

# Bright Horizons

## *Celebrating Messiah*

*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

Rev. Ashley A. Steele, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

December 2011

**A Newsletter Ministry of Urban Mission**

## *Stone Soup*

**Merry  
Christmas from  
our family to  
yours!**

Rev. Ashley

Angie

Bud

Debra

Donna

Kevin

Kitty

Linda

Lisa

Jane

Nate

Patti

Ron

Ricco

Sharon

Susan

Rev. Toni

Virginia

...and a host  
of volunteers!

*Look for Urban  
Mission in the  
Steubenville  
Christmas parade  
on Saturday,  
December 10!*

Have you tried Stone Soup? It's a simple soup, made with potatoes, onions, carrots, a little beef... and a stone. Yes, a stone.

If you've ever read the book, "Stone Soup" it's a beautiful story about a stranger who rides into a small village looking for some help. He is hungry, without shelter, hoping someone would help him in his time of need. At first, the villagers are wary of this stranger. They too had come across hard times, and were not eager to give of their own resources.

But then the stranger had an idea! He would take a stone, plucked from the road he travelled, and place it in a pot with water. He would tell the villagers he was making "stone soup" – a soup that would feed the entire village for days and bring the community together.

At first the villagers didn't believe him, but their intrigue prompted their response. All at once, a young mother brought him a bushel of carrots, a farmer wrestled up a bag of potatoes, a few young children brought him some spices, and an older gentleman brought him some beef.

Soon the smell of soup filled the village and the feast had begun! In fact, the feast turned into a party as people brought their fiddles and played into the early morning hours.

The next day, as the stranger made his way out of town, he was stopped by a young child, "Wait, Sir! You forgot to take your magic stone!" The stranger smiled and said, "You keep it, but the real magic is in your sharing and caring for each other."

Stone Soup is a fictitious story, but here at the Mission, we experience this type of caring and sharing every day. Although times may be tough, and hope may be hard to find, because of our volunteers, our investors, and our community, we find renewed hope, experience richer community, and develop a deeper sense of purpose to continue the ministries of Jesus in the Ohio Valley each day.

Whether you contributed, "carrots, potatoes, spices, or beef" this season, thank you! You'll be happy to learn our Thanksgiving campaign raised \$20,000 more this year in donations as a result of your generosity!

May God bless you this Christmas season as you worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~Rev. Ashley Steele



*"To Listen With Compassion; To Serve With Love"*

## **Christmas Distributions**

**December 8 & 9, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. – Noon & 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Urban Mission Main Office  
301 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Steubenville, OH 43952**

**Distribution of:** ✂ Christmas Kid's Gifts  
✂ Teen Stockings  
✂ Mitten Tree Items  
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**December 20 & 21, 2011**

**9:00 a.m. – Noon & 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Warehouse Ministry Center  
311 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Steubenville, OH 43952**

**Distribution of:** ✂ Santa's Recycle Shop Items

## **Christmas Programs**

### **Mitten Tree**



Our Annual Mitten Tree is up in the office! We have already begun "decorating" the tree with hats, gloves, mittens, etc. Items accepted for this project are gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and mittens (new items only please). Parents will be able to choose items from the tree for their children when they pick up the Christmas gifts. We are in need of lots and lots of these items to take care of all of our families. Please have all donations back to the Mission by *Monday, December 5, 2011.*

### **Operation Teen Stockings**



Several stockings have already been delivered for the many teens ages 13-18 who will be receiving a stocking filled with goodies. We are still in need of stockings for both males and females. Please fill stockings or gift bags (works well because bottles, etc. will stand better) with personal toiletry items for teen girls and boys. Items may include: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste/brush, lotion, body wash, aftershave, hairbrush, comb, gum, candy, razors or anything you think a teen would like. Please have all donations to the Mission by *Monday, December 5, 2011.*

### **Santa's Recycle Shop**

This program is for parents who do not have their children registered with any agency. Donations of gently used and new toys are accepted for this program. Ask your children and grandchildren to clean out their toy boxes and share with boys and girls who might not have Christmas presents. And if you are shopping for your family, you could pick up one or two extra toys to donate for this program. Please have items to the Mission by *Monday, December 12, 2011.*

## **The Interview with God**

I dreamed I had an interview with God... "So, would you like to interview me?" God asked. "If you have the time," I said. God smiled. "My time is eternity, what questions do you have in mind for me?" "What surprises you most about mankind?"

God answered... "That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up and then long to be children again." "That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health." "That they think anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present, nor the future." "That they live as if they will never die, and die as though they had never lived."

God's hand took mine and we were silent for awhile. And then I asked... "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?" "To learn you cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved." "To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others." "To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness." "To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them." "To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is one who needs the least." "To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings." "To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently." "To learn that it is not enough that they forgive on another, but they must also forgive themselves."

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know?" God smiled and said... "Just know that I am here, ALWAYS".

For everyone who offered a helping hand during 2011, on behalf of myself and the staff of Urban Mission, a very heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to each of you. And to my very special friend, Val, thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing this beautiful reading.

May each of you be blessed with a Happy and Healthy New Year!

~Linda L. Smith, Program Director

## **Urban Mission Christmas Ornament**

The Urban Mission *limited edition* Christmas ornaments are in! A beautiful picture of the Mission in rich burgundy is imprinted on a glossy gold ornament. The cost is \$5 and each ornament comes individually boxed and ready for giving. Share a special gift with a loved one and help the Mission at the same time. Stop by and purchase your ornament today before they're gone!

## Parish Nurse News: Safe Gifts and Toys

December is "Safe Gifts and Toys" month. Many of us will be purchasing gifts for our family, friends and to give to charitable organizations. Let's take a few minutes to review toy and gift safety tips.



When purchasing a toy, always check the package of the toy that you wish to purchase. Toy manufacturers are required to list the safe age ranges on the packages. The toys have been inspected and must meet guidelines which include the size of the parts and the ease at which parts can be removed. Toys that are made for infants and toddlers must not have small pieces that are easy to remove. Children place many things into their mouths and can swallow or aspirate a toy part that has been removed. It is not advisable to give toys with batteries to children who may remove and swallow them, as swallowed batteries can be deadly. This is why it is so important for you to check the age limits on the toy packages.

In addition to checking the package, check the toy if at all possible. Even though a toy has been approved for a certain age, it may not be appropriate for a particular child. Play with the toy and judge the safety and suitability of the toy for the child. You may discover something about the toy that makes it inappropriate for the child. Unfortunately we often hear news stories about children who were injured or killed while playing with a toy that was considered to be age appropriate. Remember to think safety first.

It seems that every year there are favorite toys that many children want. If your child expresses an interest in a certain toy, shop early or shop online for that toy. Unfortunately there have been incidents in which people have been injured while trying to buy a particular toy. Remember to be courteous when you go shopping, because the person next to you may not be a very nice person and you do not want to have any problems. Remember to think personal safety when shopping. Watch the news for reports about toys and other children's items that may be recalled for safety reasons. If you have any of these items, follow the instructions for returning the items and receiving a substitute or reimbursement.

When buying gifts for members of a household, remember to consider the ages of all persons in the home. Refrain from buying gifts that might injure a child, such as items that have a flame or become hot. Young children may be attracted to these items and suffer burns when touching them. Remember to think safety when you are out shopping for gifts and toys. Have a safe and happy Christmas season.

~Michalene A. King, PhD, RN, CNE

The Parish Nurse on duty on Monday's is Barbara Cameron, RN. Our Tuesday Nurse is Barbara Fisher, RN. Barbara is a diabetes education specialist. The Parish Nurses are in the office from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



## Healthy Bingo

Wednesday, December 7, 2011  
1:00 p.m.



Urban Mission Unity Kitchen  
301 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Steubenville

(Sponsored by Women In Action Against Cancer)

## Calendar Open for Host Churches

The Calendar is opening for those wishing to serve as a Host Church for our Saturday evening Mission Rejoice Services in 2012. We invite singing groups, Sunday School classes, UMW's and groups of all kinds to serve as a Host Church.

Mission Rejoice is held from 6-8 PM in our beautiful Sanctuary. Churches/Groups can provide the meal and preaching or one or the other. To schedule your night of ministry, call Rev. Toni at 740-282-8010.

## Hutton House Receives Special Thanks

As 2011 draws to a close, we are thankful for the many ways you have helped the Hutton House Homeless Shelter serve areas families experiencing homelessness. We would like to share a portion of a thank you letter the Shelter received.

Dear Ms. Debra,

*I'm writing to tell you thank you! I can't begin to tell you how much your guidance at the Hutton House has helped me in the last three months. I don't know where we would be if it wasn't for you. ...The respect I have for what you do, could reach past the heavens and back to the playground in your backyard.*

*Even though I moved out I will always consider the Hutton House my first home in Steubenville. You made it so comfortable but still made sure I stayed on the right track. You help calm my nerves before my interview and walk me through the steps of getting public assistance. You even gave me tips to buying a used car ...As for my college course you convinced me to continue. I have not received lower than a B on any assignment. With me already having kids I didn't think I could be taught anything else, but you proved me wrong. You taught me in this world of evil there are still people with hearts of gold. I wouldn't give up the chance of meeting you and your wonderful daughter, for all the money in the world. Even having that stamp "homeless" over me, I will do it all over in a heartbeat. I want to thank you for being more than just the lady who let me live in her building. I want to thank you for being a friend!!*

Love, Ashownta B. and Family

## Candlelight Service



Join us on **Saturday, December 17, 2011** for our **Candlelight Mission Rejoice Service at 6:00 p.m.** This will be a night of singing and rejoicing as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.  
 301 North 5th Street  
 Steubenville, OH 43952

Phone: 740-282-8010  
 Fax: 740-282-8514

Email: mail@urbanmission.org

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
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 Permit No. 103

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

LABEL

*December 2011*

**What's Happening in December 2011?**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 UM Newsletter Folding 9:00 a.m. UM Board of Directors Mtg. 4:30 p.m.	2 UM Staff Christmas Party 12 Noon	3 Mission Rejoice 6:00 p.m.
4	5 Free Haircuts Parish Nurse 11 a.m. Lupus Meeting- Hampton Inn 6 p.m.	6	7 Healthy Bingo 1:00 p.m.	8 Christmas Kid's Distribution 9:00 a.m.-Noon 1:00-3:00 p.m.	9 Christmas Kid's Distribution 9:00 a.m.-Noon 1:00-3:00 p.m.	10 Christmas Parade 12 Noon Mission Rejoice 6:00 p.m.
11	12 Parish Nurse 11:00 a.m.	13 Packing for Food Distribution 9:00 a.m.	14 Food Distribution 9:00 a.m.-Noon 1:00-3:00 p.m.	15 Food Distribution 9:00 a.m.-Noon 1:00-3:00 p.m.	16 Food Distribution 9:00 a.m.-Noon 1:00-3:00 p.m. Lupus Outing-7 p.m.	17 Candlelight Mission Rejoice Service 6:00 p.m.
18	19 Parish Nurse 11 a.m.	20 Santa's Recycle Shop 9-12; 1-3 CSFP Senior Food Distribution 1:00 p.m.	21 Santa's Recycle Shop 9-12; 1-3	22	23 <b>Offices Closed for Holiday Vacation</b>	24 <b>Offices Closed</b>
25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 	26 <b>Offices Closed</b>	27 <b>Offices Closed</b>	28 <b>Offices Closed</b>	29 <b>Offices Closed</b>	30 <b>Offices Closed</b>	31 <b>(No Mission Rejoice on December 24 or 31.)</b>



To allow our staff to spend time with their loved ones for the Holiday season, the Mission will be **closed December 23, 2011-January 2, 2012.**

**Items Needed at the Mission**

- 2012 Calendars
- Aprons
- Dish Towels
- Plastic Bags
- Pot Holders