

THE MISSIONARY

Central Union Mission



April 2006

Celebrating Community

Seniors Luncheon Extends a Hand of Friendship to Local Senior Citizens



Ercell Ragland has attended Seniors Luncheon for over four years.

For 83-year-old Mrs. Ercell Ragland, Central Union Mission has been a place of spiritual encouragement and provision for years. At a recent Seniors Luncheon, her beaming smile and outstretched hands quickly revealed how deeply blessed she is by her times of fellowship at the Mission during Seniors Luncheon and Food Depot.

"They do a terrific job here. They really treat us like we're human beings. I'm blessed so much with the food, the music, and the teaching," she says.

Mrs. Ragland attends the monthly luncheon along with about fifty other senior citizens from the community. Like most, she also participates regularly in the Mission's Food Depot grocery distribution program, which she says really helps people like her on a fixed income. Seniors Luncheon offers them a nutritious, hot meal and a special time of fellowship and spiritual encouragement.

After finding herself as a young single mother of four in the 1950s, Mrs. Ragland worked for 34 years as a nurse and a taxi driver caring for the needs of others, something she continues to do as a deaconess at her church, Kelsey Temple. She has seen changes over the years at the Mission, but she agrees that the physical and spiritual blessings she receives have continued to sustain her.

"The Lord has brought me a long way," recalls Mrs Ragland. "He has saved, protected, and directed me. When I come

here to Seniors Luncheon, I just get to praise Him for all he has brought me through."

In late 2004, Outreach Coordinator Shelah Wilcox took over organizing the then-fledgling ministry and implemented monthly themes, including "It's a New Season" in March, "Let Freedom Ring" for July, and "Harvest of Blessings" in October. Shelah's efforts to get the word out about Seniors Luncheon and improve the quality of the ministry have resulted in many blessed seniors who eagerly anticipate the event every month.

"What I really enjoy about it is the end result. A lot of the seniors are very lonely, and this is the only opportunity they have to see people and worship God. They are so blessed," says Shelah.



For many, Seniors Luncheon is one of few opportunities to fellowship with friends.



Faithful attendees enjoy the much-loved singing and sharing time at a recent Seniors Luncheon.



Donated gift bags full of toiletries and food items leave a lasting impression on our guests.



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From the Executive Director: A Community of Service



This month our newsletter theme is “Celebrating Community.” My dictionary lists several definitions for the word “community,” including...

- A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government.
- A group of people having common interests.
- A group viewed as forming a distinct segment of society.
- Similarity or identity: a community of interests.
- Sharing, participation, and fellowship.

For 122 years Central Union Mission has served the Washington, DC community. We are often distinguished by our service to the African American community, the Hispanic community, the homeless community, or the poor. But our true community is much larger than any of those single demographics.

Central Union Mission is a community of people with serious needs and people blessed to be able to help meet those needs. Volunteers, overnight guests, prayer warriors, food recipients, financial and in-kind donors, men in transformation, children in need and our staff are all part of the Mission community. And this month we hope you will be encouraged to join us in sharing with those in need, participating in the activities at the Mission and enjoying the unique fellowship that exists between the served and the servers within the love of Christ. Only with your sharing, participation and fellowship can we continue to serve as a caring and effective community in our nation’s Capital..

Blessings,

Overnight Guest Birthday Party 2006

A birthday is a special occasion, but it is often a delight of which homeless people know very little. At Central Union Mission, while we care for immediate physical needs, we also believe in affirming the dignity of each person we serve. On February 16, 143 people gathered in our chapel to celebrate the birthdays of our overnight guests. Volunteers served a delicious meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, asparagus, rolls, ice tea and birthday cake to each guest. Cheryl Lee, a volunteer whose birthday was also on that day, said serving others at the Mission was a birthday gift to her.

Throughout the meal, our honored guests were ministered to by an a capella group, Spirits in Motion, comprised of men from our very own Spiritual Transformation Program. After the meal, each of the overnight guests received a leather bag donated by World Vision DC, filled with undershirts, underwear, socks, toiletries and birthday cards sent in by donors. Thanks to WGTS-91.9 and its listeners, as well as to all the donors who responded to this need, we were able to share the love of Christ with our overnight guests.



1st and 2nd graders from Bethel Christian School in Woodbridge, Virginia made encouraging birthday cards for the occasion.



An overnight guest receives a special birthday gift thanks to our donors' generosity!



Volunteer servers provided a personal touch to the evening.



Guests eagerly anticipate their birthday cake.

Tribute Gifts to Central Union Mission

Honoree Donor

In Memory Of...

Mildred Bagley
Dewana Bagley

James T. Brodie

Mr. and Mr. Alan J.
Borszich
Will & Anita Dantzler
Mr. and Mrs.
John Loughran
Brig. Gen. and
Mrs. Overton

Nancy L. Visser
Rear Adm. And Mrs.
Richard I. Rybacki

Helen Boehm

Rita Boehm

Henry Capehart

Mrs. Henry C. Wray

In Honor Of...

Carolyn Nash Mucciari

D.C. Washington

Ann P. Ayers

Julian R. Ayers, Sr.



House Plans

Your home is likely the single largest asset in your estate, representing a significant investment which you paid faithfully for over the years. Consequently, it's only natural that you want to move cautiously in making any decisions about the future of your "Home Sweet Home." To help you explore some of the options available to you, here are three "house plans" that involve you, your house and your interest in Central Union Mission.

The Live-In Plan: Bequeath your home to Central Union Mission through your will or give your house to the Mission now, but retain the right to live in it for the rest of your life.

The Charitable Trust Plan: After dividing the deed to your house, part of it goes to

a charitable trust while the remainder is sold and reinvested by the Mission in a diversified portfolio to provide you with lifelong income.

The Part-Give, Part-Sell Plan:

Similar to the Charitable Trust Plan without a trust, in this plan the deed is divided and with a portion allocated to the Mission. The house is then sold and a share of the proceeds goes to you and the Mission.

Variations on these plans offer an array of possibilities for you to use your house to meet your own needs as well as those of Central Union Mission. Ted Meyers, our Estate Planning Advisor, will be happy to discuss all of this with you. For more information, please call Ted at (301) 233-3527 or send us the coupon below.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM

Dear Mr. Meyers,

- Please send me free literature about other estate planning options.
- Please contact me/us about a personal visit.
The best time to call is: _____
- I/We have already provided a bequest or Central Union Mission in my/our will.
- Please send me Central Union Mission's Wills Information Kit.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Place completed form in an envelope and mail to:
Central Union Mission
1350 R St., NW Washington DC 20009

Extending the Table though Partnerships

Central Union Mission is pleased to announce two partnerships with local food suppliers and distributors in the DC metropolitan area. The Mission has been selected to receive participate in the 2006 Fresh Produce Exchange during this year's growing season running spring through late fall. Twice per month, we will pick up fresh fruits and vegetables from Clagett Farm, using a portion of it for our ministries and delivering the rest to organizations lacking access to dependable transportation. The Mission will be entrusted with 6,000 pounds of produce through this partnership!

We are also excited to join in ministry with Heaven's Grocery Store—"The Store Without a Register"—to continue to supply groceries to the neediest families in the city. The Store is run by Ms. Grace Calloway, a long-time partner of the Mission. She can be reached at 202-497-5357.

Celebrating and Demonstrating the Risen Christ

Many people know of Easter as a time to celebrate new life and regeneration, but at Central Union Mission we know that true newness of life—both on earth and in eternity—comes from the saving work of Jesus in His death and resurrection. Through hot meals, shelter, and other provisions, the Mission seeks to demonstrate the tangible and spiritual nature of Jesus' love for all and work of healing that we celebrate at Easter.

Ephesians 1:23 says that the Church "is [Christ's] body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." We are called to be the hands and feet of the victorious Jesus Christ here on earth, because it is by these actions of love that the mercy of God is to be made known to all people. Of course, without the faithful contributions of our supporters, such moments would not occur at Central Union Mission. As you approach the Easter season with the hope of resurrection, we pray that you will share that



hope with others through a contribution to Central Union Mission. In doing so, we proclaim once again: He is risen!

"When members of the Mission community share a meal, they are not only fed in their bodies, but encouraged in their hearts and ministered to in the spirits. Join us in this wondrous work of sharing Christ's love with those in need!"

You Provided!

During January and February 2006, Mission supporters touched the lives of DC's homeless and hurting with...

6,749 Beds	508 Clothing Gifts
18,555 Meals	81 ESL Classes
722 Bible Studies	30 Health Orientation Consultations
45 Medical Consultations	



One of many meetings for STP participants with Social Worker Shirley Johnson.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, April 16, Easter Sunday Luncheon • 1:00 p.m.

Come volunteer as a server or table host for our Easter Sunday meal for the homeless. What better way to celebrate the risen Christ than by sharing His love with others? To volunteer, contact Shelah Wilcox at 202-MISSION.

Friday, April 28, "Behold the Lamb" Sight & Sound Bus Trip • 8:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

Join Mission staff and supporters for this day of fellowship! We will travel to the Sight & Sound Theater to attend "Behold the Lamb," as well as making stops for shopping and food. For details, please contact TaJuanna Patterson at 202-MISSION.

Saturday, May 6, Camp Bennett Open House

11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



Interested in learning more about Camp Bennett's summer program for children? Camp Bennett will open its doors to share the stories of fun and learning that take place every summer with friends old and

new. There will be snow cones and a moon bounce for children, as well as tours and an opportunity to meet the directors who create successful programming at Camp Bennett. For more information or to RSVP to this event, please contact Brittany Noetzel at 202-MISSION. We hope to see you there!



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