

Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Special Insert, Pentecost 2007

Bridging the Volunteer Gap

Nearly two in three American adults performed some type of volunteer service last year, but many more say they wanted to volunteer but didn't, according to a new survey of 1,000 American adults by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The survey found that 64% of American adults said they had performed some type of volunteer activity last year, but 86% said they were willing to volunteer. The survey found:

- Sixty-five percent said they would be willing to serve meals to homeless people, but just 12% had done so during the past 12 months.
- Fifty-one percent said they would be willing to tutor or mentor at-risk children, but just 15% had done so.
- Forty-eight percent said they would be willing build affordable, decent housing for those in need, but just five percent had done so.
- Sixty percent of adults said they would be willing to perform volunteer service through their place of worship or a faith-based organization, but 33% had done so.

As noted in the article above, most of us **want** to be involved with helping to make this world, or at least our corner of it, a better place.

Whether we identify it as a spiritual calling, a gift for service, or a "just-barely-below-the-surface itch" that propels us to seek out an opportunity "to do good," most of are programmed to desire a life and labors that matter: we **want** to make a difference.

Seventeen adults from two congregations have made a choice to put this desire into action. On June 9, we will be leaving St Louis and heading to Mission, South Dakota to work for Habitat for Humanity. While our physical labors will be concentrated on building affordable housing, we also know we are called to the building up of relationships, community, and the Kingdom of God.

None of our labors, on either front, would be possible without the support and strength from our parishes and from God. We are infinitely thankful for all that sustains us as we seek to serve on your behalf and in His name!

Please keep all of us in your prayers. We look forward to sharing trip highlights with you upon our return.

Donna Erickson, facilitator/Emmanuel
George Kaiser/Emmanuel
Andy Ruhlín/Emmanuel
Tammy Schmitz/Emmanuel
Betsey Richie/Emmanuel
Sylvia Rogers/Christ Lutheran
George and Cissy Hessler/Christ Lutheran

Keith Holste/Christ Lutheran
Kim and Jacey Joern/Christ Lutheran
Barbie Kaiser/Emmanuel
Peg Cooper/Emmanuel
Ed and Susan Glock/Emmanuel
Glenn and Kathi Dunn/Emmanuel

Bon Voyage and Godspeed: Please consider supporting those who are going on Mission Trips this summer by turning out to send them forth on their journeys. Times, dates, and locations are as follows:

Adult Mission Trip: Saturday, June 9, at 7:30 a.m. from Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Senior High Mission Trip: Saturday, June 9, at 3:00 p.m. from the downtown Amtrak Station

Junior High Mission Trip: Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 a.m. from Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Operation Brown Bag

Did you know that in addition to Emmanuel's Food Center, there's another ministry to feed the hungry in the St. Louis community? It's called "Operation Brown Bag," and is a program facilitated by the Gateway Homeless Services/Christian Service Center located on 19th Street in downtown St. Louis. The Operation Brown Bag program provides more than 100 homeless men and transients with nutritious brown bag lunches every day – and is only able to do so because of the involvement of churches like Emmanuel and the hands-on participation of people like YOU! This ministry is a great way for people of all ages and abilities to get involved. Children as young as 5 or 6 years old can participate, and this is not a physically strenuous activity. There are three "Operation Brown Bag" opportunities scheduled each month at Emmanuel:

- **Junior High Operation Brown Bag** takes place in Emmanuel's kitchen and dining room on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate. Bring a friend to join the fun! Parents, you're welcome to come help, too! For more info. contact Kevin Williams in the parish office .
- **Noonday Brown Bag Club** gathers at 12:00 noon (hence the name!) on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This group is open to everyone – bring a friend, there's always room for more! For more information, contact Marie Holt (843-4952).
- **Men of Emmanuel** meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at Emmanuel at 5:30 p.m. to assem-

ble Brown Bag lunches. While this is officially called the "MOE Operation Brown Bag," spouses and children are welcome and encouraged to come join the guys. For more information, contact Jim Groetsch (961-6390).

In addition to these monthly Brown Bag opportunities, the **Young Emmanuel Adults (YEA)** gather quarterly on a Wednesday evening. Their two next Brown Bag dates are August 22 and November 28, at 6:30 p.m. Contact the Rev. Hope Benko (961-2393) for more information about YEA Brown Bag dates.

There is no cost to participate. Funding for Operation Brown Bag is provided by the Emmanuel Emergency Food Center. If you are unable to participate in one of these Brown Bag activities, you can still support this ministry with a financial donation to the Food Center. (Make checks payable to "Emmanuel Church", note "Food Center" on the memo line, and mail to Nancy Benz in the parish office.)

Operation Brown Bag is a fun and easy way to get involved in the ministry of feeding the hungry. And it's a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about carrying out Christ's ministry. Join one of these groups and see how you can make a difference in the lives of our hungry and homeless brothers and sisters.

*"... for I was hungry and you gave me food,"
(Matthew 25:35)*

—Angela Bader,

On behalf of the Missions Committee

2007 Lenten Alms and Easter Offering Update

Emmanuelites were generous during Lent, and more than \$3,600 was collected in Lenten Alms. At the recommendation of the Missions Committee, our Vestry designated our 2007 Lenten Alms to support the work of Episcopal City Mission, a chaplaincy program to youth in the city and county detention centers. (There will be another opportunity to support ECM at this year's **Summer Solstice Party**, to be held at Emmanuel Friday, June 22. See details on the front page of the Angelus.)

Emmanuelites were also generous at Easter, giving more than \$4,100 to the Easter offering, which was designated for the support of Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. WRHM is an emergency social service organization with a three-fold mission: to provide emergency assistance to those in need, to work to create new life options and to seek to create community by breaking down barriers between people. WRHM provides opportunities for diverse members of the community to work and serve together without regard to class, age, race, or denomination. WRHM is motivated by God's love and Christ's example. Services are provided to all regardless of religious or church affiliation.

—Angela Bader,

On behalf of the Missions Committee

For more Missions news, see page 4 of the newsletter—and look for the next "Reaching Out" in August!