



Reaching Out

News from the Missions Committee
of Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Summer 2009

As we begin a new year—post-Homecoming—it's common for many of us to take stock of where we are in our church life. We look back to see where we've been and then look ahead to see where we're going. With that in mind, we thought we'd look at the work of the **Missions Committee** and the state of outreach at Emmanuel.

The Missions Committee has set as its stated objective to pursue outreach on three levels: local, national and international. Accordingly, the committee is made up of parishioners working locally within our community in such ministries as **Episcopal City Mission**, **Habitat for Humanity**, **Youth Groups**, the **Giving Tree**, the **Food Center**, among many, many others.

We are involved nationally in support of such ministries as the **adult mission trip** and **Habitat for Humanity** on the **Rosebud Indian Reservation** in South Dakota and in **New Orleans**.

We are striving to broaden our international participation. For years we have supported the **Heifer Project**, which seeks to end poverty and hunger by providing animals and agricultural skills to communities. We are involved with **Episcopal Relief and Development**, which works in many different areas around the globe. We are participants in the **God's Child** project, which helps pay for children in Guatemala to go to school, which in turn helps break the cycle of poverty. And we have a deep relationship with the **Diocese of Missouri**'s companion **Diocese of Lui** in the Sudan. For Lui, we have raised money to buy school supplies, dig deepwater wells for fresh water, and support a full-time teacher.

In addition to working on these three levels, we are also committed to promoting two types of involvement. We want to encourage people not only to give generously to support outreach efforts but also to provide them with opportunities to get their hands dirty.

As we begin this new year, our energy and our commitment remain high. The portion of Emmanuel's motto that states "Bold in Mission" reflects the deep commitment of so many parishioners for doing outreach work. The Missions Committee strives to facilitate and encourage these and other ministries. If you have a ministry you'd like to begin or to expand, please let us know how we can help. Our goal is to make everyone aware of opportunities to become involved in outreach, to become the hands and feet of Christ.

—*Jerry Cooper*
Missions Committee Chair

[Mitakuye Oyasin](#)

Re-entry—the feeling that you're back where you belong and that you've regained the rhythm of your routine after an absence—has been particularly difficult for me this year. Actually, as each successive trip deepens the friendships and the ties we have to the community on the **Rosebud Reservation**, there's an acute awareness that when we leave, we leave part of our hearts behind.

And OH, how I miss the South Dakota sky!

Throughout the day, in the midst of work, laundry, and grocery shopping, I kept reviewing conversations and experiences from the past week, and several made me smile with each remembrance.

One of the greatest gifts the Rosebud community gives me every year is a vivid reminder of how connected and interrelated we all are. In fact, the Lakota have a phrase to describe it—*Mitakuye Oyasin*—which translates to *all my relations* or *we are all related*.

On the reservation, it seems you literally cannot go to the gas station in town without running into someone at the next pump who's related to someone we know. That actually happened to me on a routine errand. A man in a white hat started a conversation with me when he saw our Missouri license plates, asked where we were staying, and then said that he was the uncle of Noah “Sandy” Tucker, Executive Director of the Habitat for Humanity chapter on the reservation. He asked me to tell Sandy he needed someone to come cut his grass!

A short time later, as we were leaving a store in town, we also mentioned to the owner that Sandy had sent us in. She laughed and told us she was his sister; she told us to tell him to comb his hair!

Our friend, Harold, told us a funny story about the downside of being so connected. He said that in high school, every time he began dating someone, he would have to bring her home to meet his mother, not to get her approval per se, but for her to ask the girl about who her people were to see if she and Harold were biologically related. Laughingly, Harold recalled too many times when she'd basically say, “Nope, take her back. She's related to you!” He claims that's why he had to “hook up” with a woman from a different tribe in Oklahoma!

It seems to me that when you define yourself as being intimately connected to all others in your community, whether through genetics, marriage, or emotional ties not formally recognized, the level and quality of your responsiveness changes. If each person is literally seen as being part of your immediate family, it makes their well-being, their needs, and their concerns more directly and intimately connected to you; how they're doing matters. Even if circumstances prevent you from honoring a request (to my knowledge Mr. White Hat hadn't gotten his grass cut, and Sandy didn't comb his hair!) the whole interaction is treated more tenderly than if there was no acknowledged connection.

I think the difficulty with re-entry for several of us is that we're increasingly aware of how much we're related to the people on Rosebud; we matter to each other, and it's always hard to be away from family you love.

The dates for next year's trip have been reserved: June 19–26. Please give prayerful consideration to joining us. There are only 20 spaces available, so get your \$50 deposit into the church office ASAP to reserve your seat in the van!

If you need help with making a decision, check out the blog emmanuelamt.blogspot.com for more information.

—*Donna Erickson*

(See the following article on p. 3, “Once Is Not Enough” for a first-timer's view of the Rosebud Mission experience.)

Once Is Not Enough

Remember visiting a new place and telling yourself you have to go back and visit again? Now imagine going to a new place that includes rewarding work alongside old and new friends, with meaningful times set aside daily to explore the spiritual aspects of what you are doing. Imagine being with, learning more about, and building relationships with people whose lives are different from yours. Finally, imagine all this set against the backdrop of a stark and beautiful landscape and skies that must be seen to be believed.

The 2009 **Adult Mission Trip** was all this and more. We were privileged to be invited to be part of the final Eucharist with Confirmation of the annual Diocesan Convocation and to a joyful, private party in an amazing setting. Thanks to the committed group of people from **Christ Lutheran** and **Emmanuel** who have paved our way for nearly a decade with hard work and sincere relationship-building with the people on the **Rosebud Reservation** in South Dakota. For me the annual Mission Trip was a first-time experience that was definitely not enough!

— *Mary Jane Crews*

Boot Sale

The third annual **Boot Sale** to support the mission trips for the Junior High, Senior High, and Adult Group is set for **Sat., Sept. 19**, from 8:00 a.m. to noon on the church parking lot. (Rain date is September 26; pray for sunshine!) The previous two sales raised over \$7,500 to help defray the cost for our missionaries. One benefit of raising money this way is that the dollars come primarily from outside the parish family.



“Boot sales” are a mainly British form of market in which private individuals come together to sell household and garden goods out of their cars’ trunks, or “boots” as they are known in that country. The goods on sale are often used but no longer wanted personal possessions. In US terms, a boot sale would be considered somewhere between a garage sale or yard sale and a flea market or swap meet. Though garage sales are not unknown in the UK, boot sales are much more popular.

Emmanuel’s version is organized and supported by the **Men of Emmanuel** and has evolved into three sale areas: one for the Junior High, one for the Senior High, and one for the Adult Group. Those organizations recruit volunteers from their groups to donate items, collect items, price items, and sell items the day of the event. All profits go directly to outreach as Men of Emmanuel underwrites the minimal expenses for advertising and tables.

The Salvation Army arrives at the end of the sale to take away all unsold items and finds homes for those items.

For more information regarding the sale, please contact Clark Hotaling (918-8561) or Richard Keyes (962-5691). If you would like to donate items, please contact Chris Clark (Junior High, 961-7660), Kim Tappana (Senior High, 918-0563), or Donna Erickson (Adult Group, at 961-3896).

— *Clark Hotaling*

Urgent Need for New Food Center Shopping Team Members

For a number of years, a loyal group of 48 people from the Griffins softball team and others have been taking turns going to Aldi’s to purchase large amounts of food to supply our food center for a month — usually over 75 cases at a time. Emmanuel’s construction project has made it necessary to schedule more frequent trips with fewer cases, as getting them from cars to shelves has become more difficult. Some of our original shoppers are ready to retire after years of faithful service.

During the past several weeks, we’ve been asking for new volunteers to step up to help. Five people have already responded. Thank you! Ideally, we would have at least 10 to 12 shoppers total who would take turns going every other time. It has been our practice to meet at Aldi’s at 5:45 p.m., and we usually finish by 7:00 p.m.

If this would not interfere with your class or work schedule, please consider being part of this ministry. If you can help with all or part of our process, please contact Mary Jane Crews at 314-918-1157 or majacr@sbcglobal.net.

Peace Meal Update

“Going deeper and going outside” was the theme of the address given by Bishop Smith at the last Diocesan Convention. He said that the mission of the church—the mission that would help us grow and spread the Gospel—is to go deeper in the practice of our faith and to go outside of our comfort zone to reach out to others.

The **Peace Meal** is a mission endeavor that attains both of these directives, right here in our city. The Peace Meal is a multi-parish outreach hosted by **St. John the Divine** parish in Tower Grove. In a traditional Christian practice of simple hospitality, St. John’s offers a free, open dinner to anyone who shows up at the dining hall at **4 p.m.** any **Saturday** afternoon. Everyone is invited, and that includes any kind of anyone—from parish members, to neighbors around the corner, to indigent people who haven’t eaten since yesterday. There are no reservations, no charges, no questions, no preferment, just shared food and shared conversation—mission at its most basic.

“But wait! There’s more!” as they say on the infomercials.

Not only do Peace Meal create a sense of community among the people of Tower Grove, but it also creates a closer community among the religious communities in the city. More than Episcopal parishes are involved in the meal. There are Baptist churches and a mosque involved, creating a common endeavor that fosters communication and fraternity where none existed before.

Participation is simple. Each parish is assigned a date to serve. We arrive at 2 p.m. at the dining hall, help cook the meal and set up the hall, then open the doors at 4 p.m. to serve any and all comers. We serve the food, sit with the guests, talk, eat, then clean up and leave by 6:30 p.m. **Emmanuel’s** first stint at serving the meal fed 27 people, and the numbers continue to grow.

Emmanuel’s turn comes up every four to six weeks. If you would like to participate in some way with the Peace Meal, please contact me, and we can work out the details.

“You will know them by their love,” Jesus said. We can love others by simply feeding them. Come help. Thank you, and pax!

—*Kevin McGrane*
636-322-1192
kpmcgrane@yahoo.com

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.



Ingathering Nov. 1

Peg Cooper, United Thank Offering coordinator for the Diocese of Missouri, brings news from the recently concluded triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church Women in Anaheim, Calif., that **Episcopal City Mission** has been awarded a **\$6,500 UTO grant** for interactive chapel services for the three juvenile detention centers in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The grant will cover the costs of laptop computers, projectors, and screens to enrich the weekly services. Also included is a training component for ECM staff.

Chapel services held in the centers are one of the important duties of the chaplains from Episcopal City Mission. A sacred space is created in the gym at one center, the cafeteria in another, and a classroom in the third center.

Peg congratulated ECM Executive Director **Mary Kay Digby** and added, “Not all the grants submitted to the national committee were so successful.”

UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that aims to “significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ’s love.” Founded by women in 1989 and administered by women ever since, it provides a way for all of us to give daily thanks to God for his many blessings. These gifts of thanksgiving, our coins and bills in the UTO box from each individual, are combined with those from other parishes and missions all over the world. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, receive them, and distribute the monies as grants according to the policies and procedures of the **Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society** of the Episcopal Church.

Every coin dropped in every blue box is given away in grants around the world. Special attention is given to disadvantaged persons, places and organizations. Our money has built churches, fed the hungry, clothed the poor, and provided shelter for the homeless.

The UTO grant to Episcopal City Mission is one of many examples of how our daily thank offerings add up to do great things.

Last year over \$2.4 million was awarded in grants. The Diocese of Missouri requested a grant for our companion **Diocese of Lui** in the Sudan, and \$19,200 was awarded to the **Mothers Union** there to purchase a community grinding mill and start a self-sustaining pilot microeconomic project that will fund future Mothers Union projects. All of this was made possible by your offering dollars to the UTO.

Emmanuel’s fall UTO ingathering will take place on **Sun., Nov. 1**, at all services. Blue boxes to receive your daily thank offerings are available in the narthex.

How many times do we give thanks to God for the gifts he has given us—a warm house on a cold day, the healing of a sick friend or family member, the look of love in the eyes of our child or grandchild, our pets—the list goes on and on. How long is your list? What are you thankful for today?

Pray: Gracious God, keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all—Jesus Christ. Amen.

—*Edythe Pangle*
Parish UTO Coordinator

—*Beth Felice*
Diocesan Director of Communications

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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

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 (info.), 849-2290 or abain355@sbcglobal.net

Alice Snodgrass (volunteer), 968-1982 or alicefsnodgrass@sbcglobal.net

Episcopal City Mission

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

Habitat for Humanity

Duane Benson, 636-326-5918 or benson15@gmail.com

Don Esbenshade, 727-6780 or desbenshade@micds.org

Prayer Shawls Ministry

Peg Cooper, 821-1012 or coopermh@slu.edu

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries

Bob Garrecht, 966-5389

2009 Missions Committee

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