

# Reaching Out

## News from the Missions Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church Advent 2007

### 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.

### **Giving that Lasts for More than a Season: Emmanuel Pledges to Support Habitat for Humanity with our Christmas Offering**

We all know that we are entering into the "season of giving" and that Emmanuel has a grand tradition of giving to those in need both at home and abroad. We hope this newsletter will inspire you to get more involved than ever in the many events we have coming up that are designed to bring help and hope to the less fortunate. One important fundraiser the Missions Committee oversees every year is the Christmas Offering. This year, with the approval of the Vestry, the Committee has designated the Offering for Habitat for Humanity here in St. Louis.

As most of us know, Habitat for Humanity helps to provide decent, affordable housing for low-income families. What a lot of people don't know is that Habitat for Humanity houses are sold with no profit made. A lot of us also don't know how those who are to receive houses are selected. To be a Habitat recipient, individuals

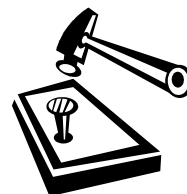
- ◆ must have been a resident of St. Louis City or County for at least one year.
- ◆ must currently live in substandard housing.
- ◆ must not have declared bankruptcy in the last three years.
- ◆ must have an income level equivalent to 25%-50% of the St. Louis median income (\$12,075-\$39,850).
- ◆ must be willing and able to partner with Habitat for Humanity and perform 450 hours of "sweat equity."

And finally, a lot of us don't know that all house payments are recycled to build additional homes.

This is a wonderful organization, and Emmanuel is proud to be deeply committed to its mission, which is to work with all of God's people to eliminate substandard housing in the St. Louis metropolitan area and to build decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended.

Be sure to keep this mission in your heart with this year's Christmas Offering. And keep an eye out for more information as Habitat for Humanity and Emmanuel prepare for this year's construction. If you'd like to volunteer as well, contact Bob Long, Bob Vogt, or any member of the Missions Committee for more information.

When your Christmas Offering envelope arrives in the mail next month, please remember what a worthy cause we are supporting and give generously.



## Emmanuel Cares Fund

What is the Emmanuel Cares Fund? Formerly known as the Deacon's Discretionary Fund, essentially this fund is a last resort for people who come to our door for help with shelter, medicine, transportation or other needs. Deacon Naylor makes every effort to put these people in touch with the appropriate agency or shelter, but when the shelters are full or there really is no agency to help with a specific emergency need, these funds are used. Consider this example: Mr. C is supporting several family members, including some that moved here after Hurricane Rita. The house they have been renting has lots of lead paint and little insulation. It is hot in the Summer and cold in the Winter, and the utility bills are high. The family has found a healthier place to live that will cost them less in rent and utilities, but they must be caught up on all utilities before they can move. Partnering with the family, several agencies and churches, enough of these costs were met to prevent utility shut-offs and enable the family to move. Other assistance provided recently were: help with bus passes for someone who needed a way to and from their new job until the first paycheck came in; a gas card for a traveler stranded far from home; and prescription assistance for an older adult. Many referrals are made to our Food Center, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and other agencies in our area. This form of outreach is possible because Emmanuel Cares.



/Susan Naylor

Deacon and Parish Nurse

### **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](http://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](mailto:jgroetsch@earthlink.net)

Noonday Brown Bag Club: Marie Holt, 843-4952

Young Emmanuel Adults Brown Bag

Hope Benko, 961-2393 or [hbenko@emmanuelepiscopal.org](mailto:hbenko@emmanuelepiscopal.org)



### **Caring Ministries**

The Rev. Deacon Susan Naylor, 961-2393

or [snaylor@emmanuelepiscopal.org](mailto:snaylor@emmanuelepiscopal.org)

Peg Cooper, 821-1012 or [coopermh@slu.edu](mailto:coopermh@slu.edu)

### **Emergency Food Center**

Ann Bain, 849-2290 or [abain355@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abain355@sbcglobal.net)

### **Episcopal City Mission**

Nancy Moore, 968-3799 or [ngmoore@charter.net](mailto:ngmoore@charter.net)

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Bob Long, 832-2725 or [longclay@att.net](mailto:longclay@att.net)

### **Prayer Shawls Ministry**

Peg Cooper, 821-1012 or [coopermh@slu.edu](mailto:coopermh@slu.edu)

### **Webster-Rock Hill Ministries**

Bob Garrecht, 966-5389

### **Missions Committee 2007**

Ann Bain

Jerry Cooper

Peg Cooper

Tracy Crews

Donna Erickson

Bob Garrecht

Judd Holt

Mary Jane Kuhn

Bob Long

Nancy Moore

Deacon Susan Naylor

John Snodgrass

Bob Vogt



# Advent at Emmanuel



## Alternative Giving for Christmas: Sundays in December

### An Alternative to Giving at Holiday Time Gift Cards for your favorite ministry!!

Christmas is just around the corner. Very often each of us gets caught up with trying to figure out the right gift for a variety of individuals. There are alternatives to the frenzy of shopping and giving gifts that often end up on the closet shelf!

Emmanuel's Mission Committee will be making available **Alternative Gift Cards** on the Sundays of December prior to Christmas. These special cards, which convey that a contribution/gift has been given in a person's name, will be available for purchase (a donation of a minimum of \$5.00).

#### Donations can be made to:

- Deep Water Wells in the Diocese of Lui
- Emmanuel Cares
- Emmanuel's Food Center
- Episcopal City Mission
- Episcopal Relief and Development Fund
- God's Child Project
- Habitat for Humanity
- Webster-Rockhill Ministries
- Mission Committee work
- or any ministry you choose.

Honoring a friend or family member with a gift to one of the ministries gives the opportunity to make your Christmas season more meaningful. Gift cards will be available on Sunday mornings in December (beginning December 3) in the Dining Room between services.

## Advent Giving Tree and Soup Supper on December 2

Join us on the evening of Sunday, December 2, as Emmanuelites mark the beginning of Advent in our traditional manner. We will begin the evening at 6:15 pm with a scrumptious soup supper, followed by the decorating of the Advent Giving Tree

The "Giving Tree" is brought to us by our Missions Committee in order to provide a hands-on Christmas outreach opportunity for the parish. That evening, children (and the young at heart) are invited to help decorate ornaments for the Giving Tree. Each 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 gift* by Sunday, December 16. The gifts will be distributed to families in need by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries and to youth in our city and county detention centers by Episcopal City Mission. This is a wonderful Emmanuel tradition and a great way to teach children about the spirit of giving!

This year our hosts will be the MacBryde family – Ian, JoAn, Kevin and Angie, and they will be assisted by our Junior High Youth. Please help them 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 max).



## FaithQuest Kids Learning to Become "Bold in Mission"

FaithQuest, our Sunday morning faith formation program for children from preschool to fifth grade, is committed to teaching our children about all the things that make our Christian faith, and our community life here at Emmanuel, so important. That means that service and outreach are becoming a priority for the teachers and children alike. From the first day the kids have learned that our FaithQuest code includes "taking care of each other," a theme that was highlighted during the All Saints' Family Worship sermon. Following up on this, our children all had the opportunity to bring canned goods to their classrooms in order to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Center Ingathering; they responded with touching generosity, and important conversations about helping others resulted. Some classes are also working on writing letters to the troops in Iraq, and will be making Christmas cards for shut-ins and others in our community who need a little of Christ's light brought to them this season.

## Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Present: **ADOPT-A-FAMILY** for Christmas

With the WRHM Adopt-A-Family for Christmas Program, you, your family or group can reach beyond the everyday routine and help brighten the hearts, homes and situations of WRHM client families. These families struggle throughout the year and this is the season to bring smiles and giggles into their homes and hearts.

Kids need brightly wrapped Christmas packages. The elderly, disabled and homebound need foodstuffs and a “surprise” (if donors are so inclined). The process is as follows:

1. Purchase and wrap a gift (\$25.00 max) for each child in your “adopted” family.
2. Purchase nonperishable foods to provide a Christmas dinner for the entire family.
3. Provide a \$20.00 grocery certificate for meat, produce, etc.
4. Deliver your goods to the St. Mary Magdelene School Gym or home deliver to the Client family.

Client registration has already begun. Family matching begins with the receipt of your completed donor application form. Please call Webster-Rock Hill Ministries at 961-5082 to get the application and supporting information mailed to you. This is an important opportunity to help neighbors in need.

## Missions Committee Funding Choices

The Missions Committee recently voted to fund several projects or efforts. The first was \$1200 to fund a full-time teacher in the local school in the Diocese of Lui. This request was one of the top priorities from Bishop Bullen. The second was a \$1000 contribution to the Emmanuel Cares Fund, a fund run by the Emmanuel’s deacon to help with emergency funds for people in great need (*see article on page 2*). The third was a \$500 contribution to help fund the purchase of a projector for the community center on the Rosebud Reservation. This request from Father John on the reservation is to help combat negative influences on young people by providing movie nights and opportunities for them to congregate and socialize. The committee also funded \$500 for the Habitat Christmas program on the reservation. Funds will be used to purchase gift certificates to give to families in need to help make their holidays a bit easier. A fuller description of these last two efforts is given in the article on page 5.

## Check Presentation to Bishop Smith

On Sunday, October 7, during the 9:00 service, on behalf of the parish the Missions Committee presented a check for \$10,724 to Bishop George Wayne Smith for the Diocese of Lui. Included in this check (which represents money that has already been given to the Diocese and money that has been collected and allocated for Lui but not yet disbursed) is money earmarked for the drilling of deep water wells (which we are continuing to collect money for), money earmarked for school supplies, and money to pay for a full-time teacher in the Diocese of Lui. Part of the purpose of this presentation was to hold up to the parish, in a visible manner, the degree to which Emmanuel, bold in mission, is committed to deepening and strengthening its relationship with its companion Diocese of Lui. The parish recently received a thank you letter from the bishop for our most recent contribution of \$1200 to pay for a teacher in Lui, which said in part, “I know that this gift will make a difference in their lives.”



## Episcopal City Mission to Receive Award from Vision for Children at Risk

The Episcopal City Mission has received the Children's Champions Award from Vision for Children at Risk in the Faith Community Leadership award category. Vision for Children at Risk is an organization which brings together agencies, people and resources to address the critical needs of the St. Louis area's children and youth on a regional basis. ECM was honored on Thursday, November 15, at the Hyatt Regency at Union Station. Mary Kay Digby, ECM's Executive Director and the Rev. Michael Randolph were present to receive the award on behalf of ECM.

Emmanuel has a longstanding connection with ECM; many of you know of the organization in part from the ECM Summer Solstice fundraising dinners (save the date: the party returns to Emmanuel’s Jones Hall lawn on Friday, June 20, 2008!). But ECM’s work for children and youth in detention is year-round; if you want to help out with their mission during the holiday season, be sure to attend the annual Christmas Gift Wrapping party on **Monday, December 17**, at the Cathedral. Gifts provided by parishes around the Diocese (including ours—see the article on the Advent Giving Tree on page 3) will be wrapped just in time for the holidays. For more information, talk to one of our ECM ambassadors or go to [www.ecitymission.org](http://www.ecitymission.org)

## It's Not Too Late to Help the Senior High with the "Hygiene Kit" Ingathering

The Senior High Youth Group is collecting personal care items to assemble into kits that we will distribute during the Miss Carol's brunch at the Cathedral on December 16. We would like toiletries like soap, shampoo, brushes, combs, hand sanitizer, tissue packs, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc. There will be a box in the back of the dining room to collect donations now through December 2. Individually wrapped or sample sizes are great; we cannot accept open containers. We typically make about 100 kits, so...we would love your help on this!!!

## Emmanuel & Rosebud: Traveling Together on a Path of Faith

*Our first task in approaching other people, another culture...is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on peoples dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival" —Max Warren*

By now, many of you are aware that Emmanuel has an ongoing ministry with the Brule Lakota people on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in central South Dakota.

Every summer a group of parishioners from Emmanuel and Christ Lutheran travel to the reservation to work for the Sicangu Tikaga Okiciyapi chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Working with local partner families, we add our sweat equity to theirs as we build homes, relationships and community.

As we get to know the people, and their dreams and needs, our level of outreach has expanded.

Men of Emmanuel provided funds, in 2006, to help re-roof Barbour Hall, the building in which we stay on Bishop Hare Center. While Adult Mission Trippers watched several gorgeous, powerful electrical storms this past June, with wind gusts and driving rain, we stayed safe and dry, thanks to MOE!

Likewise, even before our very successful clothing drive in late summer, Emmanuel clergy discretionary funds assisted with money to purchase an industrial stove for Barbour Hall. As you can imagine, the dorm kitchen is central for the effective functioning and feeding of all the groups who spend time on the reservation throughout the year participating in the building projects. (I distinctly remember the 'old' stove as being ancient when I arrived at Rosebud as an Emmanuel senior high leader back in the early '90's!) Our Adult group was the first to use the 'new' stove when we arrived in June this year!

Our knitters group (also known as the Prayer Shawl Ministry) has provided blankets, sweaters and mittens to the Episcopal clergy couple serving the reservation, Father John and Mother Judy Spruhan. They will be using these items to **warmly** welcome the smallest members of the Lakota Episcopal church during home visits and baptisms! Opportunities are being explored for this to be an ongoing ministry.

While on the reservation delivering clothes last month, Emmanuelites received a request from Father John

regarding money needed for a community-wide Youth Initiative. Substance abuse, the proliferation of gangs and suicide are demons not exclusively faced by inner city youth; they are rapidly becoming everyday realities for children and teens on the reservation. There are literally NO recreational opportunities for these kids within the local area. The nearest movie theatre is over 40 miles away. In consultation with tribal elders, Father John applied for a \$1,000 Jubilee Grant from the National Episcopal Church for the purchase of an overhead projector and DVD player, similar to the one we have in the dining room. It was his hope that movies could be offered once or twice a month, in the Bishop Jones Building (owned by the Episcopal church, the Bishop Jones Building is the largest on the reservation and serves as a community center for meetings, funerals – and most recently, an Emmanuel Clothing Drive sale! You might also want to know that it is a building which was funded, in large part, with money donated in celebration of the ministry of Susie Skinner upon her retirement.)

Father John was given only half the amount they needed. The Emmanuel Missions Committee allocated a matching grant of \$500. The money has been sent to the reservation—with the first movie scheduled to be shown in early November!

The Missions Committee has also approved \$500 for the STO Habitat Christmas Program. Funds will be used to purchase gift certificates from Bueches, the local grocery store, and distributed to partner families to help make their holidays a little easier. (By getting the certificates from a community based store, it will also support the local economy rather than a national conglomerate.)

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Our experience on Rosebud has convinced us that we don't need to know the whole plan; it's enough that we're taking steps; we're on our way—and we're not traveling alone.

Thanks be to God.  
—Donna Erickson



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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](http://www.emmanuelepiscopal.org)*



**Thanksgiving Day Food Center Ingathering:** Thursday, November 22

**Senior High's Hygiene Kit Ingathering:** November 18 through December 2

**Caring Ministries meeting:** December 10 and January 14

**Young Emmanuel Adults Brown Bag:** Wednesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m.

**Junior High Operation Brown Bag:** December 12 and January 9

**Noonday Brown Bag Club:** December 13 and January 10

**MOE Operation Brown Bag:** December 20 and January 17

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** November 29, December 13 & 27, January 10 & 24

**Missions Committee meeting:** December 4, at 7:00 p.m.

**Advent Giving Tree & Soup Supper:** Sunday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m.

**Alternative Giving Cards Sales:** Sunday mornings in December



***Please post this on your fridge for future reference!***

