



Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Summer 2010

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Missions Committee

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Bold in Mission

In the November issue of *Reaching Out*, I referred to Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori's prophetic voice when she said, "The heart of this body [The Episcopal Church] is mission - domestic and foreign." This echoes the theme from our last *General Convention*, which was *Ubuntu* - a Bantu word meaning "I am because you are." Both ideas acknowledge the wisdom of knowing that it is essentially through mission with others that we can realize our capacity for wholeness. In this edition of *Reaching Out*, I will highlight a few of the thoughts that I shared last fall at the parish dinner sponsored by the Men of Emmanuel. They summarize the ideas of various thinkers about mission - being sent out by Jesus into the world.

Michael Kinnamon, *General Secretary* of the National Council of Churches, formerly of Eden Theological Seminary, has said that in earlier times Christians spoke of "the churches' mission; now we speak of God's mission in which the church is privileged to participate." This is a theological shift that invites Christians to explore and discern what God might be asking us to do in the world in order to identify a deeper and broader understanding of mission. It also has moved a host of faithful Christians to change their concept of mission from "evangelism and planting churches to include God's whole work of healing . . . through acts of justice and peacemaking." As Kinnamon points out, this is a radical departure from our previous perspective about mission. No longer is a person's conversion from another faith to Christianity a core value in mission, as it used to be for the church in the 17th through early 20th centuries.

I chaired the writing group that developed "A Theological Statement on Interreligious Relations"; this theology of mission concerning interfaith relationships was adopted at *General Convention*. Likewise, the Anglican Network of Interfaith Concerns, in its document "Generous Love: The Truth of the Gospel and the Call to Dialogue," recently suggested that in mission we should be involved in "the embassy and hospitality of God." Our calling is both a "being sent out" and an "abiding" with others - a "going out" and a "welcoming in." As ambassadors of Christ, "our mission is to meet, to greet,
(continued on p. 2)

Bold in Mission *(continued from p. 1)*

and to acknowledge our dependence on other people and on God. . . . The challenges to the practice of hospitality are many and serious. Our guests may be suspicious, fearful, or hostile, as we may be when we are guests. . . . We have to learn that being embarrassed, perplexed and vulnerable may be part of our calling as both guests and hosts, for it is when we welcome one another in all our differences that we are truly enriched by one another."

So, in mission, we can authentically engage in interreligious dialogue, framed in the biblical command to "love your neighbor." In fact, some theologians are now talking about a theology of companionship. In "Companions in Transformation: The Episcopal Church's World Mission in a New Century," this theology is emphasized through the biblical understanding of hospitality. In the colonial era, the "sending churches" were confident they had everything to teach and nothing to learn. In the last century, churches were confident in their role as partners in performing the tasks of modernization. A companion church recognizes that it may not be able to "solve" violence, injustice, and suffering; but by being present in the place of fear, loss, and isolation, it expresses the love of Christ.

A Jewish philosophy professor, Sam Fleischacker, said: "We need friendship as much

or more than justice, and where we have to choose between the two, we should choose friendship over justice. Why? Well, first of all . . . [because] justice is controversial and [because] on many issues decent people can disagree very deeply about what is just. If they are ever to resolve these differences, they need to start by discussing them in a framework of friendship, of warmth and mutual respect." For me, this is a powerful way of saying that Jesus' mandate to "love your neighbor as yourself" trumps all when, in our mission as Christians, we encounter those who differ from us.

More and more, I believe that the mission of the Church is to act as God's feet and hands in our world today - to be a source for healing, seeking justice, making peace, going out in compassion, welcoming in with hospitality, and loving our neighbors, even those of other faiths. We are formed as a community when we hear the Great Commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors. We are encouraged in our mission by the prayer that we might be one, as the Father and the Son are one, and that we love each other as the Father loved his Son. So it is that we join with others in the Episcopal Church as we commit ourselves to restore and reconcile all people to unity with God. For me, this is the essence of our faith and that which leads Emmanuel to be "Bold in Mission."

—The Rev. Dan Appleyard

Mission Statement

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.

Give us, Father, a vision of your world

as love would make it;
 a world whose benefits are shared
 so that everyone can enjoy them;
 a world whose different people and cultures
 live with tolerance and mutual respect;
 a world where peace is built with justice,
 and justice is filled with love;
 and give us the courage to build it,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Toiletries Drive for Rosebud



We should have known you'd respond as you did. Emmanuel never fails to live up to a challenge of outreach. We asked you for personal-sized toiletry items collected from your travels and business trips. And all those small items that were taking up space in your bathroom drawers and on your closet shelves have made a huge difference to the people of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

In fact, so many of you responded so generously that we couldn't take all the items out with us on the Adult Mission Trip in June. A smaller contingent of people, traveling to the reservation in July, delivered the remaining 20 boxes of items.

We were reminded that the federal food stamp program doesn't allow recipients to use food stamp money to purchase hygiene products, so there is a huge need for these items among the poor. Pastor Russell Masartis told us that, with unemployment topping 90 percent on the reservation, "economic hardship" doesn't begin to describe the conditions in which many people live.

All of these items were distributed to very grateful agencies serving the Lakota people: All Nations Church and Ministries, White Buffalo Calf Woman's Shelter (the oldest domestic violence shelter for Native American women and children in the United States), and Tree of Life Ministries.

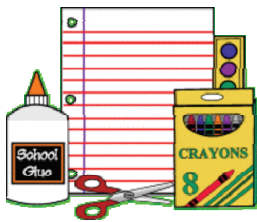
Tree of Life serves 160 families on each of the four days a week they're open. For \$1 a visit, people become "co-op members" of Tree of Life. That membership entitles them to a hot meal, 15 items of donated clothing, a bag of other items as available (including our toiletries), and participation in whatever educational or recreational events are being offered that day. Tribal EMS/firefighters also get supplies from Tree of Life to distribute when they respond to emergency situations on the reservation throughout the year.

I wish all of you could have been with us during our interactions with the recipients of your generosity, some with tearful eyes, all with grateful hearts. As inadequate and over-worked an expression as it may seem in this circumstance, EMMANUEL, THANK YOU.



—Donna Erickson

Everything I Need...



This year's in-gathering of school supplies brought the good news that last year's slump was temporary. We stacked two tables high and filled two car trunks as we collected the items donated. We had crayons for more than 70 children.

There were enough packs of wide or narrow loose-leaf filler paper to supply about 40 middle and high school students. Webster-Rock Hill Ministries had only two book bags when we brought in 12. We collected a dozen pair of best-quality Fiscar scissors, nine packs of 10-count ball point pens, and at least 200 pencils. There are enough pocket file folders to supply an entire classroom, and then some. Webster-Rock Hill had put together shopping aisles in their basement, so that the children could follow the color-coded path for their grade level and pick up their own things.

Nancy Moore delivered half of the supplies to Gateway Service Center, which serves, among others, the truly homeless. Between the two locations, we reached the children of regular clients as well as one-time visitors.

In addition to the commodities themselves, we collected \$377! Webster-Rock Hill will distribute this money via vouchers to Payless Shoes, where children can be properly fitted at a pre-arranged reduced price. There will be money for special needs, such as underwear and socks, a science lab fee, a T-shirt like everybody else's, a lock for a locker, or other things that make it possible for a student to participate fully. You are invited to continue enjoying your contribution by praying for a student you have not met but who is using the item you gave.

—Deacon Burnell

News From Episcopal City Mission

Welcome to New Chaplain

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is the agency whose charge it is to provide chaplains to serve the children in the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Detention Centers as well as at Lakeside Residential Center. We are blessed by the presence of Rev. Mickey Hassler at City and Rev. Dietra Wise at County and Lakeside.

It is with great pleasure that ECM announces that Rev. Jeff Fabbiano has joined the chaplain team. Jeff has a bachelor of arts in youth ministry and is working toward a master of arts in counseling. He has a diverse youth ministry background: in K-Life Ministries and as a camp counselor at Kids Across America Camps and youth minister at The Well Church in South St. Louis. Jeff will be working part time at both the city and county centers.

The Family Court has asked ECM to provide chaplaincy services at the Innovative Concept Academy, a school created through a joint effort of St. Louis Public Schools, MERS/Goodwill, and the Family Court-Juvenile Division. The school serves St. Louis at-risk youth between the ages of 10 and 18. ECM is very excited to have this new opportunity to bring the message of a forgiving God to troubled children.

Of course, supporting a third chaplain costs money. ECM is always appreciative of their many donors and hopes that more people will find it in their hearts to give. Contributions can be sent to Episcopal City Mission, 1210 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103.

A Moment in Time Celebration

The major fundraiser for Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is the Moment in Time Celebration – a gala event featuring a cocktail reception, dinner, speaker, and lively auction. This year's event will be held Sept. 24 at 6:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton. Dr. Scott Larson will be the speaker.

Dr. Larson is president and founder of Straight Ahead Ministries, an international faith-based organization working with juvenile offenders in more than 400 juvenile detention centers in more than 15 states and 5 countries. Dr. Larson has authored 11 books on working effectively with troubled youth. Dr. Larson will also present workshops that day for persons interested in working with troubled youth.

Tickets are available by calling the ECM office (314-436-3545) or on the Web site (www.ecitymission.org). Tickets are \$125 per person or \$100 for persons 35 years old or younger.

The evening's festivities will also include a raffle drawing to win a pair of diamond and sapphire earrings. To purchase a raffle ticket, contact Tammy Free, Mark Jordan, or Mary Jane Kuhn. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. All proceeds from the raffle and the dinner go to fund the chaplains serving the troubled youth in our area. Please be generous!

--Mary Jane Kuhn, board member, Episcopal City Mission



“Hands-On” Mission

Vacation Bible School (VBS) has a heart for mission. Deacon Burnell was invited to VBS this summer to receive their offering for mission.

The children got on the floor to “lay hands” on the soft, fleece blankets they had made as gifts for the families moving into new homes built by Habitat for

Humanity. They had worked hard, tying all those fringed knots around the edges of full-size blankets.

What a way to make a house a home!

—Deacon Burnell

Emergency Food Center

Since 1973 the Emergency Food Center has been an important part of the Emmanuel mission ministry. The people of Emmanuel have been generous with gifts of food and money, often given in honor of or in memory of family or friends.

During the past two years as the economy weakened, the number of Food Center clients increased, as did the cost of food. Although the country is not experiencing problems with inflation, anyone who does grocery shopping knows that food costs more money.

The Food Center has more clients, food costs more, and the Food Center has a financial problem. For two years our financial balance has slowly gone down and is now at the point where there are serious concerns. If you can give a monetary gift at this time, it would be very helpful. Also, please remember that September is the month to bring offerings of cereal, which can be placed in the basket in the Narthex or outside the Food Center door.

The Food Center helps individuals and families with a very basic need – food. If you can help fill this basic need, many Food Center clients will be grateful.

—Ann Bain

Community Garden



As the summer growing season starts to wind down, Emmanuel's new outreach community garden is also coming into its last harvests.

The garden has brought numerous families fresh vegetables this summer including basil, green beans, zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and okra. These delicious bounties have been distributed at Emmanuel to supplement clients who visit our Food Center. There will be more to come in the coming weeks. I am working hard to make sure that the excess vegetables are canned so that their delights may be enjoyed once the daylight is short and the nights are cold.

The work at the garden has been an enjoyable routine for those who have participated. If you have not yet had a chance to stick your hands in the soil, there is still time. Or, if you just feel like dusting off your canner, let me know. And who knows, you might even end up with my prized pickle recipe!

—Tracy Crews

Habitat for Humanity

It may have occurred to you that there has been less news than usual about Emmanuel's participation in the Diocesan activities for St. Louis Habitat for Humanity. This has been because the parish Habitat coordinators have wanted to rethink what we have been doing.

Basically, we are thinking in terms of two large goals. First, as a Diocese we want to have "our own house." We would be entirely responsible for a house from start to finish, not sharing it with some other corporate group or denomination. This means that as a Diocese, we will need to raise about \$65,000. We already have some money toward that goal.

Second, we want what we're doing to become a Diocese-wide activity. We will be going to all of the parishes in the Diocese and inviting them to contribute time, money, and workers. This will give many of the smaller parishes an opportunity to have a larger role in a Diocesan activity and to have a resource for adult and youth mission groups. And, of course, it would be closer to home for most of them and easier for them to get to than the out-of-state trips that we have here at Emmanuel. The six churches currently most active in the local Habitat builds would continue to have a leading role. We will be "on-the-road" this fall advertising this new approach, setting up a Web site, and asking for contributions.

If you want to work on a build this fall that, it is still possible. A phase three build is planned for later in the fall. This will start with a five-day "blitz" to get the roof and walls up on a house before cold weather. If the Amish can raise a barn in 24 hours, we can certainly erect the shell of a house in five days!

More information will be forthcoming about all of this, or you can contact me.

—Don Esbenshade

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