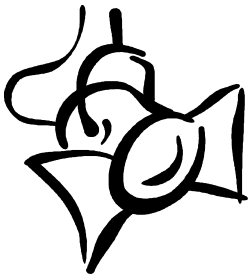


Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church
June 2008

Lenten Alms and Easter Offering Results

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Lenten Alms and to the Easter Offering. More than \$3,500 was collected for **Webster Rock Hill Ministries** through Lenten Alms. More than \$4000 was collected for **Episcopal City Mission** through the Easter Offering. Your support helps both of these wonderful organizations carry out their mission.



Spotlight on Episcopal City Mission

Some Basics - Do you Know Who We Are?

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is an organization with ties historically and financially to the Episcopal Church. We are not just in the city, our work is also in St. Louis County at two locations! And we are not a mission; we provide the funding to place a chaplain in the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Juvenile Detention Centers and at the Lakeside Residential Center also in St. Louis County. Episcopal City Mission was started by the Episcopal Church (that is another article.) The Diocese of Missouri as well as many Episcopal congregations fund us, but we also get funding from many others and many other denominations. One important fact to note is that our chaplains are not Episcopal; they come from a variety of faith backgrounds. The Rev. Mickey Hassler at the city detention center is Baptist, The Rev. Julie Jennings at the county center is United Church of Christ, and The Rev. Dietra Wiese is Disciples of Christ. This is only fitting as the children we serve are also from many faith backgrounds.

So just what does a chaplain in a juvenile detention center do? They provide a presence; they are the hands and feet of God. They offer one-on-one time, group times for worship, Bible Study, meditation, service projects, prayer bead ministry, Hip Hop concerts, grief groups, anger management, and so much more.

Some dates to remember – be a part of helping the kids in detention

Do you like to golf? Well do we have a deal for you! Play golf and help support the ministry of the chaplains to the children in detention. Mark your calendar, Tuesday May 20th is the annual ECM Golf Tournament sponsored by Advent Episcopal Church. Get your foursome together and join the fun. The action begins at 11am, box lunch, 18 holes of golf, BBQ following golf – all for only \$75 per person. Don't play golf, be a hole sponsor, call Mary Jane Kuhn (314-821-37221) for more information or to sign up.

June 20th – a Friday night – and the perfect party! ECM's Annual Summer Solstice Festival will take place right on Emmanuel's Jones Hall Lawn. Celebrate a fun summer nite to support the chaplains to kids in detention. Join the fun; dinner (BBQ brats, hot dogs, MJ's now famous BBQ kraut, salad, chips and dessert), drinks (beer, wine, lemonade, bottled water), dancing (The House of Bishops will have you dancing), silent auction, children's area, attendance prizes and so much more. All the fun for only \$15 per adult, \$5.00 for kids 5-12. Time is 6pm to 9:30pm. Get your tickets from Nancy Moore, Ian MacBryde, Tammy Free, Mary Jane Kuhn or Mark Jordan. Don't miss the good times as we welcome in summer.

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Some more ways to help (*Episcopal City Mission, continued from p. 1*)
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Birthday Parties – Emmanuel hosts birthday parties for the kids in detention twice each year. Call Nancy Moore (968-3799) to be a part of this fun night with kids who need us so much

Be a donor – whether you can give \$5.00 or \$5,000 or more we need your financial support. One of the unique opportunities our chaplains provide is a Hip Hop Chapel Service. Quoting our Executive Director, Mary Kay Digby, “At the service, I watched as young faces changed from being bored and aloof to being intense and engaged. The young man sang “My list of wrong is too long, God. Will you take me as I am? Please tell me my purpose and help me find my way.” He also talked about not knowing his father and that this is a reality for a lot of young men today. But he added that there is a Father who does love you if you will welcome Him into your life.” Please be a part of this marvelous ministry to children that feel so lost, and need so much love.

Memories of the Rosebud Reservation

As we pass through life we learn that it offers us many responsibilities and opportunities.

Last June I was afforded an opportunity which I had long considered, but had not taken. It was a mission trip to the Lakota Sioux Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. We would be helping construct new housing for the area, but more to the point it would be an occasion during which one could learn about an area and its inhabitants, the weather and geography, their history and culture. Additionally, but certainly no less important, it would allow us to strengthen friendships which had developed over 45 years in Webster Groves and Emmanuel Church and also to establish new ones. My daughter, currently living in North Carolina, who had grown up in and was married at Emmanuel also eagerly, joined us. She roomed with a young lady of Christ Lutheran Church, who had been a next door neighbor 40 years ago and who had married one of my daughter’s high school classmates. I roomed with a surgeon with whom I had trained and whom I had helped recruit to St. Louis so many years ago.

Under the very professional leadership of the veterans we slept, ate, prayed, and yes worked. In spite of some inclement weather we did accomplish construction goals, but more and, for some of us, initiated friendships with the people. We learned about their culture and history, cares and concerns, and joys and triumphs. For me it was an experience I shall long remember. It engenders some guilt, for I am certain I received much more than I gave. My daughter and I anticipate a repeat experience this coming June. I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested to join us.

George Kaiser, Member of the 2007 Adult Mission Trip

Habitat for Humanity

Building of the Habitat Home for 2008 by our Diocese is scheduled to begin with a one week blitz on June 2nd. Emmanuel is then scheduled to provide four (4) workers on Saturday, June 7th and two workers (2) on Saturday July 12th. That’s it!

A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Dining Hall. Please be a true volunteer and save a lot of follow-up phone calls, by signing up as soon as you are able to make a commitment.

The build this year will be back in the JeffVanderlou neighborhood (East of the intersection of N. Grand & Page) at 3043 Thomas, 63106. It will be a two story home with brick facade on the front, similar to the homes Habitat has built in this area in the past. The home will be owned by Mario Ware. She has four children: Mario (boy) age 18, Shante (girl) age 16, Michael, age 15, and Crystal, age 7.

The construction cost of the home is estimated at \$64,000. Our Diocese will be partnering with two other organizations, CitiGroup and Travelers Insurance, to cover this cost. If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact **Bob Long** at 314 832 2725 or longclay@att.net.

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

Reluctant to Volunteer?

"I would like to volunteer, but I heard some places require a drug test, background check, and other stuff."

It is true that if you wish to volunteer on a regular basis, some facilities with vulnerable populations (elderly, handicapped, children) MAY require a ONE-TIME drug test.

You will pass. Here's how it works. You list all your prescription drugs on a form. You don't need to discuss them. Your headache medicine, anti-depressant, pain pill, or anxiety medication WILL NOT cause a false positive. The test is not embarrassing. Your privacy and modesty will not be violated. You will lock up your purse, coat, etc. in a closet and use a private bathroom to produce a urine sample, just as you would in your doctor's office. They will tell you in five minutes that you passed and give you a form certifying the test.

A "background check" means a check with the local police to see if you are a felon or on a list of dangerous persons. They are not interested in your speeding ticket or the misdemeanor you got for that crazy thing back in college.

Some facilities require a T.B. test. It is usually provided on-site and free of charge. All you need to remember is to take it in a location where you can easily return in three days to have it "read."

Don't like the location of the lab they sent you to? Ask for a list of other state-approved labs in your area.

Now you are ready to make new friends and begin a meaningful ministry. ENJOY !

Deacon Burnell

Volunteer Opportunities

RAVEN, a non-profit organization working to end violence against women needs a GRANT WRITER.

The Mid-East Area Assn. on Aging needs drivers to DELIVER MEALS to seniors in Kirkwood.

MENTORS are needed for young women.

A MENTOR COUPLE is needed for a foster child.

There are several positions for LITERACY TUTORS for now and in the Fall.

MO Botanical Garden needs a GARDENING RECEPTIONIST and a LIBRARY helper.

Meds & Food for Kids, assisting children in Haiti, www.mfkhaiti.org.

COACHES for Youth with Disabilities, especially swimming and softball wanted by KEEN

TRUCK DRIVER, SAG driver and REST STOP CAPTAIN wanted for "Challenge Walk MS 5/30-6/1

Details on all these positions and many more can be found by going to

<http://www.volunteermatch.org>

or contacting the Deacons' Office at Ext. 106.

United Thank Offering

UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for all of us to give daily thanks to God. It is a practice in our life in Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. These gifts of thanksgiving, our coins and bills in the UTO box from each individual are combined with other parishes and missions all over the world.

Each year the gifts are given as grants for projects throughout the Anglican Communion. Each spring the UTO committee reviews 200 or more grant applications and will divide these funds as equitably as possible. Last year the United Thank Offering committee approved 104 grants totaling \$2,439,342. Grants fund compelling human needs and/or expand the ministry of the church. The following are a few examples of grants that were approved last year.

Diocese of Missouri \$10,987

St. John's Church, St. Louis, MO
To purchase and install a hood for the stove. This will upgrade a kitchen serving monthly free meals in an area where many are struggling to make ends meet.

Diocese of El Salvador \$50,000

To help start construction of Santa Maria Virgin chapel and school. Young people here face a high risk

of becoming involved in gangs when they do not have the opportunity to attend school.

St. John's Church, Tallahassee, FL \$17,325

To renovate a kitchen at a mission outreach center which serves over 2,000 meals a month

St. Augustine's Church, Alaska \$68,000

To help build a new church building for a congregation in a small town. The congregation has existed since 1949 and currently worships in a Methodist Church

For the 2008 grant cycles, the Diocese of Missouri sent in two grant requests. One was from our companion Diocese of Lui, Sudan for a Mothers Union Empowerment Project. The second was for Camp Phoenix for their Leadership Challenge Project. The final selections will be announced at the end of May.

Bless those who will benefit from the gifts of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift of all—our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Edythe Pangle, UTO Coordinator



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 or jgroetsch@earthlink.net
Noonday Brown Bag Club: Marie Holt, 843-4952

Caring Ministries

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

Emergency Food Center

Ann Bain, 849-2290 or abain355@sbcglobal.net

Episcopal City Mission

Nancy Moore, 968-3799 or ngmoore@charter.net

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 2008

- Ann Bain
- Jerry Cooper
- Peg Cooper
- Tracy Crews
- Donna Erickson
- Bob Garrecht
- Judd Holt
- Mary Jane Kuhn
- Bob Long
- Nancy Moore
- Archdeacon Susan Naylor
- John Snodgrass
- Bob Vogt

Experienced Mission Trip leader, Donna Erickson, reflects on what she witnessed in New Orleans. This article has been shared with other churches in the Diocese.

Until I Met Shirley

I suspect most people who know me would agree that I'm a "tough cookie" – at least on days when they're being kind that's the phrase they would use!

Both personal and professional experiences have revealed human brokenness to me in strange, disturbing and profoundly beautiful ways. Urban settings and situations are not foreign to me as I was raised outside of NYC in New Jersey and have worked for nearly 3 decades in St Louis, a city once dubbed "the most dangerous in the country". It is against this backdrop that I ask you to believe that **nothing** in my experience could have prepared me for the devastation I witnessed on our recent Mission trip to New Orleans; devastation that is truly of biblical proportion.

I, along with most of the country and certainly many of you, watched in horror as the dramatic events of August 2005 unfolded. The human misery, futility and desperation escalating as whole communities in the Southeast were swept away; communities of ordinary men and women who lost places to live and work, family members, beloved pets, ways of life, points of reference, familiar landmarks and any semblance of normalcy.

A combination of denial, personal bias and media misinformation allowed me to believe that the flood and its aftermath, especially in New Orleans, happened "to them" – people significantly different from me by every measurable marker: economic, racial, cultural and geographic.

I continued to believe that until I met Shirley.

On Wednesday morning of Mission week, I was asked to accompany "The Finisher" to a work site. While the nickname seems to come straight from the World Wrestling Federation, it actually belongs to a young woman named Liz who is employed by the Office of Disaster Relief/Episcopal Diocese of LA. Liz specializes in putting finishing touches on homes that have been restored by the program and her appearance means that owner re-occupancy is imminent.

A day had been planned for the two of us to install one final section of molding, and then caulking and doing final paint touch ups in the home of one of the programs clients. (A client incidentally who contacted the program after an unscrupulous contractor had taken her state "Road Home" money, started repairs – and then vanished. Apparently not an uncommon scenario in New Orleans these days)

As we pulled up to the house, the homeowner, Shirley, came out of her FEMA trailer to welcome us, There was an immediate sense of familiarity; an impression that was reinforced throughout the day as we shared work, lunch and exchanged stories and insights about our lives. We later acknowledged that we each recognized our "sisterhood" within 5 minutes of being introduced.

The similarities of our lives were uncanny. Both of us were single working mothers, (me in social work for 33 yrs, Shirley as a middle school teacher for 32 yrs); each with 2 sons the exact same ages and our sons had lost their fathers to death in the exact same year; each of us have an elderly mother, now in assisted living, yet still dependent on us for support and daily routine appointments/management. Shirley just painted her restored master bedroom the same shade of purple I had chosen in the fall for my sunroom. Shirley finished paying off her home and retired from her job 3 months before Katrina struck and, while that day is still a few years off for me, as she spoke of the retirement she had planned, filled with walks with friends, church work, book groups and gardening, I recognized, and heard, my own hopes for a future free from job demands. With tears in her eyes, Shirley acknowledged that her planned for life and all those dreams have been irretrievably lost.

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She spoke honestly about the difficulty in reaching out for help especially after being “swindled”, the reluctance to accept assistance “because folks like you and me don’t take help, we take care of others; we soldier on; single moms take a breath, pick ourselves up and do what has to be done.” She spoke of hopelessness and the reality that papers in New Orleans have stopped publishing cause of death in the obituaries “because the number of suicides is so staggeringly high it would depress those of us trying desperately to hang on”.

Shirley now walks the neighborhood everyday, alone with her memories, assessing physical damage, calling former neighbors now relocated throughout the South, telling them about their properties, encouraging them to return, discussing local politics/happenings, trying to stay connected; in essence, assessing emotional damage as well. She will be one of the first on her block to stop living in a trailer and return to living inside her home. (One of the first - - 2 ½ **years after** the flood!)

So far, the only furniture she has accumulated is a table for her bedroom and a bed. Upon the table is a Celtic cross, a candle and a resin figurine of a black preacher holding a small child by her hand. Shirley said that “with a place to rest my head, a cross to remind me of Jesus and the church to help lead me home, I know everything else will fall into place.”

At the end of the day, as we embraced and exchanged phone numbers, addresses and promises of staying in touch, she held my shoulders and said, “Donna, when that tornado rips through St Louis and takes out your house, you call me; I’ll get friends from church together and we’ll be there to help **you** rebuild.”

I was finally able to grasp, on a wrenching, take your breath away, gut level that this tragedy did not happen “to them”; it happened to people **exactly** like me. It happened to brothers – and sisters – in Christ who are exactly as beloved by God the Father as we are.

Our lives had been parallel in SO many ways and yet her faith and courage brought me up short. I found myself wondering how I would be 2 ½ years after losing *everything* familiar and beloved through forces over which I had absolutely NO control. Would I be able to begin again, to keep on keeping on? (Would you?)

I knew then precisely what a gift it had been that I was chosen to accompany “the Finisher” to Shirley’s house. It may have been a blessing for her, she kept saying it was; if that was the case, it was just another way we were exactly alike because it was a blessing for me as well. It was a powerful moment of grace; a chance for me to be reminded that I was not just there with “the Finisher” but, more importantly, I was there with the God of all new life –the God of beginnings.

“But forget all that – it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do a brand new thing. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? “Isaiah 43: 18-19.

There were MANY moments of grace on this trip. None of these experiences would have been possible without the ongoing support of Emmanuel parish. We (Lou Clauss, Mary Ann Cook and Richard Byrnes and I)are very grateful.

Please consider joining the Diocese of MO Mission Trip to New Orleans in August 2008 to continue the work.

Donna Erickson

The time for healing of the wounds has come.
The time to build is upon us.
We pledge ourselves to liberate all people
From the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation,
Gender inequality and other forms of suffering and discrimination.

There is no easy road to freedom.
None of us acting alone can achieve success.
We must therefore act together as a united people,
For reconciliation, for nation building,
For the birth of a new world.

Nelson Mandela

The Task Force for the Hungry

The Task Force for the Hungry, an agency of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, was commissioned by Bishop Smith to address the needs of the hungry and the homeless by providing financial assistance to food pantries, meal programs and shelters within the diocese. Thus, TFH handles two portfolios, one labeled "Awareness" and one labeled "Money". The eighteen members of the Task Force come together from parishes throughout the Diocese of Missouri to implement ways to keep before the church the needs of the poor and hungry in our midst. A link on the diocesan website recognizes Taskforce supporters (Emmanuel is one!), identifies programs available at Episcopal churches, connects us to sources such as the Food Research and Action Center, and engages awareness campaigns such as the Food Stamp Challenge. TFH looks forward to preparing a litany for a Hunger Sunday to be observed by congregations later this year.

The Task Force also disburses money to food programs within the territory of the diocese. In 2007, contributions from congregations and individuals provided \$ 10,270. This money, plus reserves from 2006, allowed distribution of \$ 12,700 to eight pantries. A line item in the 2007 diocesan budget supported those programs, too, and allowed a grant of \$ 3,500 to help buy capital equipment for a new parish food program. In this way, congregations throughout the diocese share in a ministry among those in need of food. In 2008, food programs sponsored by All Saints, Ascension, De Soto Contact, Holy Cross (Poplar Bluff), Someone Cares Mission at Gateway Homeless Services, St Stephen's, and Trinity receive donations from the Task Force. Perversely, as the needs at pantries increase (in 2007 pantries experienced an average increase in clients of 5 %) contributions decline, but we remain hopeful that the church can continue to serve God's people.

John Snodgrass

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