⇒ Mops
- ⇒ Brooms
- ⇒ Kitchen garbage cans
- ⇒ Dust pans
- ⇒ Buckets
- ⇒ Cleaning supplies

There will be no **Program/Evaluation** Committee Meetings for months of **June** and **July**.

There will be no **Board of Directors** meeting in **June**.

