

TRINITY MISSION & OUTREACH NEWSLETTER is issued quarterly. It is a celebration of the spirit of volunteerism as seen through the eyes of our missionaries as they reach out to those in need. Our main focus is on our Trinity missions – but we invite parishioners who volunteer in other outreach missions to submit ideas about their volunteerism. As we have limited space, there is a strict word count, and stories are planned at least three months ahead of actual printing. We ask that our stories come from the heart, from those who serve those in need. We would love to hear from you.

Patsy Green, Editor

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. **Homeworks of America** is a program in which adult and youth volunteers provide home repairs and improvements to elderly and disabled homeowners who are on a fixed income. The request is for the purchase of portable scaffolding and for funds to be applied toward the salary of an employee to manage financial and bookkeeping responsibilities.

. **St. Lawrence Place** provides programming and transitional housing for families with children who are in crisis. The request is to help fund the salary for a part-time employee for a teen program several evenings a week for youth ages 6-12 years old.

All net proceeds from the Bazaar go to mission and outreach. The majority of the funds go to five selected local non-profit agencies which are chosen yearly. The remaining funds go to standing missions chosen by the DHC (Finlay House, Still Hopes, St. Lawrence Place and Heathwood Rural Mission), ECW chosen mission projects and a small grants fund to meet emergency outreach requests during the year. This year's Bazaar will be held **November 21**, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m., at the Cathedral.

HARVEST HOPE FOOD BANK: Millions of people are out of work and/or losing their homes. There is no money even for necessities. Harvest Hope Food Bank, our regional food distribution program, is short on supplies. Harvest Hope, with partnering agencies, provides food for thousands of hungry people every week. Please bring extra canned goods to the Cathedral. To volunteer, call Mason Hawley at 254-9378.

"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

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Second Quarter 2009

Patsy Green, Editor

BREAKFAST SERVED - - - AND LUNCH TO GO

“God used me to start it and all of us to make it happen” responded Barbara Kovacs when asked how Trinity happened to add a bag lunch to the breakfast parishioners had been serving for about two years to our homeless and near-homeless friends.

My conversations with Barbara, Cindy Rogers, and others were a trip down memory lane, reminding me of long-forgotten events that were the beginning of so many ministries that have been carried out at Trinity for 20 and 30 years and still exist today. The bag lunches are just one example.

It was 1987, as Barbara remembers it, and the breakfast had grown to serve between 50 and 75 people each week. During Advent, our kitchen coordinator, Zoe Sanders, decorated a Christmas tree in Satterlee Hall and it seemed to Barbara that we really needed to add a Christmas surprise to the breakfast. She went home every night from her day-job at Sylvan's and made fudge until she had enough to give a bag to each person. She added a few small items to the bags such as combs and socks that people donated. That was the beginning.

From there, it just evolved. During the week, meals were available in different locations but our breakfast on Sunday was the only meal many people had that day. The need for bag lunches on a regular basis was clear and once again the people of Trinity jumped to fill the bill. Along with Barbara, people like Cindy and Joe Rogers and others who were already part of the breakfast team provided the people power. For a while, Honey-Baked Ham donated hams for the sandwiches and Cindy went to the bread outlet to buy the bread. One member of Trinity donated eggs and gradually people offered to boil them in order to include hard-boiled eggs. Barbara sometimes went to the Farmer's Market for bananas. When the ham was no longer available, they purchased bologna from Food Lion. Sometimes people brought cookies. When cost became an issue, almost by magic, people started donating small amounts - \$5, \$10, \$25, \$100. Dr. Charlie Sigel put a penny jar at the Lutheran Seminary and donated \$400

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in pennies from the students and staff. The “lunch bunch” as they were known gathered weekly on Saturday morning to make the sandwiches and fill the bags. Soon, a Sunday school class from Trenholm Road United Methodist Church took over the sandwich-making. People started dropping off clothes or coats to be distributed, buying blankets for the cold weather. The numbers of people we served grew and grew and grew. But so did the numbers of volunteers.

This important part of our Breakfast Ministry has continued now for 22 years. The volunteers change, the food may change somewhat, but the Trenholm Road Sunday school classes still boil eggs and make sandwiches every week. People volunteer faithfully, not for a week or a month, but for years - Dr. John Moore, a retired author-in-residence at USC, has come at 6 a.m. every Sunday morning for at least eight years to assemble the bags in time to attend the 7:45 service. Elizabeth Beale and her lively group of helpers plan a special and wonderful Christmas bag for each of the hundreds of participants in the Christmas Day breakfast. And this year, they added Easter. For many years, someone has offered to dye Easter eggs so that the boiled eggs in the bags have a festive appearance. This year, Ann Gressette gathered a group for that purpose.

And the numbers continue to grow. Rusty Miller, the current chair of the Breakfast Committee (himself a volunteer with this program for at least 8 and perhaps up to 10 years), tells me that last year more than 13,000 people were served at the breakfast and this same number of people were provided with lunch.

This is a time when more and more people – individuals and families – are desperate for healthy and affordable (if not free) food, and it’s a time when we can make a significant difference in people’s lives with even a small effort. It’s impossible in this article to say thank-you to all those who give of themselves to be certain that the food ministries at Trinity – the breakfast, the bag lunches, the support for Harvest Hope Food Bank – continue to fill the need. It’s the hope of the Outreach Committee that you know in your heart that every bit of time, energy, and money you give is critical and appreciated. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Beebe James

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interest that I have developed over the past nine years.”

For those who have not yet stepped out to volunteer Canaday gives his advice. “You should go ahead and give it a try. You’ll get hooked. It will be much more rewarding than you ever thought it would be.”

Editor’s Note: This article was taken from “Volunteering”, a newsletter of Richland County School District One. Bill, we applaud you and we are proud!

BE A MENTOR. HELP REDUCE DROPOUT RATES

Youth dropping out of school is expensive. One dropout costs the United State approximately \$260,000 due to lost earning, taxes and productivity. At the December [2008] South Carolina Summit on Dropout Prevention, State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex said that “the United States is the only industrialized country in the world whose children are now less likely to graduate from high school than their parents.

Dropping out of school is often the result of a long process that can begin even before a child enters school. Likewise, effectively preventing dropouts is a process that develops over time. When looking at a variety of risk factors, four were found to significantly impact dropout at all three school levels. Three of these factors fall under the individual domain and include low achievement, retention/over-age for grade and poor attendance. The fourth factor, low socioeconomic status falls under the family domain.

Mentoring was identified as a positive program to help reduce dropout rates among students. Richland One believes that mentoring programs are crucial for students of all ages—Lunch Buddies, tutors and mentors all play a key role in helping reduce dropout rates. Students with a positive role model in their lives can reduce their risk for dropping out of school.

Editor’s Note: Taken from “*Volunteering*”, newsletter of Richland District One

Suffer the little children to come unto me ...

SPOTLIGHT ON BILL CANADAY

For the past nine years at 7:30 a.m., Bill Canaday walks about half a block from his house to Logan Elementary to spend time with students. Every morning, Monday through Friday, Canaday spends an hour with a different student, impacting the lives of five students each year. He has mentored one student for three years. He continues to keep in touch with another long-time mentee who has moved on to middle school.

Canaday works with students on their academic and social skills. He reads with the students and helps them with writing exercises. Canaday spends time in the library with the students looking at books and chatting about life. He also helps students with geographic literacy. “We will get a globe of the world and locate different countries and discuss different things about world geography that are helpful,” he said.

The past year’s presidential election has also provided a lot of teachable moments for Canaday. “We are able to have good discussion about what this historical event means and why it’s important,” Canaday said he recalls a special moment shared with a first-grade student. The two were sitting in the library under a large picture of President Obama. They were discussing the excitement about the current election and Canaday asked the student why he was excited. The student responded, “he looks like me.” “His response helped me realize that what we’re doing is so important. We need to engage students in not only learning, but in getting them to make a connection with that learning and knowledge and motivating them to be successful.”

Canaday believes that it is important to stay involved in each child’s life because his or her success or failure impacts everyone. “It is really in our interest to try and motivate them to be successful,” he said. Volunteering at Logan has greatly impacted Canaday’s life. In March, he retired to have more time to devote to students and other service activities. “Mentoring has opened up an unexpected world where there is a real need for people to get involved individually with students,” he said. “I put in place a personal goal to be able to retire early, mainly because of this really keen

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A STANDARD TO WHICH WE ALL SHOULD ASPIRE

One of Trinity’s greatest strengths is its long-standing commitment to outreach. From its earliest days, when Sunday school was an offering of an otherwise unavailable education to the children of Columbia, to the present, when Trinity’s outreach efforts touch not only the local community but other parts of the globe, serving others has been a central part of our life together.

My own life has been enriched immeasurably when I have accepted the invitation to serve that Trinity has extended to me numerous times. I have been particularly moved by Trinity’s partnership with W.A. Perry, where I had the chance to interact with children of remarkable creativity and promise, some of whom face incredible challenges every day of their young lives. I have likewise been awestruck by our Christmas bag ministry -- how swiftly and cheerfully our parishioners assemble tangible, practical gifts to those in our community who have the least.

We are all well aware of God’s call to us as Christians to love others as we love ourselves. Serving our neighbors is how we respond to that call. It is how we convert a loving, caring state-of-mind into action. While this exercise forces us to keep from getting too comfortable in our own circumstance, it simultaneously centers us spiritually by giving us a chance to examine our own values from a perspective that is out of the ordinary. I have also found that working on a common enterprise with an outward purpose strengthens the bonds that tie us together as a community.

The common refrain that one hears from those who decline the invitation to join an outreach effort is, “I wish I had the time.” It is certainly a response I have uttered more times than I would like to admit. However, on those occasions when I have accepted such an invitation, I have been reminded that time to serve is to be found in everyone’s life, no matter how busy we are.

Trinity’s unwavering commitment to outreach is a source of great comfort for me. It is an outward sign of the authenticity of our message. We, as a community of faith, walk the talk. While some among us could use more exercise, so to speak—and I include myself in that category—others within our ranks engage in outreach almost reflexively. It is the standard those folks set to which we all should aspire.

Kirby Shealy

TRINITY YOUTH FAST FOR OTHERS

On the weekend of March 14th and 15th, 47 youth from Trinity Cathedral fasted for 30 Hours as part of World Vision's 30 Hour Famine in order to raise awareness about Hunger issues in our World. Students were motivated by the fact that 26,000 children die every day from hunger related diseases.

Students not only went without food for 30 Hours, they also did a canned food drive to help with local hunger relief through Harvest Hope. All of the students and adults who participated in the Famine slept outside in cardboard boxes on a cold and rainy March night. The event ended with our students breaking the fast with our local homeless guests at the weekly Sunday morning breakfast.

Our students not only raised others awareness, they found that their own appreciation for food, warmth and our local homeless citizens grew through this experience. They were also able to raise over \$13,000 for hunger relief. When that money is leveraged with a 1 to 5 grant World Vision received, they raised enough money to feed and care for 217 children for an entire year.

Our hope is that the 30 Hour Famine will become an annual event that our youth will lead and that our entire parish can be part of.

Brian J. Silldorff

DHC ANNOUNCES BAZAAR GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Daughters of the Holy Cross have selected the five agencies that will receive the majority of the funds from the 2009 Trinity Bazaar:

- . **Harvest Hope Food Bank** is the program which provides food for hungry people in 20 counties of South Carolina. The request is for \$12,500 to help fund a mobile food pantry.
- . **Epworth Early Intervention Center** is a preschool program for young children (ages one through four) who have special needs. The request is for operating funds.
- . **The Family Shelter** provides emergency, transitional housing for homeless children and their families while allowing them to stay together in their time of crisis. Funds will be used to help increase the capacity of families served from eight to sixteen.

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3RD ANNUAL ANGEL'S TEA TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

Over 150 ladies (and a few brave men) enjoyed a silent auction and tea to support the programs of St. Lawrence Place on May 1 in Trinity's historic Satterlee Hall.

The morning started with an auction that included items such as getaways to the Grove Park Inn and Biltmore House in Asheville, fine dining gift certificates, tailored clothing, and an aerial tour of Columbia. The lunch included tea from Finleaf Gallery and light refreshments from the kitchen of Trinity's own Andrella Brunson and other volunteers. A short program included remarks on the accomplishments and current needs of St. Lawrence Place from Lila Anna Sauls, Executive Director of SLP.

Special entertainment was provided by the children of St. Lawrence Place. The crowd enjoyed songs, dances, and the sharing of the "blessings in their lives." The event raised over \$10,000 for the programs and services at St.Lawrence Place.

