

Mission Opportunities

***At
Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church***



The Church and Society Lay Ministry



BHPC Mission Brochure


A family of active faith, the members of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church engage in a wide diversity of mission and service. "God's church does not have a mission, rather God's mission has a church." These words convey the central position of mission in the Presbyterian Mission USA. Beginning with the nurture of our worship, education, and fellowship, we are strengthened and empowered to pursue the increase of joy and justice in the world. Through the guidance of the Christian Scriptures and focused by our own mission statement:

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church
A joyful community of spiritual friends
proclaiming the living Christ in our everyday lives

*Curious to learn
Inspired to worship
Energized to serve
All to the glory of God,*

with many talents and passions we work in mission.

This brochure presents many of the opportunities for service and outreach in the local community and in the global community that have been developed by Bradley Hills' members. Church and Society Lay Ministry directs its resources and encourages 'hands-on' involvement with activities and organizations that have captured the hearts of Bradley Hills members and friends. Please consider participating to enrich and to expand our programs. Call either of the Co-Chairs of the Church and Society Lay Ministry, Bonnie Holcomb or Bob Reutershan, or staff liaison, the Rev. Scott Winnette 301-365-2850 x501, to become involved in these or to propose other avenues of outreach.



I will be heard! Make flesh of every word:
give peace, justice, liberty, visible reality;
feed the hungry, don't just meet and plan what
they will one day eat. Shelter the homeless, help the poor, the desti-
tute, the insecure. Preach with your hands, wear out your shoes:
words alone are not
Good News.

Miriam Therese Winter

IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We serve by providing volunteers and finances for many care-giving local organizations within the Washington Metropolitan Area.

At the Academy of Hope volunteers tutor DC adults in math and reading skills, and computer technology. The students' goals are to earn high school credentials and to develop computer-related job skills. (<http://www.aohdc.org>, 202.328.2029, BHPC contacts: Elizabeth St. John or Ross Sutton).

An **AIDS Concert Planning Committee** seek to discover ways to focus the many resources of Bradley Hills members and friends in care-giving ministries to those suffering with HIV and AIDs benefiting the following organizations; Whitman Walker Suburban Maryland (www.wwc.org), Association Francois Xavier Bagnoud Uganda Program (www.axfb.org), Women's Collective of Washington D.C. (www.womenscollective.org) (BHPC contact: Terri Horn).

Bethesda Cares provides assistance with compassion and creativity to the needy of Bethesda, particularly the homeless, through the provision of daily lunches, counseling, and financial assistance. Our volunteers befriend those in need by regularly help serve lunch. (<http://www.bethesdacares.com>, 301.907.9244, BHPC contact: Betty Hayden).

Bethesda Help serves our elderly, disabled, or low-income neighbors in need. Its clients are provided groceries, prescriptions, transportation to medical appointments, and rental assistance. Volunteers among many tasks, can assist in organizing the food pantry. (301. 294.4888, BHPC contacts: Odom and Elaine Fanning).

Bethesda Men's Shelter. Bradley Hills volunteers provide dinners on the second Monday of each month (BHPC contacts: Dick DeLouise).

Community Ministries of Montgomery County (CMMC). Bradley Hills is a founder and major supporter of CMMC which is an interfaith coalition 129 congregations. "CMMC pursues social justice with an emphasis on identifying and meeting the needs of the poor, and leading and engaging Montgomery County's faith communities in service, education and advocacy." Last year 31,000 men, women and children received help from CMMC with the volunteer effort of more than 6,000 friends in the community. (www.communityministrymc.org, BHPC contacts: Becky Wagner, Arleta Dipaolo) The **Construction/Repair Team** participates in home repair, painting and landscaping projects such as with rebuilding Together with

Christmas in April, Habitat for Humanity, and similar outreach projects. (BHPC contact: George and Leslye Johnson).

An **Environmental Team** leads the effort to provide proper stewardship of the Earth through education and support of many programs (BHPC contacts: Elizabeth St. John, Steve Dryden).

KidsNet Classroom at the **National Center for Children and Families (NCCF)**. Together with the Bethesda Jewish Congregation, we provided a state-of-the-art computer and media center for youth at NCCF who are transitioning into the public schools. We need volunteer mentors for the KidsNet Classroom. Bradley Hills also provides volunteers who perform other vital functions at NCCF (<http://www.nccf-cares.org>, 301.365.4480, BHPC contact: Rick Arndt)

Montgomery Hospice provides physical, emotional and spiritual comfort for children and adults coping with terminal illness. Every year, more than 1,000 local patients and families get the help they need through Montgomery Hospice's three main services: Hospice at Home, the inpatient Casey House residence, and Palliative Medicine Consultants. (www.montgomeryhospice.org, (301) 921-4400, BHPC contact: Ann Mitchell).

S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat) is supported by BHPC volunteers who cook and serve one pancake breakfast each month in Washington, D.C.. S.O.M.E. is an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital by meeting the immediate daily needs of the people with food, clothing, and health care. S.O.M.E. seeks to break the cycle of homelessness by offering affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling to the poor, the elderly, and individuals with mental illness. Each day, SOME is restoring hope and dignity one person at a time. (<http://www.some.org>, 202.797.8806, BHPC contact: Chuck Holden).

A **Social Advocacy Group (SAG)** educates and mobilizes the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church toward actions on social justice issues, guided by PC(USA) policy statements. Consider assisting them in their goals to: identify and prioritize social issues, increase awareness of those issues, mobilize the congregation to action, and provide educational and training opportunities in political activism and social responsibility. (BHPC contacts: Lynn Kawaratani, Connie Dykstra)

WITHIN THE BRADLEY HILLS BUILDING

We serve by providing space to organizations that enrich the life of our community.

The Bradley Hills Nursery School. Established in 1957, this is a nursery school of excellence with an international enrollment in a Christian setting. (301.365.2909, BHPC contact: Amy DeCourt).

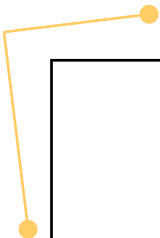
BHPC volunteers help mentor and support suspended public high school and middle school students through the **Bethesda Area SHARP Enrichment (BASE) Program**. BASE provides an alternative to traditional at-home suspensions by providing a structured and supportive atmosphere for suspended students suspended from Bethesda area middle schools and high schools. We need caring volunteers at BASE to work with adolescents ages 11-18.

(www.sharpsuspensionprogram.org/base.html, 301.365.8011, BHPC contact: Bob Reutershan).

The Friends Club brings together active gentlemen in early stages of Alzheimer's disease in a caring, safe, and secure environment. Its mission is to help each member maintain his highest possible level of functioning, to foster emotional and physical independence, to heighten self-esteem, and to enhance the overall quality of each member's life. Additionally, the Club provides respite and support for the members' wives and other caregivers. BHPC volunteers assist with the day to day activities of the Club. (Friends Club, 301-469-0070, BHPC contact: Byron Orvis).

The Pastoral Counseling and Care Ministries is provided space in our building for counseling services (contact counselor, Barbara Jaquette at 410-349-0314, box 22).

As a **musical venue** we serve by providing our space for many non-profit music ensembles, choirs, and orchestras who serve our community through the beauty of music. (BHPC contact: Mimi Miller, Sue Dickson.)



Is not this the fact that I chose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the
thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

(Isaiah 58:6-7)

IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

We serve by engaging volunteers and directing resources to support a variety of international activities through our Global Mission Committee. This committee is organized into task forces: Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, Middle East & Latin America.

A special emphasis of Global Mission is a focus upon *mutual ministry*, emphasizing the importance of enhancing and communicating the spiritual dimension of witness and outreach while working in development and relief activities abroad through each of our Task Forces.

AFRICA TASK FORCE

A Uganda Mission was launched in 2001 at a Mission Forum event where BHPC member, Edith Mafabi, shared her personal vision and the vision of a rural community of Eastern Uganda. Bradley Hills responded by partnering with the community by sending, over a period of two years, five members to strengthen an interfaith connection with the community, to improve the general health status and to promote a variety of development activities. Thus far we have

- Organized with community members to design and complete a *maize mill building and operation* for improving nutrition and easing family economic burdens

- Conducted a *health needs assessment survey* of two sub-counties needing a clinic

- Mapped the availability and status of existing health services* in the area.

- Assisted to build local capacity by helping to register a *new community development association* as well a *widow's association*

- Supported *income generating projects* through a gift of sewing machines and raising of animals

- Engaged plans to introduce high-powered electricity into the village and to train Village Health Team workers for preventive and basic curative health care and to initiate community projects to improve hygiene, sanitation, and clean water, to supply eye care and eyeglasses, and to support education .

(BHPC contacts: Edith Mafabi, Leslye Johnson, Joy Panagides, Bonnie Holcomb)

ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE TASK FORCE

Romanian Orphan Program, International Children's Aid Foundation (ICAF)

BHPC members join people from other churches across the U.S. to travel during late July/early August to Romania to participate in short summer work camps focused on the care and nurture of Romanian orphans. Volunteers join Mission Teams organized through ICAF in Medford, NJ to participate in Orphanage visits, Vacation Bible School, English Club, Bible Study, and Health and Dental Clinics. BHPC also supports ICAF work, i.e., training "educators" who nurture and stimulate infants and toddlers in state orphanages by sponsoring individual orphans, and by supporting a group-home-style orphanage (www.ICAFKids.org) (BHPC contacts: Mary Hickey, Myla Williams)

An **Asia Advisory Group** of Bradley Hills members who have specific knowledge of Asia is in the process of formation in order to assist the congregation to determine the most appropriate and effective long-term response that our congregation might make in the wake of the destruction following the 2004 tsunami.

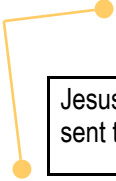
MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE

Global's Middle East Task Force is very active. For example in 2004-5 it hosted a visit to Bradley Hills by PC(USA) mission co-workers from the West Bank of Palestine, Marthame and Elizabeth Sanders, organized a multi-media Adult Education Series on the region, maintained connection with George Ghanem (a Palestinian whose education was supported by BHPC in the 1990s) worked with members of Bethesda Jewish Congregation as part of the Inter-congregational Partnership's Study/Action group to draft a Joint Statement regarding PC(USA) resolutions regarding the Middle East (see the final statement text on www.bradleyhillchurch.org) and participated in a Religious Forum on the Middle East at Westmoreland UCC in March 2005.

Global Mission funds support several Middle East projects: the *Al-Watan Center* for non-violence directed by photographer Nayef Hashlamoun, *Bethlehem Bible College* for the training of Christian clergy, *East Jerusalem YMCA's* rehabilitation projects, *Holyland Christian Ecumenical Foundation* school tuition, school scholarships and a community center for Muslim and Christian children and families at the *Latin Patriarchate School in Zababdeh* and the *Christian Peacemaker Teams*, a group committed to "getting in the way" on both sides of a conflict as a witness to the Gospel of peace.

LATIN AMERICA TASK FORCE

Our primary activity in Latin America at this point is ongoing support for *Lar Betel* an orphanage which opens its doors to street children, giving them a home and teaching them life skills and professional skills. The Lar Betel (House of God) Children's Home of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil, provides a loving home for over 150 children. Lar Betel is a farm, which includes a school, a restaurant and a health clinic. (BHPC contact: Terri Horn)



Jesus prayed for his followers, saying, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." (John 17:18)

IN ALL OUR LIVES

**We serve as individuals inspired by our faith...within our vocations...
as volunteers on boards...as helpers within service agencies...as hospital
volunteers...**

WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

**We serve by providing our offered and collected gifts to assist many
throughout the world who are in need.**

We provide budgeted funds to the organizations described within this brochure. We also generously support many organizations with which we have no direct volunteer involvement. A substantial portion of our mission budget supports programs of the larger Presbyterian Church, USA for both national and international mission (www.pcusa.org). The Church School offering is directed to special projects that are of interest to our children, i.e. providing goats for families in Ecuador and Uganda. In addition to the established, ongoing initiatives, several short term projects, including eye glass collections and mosquito net contributions for Mother's Day, and spontaneous or unexpected opportunities, such as hosting a Maasai cultural dance troupe during short visits to area.

As a part of the larger church, we also participate in four special offerings each year that are dedicated to mission (BHPC contact: Dick DeLouise):

One Great Hour of Sharing (<http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org>),
Peacemaking (<http://www.pcusa.org/peacemakingoffering>),
Christmas Joy (<http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering>) and
Blanket Sunday (<http://www.churchworldservice.org/tools-blankets>)

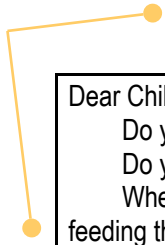
BHPC sponsors an extensive Christmas gift-giving program, **The Angel Gift Tree** in which most of our families participate. Through this program, we deliver wrapped presents to needy children in our region and also fund many worthy organizations and groups around the world. For example, in 2004, BHPC members and friends donated over 250 hand-selected Christmas presents from carefully-prepared wish lists for local children connected with four groups: the *Anacostia Children's Center*, the *Amigo Program*, *Whitman Walker*, and the *Women's Collective of Washington, DC*. Gift baskets were provided to families served by the *Takoma Park Office of Whitman Walker*. Several dozen toys donated by Bradley Hills members and by families from the Bradley Hills Nursery School were wrapped by Angel Gift Tree volunteers and donated to children served by the *Barbara Chambers Children's Center* in the Columbia Road area of Washington, D.C. Additionally, through gift cards (sent to notify recipients of donations in their names), over \$9,000 were made for: income generating and health care projects in Uganda; tuition scholarships for Muslim and Christian children in Palestine; relief food and hygiene assistance for hurricane victims in Haiti; backpacks filled with school supplies for *Lar Betel*, an orphanage for street children in Brazil; sanctuary rebuilding assistance to the *Chapel of the Sea Presbyterian Church* in Fort Meyers, Florida, and support for Bethesda Cares' programs for the homeless.

Frequent flyers in our midst and other who have accumulated airline points participate in a **Miles for Mission** program at Bradley Hills by donating those miles to other members who travel for BHPC mission projects. This program has helped to ensure that Bradley Hills' mission dollars for Uganda have gone entirely into programs on the ground rather than into travel costs. (Contact Scott Winnette 301-365-2850 x501 or Leslye Johnson.)

LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, INTERNATIONALLY

We serve sending Youth and Adults into mission.

Our congregation, through the Youth Connection Council, sponsors annual **Youth Summer Mission Trips**. We have served in Mexico, North Carolina, Maryland, New Mexico, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. To learn about the Summer Mission Trips contact Scott Winnette (301-365-2850 x501) or current **mission projects** contact Bonnie Holcomb or Bob Reutershan (Co-Chairs).



Dear Child of God,

Do you realize that God needs you?

Do you realize that you are God's partner?

When there is someone hungry, God wants to perform the miracle of feeding that person. But it won't any longer be through manna falling from heaven. Normally, more usually, God can do nothing until we provide God with the means, the bread and the fish, to feed the hungry.

When a person is naked, God want to perform the miracle of clothing that person, but it won't be with a Cardducci suit or Calvin Klein outfit floating from heaven. No. It will be because you and I, all of us, have agreed to be God's fellow workers providing God with the raw material for performing miracles.

Bishop Desmond Tutu

All to glory of God.

5/11/2005

