



Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Spring 2010

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Community Garden

On Saturday, April 24, close to a dozen parishioners gathered at Webster-Rock Hill Ministries to build three raised beds to be used for Emmanuel's community garden.

This garden, which is being built as a joint project between the Missions Committee and the Environmental Stewardship Committee, is designed to provide fresh vegetables for Emmanuel's Food Center.



Each year the Food Center serves more than 1,800 clients, providing them with such staples as cereal, rice, and canned goods. Our goal is to supplement these items with fresh produce throughout the spring and summer.

Missions Committee

Ann Bain, Duane Benson, Gayle Birdsong, Jerry Cooper, Peg Cooper, Tracy Crews, Deacon Burnell Esbenshade, Don Esbenshade, Donna Erickson, Bob Garrecht, Mary Jane Kuhn, Martha Lafata, Deacon Susan Naylor, Nancy Moore, Andy Ruhlin, John Snodgrass, Susan Thomson

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, including families with children, to get involved in an outreach activity and to learn more about raising vegetables. We will have our first planting on **Sunday, May 16 at 1:00 pm** and our first Garden Class on **Saturday, May 22 at 10:00 am**.



Community Garden (continued)

If you'd like more information, go to Emmanuel's Website and click on Volunteer Ministries and that will provide a link to our community garden blog. You can also speak with Tracy Crews, Kay Faddis, or any member of either committee, and they will be happy to help.



Spring Cleaning for a Good Cause



Every year our children get new toys for Christmas and the old ones get shoved to the back of the closet or the bottom of the toy chest. How about doing a little spring cleaning and donate your “gently used” toys to the Board of Religious Organizations (BRO)? Don't have any toys hanging around? New ones work great too!

BRO is a non-profit service organization that provides holiday gifts for needy children from newborn to 10 years of age, layettes for needy newborns, and assistance to various senior service organizations. This past Christmas, BRO provided toys to nearly 4,000 children whose parents were

referred by various social service agencies. BRO volunteers filled 1,000 holiday stockings with toys for boys and girls ages 4 to 8, lovingly made layettes for 500 newborns and their moms, provided puzzles for the Detention Centers of the Juvenile Courts, and distributed laprobes and wheelchair bags to handicapped children, veterans, and area Senior Service agencies.

We will be collecting toys in the dining room and in the narthex through the month of May. Look for the colorful boxes. It may be spring but Christmas will be here before we know it and BRO needs some help! Please be generous.

Mark Your Calendar – Save The Date

Join the festivities of **Summer Solstice**, the annual event to support Episcopal City Mission (ECM), on **Friday, June 18, at 5:30 pm**. This exciting evening will include music by The House of Bishops band, dinner and drinks, a spectacular silent auction, and a children's play area with face painting, games, and art projects.

The menu will include amazing grilled bratwurst, BBQ, sauerkraut, salad, and dessert, with beer, wine, and lemonade to quench your thirst. The silent auction will offer opportunities for gourmet dinners, sailing trips, tickets to plays and concerts, dinners out, and much, much more!

So gather a group and join the fun on June 18! Tickets are available for \$15 per adult and \$5 for children over 5 – a bargain for a fun-filled night out. For tickets or more information, contact Tammy Free, Mark Jordan, Mary Jane Kuhn, or any ECM board member.

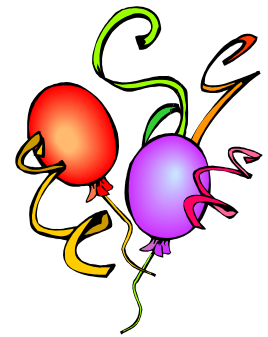
What's ECM?

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is a 50+-year-old organization that provides the chaplaincy programs to neglected and delinquent juveniles, serving approximately 2,500 youth each year at the City and County Detention Centers and Lakeside Residential Treatment Center. ECM is the only agency authorized by the family courts of St. Louis City to provide ministry in their institutions for juveniles. Emmanuel has been active in supporting ECM's mission for more than 25 years.

The Rev. Mickey Hassler serves the city facility and The Rev. Dietra Wise serves at the county and Lakeside centers. The chaplains provide hope and healing to these troubled youth by being present with them and letting them know that God loves them. Weekly chapel services, group times, and individual meetings help these youth learn there is another path for their life.

Thanking God for Birthdays

On a Friday evening in March, five parishioners gathered at the County Detention Center to celebrate the birthdays of two young men. We served pizza, soda, ice cream, and cake, gave gifts, and, along with approximately 35 other youths invited to the celebration, sang "Happy Birthday." A special treat was an amazing performance by a magician. At first, most youths seemed quite skeptical that the magician was going to be of any interest, but it didn't take long before we started hearing "awes" of disbelief and "wows" of excitement. One ball became three balls in a volunteer's closed hand and no one could figure how that could happen! By the end of the evening, we had seen a lot of smiling faces, much laughter, and heard many thank-yous. It turned out it was the first time these young people had ever seen a magician in person.



Attending birthday parties at the detention centers whether in the city or the county makes you thankful. Thankful to Episcopal City Mission, which provides the chaplaincy programs. Thankful to the chaplains and the staff at each of the centers for their healing ministries. Thankful to all of you at Emmanuel who care deeply for ECM and make it possible to have chaplains and birthday parties. And thankful to God who makes all things possible.

We thank you, God, for the gift of life, and your love and greatness to make new those things which are broken. Look favorably upon us as we continue in the world to be the hands and feet of Christ. Amen.

Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated the accomplishment of providing fresh water for our brothers and sisters in Lui. At both the 9:00 and 11:00 am services during the Offertory, a number of our children brought to the altar containers of fresh water representing the fruit of their labors and the commitment of the parish, and our Junior Warden, Margaret DeYoung, read a celebratory statement.

Over the past four years, each Sunday at the 9:00 am service, our children have passed the Little White Churches through the congregation. The money collected has gone to the digging of wells in Lui. At the end of 2009, nine wells had been dug. Prior to this, women in Lui had to walk as much as seven miles to get water—in the dry season often literally scooping water from a trench dug fifteen feet down in the riverbed, cup by cup. These fresh water wells have greatly improved the quality of life of our friends in Lui. Going forward, the money collected in the Little White Churches will help fund educational needs in Lui, including agricultural training. This effort will tie in with our own parish's effort to have a community garden that serves our Food Center clients.

The first endeavor of this new focus on education will be to provide funds for two people from Lui to travel to the town of Yei to receive training in more advanced agricultural methods. Funds will then be used to gather people from around the Diocese of Lui so that they can receive training from those who went to Yei. So as you see our children each Sunday passing the Little White Churches, remember our brothers and sisters in Lui and the bonds that unite us.



Lenten Alms and Easter Offering Results

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Lenten Alms and to the Easter Offering. More than \$3,000 was collected for Episcopal City Missions through Lenten Alms. And more than \$2,700 was collected for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries through the Easter Offering. Your support helps both of these wonderful organizations carry out their missions.

Haiti Relief Efforts



Following the earthquake in Haiti, Emmanuel initiated a number of efforts to raise money for Episcopal Relief and Development to help with the recovery efforts. Emmanuel raised more than \$9,500, which includes contributions from many parishioners, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and the Missions Committee, proceeds from a raffle for a quilt from our friends on the Rosebud reservation (see the quilt and raffle winner Pat Wiltse on page 6), and proceeds from a concert held here at Emmanuel.

The road to recovery in Haiti will be long and hard. Please continue to hold the people of Haiti in your prayers.



Habitat House News

Plans continue to unfold for this year's local build for

Habitat for Humanity, with a number of opportunities to participate over the summer. Keep an eye out for more information on Emmanuel's Web site and on the Missions Committee bulletin boards.

If you'd like to participate or want more information, contact Don Esbenshade, Duane Benson, or any member of the Missions Committee.



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.

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Raffle quilt from Haiti fundraiser held by Pat Wiltse.