

Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Advent 2006

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.

2006 Christmas Offering: *"Bold in Mission"*

At Emmanuel, we joyfully proclaim that we are "Deep in Faith, Rich in Love, and Bold in Mission." And how true this is! Ours is a community in which faith and love shine forth in some of the most amazing ways. Look around at a Sunday morning service as we exchange the peace. Come and see a Bible study group, a Lenten study class, a pet blessing or a memorial service and you will see and feel what I mean.

The various works of the parish that reach out beyond our borders are often bold and daring. Consider the differences we have made in people's lives through our support of the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, the Heifer Project, Emmanuel's Food Center, Habitat for Humanity houses, the God's Child Project and countless other "mission" activities. Can you picture Rick Kuhn, who's afraid to fly, on the "Vomit Comet" heading for the Sudan and not be reminded that we truly are "bold in mission?"

The Vestry has designated that this year's Christmas offering be used to expand the work of the Missions Committee. The Missions Committee's job is to supplement and support many of the parish's efforts at outreach, to identify and support innovative new mission ideas, and to hold up to the parish opportunities to get involved so that each of us together might act upon our baptismal vows to become "the hands and feet of Christ."

As Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." When people would ask if they could come work with her to serve the poor in India, she would often gently tell them to "Find your own Calcutta." In other words, you don't have to do great works or go far from home to find and serve God.



Help us broaden the work of the Missions Committee by giving generously to the Christmas Offering. We are, after all, "Rich in Faith, Deep in Love, and Bold in Mission."

—Jerry Cooper, Missions Committee Chair

United Thank Offering Ingathering

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for all of us to give daily thanks to God for all the many blessings in our lives. We give thanks to God for a warm house on a cold day, healing of a sick friend or family member, the look of love in the eyes of a child or grandchild, the beauty of the changing seasons. The list goes on and on.

Twice each year, in the spring and the fall, we hold our annual UTO ingatherings. Every penny collected is sent to the United Thank Offering and is given away in grants around the world. Special attention is given to disadvantaged persons, places and organizations. Our UTO gifts have built churches, fed the hungry, clothed the poor and provided shelter for the homeless. Emmanuel's most recent UTO ingathering took place on All Saints' Sunday (November 5). More than \$830 was collected as a result of that ingathering, and so far this year, the parish has given almost \$2,500 to UTO.

"Gracious God, keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenges that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from the gifts of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen."

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: Hope Benko, 961-2393
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 abain3558@sbcglobal.net

Episcopal City Mission

Jerry Cooper, 636-273-5158
Matthew Keefer, 314-610-9192

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
Nancy Moore
Susan Naylor
Terry Verstrate
Bob Vogt

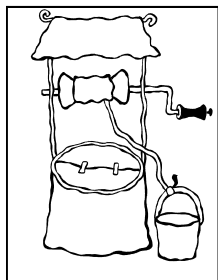
Emmanuel Pledges to Help Build a Well in Lui Where the Money in the Little White Churches Will Go

Walking for Water: From My Sojourn to Sudan, 2005. Deacon Peggy and I sat on the bench under the mango tree behind the cathedral this evening. We watched women walking by with jericans of water on their heads; Jericans are 5 gallon containers that weigh 40 pounds when filled! A steady procession of women walk up and down the road all day; some are girls as young as 12, carrying a younger brother or sister on their back, and 40 pounds of water on their head! How long would 5 gallons last my family? Not long. One of the younger women stopped to practice her English, and get a bit of rest before going on her way. We asked her how long it takes to get the water, and how many trips she makes a day. Her name is Agnes, she said, and she told us she was lucky. Lucky to live at the near end of the village, where it is only a 3-mile walk each way. Lucky to have a good metal pot in which to boil the river water to make it safe for her family. Lucky to have a sister who will spend four hours a day grinding grain for the family, so she can make two trips for river water. She said it is sad that she is often sick with malaria from the mosquitoes. Once she had a guinea worm (a nasty parasite!) and one brother suffered river blindness before they learned how long to boil the water and to add bleach to make it safe. "Still, it is better than to wait all day for water that does not come," she said. "In the dry season, we can wait ten, twelve hours through the day and sometimes through the night for our turn at the pump. Then it may take 2 hours to fill one jericin, or longer. Sometimes the water does not come at all. It is very hard when the boreholes are dry. We dig our own wells in the old river bed, and scoop up the water from 15 feet underground. That work is cool, but it scares me, so I walk to the river instead."

I looked at the 55-gallon drum in our compound that had been filled for our use, and was humbled by the amount of labor that went into filling it. I thought about the water extravagantly poured for us so that we could wash our hands as a sign of welcome and hospitality every place we went. Peggy murmured quietly: "'Lord, when did we see you thirsty?' We saw it today." I will never take water for granted again.

I was asked to write the article for this newsletter to explain a change in one of our outreach ministries. For the past several years, we have collected change (and sometimes dollars!) as the children pass the little white churches among us at the 9:00 o'clock service. For many years we used those funds to support an orphanage in Haiti, and later one particular student, Rosalind, who is now a teacher there. After a number of years, we changed to the Heifer International, an organization that provides poor families around the world with a means of financial support by giving them livestock and training. Through the Heifer Project, Emmanuel has collected enough for an "ark" of animals every year for the past five years! We are on track for our sixth ark by the end of this year. We will celebrate this remarkable achievement, and move once again to be "Bold in Mission" in a new way.

We now have a Companion Diocese agreement with Lui, Southern Sudan. Emmanuel has a particularly close relationship with the people of Lui, having sent two travelers there in the past two years who have seen first-hand and heard from the people themselves about their need for safe, clean drinking water from deep wells that don't fail during the dry season. **Safe drinking water is the first of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals that are supported by our National Church. So, for the next year, the funds collected in the little white churches will go to help drill deep wells in Lui.** Churches and individuals around the diocese will be supporting this effort, and Emmanuel is leading the way. Our contribution will be recognized by both dioceses with pictures and a certificate for framing. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our outreach ministries.



/Susan Naylor, Deacon and Parish Nurse

Habitat Update

Building of the Episcopal/Citigroup House for St. Louis Habitat for Humanity in the JeffVanderLou neighborhood was completed on November 11, and a dedication was held on November 18. Pictures of the completed house and the proud new owners are posted on the Habitat bulletin board in the parish hall. **A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped build this house.** Please remember that the Christmas Offering and other major offering opportunities in the new year will benefit Emmanuel's many outreach efforts -- including Habitat for Humanity. Please give generously!

Fran McKendree Concert Benefits God's Child Project: \$3200 Raised for Primary Education in Guatemala

Those of you who attended the Fran McKendree concert on Sunday evening, November 11, witnessed first-hand the joyful and uplifting music of writer and guitarist, Fran McKendree. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and music. Fran had the audience out of their seats and dancing with one another one minute, laughing the next, and quietly savoring the spiritual message of his more contemplative music – all before the night was over.

Not only did Fran connect with us here in Webster Groves, but his ministry through music brought us together and empowered us to change the lives of Guatemalan children and their families for generations to come. **The concert was a benefit concert that accepted free-will donations to the God's Child Project; all money raised by concert-goers was for the exclusive purpose of providing elementary education to Guatemalan children.** Education is the only way for poor families in Guatemala to escape from the bonds of poverty, but there is no public school system in that country. Families who can barely pay for food and clothing for their children are not able to pay for schooling. Only through private donations like yours do children of the poor gain access to education, and thus a future that includes opportunities to escape from poverty.

The results of this collaboration between Fran and our parish? **Emmanuel was able to send a gift of \$3,200 to The God's Child Project from donations given at the concert and from the Guatemalan pouches passed around at the 10:30 service.** By the grace of God, this gift comes at an especially good time: in Guatemala the school year begins in January. On behalf of those Guatemalan children whose lives will be forever changed, **thank you Emmanuel!**

Thanks should also be extended to the Senior High Youth Group who sponsored the concert and fed us pizza before it started.

Katrina Neighbors: Call to Action

Our last *Reaching Out* newsletter promised more information about Katrina Neighbors, a ministry of Christ Church Cathedral. The following is excerpted from their website and used with permission. We hope you'll be inspired by the wonderful efforts of the Cathedral community and consider joining them in this important ministry.

Katrina Neighbors Still Needs You!

Katrina Neighbors ministry has taken off with 25 "caring neighbors" paired with households in the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi area. We are thankful for all of you who have given your time and gifts to this outreach to the Katrina survivors. Still we believe there are more Cathedral members, families and friends who will find this to be a meaningful ministry. Our goal is to reach out to at least 40 Gulf Coast households through our parish ministry.

What can YOU do? Become a ...

Caring Neighbor -- The purpose of this role is to be the voice, hands and personal messenger of God's love to one individual or family of the Gulf Coast. Primary responsibilities include communicating with and caring for one household. Discern and commit to a level of care for which you will be capable during the period of time, such as sending

\$25 per month, obtaining and mailing specific needed items. Pray daily for the Neighbor. Six-month commitment.

Caring Neighbor Coordinator -- Coordinators will be responsible for providing support and communication for 5 to 10 Caring Neighbors. Primary responsibilities include calling a group of 5 to 10 Caring Neighbors on the phone twice a month and getting the group together monthly to share challenges and successes. Six-month commitment.

Resourceful Neighbor -- Neighbors are responsible for advocating for and obtaining resources on behalf of Katrina Neighbors to government, business and non-governmental agencies that have the capacity and responsibility to serve their needs. That includes writing letters, making phone calls and sending e-mails to keep the needs of Katrina Neighbors on the forefront of public consciousness. Resourceful Neighbors will also make requests for funds to businesses and groups to provide for Katrina Neighbors' needs. Six-month commitment.

To learn more, or to find Caring Neighbor commitment forms, go to our Cathedral's website: www.christchurchcathedral.us. Under the "Outreach" button on the main menu bar you'll find a banner menu pointing the way to "Katrina Neighbors: A Call to Action." You can also contact Mary Randlett at mmcrandlett@sbcglobal.net.



Advent at Emmanuel



Alternative Giving for Christmas

Why let trying to figure out the right gift for family and friends at Christmas stress you? What each of us is supposed to do at this time of year is enjoy the holiday and think about what the birth of Jesus really means. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE STRESSED!!!** There are alternatives to all the frenzy of shopping and giving gifts that often end up in a closet. Use **Emmanuel cards for Alternative Giving for Christmas!**

The Missions Committee has prepared special cards for Alternative Giving for Christmas. For a donation (\$5.00 minimum) you will receive a card that you can send to a friend or family member indicating your donation. You select the organization from the following list that will receive the contribution:

Deep water well in the Diocese of Lui
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund
Habitat for Humanity
Heifer Project
Episcopal City Mission
Webster-Rock Hill Ministries
Emmanuel's Food Center
Emmanuel Church Missions Committee

Multiple cards for multiple organizations are accepted and encouraged!!!

Cards will be available in the Dining Room on Sundays during Advent (December 3, 10 and 17) before and after the 9:00 and 10:30 services or from the Church Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

This is an easy way to do your shopping while helping those who need help at the same time!

Advent Tree and Soup Supper

Each year at Emmanuel we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our annual Giving Tree and Soup Supper. Join us **Sunday, December 3, at 6:15 p.m.** for a delicious soup supper in the Dining Room. Children (and the young at heart) are invited to help decorate ornaments for the Giving Tree.

The "Giving Tree" is brought to us by our Missions Committee to provide a hands-on Christmas outreach opportunity for the parish. Each Giving Tree ornament has a tag on the back with a requested gift item. At the end of the soup supper, each family is asked to take some Giving Tree ornaments off the Giving Tree and return the requested unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 17. The gifts will be distributed to those in need by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, the Christian Service Center, and Episcopal City Mission. This is a wonderful Emmanuel tradition and a great way to teach children the spirit of giving!

Please help us plan by signing up in advance on the Big Bend bulletin board. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for kids (with a family maximum of \$12) with **ADVANCE** sign up. Door/walk-up prices the day of the event: adults \$5, kids \$3 (no family maximum.)



Winter Clothing Appeal a Big Success!

Thanks to all who contributed to the winter clothing drive for international students at Eden Seminary, many from Africa. As I sit here looking at a very stereotypical, cold November day, I realize how timely the drive was. The response was wonderful, and there are a lot of grateful students who can now withstand the cold Missouri winter winds with warm shirts, coats, and other garments. Enough clothing was collected to enable us to also assist those in need at Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. Thanks, also, to Warren Crews for alerting us to this need and helping get the clothes distributed.

—Jim Groetsch, Men of Emmanuel President

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*



Alternative Giving Cards: December 3, 10, & 17

Advent Giving Tree and Soup Supper: December 3

Caring Ministries meeting: December 11, January 8, & February 12

Junior High Operation Brown Bag: December 13, January 17, & February 14

Noonday Brown Bag Club: December 14 & January 11

MOE Operation Brown Bag: December 21, January 18, & February 15

Prayer Shawl Ministry: December 14; January 11 & 25; February 8 & 22

Missions Committee meeting: January 14

Prayer Vigil for Peace: February 8



Please post this on your fridge for future reference!

