

Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee of Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Lent 2008

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 in 2007: An Annual Report from the Missions Committee

2007 was a wonderful year for missions work at Emmanuel. The Christmas Offering in 2006 was designated, with the Vestry's approval, for general missions work. More than \$6,400 was raised, and the Missions Committee was put to work to find where this money could be spent wisely and devoutly. You will recall that the Committee has stated as part of its purpose that it will seek to serve Christ internationally, nationally, and locally. With this in mind, the Committee allocated the Christmas Offering as follows.

Locally, a number of efforts were funded. \$2,600 was sent to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries to complete funding of our 2006 pledge. We also allocated \$1,000 for Alms: Emmanuel Cares. This fund serves emergency needs on a local basis where no agency services exist. We also allocated \$400 to purchase liturgical items to be used by the chaplains in the Lakeside and County detention centers.

On the national level, we allocated \$500 to help purchase a projector for the community center at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. This will allow them to show movies in the center, which is a focal point in the community. Currently, the nearest movie theater is more than forty miles away. Being able to do things like this will help deter some behavior among the young people on the reservation, who often turn to alcohol and drugs

out of boredom. Our \$500 will match a grant from the national church.

We also sent \$500 to the Habitat Christmas program on the reservation. These funds were used to purchase gift certificates to give to families in need to help make their holidays a little easier. And finally, on the national level, we sent \$200 to Father John on the Rosebud Reservation to help enable young people interested in becoming clergy travel to conferences.

On the international level, the committee continued to strength the parish's ties to our companion diocese of Lui in the Sudan. With the remainder of the Christmas Offering, the committee allocated \$1,200 to fund a full-time teacher in the local school. This was identified by Bishop Bullen as one of the top priorities for the diocese.

And speaking of Emmanuel's relationship with the Diocese of Lui, 2007 saw part of the fruition of a goal started a couple of years ago. In 2007 the Missions Committee, after long discussions with the Diocese of Missouri, allocated \$3,000 for the digging of deep-water wells in Lui. This money, along with money from our own Diocese and other churches, helped bring about an almost miraculous event on Easter Sunday, 2007—the first deep-water well in Lui began to flow. This was but one of three wells that were drilled successfully.

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If you look for the Missions Committee's bulletin board in the dining room, you will see a wonderful rendition of the all of the coins collected in the little white churches each Sunday going to these wells. In 2008, the Committee, again with Vestry approval, has designated the money collected each Sunday in these little churches again to go to the digging of additional fresh-water wells in Lui.

The Missions Committee was involved in many other efforts, as well, throughout 2007. At Christmas we offered Alternative Giving Cards, with money designated by donors for many, many different mission projects, including Habitat for Humanity, deep-water wells in Lui, general missions work, Alms: Emmanuel Cares, Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal City Missions, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and the Food Center. We also helped fund and participated in birthday parties for children who are held in the City Detention Center.

We distributed \$6,000 to Habitat for Humanity to help with the building of a home here in St. Louis. We also helped with funding for some of our parishioners to travel

to Rosebud Reservation in the summer to help with their Habitat program.

The Giving Tree, another Emmanuel Christmas tradition, was also a huge success. Parishioners brought many gifts that were then distributed to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries and Episcopal City Missions. And we allocated \$1,155 to Episcopal Relief and Development to purchase seven smokeless stoves in developing countries. These stoves are essential in helping to reduce the amount of dangerous smoke and indoor air pollution that cause serious respiratory illnesses.

In 2007, we also continued to publish "Reaching Out," the newsletter of the Missions Committee, and we expanded our presence on Emmanuel's website.

As you can see, Emmanuel continues to live up to its declared aim of being bold in missions. There are so many efforts underway throughout the parish, and more that are planned. If you'd to participate or if you have a mission opportunity you'd like to start, please contact any member of the Missions Committee.

Alternative Giving at Christmas, 2007

Emmanuel Cards for Alternative Giving for Christmas in 2007 was a success!!!

Emmanuel's Missions Committee made available **new Alternative Gift Cards with a picture of the east rose window of Emmanuel on its front.** These special cards which conveyed that a contribution/gift was given in a person's name were available for purchase (a donation of a minimum of \$5.00).

\$1,850.00 was donated to the following:

Alms: Emmanuel Cares
Deep Water Wells in the Diocese of Lui
Emmanuel's Food Center
Episcopal City Mission
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund
God's Child
Habitat for Humanity
Mission Committee work
Music Preservation Fund

Christmas, 2007 is the fourth year that the Missions Committee made Alternative Giving possible at Emmanuel. Each year the amount of donations has increased for all of the areas that the Missions Committee supports on behalf of Emmanuel.

2004 \$ 425.00
2005 \$ 850.00
2006 \$ 1,330.00
2007 \$ 1,850.00

Peg Cooper

Member of the Missions Committee



A Word about Lenten Almsgiving

This Lent once again we are embracing the traditional Lenten custom of almsgiving. "Almsgiving" is a word that has pretty much dropped out of our vocabulary. If you visit old churches in England, there is a good chance you will see an alms box by the front door requesting donations for the relief of the poor of the parish. We still call the receptacles in which we receive our monetary offerings "alms basins," referring back to the days when such moneys went for the poor rather than the upkeep of the buildings and the paying of salaries, etc. Some time ago we substituted the word "charitable contributions" for "almsgiving" and more recently changed that to "outreach funds." Something has been lost in these translations: the God connection.

The word "alms" is an Anglo-Saxon shortening of the Latin and Greek word *eleemosyna*. (Anybody still remember the old word "eleemosynary," which was used instead of "charitable" and was a favorite in spelling bees?) The Latin and Greek word is closely linked to that of "righteousness"—the nature of God. God in the Hebrew scriptures is portrayed as one who deeply cares about the poor, about widows, orphans, and strangers dwelling in their midst. Because of God's utter generosity in providing for *our* needs and in forgiving *our* misdeeds, the Old and New Testaments call us to imitate such "righteous" or God-like behavior. The prophets thundered against those who thought that they could please God with a multitude of animal sacrifices and yet neglect the needs of the poor. Jesus carries on this prophetic tradition and in Matthew 25 suggests that on Judgment Day that *eleemosyna* will be the criteria for judgment.

The basic idea of Lent is to take some time out of our busy schedules to open our lives to a closer relationship with God. My experience is that to draw closer to God is to be overwhelmed by God's graciousness towards me. The more that feeling grows on me the more I want to share my gratitude with others. One way to do that is almsgiving, which allows me to be an extension of God's graciousness to others.

Increasingly I sense that how we as Christians respond to the deepening "welfare crisis" will shape the opinions of a growing segment of the population that questions the value of organized religion. It is not primarily a question of the amount of money that we are able to raise, but the spirit in which it is raised. I seriously doubt that the churches can handle all the needs of our nation's poor, but to care deeply about them and to do whatever we can is what we are being called by God to do. There are no easy answers to the welfare crisis and there is much room for debate and disagreement on strategies. But, we must begin to put our minds, hearts, and actions to these matters. There is no better time than this Lent.

Please look into your hearts to see if you are being called to get involved in this great challenge. If so, one way to do so is to engage in Lenten acts of self-denial to provide alms.

Warren +

Editor's Note: *This article originally ran in the March 6, 2007, edition of the Angelus.*

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries designated recipient of 2008 Lenten Alms

The Vestry has designated Webster-Rock Hill Ministries as the recipient of Alms collected during Lent this year. Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (as many of us know, but as many newcomers do not know) is the cooperative effort of member churches to fulfill their mission to serve people of our community who are in need. It was chartered in 1982, with Emmanuel as one of the original members, and is in its 25th year of service to the elderly, unemployed, disabled, and those of low income. Besides assisting with some of the physical necessities such as food, utility assistance, clothing, etc. the Ministries tries to provide alternatives to those who feel they have none. Our Food Center is a major source of emergency food on a referral basis and funds from seasonal gift giving are an important part of the Ministries income.

Being a non-profit organization, the Webster-Rockhill Ministries is financially supported by contributions from private donors, businesses, community organizations, fundraising events and contributing churches. The Ministries relies to a large extent on volunteers and donations of food, clothing, household goods, etc. to help fulfill its mission. Please give generously this Lenten season.

Food Center sees greater need, fewer gifts

Since September, the Emmanuel Emergency Food Center has seen an increase in the number of people we serve. As I read in the media, many food pantries in the area have seen more people in need of food and, like our Food Center, fewer people donating food.

The people of Emmanuel have been very supportive of the Food Center with food and monetary gifts but this year our Thanksgiving holiday time of giving brought us over a thousand fewer cans of food. A thousand cans of food makes a big difference in our supplies. Usually at this time of year, our shelves are well stocked with vegetables, fruit, peanut butter, jelly, stew, tuna, tomato sauce, and macaroni and cheese but this year the shelves are no where near well stocked. This means we need to ask the softball team to do grocery shopping for us much earlier in the season than usual and that means a very large grocery bill. It is financial support directly to the Food Center that supports our work.

Clients come to the Food Center for a three day emergency supply of food and are recommended by services such as Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, the Department of Mental Health, St. John's Clinic, the Division of Family Services, and the clergy.

The Food Center is funded by gifts from individuals and are often given in honor of an individual or as a memorial. If you can help the Food Center, we and our clients will thank you.

Ann Bain

For the Food Center



Youth in Detention Center celebrate birthdays with your help

I suspect birthdays in your family are probably very much like birthdays in my family, very special. Each family member's birthday is a day filled with joy, games, favorite foods, a lovely table setting, and the perfect gifts.

On Friday, February 8, some of us from Emmanuel will be hosting a birthday party in your name. It won't be held in a nice home, with one's favorite food, or a lovely table setting. But each birthday honoree will receive a nice gift. And for a few hours we will bring a little joy and fun into their hearts and the hearts of those able to attend.

This birthday party will be at the City Detention Center in honor of all youth born in February. You can see how special we want this party to be. Pray often for our youth in detention in the city, county, and at Lakeside, and pray for Episcopal City Mission and the chaplains who make the parties possible. We thank you, God, for the gift of life, and your love and power to make new those things which are broken. Amen.

Nancy Moore
Missions Committee



Your Easter Offerings will help Episcopal City Mission



Episcopal City Mission is a chaplaincy program for youth in the City and County Detention Centers. ECM provides many services as part of their mission. ECM conducts a weekly non-denominational worship service tailored for the children. The chaplains help with spiritual formation groups and individual guidance. They help focus these children on issues of self-esteem and healthy relationships, looking at violence, substance abuse, and other issues facing teenagers. They also work with the "Reading is Fundamental" program, helping them with academic issues. But the most important aspect of their ministry is probably what they call "the ministry of presence." The chaplains walk the halls and visit the units, often the only one there for these children.

In 2008, the Missions Committee, again with the approval of the Vestry, has designated Episcopal City Mission as the recipient of money collected for the Easter Offering. At this time of re-birth, think of this mission and give generously.

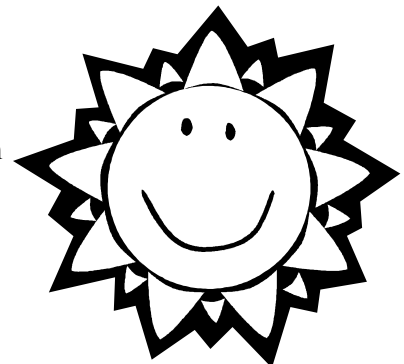
2008 Summer Solstice Is Coming

SAVE THE DATE - mark your calendars - Friday June 20 – Episcopal City Missions Summer Solstice – you don't want to miss out!

The party begins at 6 p.m. with great food, lively music by the House of Bishops, beer, wine and lemonade, a kid's activity area and a fabulous Silent Auction. You can enjoy dinner and fellowship while your children play in a supervised area. They can participate in a bean bag toss game, arts and crafts, playground, face painting and more.

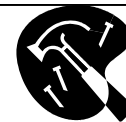
The Silent Auction has many desirable items including Cardinal's Tickets, \$100 Galleria Gift Certificate, restaurant certificate, Science Museum membership and oh so much more! To make shopping easy we will be accepting credit cards.

All of this food and fun for the whole family for only \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under, it is a great bargain! Get a group together, enjoy the music, the food, the shopping and all to support Episcopal City Mission.





Hands on Opportunity Rebuilding Together St. Louis



Once a year the St. Louis community comes together for what is known as “Build Day”. On this day, 100 elderly and handicapped folks are helped through Rebuilding Together. We make many necessary repairs in these folks homes, repairs that wouldn’t get made without the help of many, many volunteers.

This year Build Day is Saturday, April 19. Rick and Mary Jane Kuhn, and the employees of Kuhn Construction CO. Inc. will again be leading a group of volunteers. The Kuhn’s have been involved with Rebuilding for over 10 years. The type of work takes all skill levels, from gardening, painting, washing windows, to plumbing and carpentry work. Steps get fixed, new faucets installed, handicap accessibility needs addressed, all done in a great spirit of cooperation, joy and FUN!

The day begins around 8 a.m. – donuts and drinks are served, work assignments handed out and work begins. At noon we break for lunch – MJ provides good food to keep the workers strong and energized. The day is over by 4 p.m., with pizza, beer and soft drinks offered back at the Rebuilding Together offices. You don’t have to come at 8 or stay until 4, we will take what time you can give.

If this sounds like a great way to give back to your community please email Rick and Mary Jane at kuhnconstruction@sbcglobal.net to sign-up or for more information.

Letters from Lui!

It is a rare treat to get actual mail from Lui, but in December two letters were brought back by the Venerable Robert Franken, Archdeacon for Sudan Projects. Here are excerpts from messages from Rev. Margaret Obadayo and Bishop Bullen Dolli:

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

I send you our greetings hoping that you are fine; we are also very fine. We are praying for all of you, and hope that one day you will also come back to see us. How wonderful that would be! ...Concerning Mothers Union work, we are still continuing the work of sewing started when Deborah was still here in Lui [Deborah Goldfeder, of Advent-Crestwood, missionary in 2006]. This year we managed to sew school uniforms for the children of Lunjeni and we are looking forward to starting a pottery program. Our lives are much improved by the wells! We have clean water, and we have time to work for our own development! Please pass our greetings to all of our friends in your parish, wishing them a Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. May God Bless you all,

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Margaret Obadayo

Money in the Little White Churches Will Help Dig Deep-Water Wells in Lui Again in 2008

With the Vestry’s approval, the Missions Committee has renewed its commitment to bring fresh water to the Diocese of Lui in the Sudan in 2008 by continuing to designate the money collected in the little white churches each Sunday for the digging of deep-water wells.

In 2007, you will recall, three wells were successfully dug in Lui and are now providing safe drinking water. Emmanuel’s funds, combined with those from the Diocese of Missouri and from other parishes, helped make this possible. In 2008, the goal is to work with these same partners to drill wells in other, more remote parts of Lui. Updates and pictures will be provided on Emmanuel’s website during the year, so watch for those.

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

...I would be delighted if you could convey my heartfelt greetings to all the congregation, the clergy and laity in your church. We continue to hold you in our prayers, and likewise you are praying for us here in Lui. ...The women of the Mothers Union are working very hard in the areas of evangelism, home economics, arts and crafts, and counseling young families. ...I am especially thankful for your generosity and support of the water projects (wells) and Lunjeni School. We have 570 children in the school now, and we thank you for the support of teachers! Perhaps the Diocese of Missouri could spare us some teachers? We have work for them! I wish you Happy

Christmas and God's blessings and prosperity for all of you in the New Year.

May God bless you,
Rt. Rev. Bullen A. Dolli

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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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

Young Emmanuel Adults Brown Bag: Hope Benko, 961-2393
or hbenko@emmanuelepiscopal.org

Caring Ministries

The Venerable 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

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Donna Erickson

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Judd Holt

Mary Jane Kuhn

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John Snodgrass

Bob Vogt