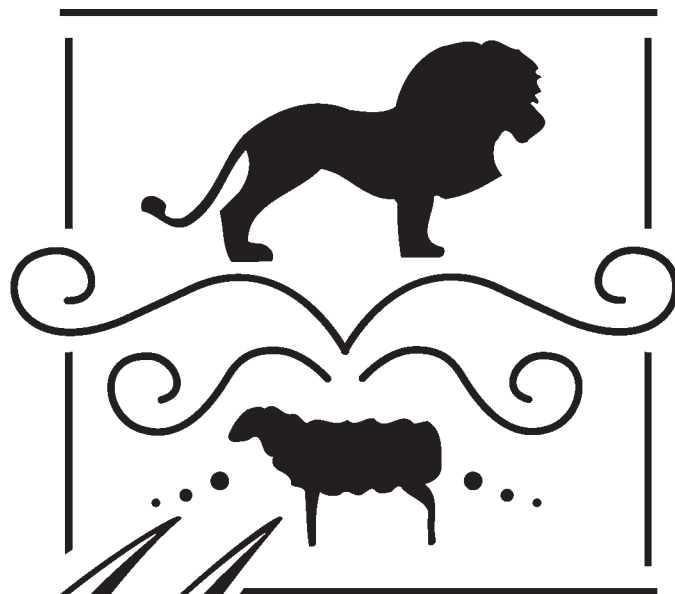


The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
9191 Daly Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
(513) 522-8628
<http://www.ststephens-cinci.org>
office@ststephens-cinci.org
Father David B. Bailey
310-0127 revdbb@aol.com
Monica E. Neiderman, publications secretary
937-439-5703 sewnsew313@yahoo.com



March



**Ripped from the Headlines...
of other newsletters**

Newsletter from the Dohms

Benefits for the Church

I was stumped. I was nonplussed. I didn't know what to say.

I was completing a form last week to get a grant to provide medical care for HIV patients. The last question on the form asked: "In what ways does this project benefit the Church?" Benefit the Church? Well, it doesn't benefit the Church; the project is to help the AIDS patients. But I had to write something in the answer box on the form.

The story came to mind of the physicist who was testifying before a Senate sub-committee to get funding for a superconducting super collider. One Senator wanted to know what a superconducting super collider would do to enhance national defense. The physicist explained that it would not do anything to help national defense. In fact, it was pure science and had absolutely no practical applications. The Senator kept returning to the same theme. Finally the physicist replied, "Senator, a superconducting super collider would be one of those things that gives us a country worth defending." It would be one of those things that expresses the American character and makes America ... well ... America.

It has been argued that we are the Church only in so far as we individually and corporately live into our Baptismal vows and into the lives to which the Lord has called us. The AIDS treatment project benefits the Church by being one small part of what makes the Church the Church.

I wrote the paragraph above in the box on the form. I don't think that answer will make or break the grant ... or at least I hope not. It did seem to me like an honest answer to the question.

It was an odd week. I spent most of another day with a different grant application trying to prove that the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic was actually a religious charitable organization. Obviously it is, but not quite so easy to demonstrate as it might sound.

Keep praying,

Michael

From the Mt. Healthy Alliance Newsletter....

The month of January was both snowy and busy. God blessed us with enough food to feed 558 clients in 186 households. We welcomed members of 29 new households to our pantry. Forty-six volunteers logged 290 hours to make this happen. Thanks to all our benefactors and volunteers, January was very successful. Thank you for your continuing support. Please continue to pray that God will bless us with ways to feed the hungry in our area.

Pantry Needs - All donations are welcome, but we especially need the following items: tuna, canned fruit, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrushes, deodorant, toothpaste and dish detergent.

From the Deacon's Bench

On Mon. the 2nd of Feb. I returned to the pantry after a hiatus of almost four weeks. Three of the weeks I was down in the Carolina's with Gary "supervising" the building of our new house. The weather was very cold down in the Carolina's for that time of the year. The marina shut the water off for a week because the water pipes down to the docks froze and broke. If you stayed on your boat, which Gary and I do while we are down South, you make do with the water that is in your boat's water tank. After that you were out of luck or carrying water down to your boat in jugs for drinking and clean up. The damp cold and bitter winds didn't help the hike up to the marina club house for those other necessary things. Some mornings as you walked, rather fast, on the icy boardwalk and its curvy path to get up hill to the club house you did a spin -out or fan tail to keep your legs under you. The boat's little heaters were efficient till the temperature dropped below 32 degrees. I walked around with so many layers on that I felt like a child with a big bulky snowsuit on. Needless to say, I got a nasty cold and whatever else comes with it. It took me a week at home on antibiotics, nasal spray, aspirin and warmth to get back on my feet. Apparently, I am not a very efficient first mate in cold weather. I was hoping to ease into the activity of the Pantry that Mon. morning but as Lois Tuttle, Bebe Hales, Dick Meagher, Betty Kattmann, Ginger Parish, Father Bailey and I can tell you, one never just sits at the pantry! The activity and tasks that are done at the Pantry in one morning is what I would pass on to you. Toward the end of the morning I went around to the eight volunteers working that morning and asked them what all they did at the Pantry over the four hours they were there. Here is my list!

Total of 15 clients was seen. This means client's ID and information is reviewed and taken if they are new client. Clients most live in the 45231 zip code. If a client comes in out of this zip code they are given the address and directions to the Food Pantry in their zip code area. However, for that morning they are processed at MHA Pantry and given food. A client is then taken back to the Pantry with a staffer to pick out the amount of products they need for the size of their family. What each client chooses is documented so we can tell the state what and how much we are getting from the Free Store. Clients choose their own food and products but often a staffer will assist them in seeing what is on the shelves and what meals could be prepared with what is in stock. The senior clients that come in are often wonderful telling the staffers what can be prepared and how. We get to know some of our regulars very well and even have some of them volunteering at the Pantry. The client's groceries are then bagged. At times it is necessary to help them out to their vehicles or even take them home. If the client has other concerns that can be handled within other agencies, Kathy Lorenze, the Pantry supervisor will help them with referrals and information they may need. Everyone multitasks and everyone tries at least once or twice to take on a new task if something is needed to be done. Sounds simple but in actuality one learns how to work with many diverse people and take on many tasks that are out of your comfort zone. It is an experience in being versatile and truthful and can really push you into personal growth no matter how old you are.

This is some of the tasks accomplished by many dirty hands and knees— but happy hearts that morning.

Assisted clients through the pantry process.

Placed new produce and donations on shelves.

Nothing can be left on the floor. Dates and condition of packaging checked.

Donated bread from Kroger's and Panera sliced and repackaged.

Food from Free Store was delivered. This meant more groceries to shelf and fresh produce to divide and rewrap. Salad greens, potatoes and cheese were the produce of the day.

Went through old produce and placed it in dumpster.

Divided eggs and cut cartons.

Boxed old bread for Paul to pick up for Soup Kitchen night.

Defrosted one of the freezers—this was a mess! Someone had to keep mopping the floor because of water runoff.

Talked about redesigning the canvas food bags donated by Fifth Third Bank over the Christmas holiday.

From the Deacon's Bench, continued

Ice skated in the parking lot with clients because there was 6" of ice on the street and many were too scared to walk out with their groceries alone. A few that had walked to the pantry were taken home by volunteers and their cars.

Computer work done.

Client's information recorded. Client's cards filed. Pantry food sheets copied for the rest of the week and other necessary master sheets copied.

Set up The Ohio Benefit Bank information at the Pantry and made some tax filing appointments for next week.

Find Kathy because her pantry phone was ringing—this was more than once.

Help Kathy find her phone or keys which she usually misplaces once or twice a morning.

Clean up and close the pantry.

Sweep floors, finish defrosting the freezer, break up the many boxes.

Bring all mobile shelves back into the office area and refrigerate the produce that was out in the large room.

File pantry numbers for the day.

Turn lights off and lock the doors.

Most of the time we do have fun and share warm companionship with each other. If a problem does arise we support each other and work through it. If that doesn't work, we all go home and pray. You heard it before, "Let go and let God do it." I have seen it work for this ministry.

Below is a document that Kathy Lorenze has prepared to bring into light the different agencies and ministries that are part of The Mount Healthy Alliance and make it such an effective program.

Deacon Jean

What is the Mt. Healthy Alliance?

The Mt. Healthy Alliance Inc. is a 501 © (3) nonprofit tax exempt corporation and is a member agency of the Freestore Foodbank. It is a volunteer driven organization of thirteen churches in the area: The Church of the Assumption, Faith Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church of Mt. Healthy, Highview Christian Church, Inspirational Baptist Church, Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church, Mt. Healthy Christian Church, New Hope Baptist Church, St. Paul United Church of Christ, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Northview Wesleyan Church, Trinity Lutheran, and World Faith Harvest Fellowship Church. The Mt. Healthy Alliance Inc. operates a food pantry located in the basement of Mt. Healthy Christian Church 7717 Harrison Ave. The hours of operation are: Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 9AM to Noon and Tuesday evening 5:00–7:00 PM. This pantry provides food people who need assistance in the 45231 area.

Each member congregation provides food and other items needed for the pantry. The congregations also provide financial support and volunteers to operate the pantry. In addition several of the churches provide assistance for other needs of the clients.

Mt. Healthy Alliance Food Pantry provides food for the those who need help in 45231

Mt. Healthy Christian Church provides a location for the pantry free of charge

St. Paul's United Church of Christ provides Community Dinner on each Tuesday evening

Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church provides duplicating support for the pantry

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church provides assistance with the Ohio Benefit Bank. This helps clients file income tax and help clients apply for food stamps.

Technical computer support for the pantry.

Trinity Lutheran Church provides assistance for moms and babies through Kate's Cupboard.

Church of the Assumption St. Vincent de Paul provides vouchers for clothing, furniture, and household items. Gift cards for prescriptions, gas for work and medical appointments Referrals for assistance with rent and utilities.

In the year 2008 the Food Pantry provided food for 2363 families. This helped to make life a little better for 7722 people.

This happened because of God's blessings and the cooperative work of all the congregations.

New Potluck Groups for 2009!

New potluck groups were selected by a random drawing after the 10:30 service on February 8. They are:

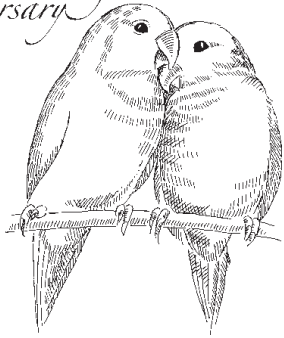
Group 1: Rex Van Alstine, Duane Lewis, Paul and Arlene Gahn, Lee and Sudy Irvine, Louis and Bebe Hales, Bette Kattmann

Group 2: Dick and Jeanne Meagher, Lisa and Piet Elmendorf, Duane and Shirley Dillon, Steve and Cathy Skiba, Bart Jones, Vivian Templin

Group 3: Chuck and Nancy Healy, David and Molly Bailey, Don and Pat Welti, Bill and Nancy Kuhrt, Louise Selden

If you would like to be in a group, but your name didn't make it into the drawing, please contact Nancy Healy or Lisa Elmendorf. Potluck Groups are a great way to socialize and get to know each other in a casual, non-church setting. It is NOT a requirement that you host the group in your home, so don't let concerns about the size or suitability of your home, or your ability to host, keep you from joining. Thank you!

*Celebrating an
Anniversary*



Gordon and Ann Grant
Bill and Nancy Kuhrt

March 18
March 29



Birthdays
of the
Month

Ann Grant	March 4
Mike McCarthy	March 5
Gordon Grant	March 7
Bill Boyd	March 12
Ralph Tuttle	March 15
Pat Selden	March 17
Garry Watts	March 21
Chad Sullivan	March 23

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
9191 Daly Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Address Correction Requested