

# Bright Horizons

Newsletter Ministry of the Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.

Rev. Ashley A. Steele, Executive Director    Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

## Shopping For a Different Kind of Gift

*“When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things – not the great occasions – give off the greatest glow of happiness.” – Bob Hope*

When I was a little girl, one of my favorite memories of Christmas was waking up early...very early... on Christmas morning to see what presents were left under the tree. The routine was always the same. My brother and I would wait together at the top of the stairs until we heard my mother's voice telling us to come down. My dad would have our large video camera rolling, its light almost blinding us. Once downstairs we were surrounded by what felt like a sea of presents. The ripping of wrapping paper ensued. Surprises and smiles all around!

In recent years, although my brother and I still come home for Christmas, things are slightly different. No longer do we wake up as early on Christmas morning as we once did. We don't (or can't) run as fast as we once did down the stairs, and the antiquated video camera my dad once used has now been replaced by a small cell phone camera. Yes, there are presents, but the best gifts we now receive are the **gift of time** spent with our parents, our significant others, and now a new baby, the **gift of simple pleasures** such as watching my favorite Christmas movies while sipping hot chocolate and eating homemade cookies, and the **gift of renewed faith** by attending a Christmas Eve service to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

While you're out shopping this Christmas season, I encourage you to "shop" for gifts that have been missing from your holidays these past few years.

Perhaps it's the gift of fun – a holiday filled with laughter,  
Or the gift of peace – making amends with a loved one,  
Or the gift of silence – turning off the television, or cell phone, or computer to reflect upon the gifts and blessings of family and friendships,  
Or the gift of simplicity – refusing to accept the commercialism of the season,  
Or the gift of giving back - of volunteering your time or donating to your favorite charity. (We have lots of opportunities!)

Most importantly, the gift of hope – as we are reminded in Luke 2:9-14, *“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

Merry Christmas from all of us at the Urban Mission!

Blessings,

*Rev. Ashley*

### Monthly Ministry Highlights

- 939 families received food from our grocery distribution (2,288 individuals)  
*63,336 lbs. of food distributed*
- 177 bags of emergency grocery assistance  
*3,540 lbs. of food distributed*
- 200 senior food boxes through the Senior Food Program  
*6,600 lbs. of food distributed*
- 2,790 hot Meals served at our Unity Kitchen  
*15 days of operation*
- 24 free haircuts
- 70 health visits to our Parish Nurse
- 25 individuals received a free eye exam and glasses (*through a partnership with Prevent Blindness Ohio*)

(October 2012)



**The Mission will be closed  
December 24-January 1  
to allow our staff to spend  
time with their families  
for the Holidays.**

**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year from our  
family to yours!**

## Turning our Thoughts Toward Christmas

Thanksgiving is now complete. We provided 1,118 bags of food to the 963 families who made the registration deadline during the three days of the registration (November Distribution). Of course, there are the families who did not make the deadline and the first 50 of those families were referred to Samaritan House where they were provided assistance for their holiday meal. And as I am writing this article, we have helped an additional 83 families with emergency food. It has indeed been a very busy time at the Mission!



Thank you to all those who donated items for the Thanksgiving Challenge and/or donated funds to help provide the baskets. We were able to meet our goal and because of your assistance, no family was turned away from receiving help for the holiday.

And now, the staff and I turn our thoughts and actions to the month of December and the hustle and bustle that will be coming right at us for Christmas. Not only does it require teamwork, it requires each staff member to put on an armor of patience as we travel through this month together.

As I write this article, I still have 64 children to get adopted. We still have teen stockings, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens to come in. And I know in my heart every child and/or teen will be provided for. And our December food distribution will be as busy as the one we just provided.

One of my favorite Christmas carols is titled "I Wonder As I Wander". I first heard it several years ago on a local morning radio program and would call every morning to request playing it again. The song opens and closes with the same words. It is lines two and three that move me still to this day. They read... "How Jesus the Savior did come for to die...For poor on'ry people like you and like I".

Am I a poor, ordinary person? Perhaps there are times when I am. There certainly are many levels of being poor. And the song reminds us that we all are at some time or another, a poor, ordinary person. And as we work through our hustle and bustle at Urban Mission, I would like to offer all of you the following gift suggestions as you are giving to others...

*Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness.*

*To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. ~Oren Arnold*

I hope everyone is blessed with an absolutely wonderful Christmas Season!



"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests". -Luke 2:9-14

## Mission Christmas 2012

The trees are up, the offices have been decorated and the holiday spirit is in the air at the Mission. We are making preparations for the hundreds of parents and children that will walk through our doors this holiday season. We are still in need of holiday help to take care of these families. Below are holiday programs you can choose to help with.

### Christmas Kid's Adopt a Child

Adopt one child, two children or even a family and help provide Christmas presents for them. **As of this printing, we still have 64 children to be adopted. We need your help!!!** Please call Linda at 740-282-2911 if you are willing to help.



### Mitten Tree

The Mitten tree is up! We need your help to "decorate" the tree with mittens and gloves, scarves, hats and socks. Parents will be able to choose items from the tree for their children when they pick up the Christmas gifts. Please bring the items (new only please) to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street by Tuesday, December 4, 2012.

### Operation Teen Stocking

Stockings or gift bags (works better because items will stand) are filled with personal toiletry items for teen girls and boys. Other items can include brush and comb, gum, candy, razors, makeup, perfume, jewelry, cologne, gift certificates for fast food restaurants or anything else you think a teen would enjoy. Please bring donations to the Mission at 301 North 5th Street by Tuesday, December 4, 2012.



### 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 used 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. Please have items to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street by Monday, December 10, 2012.

### Hutton House Christmas

The Hutton House Emergency Shelter for families is in need of help for Christmas. For many of the homeless families residing in the Shelter, Christmas becomes a very trying time. Consider adopting a family or providing small gifts for under the tree. If you are interested in helping a family, please call Debra at 740-282-8903.



### Urban Mission Collectible Ornament

The second edition of our Christmas ornament has arrived! The 2012 limited edition bulb features a beautiful silver engraving of the Warehouse Ministry Center on a glossy blue ornament. The cost is \$5 and ornaments come individually boxed and ready for giving.

Give this special gift from the heart to a loved one this Christmas. Call us at 740-282-8010 or stop by and purchase your collectible holiday ornament today!

## *Holiday Distributions and Special Dates*



### **Thursday & Friday, December 6 & 7, 2012**

**Christmas Kids Gifts  
Teen Stockings  
Mitten Tree**

Urban Mission Church, 301 North 5th Street  
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

### **Saturday, December 8, 2012**

#### **Steubenville Christmas Parade**

Downtown Steubenville  
12 Noon  
Look for the Mission Float!



### **Wednesday, - Friday, December 12 -14, 2012**

#### **December Food Distribution**

UM Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street  
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00

### **Tuesday & Wednesday, December 18 & 19, 2012**

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

9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00  
UM Warehouse, 311 North 6th Street



### **Saturday, December 22, 2012**

#### **Mission Rejoice Candlelight Service**

UM Church, 301 North 5th Street  
6:00 p.m.  
(All are welcome to attend!)

## *Christmas Bingo Party*

### **Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

1:00 p.m.



**Quinn AME Church  
515 North Street**

**Steubenville, OH 43952**

*(right across from the Mission Parking lot)*

**Event sponsored by Women In Action Against Cancer**

*Free and  
Open to all!*

## *2013 Mission Rejoice Calendar Open*

The Calendar is open for Churches wishing to serve as Host Churches for our Saturday evening Mission Rejoice Services. Mission Rejoice is held each Saturday from 6-8 p.m. at the Mission, 301 North 5th Street, Steubenville.



Worship begins at 6 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary followed by a meal served in our Unity Kitchen at 7 p.m.

We invite Churches, Sunday School classes, Missions groups, singers and groups of all kinds to host a service. The group can provide the preaching and the meal or one or the other. If you would like to serve, please call Rev. Toni Hubbard at 740-282-8010 or email us at mail@urbanmission.org.

## *Parish Nurse News: Handwashing*

National Handwashing Awareness Week is December 2-8. Let's review this simple procedure that was taught to you by your mother and is still an effective way to prevent the spread of infections.

Hands should be washed at the following times: when visibly soiled, after using the bathroom, before preparing and eating foods, after touching an unknown substance, and whenever you think it would be a good idea. Studies have shown that many viruses, such as those that cause colds and flu, can live for a period of time on inanimate objects. If you think that you have touched something that could be contaminated, wash your hands.

How should you wash your hand? Ideally, hands should be washed with running water and liquid soap. First wet your hands with warm (not hot) water, then apply soap. Make a lot of suds and wash all parts of your hands including the area between your fingers. Wash for a minimum of 15 seconds. Rinse your hands well to remove all of the soap. Wipe your hands with a clean towel (at home) or paper towels. Turn off the faucet with the paper towel. Many public restrooms now have faucets that turn on when you place your hands under them and soap dispensers that dispense soap in that manner. There may also be hand driers available for your use. These help to prevent the spread of disease.



If you are unable to wash your hands with soap and water, it is acceptable to use antibacterial handwashing liquids or gels. Many of these cleaners contain alcohol, which is drying to the skin. Only use these cleaners when you cannot use soap and water.

The holiday season is here. You will be in contact with many people, some who may have colds or flu. Washing your hands may prevent you from contracting a cold or the flu. Stay healthy and have a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

-Michalene A. King, PhD, RN, CNE



## *Free Vision Assistance Still Available*

The Urban Mission and Prevent Blindness Ohio continue to partner together to provide free eye exams and eyeglasses to the uninsured/homeless children and adults in our area. To date 65 youth and adults have received a free exam and glasses through the program.

Participants must meet income and other eligibility requirements. Once qualification has been determined, participants will receive a gift certificate for a free eye exam and basic glasses for a participating eye care center. If you are interested in signing up for this program, please contact Sara Green at 740-282-8010.

## *Hutton House Items Needed*

The Hutton House Homeless Shelter is in need of used appliances. Are you gifting a new stove to your wife? Purchasing a refrigerator to house all of your holiday baked goodies? You can help another family by donating your old appliance (in working order) to the Shelter! If you have an appliance to donate, please contact Debra at 740-282-8903 and we'll gladly make arrangements to pick it up.

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

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

Email: mail@urbanmission.org  
 www.urbanmission.org

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Steubenville, OH 43952  
 Permit No. 103

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

LABEL

|  <span style="float: right;"></span> |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <i>What's Happening in December 2012?</i>  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|  |  |   |  |   |  | <b>1</b><br>Mission Rejoice<br>6pm  |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b><br>Team Mtg. 10am<br>Parish Nurse 11am<br>Lupus Meeting 6pm | <b>4</b><br>No Hunger<br>Committee Meeting                    | <b>5</b><br>No Program/Eval.<br>Meeting<br>Christmas Bingo-1pm<br>Quinn AME Church | <b>6</b><br>Christmas<br>Distributions 9-12; 1-3<br>NCDC Mtg 4:00pm | <b>7</b><br>Christmas<br>Distributions 9-12; 1-3<br>Lupus Outing-SHS<br>Orchestra Concert<br>7pm | <b>8</b><br>Steubenville<br>Christmas Parade<br>12 Noon<br>Mission Rejoice<br>6pm |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br>Parish Nurse 11am                                       | <b>11</b><br>Packing for Food<br>Distribution 9am             | <b>12</b><br>Food Distribution<br>9-12; 1-3  | <b>13</b><br>Food Distribution<br>9-12; 1-3                         | <b>14</b><br>Food Distribution<br>9-12; 1-3  | <b>15</b><br>Mission Rejoice<br>6pm   |
| <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br>Staff Mtg.<br>Parish Nurse 11am                         | <b>18</b><br>Santa's Recycle Shop<br>9-12; 1-3<br>CSFP 1:00pm | <b>19</b><br>Santa's Recycle<br>Shop 9-12; 1-3<br>UK Holiday Meal                  | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b><br>Candlelight Mission<br>Rejoice 6pm                                   |
| <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br><i>Closed for<br/>Christmas Break</i>                   | <b>25</b><br><i>Merry<br/>Christmas!</i>                      | <b>26</b><br><i>Closed for<br/>Christmas Break</i>                                 | <b>27</b><br><i>Closed for<br/>Christmas Break</i>                  | <b>28</b><br><i>Closed for<br/>Christmas Break</i>   | <b>29</b><br><i>No Mission<br/>Rejoice</i>  |
| <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>  |   |  |   |  |   |