

## United Thank Offering Report for 2009

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God.

The mission of UTO is to “expand the circle of thankful people.” When we continue the tradition of daily prayers, offerings, and thanksgiving for God’s abundant blessings, we make that mission a reality.

Each person who offers thanks and prayers while dropping coins in the familiar UTO “Blue Box” is participating in the world-wide ministry of UTO. Every coin that is collected is given away in grants because UTO has an endowment to cover administrative expenses. The surplus from the endowment is also used for grants.

In 2009, the Diocese of Lexington was one of only four dioceses to receive two grants. One was for Reading Camp in South Africa for \$22,900 and the other was for \$30,000 for St. Paul's Church in Newport to provide hot meals for needy families and in the future add a Kids Cafe.

The Diocese of Lexington has been blessed with many grants over the years. These two grants represent our 27th and 28th grants since 1950 and our 9th and 10th grants since 2001.

The following parishes participated in spring and/or fall in-gatherings in 2009:

St. Thomas, Beattyville  
St. Andrew’s, Lexington  
St. Patrick’s, Somerset  
St. Paul’s, Newport  
St. Hubert’s, Clarke County  
Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington  
St. Michael’s, Lexington  
Good Shepherd, Lexington  
St. Philip’s, Harrodsburg  
St. Martha’s, Lexington  
Trinity, Covington  
St. Raphael’s, Lexington  
St. Andrew’s, Ft. Thomas  
Church of the Nativity, Maysville  
St. Peter’s, Paris  
St. John’s, Versailles  
Our Savior, Richmond

Those who are interested in applying for a grant from UTO may request an application from the Diocesan Office beginning in October of each year. Completed applications must be submitted to the Diocesan Office for approval. These grant requests must be in the New York Office no later than January 31 of each year. Awards are made in late summer.

A new vision statement was presented by the national UTO committee for 2009 as follows:

*We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.*

To achieve this vision, the committee will focus particularly on granting projects that help alleviate the profound human suffering that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) address. As a result, the work of UTO will directly impact the lives of women and children.

The 2009 grant application was revised to reflect the new criteria. Each diocese is allowed to submit one application for a project within that diocese and one additional grant for work in a companion diocese. This encourages work on the MDGs overseas since this is the first mission priority of the Episcopal Church. The new application is also a little shorter and easier to complete.

#### The UTO Prayer:

*Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy; accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. 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.*

Diane Gabbard  
Diocesan UTO Coordinator