

Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church

MISSION STATEMENT

The work of the Missions Committee is rooted in the Baptismal Covenant, which states that with God's help we will proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ, strive to promote justice and peace among all people, and actively work in the community and in the world to respect the dignity of every human being. The Committee will serve as a catalyst in the parish to involve every person in outreach by providing and holding up opportunities for ministry requiring various abilities and talents. The Committee strives to bring outreach to the forefront of Emmanuel's vision of itself.

"Bold in Mission": Emmanuel Reaches Out at Home and Abroad

Our work takes place on three levels: local, national, and international. Accordingly, the Committee is comprised of parishioners working **within our community** in such ministries as Episcopal City Mission, Webster Rock Hill Ministries, Operation Brown Bag through the Christian Service Center, the Emmanuel Emergency Food Center, Crop Walk, Habitat for Humanity, Senior and Junior High Youth Groups, and seasonal parish outreach activities such as the Advent Giving Tree, among many others.

We reach out at **the national level** through our support of such parish-based ministries as the Senior High Mission Trip and the Adult Mission Trip, which work directly with Habitat for Humanity on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and in locations across the country. Inside this issue you will find an "up close and personal" account from Donna Erickson, one of the intrepid parishioners who took part in the Adult Mission Trip this summer.

Emmanuel reaches out on **the international level**, for example through our support of the Heifer International Project, which seeks to end poverty and hunger by providing animals and agricultural skills to communities around the world. During the summer of 2005, our Senior High Youth Group took their mission trip to Guatemala to work with the "God's Child Project," a program that helps pay for children in Guatemala to go to school and coordinates volunteer groups like our youth group to build much-



needed housing. The parish continues to support "The God's Child Project" by taking up a special collection each Sunday morning at the 10:30 service. We are beginning to deepen our relationship with and support for our companion diocese of Lui in the Sudan. Last year the parish raised funds to send a parishioner and our Deacon to Lui as members of two separate diocesan delegations sent by the bishop to visit our sister diocese. We have already begun raising funds, and hope to raise more, to dig a deep-water well to provide clean water for the people of Lui. We also hope to raise money to buy

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bicycles for clergy to get around in the diocese. Many clergy now must walk for days to call on parishioners.

As you can see, Emmanuel truly is “bold in mission.” The Missions Committee strives to facilitate and encourage these and other ministries. If you have a ministry you’d like to begin or to expand, please let us know. Our goal is to make everyone aware of outreach opportunities so that they can become involved, to whatever degree they are able, and be “the hands and feet of Christ.” To this end, we will be publishing a newsletter, which you are holding in your hands, in order to give you information about current and upcoming outreach opportunities and news. In addition, the Missions Committee will soon have a page on the Emmanuel website in order to provide information in a more timely manner for those of you who are computer oriented.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in outreach efforts, please let us know how we can help. The contact information listed below should at least give you a place to start. Emmanuel is a remarkable community that is “Deep in Faith, Rich in Love, Bold in Mission.” It is an honor to be associated with all of you.

—Jerry Cooper, Missions Committee Chair

Need More Information or Want to Get Involved?

More information about these and other opportunities to get involved will be forthcoming in future issues of Reaching Out. If you don't see what you're looking for here, try checking out our website at www.emmanuelepiscopal.org or call the Parish Office at 314-961-2393.

Brown Bag Programs

Junior High Brown Bag: Kevin Williams, 961-2393
Men of Emmanuel Brown Bag: Jim Groetsch, 961-6390
Young Emmanuel Adults Brown Bag: Diana Knapp, 961-1653
Noonday Brown Bag Club: Marie Holt, 843-4952
or Nancy Moore, 968-3799



Caring Ministries

The Rev. Deacon Susan Naylor, 961-2393 or snaylor@emmanuelepiscopal.org
Peg Cooper, 821-1012 or coopermh@slu.edu

Emergency Food Center

Ann Bain, 849-2290 or bgoodreading@aol.com

Episcopal City Mission

Jerry Cooper, 636-273-5158

Habitat for Humanity

Bob Long, 832-2725 or longclay@att.net

Prayer Shawls Ministry

Peg Cooper, 821-1012 or coopermh@slu.edu

Webster Rock Hill Ministries

Bob Garrecht, 966-5389

Missions Committee 2006

Jerry Cooper, Chair
Phone: 636-273-5158
Ann Bain
Peg Cooper
Tracy Crews
Donna Erickson
Bob Garrecht
Judd Holt
Bob Long
Susan Naylor
Terry Verstrate
Bob Vogt

Emeritus Members

Sheila Moseley
Jeanne Deutsch

Focus on Mission: Adult Mission Trip “Ripples”

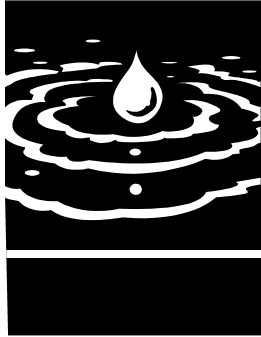
By Donna Erickson

“We do not know the past in chronological sequence. It may be convenient to lay it out anesthetized on the table with dates pasted on here and there, but what we know we know by the ripples and spirals eddying out from us and from our own time.”

Ezra Pound

“We may not all live holy lives, but we live in a world alive with holy moments”

Kent Nerburn



I don't know specifics; I don't know the first date a group went out there or how it was chosen from among the myriad of options being considered. What I *do* know is that Emmanuel Church has had a long history with Bishop Hare Mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

We've had groups of Senior High students and Adult “Mission Trippers” make the 16-hour drive to a place that, in many ways, remains as mysterious as it is starkly beautiful. We have hammered, sanded, “mudded”, painted, mowed, built ball fields and ceremonial arbors, cleaned, sawed, hauled, schlepped and driven. We have worked with grass roots indigenous groups, Diocesan Jubilee organizers and Habitat for Humanity. Long before this summer's Adult Mission Trip, Emmanuel was known on the reservation as “the church that came back.” While not minimizing the needs for social justice and frontline sweat labor that exist throughout this country and abroad, a core group of us have made an intentional – almost Benedictine—commitment to a place . . . and the ripples were clearly evidenced this summer.

Hospitality is a cherished Lakota value, and we were its grateful recipients. We were guests at the home of Stacy and Harold Charging Hawk, our partner family from last year. They graciously hosted a barbecue in our honor and gave us the chance to learn again that our physical work for Habitat doesn't merely build houses, it builds homes.

Through the Charging Hawks, we met Harold's relatives, Don Moccasin and Maggie Mackichan, both of whom are employed by Sinte Gleska University. Don is the University's Cultural Documentarion and Maggie is Chair of the Art Institute. They, in turn, invited us out to the arbor on their property, near Haystack Bluff, for potluck and hands-on learning about tipi construction. We initially had to decline because, on the night in question, we already had plans to eat with the other groups also staying at the Mission (a Baptist group from TX doing vacation Bible school in a nearby community, a Catholic woman from Ohio, an Episcopal minister covering for local clergy attending General Convention and a couple of “Care-a-vanners” originally from AZ, now going cross-country working at different Habitat sites). We were told, with no hesitation, to “Bring them along!”

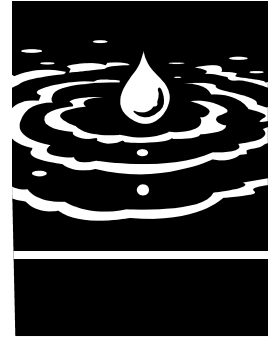
Two nights later, on a glorious summer night on the plains, a group of 25 unrelated people feasted on our combined offerings of fried chicken, pot roast, Caesar salad, fruit salad, baked beans, watermelon and homemade chocolate chip cookies. We shared stories about our lives, our traditions and our faith. We heard about a way of life and the struggles of a people while we reflected on the consequences of fearing differences rather than celebrating them. We gave Thanks to our Creator for bringing us together in this time and place and we watched a sunset paint the landscape with more colors than Crayola.

I found myself thinking that we had been allowed a glimpse of heaven; that this is the way God had intended our lives to be.

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In my heart, I also heard the words of Eucharist Hymn 304:

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share
each proud division ends
that Love that made us
makes us one and strangers
now are friends.



Through established friendships, we heard about the infant child of a young Native couple, airlifted to the nearest specialty nursery in Rapid City (3 hours away). From the gifts we'd been given, we were able to assist these parents with financial resources to travel and be with their son for what was to be their only, and very brief, time with him.

In the interest of full disclosure (lest you think our trip was all spiritual and social) we also worked on 2 houses every day, on side by side sites - - doing plumbing, building decks, staining doors and sanding and fully painting (primer and 2 coats!) a 3-bedroom house. We worshipped as a community, twice a day as a small group, and on Sunday with a local Lakota/Episcopal congregation. There was also a day trip to Wounded Knee, Custer State Park and the Badlands. It was a full week!

At the request of clergy on the reservation, we contacted the Men of Emmanuel about additional resources and, as a result, \$500 was designated and sent to the Diocese of South Dakota toward re-roofing the building which houses the Habitat office and volunteer dorm.

The extent of the "ripples" of our involvement in this community may never be fully known. What I do know is that the work we do, in Gods name and on Emmanuel's behalf, can be life changing. I know because it's changed mine.

If any of this has piqued your interest, give the idea of joining us some prayer and consideration. We'll be making a presentation about the trip at Adult Forum on Sunday, October 8. Our trip next summer will be June 9 through 16, 2007.

I also recommend two books on the Native/Lakota experience:

Moon of Popping Trees by Rex Alan Smith (1980) University of Nebraska Press, and Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder by Kent Nerbern (1994, 2002) New World Library

In our next issue, we'll be providing more detailed information about

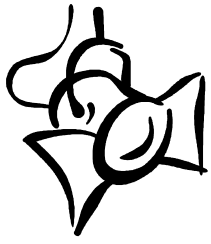
Katrina Neighbors

A practical, household-to-household ministry with people along the Gulf Coast who are trying to rebuild their lives and communities.

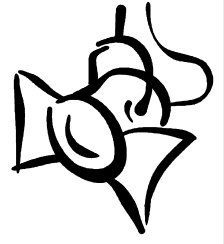
Check out the upcoming issue of *Reaching Out* or, if you can't wait that long, go to our Cathedral's web page to learn more:

www.christchurchcathedral.us.

Under "Outreach" you'll find a banner menu pointing the way to "Katrina Neighbors: A Call to Action."



Spotlight On Scrip Sales



You see them at a table in the Parish Hall Sunday after Sunday, smiling faces offering to sell you scrip. But you haven't actually bought any yet, and you probably have good reasons: maybe you're not exactly sure what scrip is, or why you need it. Besides, you're thinking, who can afford one more thing to buy? But wait! Here's what you need to know:

When you purchase grocery store scrip, you're not really "buying" anything. You're **prepaying** for something that we *know* you're already buying: groceries. (Even the thriftiest among us have to eat!) You buy the scrip (they're basically gift cards from the grocery stores), take it with you to the store, and the store accepts it just like cash. If you don't have enough scrip with you to cover the purchase, you pay the difference right there at the cash register. Couldn't be easier.

But that's not all! There is, as you can imagine, something in this for us. Emmanuel receives a percentage of each card purchased (the exact amount varies from store to store). **So your money goes twice as far**; a few cents of the exact same dollar that is being spent on your much-needed groceries is also being given to your much-loved parish. Now that's smart shopping!

What do we do with the money? Proceeds from Emmanuel's scrip program are divided equally between the outreach ministries designated by the Missions Committee and to offset the cost of All parish Conference (Potosi) in the spring. Last year Emmanuel raised \$5,400 total through the scrip program. This year, the Missions Committee has already received \$1,260 from the scrip program. Imagine all the good that money can do and, better yet, how easy it is to generate more.

A couple more thoughts: we know that many other great organizations, including school PTO's, have similar programs and are also asking for your participation. It can be very hard to choose between competing worthy causes. Please prayerfully consider the importance of our outreach programs when deciding where and how often to buy scrip. If you feel equally committed to some other organization, maybe you can develop a habit of alternating your scrip purchases, or buying additional scrip at Emmanuel during times like the holidays when you know you're going to be buying extra groceries.

So, whether you shop at Schnuck's, Shop 'N Save, or Straubs, **you can give money to our outreach programs without spending an extra cent yourself.** (If you shop at another store, like Trader Joe's or Whole Foods, please let us know that; we're looking into adding other grocery chains to our program.) Don't wait; stop by the Scrip Sales table *this Sunday* and buy some scrip. You'll be glad you did!



Thought for the Day:

Christ has no body but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ's
compassion looks out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.
And yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

—St. Teresa of Avila

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
9 South Bompert Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

*As always, for a full calendar of events please consult
Emmanuel's online calendar at www.emmanuelepiscopal.org*



Adult Mission Trip Presentation at Adult Forum: October 8 (10:30 a.m.)

Caring Ministries meeting: October 9 & November 13 (7:30 p.m.)

Junior High Operation Brown Bag: October 11 & November 8 (5:30 p.m.)

Noonday Brown Bag Club: October 12 & November 9 (12:00 p.m.)

MOE Operation Brown Bag: October 19 & November 16 (5:30 p.m.)

Prayer Shawl Ministry: October 19 & November 2, 16, & 30 (7:00 p.m.)

United Thank Offering Ingathering: November 5 (at all services)

Missions Committee meeting: November 5 (11:45 a.m.)

Prayer Vigil for Peace: November 9 (7:00 p.m.)

Support Our Troops Ingathering: November 12 - 26



Please post this on your frig for future reference!

