

TRINITY REACHES OUT 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
783-2788

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to provide leadership, encouragement and support in carrying out Trinity Cathedral's Christian ministry of responding to human need. As the body of Christ, based upon the servant ministry of Jesus Christ, we are to seek and serve those in our community who are vulnerable and at risk. It is our goal to help make this world a better place for all of its people. We hope that you will give of your time, talents, money and heart in support of one of our outreach missions or any others you choose.

During this Advent and Christmas season, we ask you to think of those who are not as fortunate as we are. Our after-school partnership with W. A. Perry Middle School will reap dividends by giving children a nurturing environment of learning and caring, thus helping to reduce our high drop-out rate and put children on the road to self-sufficiency when they graduate from high school. However, we are greatly in need of volunteers. Please call Betty Gregory (254-0581) to learn about the many opportunities from which you can choose. Our DHC Bishop Finlay Chapter is helping in serving our Christmas Breakfast guests and Elizabeth Beal is looking for volunteers to fill the Christmas gift bags, as well as many things to go in them. Our regular Breakfast Program is always in need of volunteers, as is the Soup Cellar. There are many opportunities for service at St. Lawrence Place, and we hope you will remember all of our missions in your prayers.

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THE BEGINNING OF A MISSION

by Cindy and Joe Rogers

When Joe and I were asked to write an article about the history of the free breakfast that Trinity provides to the needy among our community, we readily agreed. When the deadline for that article began to loom, however, we were less enthusiastic. We feared that we would be unable to recall names, dates, important events– and we're still aware that we have failed to mention many people who deserve recognition for this important ministry. But overall we have found that exercising our middle-aged memories has been an enjoyable experience, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share our recollections of one small, but significant, piece of Trinity history.

In the early 1980s, we had been at Trinity for only a few years. Joe had joined the Cathedral Choir and was in the process of making friendships that are still strong today, but I continued to look for a way to participate more actively in the parish community. I found that opportunity in the Fellowship Committee, which was responsible for church-wide social events, such as the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers. At that time, Peg Stover was committee chair, and members included a wide and wonderful array of old and new Trinity parishioners, among them Charlie and Nancy Barron, Iris and Joe DeMates, Shag and Cherry Powell, Tom and Anne Cox, Bill Carter, and Gail Sapp.

The Fellowship Committee met regularly to plan our upcoming events, and it was at one of those meetings that someone suggested a simple Sunday-morning breakfast between the 8:00 and 9:15 services. We decided to start small– our budget didn't extend to lavish menus– with our main emphasis not on the food but rather on the opportunity for interaction among parishioners. So for the first few months, we served the same fare every Sunday morning: sausage biscuits, doughnuts, coffee, and orange juice. We probably raised the overall cholesterol level of Trinity members by several hundred points, but at the time everyone enjoyed it. Eventually, as the Fellowship Committee grew, our menus became more adventurous; most Sundays, Joe DeMates would make his delicious cheese grits, and sometimes we would boil eggs or make waffles. But I'm proud to say that our price remained the same: \$1 per person.

We had been serving our weekly breakfasts for about a year when, one very cold Sunday morning, a homeless man appeared at the top of the stairs leading down to the Satterlee Hall basement, where the kitchen was still located. He wanted food– and obviously needed it– but we didn't know what to do; the breakfast was strictly for Trinity parishioners.

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One of the more resourceful Fellowship Committee members sought out Jack Banks, then Dean of the Cathedral, who said immediately that we must feed this hungry person. We found a small paper bag, filled it with sausage biscuits and boiled eggs, and gave it to the man. We didn't know it, but Trinity's homeless ministry had begun.

The next week, the same man returned, this time bringing with him several friends. We filled paper bags for all of them. The following week, almost twenty people appeared, all hungry, all needy. Within a few months, we were feeding over a hundred homeless men, women, and children. It was impossible to provide "bag breakfasts" for all of them, so we invited them to join our parishioners at the tables in the basement. It is yet another example of the open minds and open hearts of Trinity members that they welcomed and accepted a group of people who were able to carry all their earthly possessions in tattered shopping bags.

It soon became apparent that we would need to rethink our Sunday morning breakfast plan. First, our greatly-increased number of visitors was stretching our budget to the breaking point. In addition, we had no more space in the already-crowded basement for the extra tables we needed. For the first problem, we turned for solutions to Dean Banks, who agreed to provide the additional funds necessary for feeding our unexpected multitudes. To address the space issue, Fellowship Committee members decided, after much discussion, to offer two separate "seatings" at breakfast; our homeless guests (who at this point sometimes numbered almost two hundred) would be served from 7:00 until 8:00, and we would serve parishioners from 8:00 until 9:00.

There are so many stories about this ministry that could be, and should be, recorded in our parish history. Perhaps in the near future someone will write about the next chapter, when long-time parishioner Barbara Kovacs realized that the Trinity free breakfast was the only meal to which most of Columbia's homeless population had access on Sundays— and how she set out to remedy that situation. Joe and I have our own stories about how the birth and growth of this very special ministry affected our lives. For example, I will never forget the sunny day when my mother, who was visiting us from Ohio, and I came out of Taylor Street Pharmacy and saw two homeless men, apparently asleep on a bench. One of them, however, sat up and waved when he saw me; I recognized him as one of our Sunday morning "regulars," and we chatted while my poor mother, obviously very confused, stood and watched. When we got in the car, she asked, in a not-quite-steady voice, "Is he a friend of yours?" I was proud to be able to reply, "Yes, he is."

EVEN THE LEFTOVERS.

.IT ALL GOES TO OUTREACH! Every year, we give what has not been sold at the bazaar to non-profit agencies which can use the surplus. This year, the two agencies were His House and There is Hope. By 4:00 Saturday afternoon, on November 3, their trucks were filled and leaving the church parking lot. Both of these missions have thrift shops and the proceeds go to help those in need.

His House was founded 34 years ago as a ministry for recovering alcoholic men. It has a transient shelter where clients can stay up to 90 days (sometimes longer). These men are out working and the shelter gives them time to get on their feet financially. The mission also has an in-house alcohol program which includes required church services on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. It is run by ministers and operates financially entirely from its donations to its four thrift stores, where the clients do all of the work. There are no salaries to anyone and the mission does not request monies, only items for the stores. When asked if there were any need for a small amount from the DHC Small Grants Fund, the minister replied, "No, there are people who need it more than we".

Our other agency to receive our surplus is "There Is Hope" in Gaston, which is a mission for those who are in need. It has a men's shelter where the men work, a thrift store (where our surplus goes) a food program every Saturday morning which gives food for a family of four for a week, a church and a healing center. November 3 was just the first day. The bazaar keeps on giving!

Below: Little boys enjoying the St. Lawrence Place newly decorated children's room!!



Mother and daughter enjoying the children's room, too!

DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

When you think of the Daughters of the Holy Cross and outreach you probably think of the money raised by the Bazaar and the five large grant recipients chosen each year. What you may not realize is that in addition to the large grant recipients the Daughters through the Bazaar also support four standing missions, three Episcopal Church Women missions and a small grants fund. The Bazaar's Standing Missions are Finlay House, Heathwood Hall Rural Missions, Saint Lawrence Place and Still Hopes. Each year the Episcopal Church Women of the Upper Diocese support a Diocesan, National and World Mission project. 10 percent of the Bazaar proceeds are withheld to respond to small grant requests during the following year.

In 2007 small grants have included books for the students of W.A. Perry, plumbing assistance for a midlands family, rent assistance for another family in the midlands, and partial funding for a power point projector for Rev. Dr. Peter D. Korosi, a missionary for the Evangelical Church of West Africa, Nigeria. The small grants fund will also provide financial support for the Christmas bags for the homeless men and women in our community.

The Daughters' annual operating fund also supports a mission work. Each year the Daughters of Trinity Cathedral are asked to support the operating budget of the Daughters of the Holy Cross with an annual contribution for the administrative, pastoral and outreach efforts for the upcoming year. In 2007 the Daughters supported W.A. Perry with funds for student recognition in the after school program.

In addition Chapters of the Daughters of the Holy Cross are involved in outreach. The Elsie Lamar Chapter is working with St. Lawrence Place this year by providing cleaning supply items and working on a Greenbax stamp initiative. The Bishop Finlay Chapter supports missions through the Bazaar by chairing the Gourmet Corner Booth. The Bishop Finlay Chapter has also assisted with providing a meal at the W.A. Perry Afterschool Program and collected food for Harvest Hope Bank. The women of this chapter will provide manpower for the Christmas morning breakfast. This year the chapter is also knitting scarves to be given to the homeless on Christmas morning. Thanks to the initiative of Bishop Temple Chair, Caroline Meyer, many will participate in Operation Christmas Child filling shoes boxes for children around the world.

Through Episcopal Church Women, the Daughters provide financial support to the Bena Dial Scholarship Fund, the Seminary Book Fund and Washington National Cathedral. This year the Daughters also purchased the Fair Linen for St. Paul's near Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana; St. John's in Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and Grace Church on Canal Street in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Diocesan offices of Louisiana and Mississippi provided the names of these churches as among the most damaged right after Hurricane Katrina. It is a privilege to be part of such a generous and loving community of faith.

Janie Godbold
President, DHC

Remembering the Homeless at Christmas

“and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like noonday.”

Isaiah 58:10

As Christians we are not only called to serve the poor and oppressed, but in doing so we emerge from our own darkness into the light of Jesus Christ. In simple terms, when we focus on others' needs and not our own we become healed of what ever it is that seems to hold us. God calls us to serve others and restores us in the process. And so, as Christmas approaches it's time to remember the poor through our homeless Christmas bags. On December 24th at Trinity, we will gather to fill our bags with toiletries, hats, scarves, socks, food and many other items. These bags will be given to our homeless guests on Christmas morning. A detailed list is posted on the mission's bulletin board on the Chisom Trail (hallway leading to the cathedral). Please call Elizabeth Beal to sign up at 782-8325 or mbeal@sc.rr.com. May the light of Jesus Christ shine and heal all of us this Christmas!

Elizabeth Beal

Comments on Christmas Bags for the Homeless

“The reason why I like God is because I believe in Him and I can cuddle with Him in my dreams. It felt good to be helping the homeless. I think those people are lonely and don't have a place to go and I'm just trying to be nice. I'm going to try to earn money for this year and I will try to buy toys for the children to hug and sleep with. When we pack the bags on Christmas Eve morning it makes me very happy.”

Olivia Davis – age 5 yrs

“As with many extended families today we are rarely together on Christmas morning – and sometimes not even on Christmas Day. Packing the bags for the homeless has become a very meaningful part of our family's Christmas tradition with those from out of town always making it the core of our togetherness. Last year, earning their own money and buying items for the bags made it even more special for our four granddaughters.”

Cookie Cloyd



Harvest Hope Food Bank

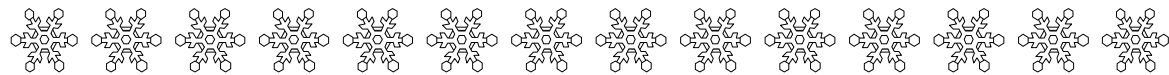
Trinity Cathedral has historically taken a strong role in the ministry of Harvest Hope Food Bank. Members Ellen Wright and Ginny Walker remember well the early days of Harvest Hope. They recall the numerous people in the community who saw a need to relieve hunger and helped make Harvest Hope become a reality. Ginny served on the first board of directors and Ellen worked as a volunteer in the Emergency Food Pantry for 15 years. Along with many others, Trinity members Isabel Baker and John Bell were faithful volunteers for years.

Harvest Hope has grown to serve over 200,000 in 2006 through more than 400 member agencies in 20 counties throughout South Carolina, such as the Emergency Food Pantry, 14 Kids Cafes, and Mobile Food Pantries in rural areas. Unfortunately, the number of people experiencing hunger has continued to rise, and in 2006 South Carolina was named as having the highest prevalence of hunger in the nation. The Emergency Food Pantry, where many members of Trinity have been involved, relies on large numbers of volunteers to help serve over 100 families a day. This summer the EFP served the highest numbers in 25 years.

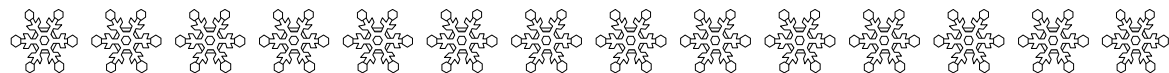
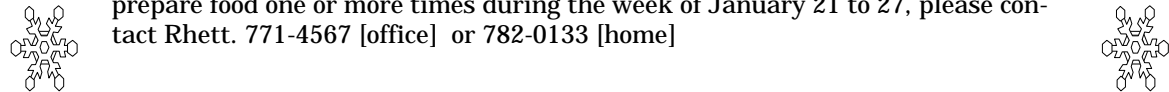
Harvest Hope could not operate without the support of churches, organizations and individuals who daily offer their time, talent and donations. Over the years Trinity Cathedral has given the organization much to be thankful for including numerous grants through the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Mason Hawley also chairs a large and dedicated team who collect and deliver donated food items weekly to Harvest Hope.

If interested in volunteering or learning more about Harvest Hope and its Emergency Food Pantry, call Calvert Klopp (736-5748). And please don't forget to bring your canned goods to church each week, particularly now that we are in the midst of the holiday season— a difficult time for those who are experiencing hunger. In addition, this year individuals can adopt a family for just \$10. This donation purchases a box of food with all the makings for Christmas Dinner; we anticipate needing 5,300 hundred of these boxes.

Margaret Knowles
Harvest Hope



Winter Shelter News Rhett Wolfe is leading our effort again this year as we serve the homeless at the *Winter Shelter*. If you can help our team serve or prepare food one or more times during the week of January 21 to 27, please contact Rhett. 771-4567 [office] or 782-0133 [home]



TIMOTHY

Timothy's family was in crisis. His mother had recently had brain surgery for cancer. His dad had to quit his job and his grandmother had to take a leave of absence from work so that they could take care of mom and the kids. Timothy was three years old and his younger brother was one year when Grandmother called Children's Garden for help. . .she needed to go back to her job before she lost it. Dad couldn't take care of mom and the kids. They had no money for childcare and they were about to lose their apartment.

Just when you think things couldn't get any worse, they got worse. Mom did recover, although it took many months for her to become independent and return to work. All three adults had to use the one car in the family and dad had a hard time finding a job. Grandmother became ill and went on disability. Dad had to take a construction job in another state. He hurt his back and became addicted to pain medication. All this was too much. Mom and Dad separated.

These children were in serious crisis. Timothy was angry and fearful . . .he had been worried about his mother, now he was missing his dad. It was way too much for one little boy. WE FELT THAT WE HAD TO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR THESE KIDS.

Thanks to the goodness of the community, we were able to keep Timothy at the Children's Garden for another year until he entered kindergarten. This continued to provide him a specialized and warm nurturing environment offering safety, security, love and an opportunity to learn and grow through skilled, sensitive teachers, staff and volunteers. His needs were met in health, nutrition, mental health, social skills, language development, education and safety. This freed his mom tremendously to work towards stabilization.

All the stress and upheaval of Timothy's early years put him at risk for failure in school. Timothy deserved opportunities, during these critical, formative years, that helped him develop positively and helped him gain readiness skills needed for success in school. A strong family literacy program at Children's Garden, enhanced through community support, provided many readiness opportunities for Timothy.

Timothy's family has been strengthened. The mother's health is good and she has recently received a raise at work . The grandmother and father remain involved and supportive in the children's lives. Timothy entered kindergarten last fall with a good sense of self and a love of learning. Thanks to Children's Garden, he will be ready for first grade!

Elizabeth G. Quackenbush
Development Director
Volunteers of America of the Carolinas

Editor's Note: Children's Garden is one of the five non-profit agency recipients of this year's bazaar funds. It is a community service program that provides no-cost child care to very young, homeless and needy children. Our bazaar funds will cover partial funding for an assistant teacher in the Toddler One Classroom. Last year, approximately 100 homeless families were turned away due to funding limitations and this was a 100 percent increase from the previous year. Next year, the agency hopes to add more children by being able to fund additional teachers' aides in the classrooms.