

St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church

Worship with joy, grow in faith, act for justice



Outreach Activities and Opportunities

February 2009

From the Rector

I love the five questions that follow the question and answer Apostles Creed in our baptismal service in the Book of Common Prayer. They seem to me to build on one another. We begin to live as Christians by absorbing some of the Word, the spirit of the community, and by praying. We learn to distinguish that which helps our life in Christ, and that which frustrates our relationship to the sacred.

The last two questions root our life in Christ in mission and service to others. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?* It is easier to say, I will, with God's help, than it is to try to "go and do likewise."

Our collective and individual outreach efforts are our ways of going and doing likewise. We begin to make our lives a real answer to seeking and serving Christ in all persons, and working for justice and peace. It is my prayer that our Outreach ministries described in these pages will inspire and invite us all to answer these questions again and again, to serve, serve, will be our delight, until "by turning, turning, we come round right."

The Rev. James C. Rhodenhiser

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* Denotes a joint undertaking with members of Temple Beth Emeth

1. INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN)

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) runs Alpha House, a shelter for homeless families with children. IHN provides the families it serves with support systems to find and be successful in keeping permanent housing, as well as helping them find employment opportunities if necessary. Area congregations provide food, supplies and volunteers for a week at a time throughout the year.

St. Clare's and Temple Beth Emeth provide volunteers four weeks a year (usually in late March, early June, late August and during Christmas week). You have the opportunity to do any of the following:

- Provide dinner for 25 people, either alone or with other volunteers.
- Serve and eat dinner with the families and spend time during the early evening (5:30 - 8:30 p.m.). On some evenings, there are planned activities for the children or for entire families; on others, you are free to read, play games, supervise children in the playroom or outside, or bring a project of your own. Two adults or a family are needed for this shift.
- Spend the night, with a staff person always on duty. Interact with families in the morning while they are making lunches and at breakfast.
- Spend a three-hour shift during the day on weekends. Fix breakfast or lunch using available food. Spend time with the families, especially the children.

St. Clare's also provides items for Welcome and Blessing Baskets as a Lenten outreach project. These baskets contain items that families need when they enter and leave the shelter

As well as being an Outreach opportunity, this project provides volunteers with an opportunity to meet and work side by side with our friends from Temple Beth Emeth.

Getting Involved: Notices about our upcoming involvement with IHN are in the *Saint Clarian* and in the Sunday church bulletin. There are sign-up sheets at coffee hour, and you can also put yourself on an e-mail list for IHN volunteers.

Contact Information: Jeanne Hernandez
(734) 971-5357
jeannehernandez2003@yahoo.com

2. COMMUNITY KITCHEN

For well over 20 years, St. Clare's has participated (along with other religious organizations and groups) in the efforts of the Ann Arbor Hunger Coalition to provide a hot, nutritious meal to the homeless and hungry of Ann Arbor. During most of this period, the meals were served at churches that volunteered their facilities. In January of 2004, the hot meal program was consolidated at the new Shelter on Huron Street. The program is now known as the Community Kitchen and is under the guidance and direction of Food Gatherers.

St. Clare's has assumed the responsibility for preparing and serving the meal on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of each month. There are two shifts for each meal. The first shift is from 3:00-5:00 and involves cooking and food preparation. The second shift is from 5:00-7:00 and involves serving of the meal and clean-up. Over 40 St. Clarians are currently involved in this volunteer activity, and we are always looking for new faces. Because of the number of St. Clarians involved, each volunteer can be expected to work 3-4 shifts during a six month period. Well over 100 meals are served at each seating, so volunteers know first hand that they are making a difference in dealing with the problems of hunger in our community.



Getting Involved: If you would like to volunteer, or if you would like more information, call Tom and Martha Daniels.

Contact Information: Tom & Martha Daniels
(734) 769-9876
maudaniels@yahoo.com

3. CROP HUNGER WALK

The annual CROP Hunger Walk raises money to support local food banks. The CROP Hunger Walk, with participation by many local churches, takes place on a Sunday afternoon in early October.

Getting Involved: You may either walk yourself and collect pledges, or support other walkers in the Parish by donating through their pledge sheets. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, call Rodger Wolff or Mary Hampton.

Contact Information: Rodger Wolff
(734) 662-4981 (H)
(734) 995-2599 (W)
rwolff@sigmarep.com

4. ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The St. Clare's/Temple Beth Emeth Adopt-A-Highway program is a joint effort of our congregations to improve the local environment. Our area of responsibility is Ann Arbor's southern front door, the section of I-94 between State Street and the Scio Church Road overpass. We are committed to making three pickups each year. The State schedules the week-long pickup periods, one each in the spring, summer and fall. Within those periods, St. Clare's and the Temple schedule the pickup for a convenient time. This program provides an opportunity for service together, and the signs, the collected bags of trash, and the clean section of I-94 are witness to the stewardship of our congregations to the environment and to our community.



Getting Involved: The cleanup days are announced in church several weeks in advance, so you can reserve the time and make plans to help. On the cleanup day, come to church in the early afternoon, wearing comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and sturdy shoes, to attend the required safety training. You should also bring heavy gloves, a bottle of water, sunscreen (if you burn easily), and, if the weather might turn inclement, rain wear. You will be provided with a warning safety vest and trash collection bags and transported to the collection starting point on the highway.

Following the collection, you will be picked up and returned to the church parking lots. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please call Tommy Turner.

Contact Information: Tommy Turner
(734) 975-0073
TomCTS@comcast.net

5. HAITI OUTREACH MISSION

Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM) is an ecumenical organization founded in 1999 in Detroit. Seven congregations are presently members; efforts are underway to recruit additional congregations. St. Clare's officially joined HOM in July 2004 and holds an annual Caribbean Feast, Silent Auction and Wine Auction in the fall to support HOM projects in Mirebalais, Haiti.

The purpose of Haiti Outreach Mission is to provide humanitarian aid and medical support to the people of Mirebalais, which is located about 35 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince. This aid and support is provided in Mirebalais through St. Pierre Episcopal Church and St. Louis Catholic Church. Recent major projects include operating a full time medical clinic supported by a full time physician and part time dentist, providing teacher's salaries and refurbishing school buildings at St. Pierre and St. Louis schools, and constructing an orphanage and bakery. In addition, Haiti Outreach Mission periodically sends sea container shipments of rice and beans; and annually, a Mission Team travels to Mirebalais to provide onsite medical, education and construction assistance. HOM's most recent initiative is leadership for a \$400,000 water quality improvement project for Mirebalais and surrounding areas.

Getting Involved: St. Clare's Haiti Outreach Committee directs St. Clare's involvement in Haiti Outreach Mission. Activities include the annual Caribbean Feast fundraiser, providing over-the-counter drugs and dental supplies, traveling to Mirebalais as part of the annual Mission Team, and providing classroom supplies to local schools. The Committee also works to increase awareness of socio-economic conditions and needs in Haiti (in Mirebalais specifically), and actively participates in HOM governance and supporting activities. St. Clarians have made ten trips to Mirebalais since becoming affiliated with HOM.

Contact Information: Jim Schairbaum
(734) 430-7780
jschairb@comcast.net

6. ST. CLARE'S OUTREACH COMMISSION

The St. Clare's Outreach Commission is the umbrella organization having oversight of the outreach activities of the Parish. Among the responsibilities of the Outreach Commission are:

- Acting as a catalyst and providing a structure, for new Outreach endeavors within the Parish.
- Providing liaison and support to existing Outreach activities.
- Planning and running fundraising events for outreach activities.
- Making recommendations to the Vestry for the disbursement of financial support designated for Outreach (this includes funds from The Rich Magee Outreach Fund, the Anderson Wisdom House Fund, the Parish budget, and designated outreach fundraisers).

In 2006, the Outreach Commission sponsored a Bob Franke concert and a dinner to benefit hunger outreach and a fall banquet and silent auction to benefit St. Clare's Haiti Mission project. This year, even more exciting projects are planned.

Getting Involved: The Outreach Commission welcomes new members. If you are interested in serving, helping with specific outreach projects, or desire more information, contact the Chair of the Commission. We normally meet on the first Sunday of the month at noon.

Contact Information: Jeanne Hernandez
(734) 971-5357
jeannehernandez2003@yahoo.com

7. THE BACK DOOR FOOD PANTRY

St. Clare's operates the Back Door Food Pantry to provide food to the hungry in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. Since its inception in March 2007, a plethora of dedicated St Clarians as well as members of the community have volunteered their time, money and resources on a weekly basis to serve non-perishable food items to over 330 individuals each month. The Back Door Food Pantry purchases food from a locally-operated food bank, Food Gatherers, at a discounted rate and distributes bags of groceries out of the back room of Wisdom House. The Back Door Food Pantry is open on Thursdays from 4-7 p.m., including holiday weeks.

In the fall of 2007, the Back Door Food Pantry received "The Beacon of Light Award" from the Food Bank Council of Michigan in recognition of the pantry's grassroots efforts and it's being only one of two pantries in Ann Arbor with evening hours, thereby making it accessible to working folks in need of food assistance. Also unique to the Back Door Food Pantry is that anyone in need, regardless of income, housing status, number of people in the home etc., can receive nonperishable food in pre-packed bags each week.

In recent months we have experienced a steady increase in the number of patrons coming through the Back Door, due to increased unemployment and economic hardship in our community. To accommodate the growing need, the Back Door Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers on Monday afternoons (1-3pm) to receive the food delivered and stock shelves, Monday evenings at 7:30pm (time can be adjusted) to pre-package bags of groceries or on Thursdays during distribution times (either 3:30-5 or 5-7pm). Non-perishable food donations, as well as financial contributions, are also always welcome!



Getting Involved: If you are interested in being involved in this newest of St. Clare's outreach missions, you may contact one of the following:

Contact Information:	Susan Jones (Volunteer Cord.) (734) 429-1941 susanjones3140@gmail.com	Marjorie Luther (734) 665-8106 447msl@sbcglobal.net
	Katie Galanes (734) 330-9619 katie_galanes@yahoo.com	Kristine Komives (734) 223-6797 ritakom@hotmail.com

8. THE RICH MAGEE OUTREACH FUND

The Rich Magee Outreach Fund was created from memorial contributions celebrating the life of Rich Magee, a former Senior Warden and frequent spokesperson/leader of Outreach stewardship at St. Clare's for many years. Rich had a deep and abiding interest in the growth and development of St. Clare's outreach efforts. The Rich Magee Outreach Fund was established in November 1994, just days before the Rich's death, to honor him and provide a vehicle for increasing the financial support of the Parish for Outreach activities.

11. THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Each year, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, a joint service is held by St. Clare's and Temple Beth Emeth. The offering received at the service is dedicated to a specific charity which is selected annually by the Rabbi and the Rector. Charities that have benefited from the Thanksgiving offering include The Michigan Interfaith Housing Trust in 2005, The Arab/Jewish Cultural Center in Galilee (2004), Washtenaw Literacy (2003), and Peace Neighborhood Center (2002).

Getting Involved: Come to the Erev Thanksgiving service! Be as generous as you can when the offering basins are circulated.

12. HOLIDAY GIVING (Christmas Families, Thanksgiving Families)

Each year, the Parish is asked to make donations to purchase gift certificates that are distributed by various local agencies to needy families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The certificates allow needy families to make their own choices based upon their individual situations.

Getting Involved: If you would like to get involved or would like more information, contact the church office.

Contact Information: Church Office
(734) 662-2449
office@st-clares.org

13. COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Community Action Network (CAN) is a small organization that helps low-income families. CAN collects hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and baby blankets for distribution to the families they help. During Advent, contributions from the Parish are made by placing them in the manger located in front of the altar.

Getting Involved: In addition to donations of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves or baby blankets, assistance is also needed in delivering the collected articles to CAN. If you'd like to get involved, or would like more information, contact the church office.

Contact Information: Church Office
(734) 662-2449
office@st-clares.org

14. FOOD BASKET

Members of the Parish are asked to contribute non-perishable food, which is collected at Sunday services in the basket outside the Sanctuary and presented during the offering. There is also a special in-gathering of food four times a year, when grocery bags are distributed and Parish members are asked to fill the bags and return them at the offering. The food that is collected is then used by our Back Door Food pantry, or delivered to local agencies (such as Catholic Social Services, and Saline Social Services), and at other times is available for hungry people who come to St. Clare's for help with food needs.

Getting Involved: There will be announcements in the bulletin requesting donations to the Food Basket. If you would like to become involved in delivering food to the agencies, or would like further information, please contact the church office.

Contact Information: Church Office
(734) 662-2449
office@st-clares.org

15. AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

Once a year, African Team Ministries (who support parishes in East Africa) sends a pre-selected box of crafts and jewelry. For two Sundays, items are offered for sale in the Social Hall. Each week, checks from purchased goods are sent to African Marketplace.

Getting Involved: If you would like to help with the setup, or the operation of the African Marketplace, or would like further information, please contact Jeanne Hernandez.

Contact Information: Jeanne Hernandez
(734) 971-5357
jeannehernandez2003@yahoo.com

16. PARISH DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Parish Discretionary Fund is provided to make it possible for the clergy and staff responsible for pastoral care to meet the needs of the many people who come to them for help. The fund is often used to fill in the gaps left by other community or agency services provided which may be inadequate or not timely, such as emergency food or clothing or shelter, help with turn off notices for utilities, or other needs at the discretion of the clergy. A small amount of money is made available for this fund in the annual parish budget, but the majority of the funds used to help with the needs of the poor are through gifts from individuals for this purpose. For example, the clergy typically designate honoraria they receive for funerals and weddings to this fund. Others may make a gift to this fund in honor of a birthday or anniversary or in memory of someone. To make a gift of money to this fund, make your check payable to St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church and write Parish discretionary fund on the memo line. For more information, contact one of the clergy.

17. SAFE HOUSE

Safe House is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault in Washtenaw County, Michigan. SAFE House provides free and confidential services for any person who has suffered from domestic violence or sexual assault who lives or works in Washtenaw County. Their programs include counseling, court accompaniment, information and referrals, emergency shelter and personal advocacy. For female victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, Safe House's emergency shelter provides a safe haven for them and their children, three daily meals, personal care products, counseling, information, transportation and referrals.

Those interested in volunteer work that does not involve crisis intervention with survivors and/or their children, should contact the Volunteer and Intern Coordinator to see when the next 4 hour training session is being held. Those interested in working with domestic violence victims must complete a 40 hour training program. Those interested in raising money to support Safe House can volunteer their time to assist with one of the Outreach Benefit events sponsored by St. Clare's.

Contact Information: Intern Volunteer and Intern Coordinator
(734) 973-0922
volunteer@safehousecenter.org

18. YPSILANTI MEALS ON WHEELS

Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels (located at 1110 W. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197) provides a hot lunch 52 weeks a year to home-bound individuals living in Ypsilanti and surrounding townships, regardless of age or financial status. It believes that all people, especially the infirm, the ill, and the disabled, take comfort in their own homes. It serves a diverse segment of the population whose physical or mental conditions impair their ability to provide for their own nutritional needs. But it's not just about the food: it's also about bringing a little bit of caring companionship into someone's life every day.

Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels has been working in the community since 1974 and currently delivers more than 85,000 meals

per year. A volunteer board of directors oversees the program. Teams of part-time employees and volunteers deliver over 300 meals per day Monday through Saturday, including holidays.

Volunteers are an essential component of the Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels endeavor. Among other things, they deliver meals, maintain the delivery vans, assist with office work, and assist with fund-raising activities.

Getting Involved: Become a volunteer!

Contact Information: Lois McKenzie or Ann Harris, Executive Director,
(734) 544-0908 Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels
loismck@sbcglobal.net (734) 487-9669
ymow@sbcglobal.net

19. YPSILANTI SALVATION ARMY

The Ypsilanti Corps Community Center (located at 9 South Park Street, PO Box 980426, Ypsilanti, MI 48198) is committed to strengthen and support existing families and to be a family to those without one. In an effort to improve their community, they provide guidance and resources, develop fellowship groups and activities for young people, and provide opportunities for service. They help people with rent/move-in costs, car repairs and gas, utility assistance, food, and eviction prevention as their budget permits. From their small kitchen, they provide free hot meals to anyone in need. These are available Monday and Thursday at 5 PM and Wednesday at 11:30 AM. The meals are prepared and served by the Captain and volunteers, usually from donated or reduced-cost food. St. Clare's youth groups regularly help with preparation and serving of evening meals.

Getting Involved: If you wish to help, donations of personal care items, baby supplies, and basic food provisions to be distributed to those in need are always in short supply. Donations of food items for use in meal preparation would also be of great help. There are also opportunities to help with cooking and serving the meals.

Contact Information: Pete Buley or Captain Barbara McCauley
(734) 973-9436 Pastor, Ypsilanti Salvation Army
pbul@aol.com (734) 482-4700

20. PACKARD COMMUNITY CLINIC

Packard Community Clinic (located at 3174 Packard Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48197) is a private, nonprofit health care center established in Ann Arbor in 1973. Its mission is to serve as a center of universal access to high quality, family-based health care for individuals in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti community and surrounding areas, regardless of ability to pay. The team of physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants is highly trained and certified in family practice, internal medicine, and pediatric medicine. Packard Community Clinic believes that quality medical care is a right, regardless of income level, that preventive medicine, as well as restoring health, is vital; and that educational and health-related services are a good investment in human resources. The Clinic also offers counseling, support groups, classes, and referral to outside agencies or specialists. Their goal is to make services available that meet a variety of needs for Washtenaw-area residents, including persons who might otherwise be unable to afford a full range of medical and health care services.

Getting Involved: For additional information, please contact Lois McKenzie.

Contact Information: Lois McKenzie
(734) 544-0908
loismck@sbcglobal.net

21. CANTERBURY HOUSE

Canterbury House is the Episcopal Student Ministry at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. St. Clare's financially supports this outreach to University of Michigan students, faculty, and staff. St. Clare's has a long history of supporting this ministry and Christine Modey currently serves on its board of directors. In addition to monthly Taize services and Wednesday Solemn Evensong, every Sunday evening at 5:00pm, Canterbury House offers a Jazz Mass with internationally recognized musicians, and a different perspective on the world followed by lots of wonderful (free!) food.

Getting Involved: For additional information, please contact the Reverend Reid Hamilton, Chaplain or visit the Canterbury House web site at:
www.canterburyhouse.org.

Contact Information: The Reverend Reid Hamilton, Chaplain
(734) 665-0606
rhamilt@umich.edu

22. OUTREACH BENEFIT CONCERTS

To raise money to support its outreach programs, for the past three years, each spring St. Clare's has held an annual Outreach Benefit Concert. Performers at these concerts have included Carrie Newcomer, Bob Franke, Madcat and Kane, Mad Agnes, and the Our Own Thing Choral. Since Fall 2007, we have presented benefit concerts both in the fall and in the spring. Preparing for and holding these concerts provides many opportunities for hands-on work. Help is always needed to identify and book performers, to create posters to display around town, to create display boards to publicize the event at coffee hour, to place concert announcements in local papers and radio stations, to print and sell tickets, to set up before and clean up after the performance, to provide baked goods for intermission, and to provide housing for out-of-town performers.

Getting Involved: If you are interested in helping put on benefit concerts to raise money to support St. Clare's outreach projects, please contact:

Contact Information: James Downward
(734) 995-0310
jdownward@earthlink.net

Summary of Overall Outreach Giving

(Donations/Disbursements made in 2007)

<u>Receiving Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Haiti Mission	\$23,000
Food Pantry	\$12,289
Habit – House of Abraham	\$9,035
Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$2,763
CROP Walk	\$2,225
Combined Episcopal Services Appeal (CESA)	\$2,100
Father Joseph Special Offering (Haiti)	\$2,030
Heifer Project	\$1,794
Huron Valley Deanery (Chaplaincy)	\$1,786
Re-Member	\$1,368
Thanksgiving Families	\$1,200
Ypsilanti Salvation Army	\$1,000
Ypsilanti SOS	\$1,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$878
Seminarian Support	\$700
Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels	\$500
Safe House	\$500
Packard Community Clinic	\$500
Friends in Deed	\$500
ERD	\$340
Jubilee Fund	\$261
Total Outreach	\$63,771
Diocesan Apportionment	<u>\$ 49,670</u>
Total Outside Giving	\$ 106,404