Missions Committee

Summary of Activities

The Franklin Federated Church
171 Main St. • Franklin, MA 02038
http://www.franklinfederated.org/
(508) 528-3803
March 2005

INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................. 2
  Our Mission Statement....................................................................................................... 2
  Our Logo .............................................................................................................................. 3
  The Christian Witness and Action Committee .................................................................. 3
  Our Members 2005 ............................................................................................................. 3
  Missions ............................................................................................................................... 3
  Christian Witness and Action ............................................................................................ 3

NARRATIVE MISSION BUDGET ......................................................................................... 4

FFC’S SUPPORT FOR DENOMINATIONS ........................................................................... 5
  Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ .......................................................... 5
  The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts............................................................ 6

DISCRETIONARY MISSION FUNDS ................................................................................. 7
  Discretionary Mission Funds - New England ..................................................................... 7
  Discretionary Mission Funds - Global .............................................................................. 12

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS ................................................................................................. 14

WHAT CAN YOU DO? ........................................................................................................ 14
INTRODUCTION

This booklet

- Educates the reader about the Missions Committee of the Franklin Federated Church.
- Hopes to provide guidance for future Mission Committees
- Provides information to church members who give so generously of their resources, time, and talents
- Describes the agencies and groups our church supports

Our Mission Statement

To enlighten, educate, and activate the Franklin Federated Church in its support of worldwide Christian missions. We do this by …

Inspiring, Enabling and Focusing
Since mission is the responsibility of the entire Church, the Missions Committee is by no means the sole representative of Church missions. Hence, the Missions Committee provides a variety of mission opportunities that inspire, enable, and focus church missions activities.

Including All Members of the Congregation
We involve the entire congregation in mission activities and news using mission projects, Connections, Mission Moments in worship, and annual Mission-focused services. Those who respond to needs are many, and we are all "missionaries" in some way.

Always Acting in Christ's Name
We design activities for positive impact and consistency with Church and Christian values.

Supporting Diversity
We act locally, nationally, and globally focusing on need and impact not just proximity to Franklin.

Being Prudent with Time and Money
We recognize that the congregation has entrusted us with their resources, both time and money and take that responsibility very seriously.

Combining Exposure with Knowledge with Action
We understand that we must work at three levels of involvement with our mission programs. First, we expose the committee and congregation to the worldwide needs of various groups. Second, for select needs, we focus efforts on gaining knowledge and understanding of problems and possible solutions. Finally, with knowledge, we take action using church time, talent, and/or funds.

Re-accepted by Committee March 2005.
Our Logo
In April 2002, we recognized the need to focus our efforts at the three levels of exposure, knowledge, and action. Hence, we designed the following logo that expresses this vision.

![Wrapped in Faith Logo]

Re-accepted by Committee March 2005.

The Christian Witness and Action Committee
The mission of the Christian Witness and Action Committee is to facilitate Franklin Federated Church's role in impacting positive social change in accordance with our Christian faith. This mission will be addressed in a five-fold manner:
1. Identify causes for social action in our community, region, nation, and world (Identification)
2. Research these causes to learn about their significance and impact, both from secular and religious aspects (Clarification)
3. Provide a resource to the congregation to promote action (Presentation)
4. Promote these causes by presenting them to the congregation for the purpose of gaining input and support or decline. (Determination)
5. Where/when considered feasible and viable, motivate the drafting and obtaining of a vote from the congregation and/or the inclusion in mission activities of our church with the appropriate follow-up action. (Action)

Accepted by Committee December 2002.

Our Members 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missions</th>
<th>Dottie Goddard</th>
<th>Brian Pickhover</th>
<th>Deb Stiffler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vicki Hammel (ex officio)</td>
<td>Nancy Ross</td>
<td>John Wallace (Treasurer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda Joy</td>
<td>Dadgie Scott</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Witness and Action</td>
<td>Phyllis Gibson</td>
<td>Brian Pickhover</td>
<td>Dadgie Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peggy Maxwell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We thank you for your support.
NARRATIVE MISSION BUDGET

When you pledge to the church, you may make a separate pledge to Church Missions supporting outreach programs to the wider church community. Through this Missions Program, our church serves the world, and these funds are independent of the expenses of the church itself.

The Missions Committee manages the funds dedicated to church missions. Always working in Christ's name, this group supports worthy causes, both local and global; for ongoing programs as well as emergencies; providing food, housing, clothing, support, and education.

The Franklin Federated Church has a long history of supporting mission in three broad categories. First, 60% of pledged funds go directly to the mission programs of our American Baptist and United Congregational denominations. The remaining 40% supports programs at the discretion of the Mission Committee. Finally, we have designated offerings to support specific causes, such as 9/11, Afghanistan, or Tsunami relief.

The following chart shows how FFC's mission support has grown from year to year.

It is our aim, as much as possible, to support causes which enable people to help themselves and others. The following pages describe each of these supported programs.

Last updated March '05.
FFC'S SUPPORT FOR DENOMINATIONS

Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ
One Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 875-5233
e-mail: macucc@macucc.org
http://www.macucc.org/

Thirty-six percent of our church's mission pledges are directed to basic support of UCC ministries. “Our Church’s Wider Mission” is the phrase that we use to designate the contributions that churches provide to support the ongoing ministry and outreach of the Massachusetts Conference, and the national setting and global partnerships of the United Church of Christ. You will often see these mission moneys abbreviated with the letters “OCWM”.

Our Church’s Wider Mission giving comes in three categories. Basic Support is the main source for the financial support of the wider church. In 2000, 35% was retained by the Conference for its ministries, which combined with Fellowship Dues provided the primary funding for the Conference’s mission. 65% of Basic Support went beyond the Conference to the National Setting of the church for our mutual work in the United States and around the world.

Basic Selective Support comes from gifts that are given to specific ministries designated by the United Church of Christ. An example of Basic Selective Support is money given to assist Palestinian refugees through our partnership with the Middle East Council of Churches. A list of designated ministries can be obtained by contacting the Conference Stewardship office at 508-875-5233, ext. 234 or bluntl@macucc.org. Special Support comes from special offerings that are collected annually.

Special Support offerings are Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund and Strengthen the Church.

Source: MACUCC Web site. Last updated Jan '02.
The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

20 Milton Street
Dedham, MA 02026-2967
Tel. (781)320-8100 Fax: (781)320-8105
Email: tabcom@tabcom.org
http://www.tabcom.org/
http://www.abcusamissions.org/

From the very beginning, Baptists in America have been a people of mission. The forming of the First American Baptist Church in Rhode Island was itself an act of mission in an often hostile environment. Mission pastors were soon preaching the Gospel and forming churches through New England in all 13 colonies.

Twenty-four percent of our church's mission pledges are directed to basic support of ABC ministries, also called United Mission.

This supports American Baptist congregational and regional resources for…

6. Prayer and Witness
7. Renewal and worship
8. Children and Youth
9. Adults and Elderly
10. Families and Singles
11. Pastors and Lay Leaders
12. Christian Education
13. Stewardship and Tithing
14. Church Planting

How are United Mission dollars distributed?

54% Regional Ministries
13% General Ministries
9% International Ministries
7% Educational Ministries
6% Shared Ministries

4% National Ministries
3% Institutional Ministries
3% Representation Ministries
1% Reserve for Ministries


Last updated March 2005
DISCRETIONARY MISSION FUNDS

Discretionary Mission Funds - New England

AIDS Action Committee

AIDS Action Committee
294 Washington St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

Main number: (617) 437-6200
Fax: (617) 437-6445
TTY: (617) 437-1394
Hotline: (800) 235-2331
Email: webmaster@aac.org
Client Services: access@aac.org
Public Policy: policy@aac.org
Education: nmp@aac.org
http://www.aac.org/

AIDS Action Committee's mission is threefold: To provide support services to people living with AIDS and HIV, as well as the people who love and care for them; To educate the general public, health care professionals, and individuals whose behavior could put them at high risk for HIV infection; and To advocate at the local, state, and federal levels for fair and effective AIDS public policy and funding.

Last updated March ’05. Source: AAC web site.

Andover Newton Theological Seminary

210 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
http://www.ants.edu/

Andover Newton Theological Seminary, the oldest graduate theological school in the United States, was founded in 1807. It has the twin tasks of preparing leaders in religious communities and being a theological resource for church and society. In more recent years, ANTS has expanded its primary mission to include a nationally recognized Theology and Arts program, an emerging Faith/Health/Spirituality emphasis, an innovative Spirituality and Business focus, and a redesigned continuing education effort for laity and clergy.

Andover Newton serves persons from more than forty denominations. While committed to our American Baptist and United Church of Christ founding communions, the School seeks to serve the ecumenical community out of the School’s Christian theological centrist stance.

The ANTS Mission Statement follows: As a graduate theological school in the Reformed tradition, in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, we strive to educate leaders who are: enlivened by rigorous study in a community embracing diversities of faith and life; devoted to the renewing of church and society through ecumenical witness and creative expression of the Gospel; and committed to enacting God's ways of justice and love in the world.

Last updated Jan ’02. Source: ANTS web site.

Campus Ministries

9 Jobs Cove Road
Marion, MA 02738

Campus Ministries is an ABC/UCC supported program in Massachusetts which supports and directs church-related campus ministries at colleges across the state. There is no national monetary support from either denomination for this vital ministry. In addition to the support from MACUCC/TABCOM, churches raise approximately 50% of the campus ministries budget.

Last updated 1992
Caritas Good Samaritan Hospice
Three Edgewater Drive
Norwood, MA 02062
(781) 769-8282
http://www.caritaschristi.org/hospice.asp

Caritas Good Samaritan Hospice provides at-home medical care and support for terminally-ill patients in communities throughout Greater Boston. Our goal is to provide comfort care, pain management and symptom control for patients who have chosen to remain at home. We teach our caregivers how to provide the best care for the patient. This care includes:

- medical and nursing care, with personnel on call 24 hours a day
- home health aides, who assist with personal care
- social services for support and counsel
- pastoral care to address your religious needs and provide spiritual support
- volunteers, who offer friendship and companionship
- bereavement counselor, who supports the family and relatives in coping with their loss. The counselor is available by phone, visit or in a bereavement support group. Special services such as pre-bereavement, community workshops, and children’s resources are available.

Our mission and values are simple. We believe in:

- Excellence in the holistic care of the individual and family
- Compassion in striving to alleviate all forms of pain
- Dignity in life lived to its fullest
- Peace in mind, body and spirit at the natural end of life

Christian Fellowship at Bridgewater State College
29 Shaw Road 508-697-7918
Bridgewater, MA 02324 Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Chang-Hee Son, Th.D.

This ministry reaches out to students as they make life choices in areas such as vocation, faith commitment, relationships, and others. It also encourages student's interest in spiritual growth and service projects. Updated 1992.

Central Association Scholarship Fund
485 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605 http://macucc.org/central/index.htm
508-843-3446

The Central Association is comprised of faithful churches and clergy proclaiming and living out the Good News of Jesus Christ, in covenant with the Massachusetts Conference, the United Church of Christ and the ecumenical community. They are also an enthusiastic supported of the Worcester Area Mission Society, described elsewhere in this booklet. Last updated March 2005.

FISH of Franklin, Inc.
279 East Central Street Suite #280 , Franklin, MA 02038 508-528-2121

FISH is a group of volunteers who provide round-trip transportation primarily for medical appointments for Franklin residents who have no other means of transportation. Included, along with regular doctors' appointments, are dialysis, oncology treatments, and physical therapy. To volunteer, call at the number above.

Last updated 2002.
Friends of Franklin

c/o Priscilla Cornetta, 50 Corbin Street, Franklin, MA 02038

Friends of Franklin is a low key, confidential group that works with the nurses in the Franklin School System to identify children in need. Through this group, donations of clothing are made and gift certificates are made available.


Franklin High School All-Night Party

The community provides an All Night Party to the graduating seniors to provide a safe, drug and alcohol free environment for the senior class to get together one last time. The party is filled with food, entertainment, games, prizes, and decorations. The theme is different each year and kept secret until the seniors arrive at the party at 11pm. The party runs from 11pm to 5am on the night of graduation.

Last updated 2005.

The Grow Clinic for Children

Boston Medical Center
820 Harrison Avenue, FGH-3
Boston, MA 02118
Phone: (617) 414-5251
Fax: (617) 414-7047
http://www.bostonchildhealth.org/PediatricsDept/GrowClinic/

The Grow Clinic for Children is an outpatient subspecialty clinic at Boston Medical Center, started in 1984. Children who are referred to the Grow Clinic have been diagnosed with a condition called Failure To Thrive (FTT). Children with FTT have significant problems growing and are not keeping pace with weight or height gain when compared to other children their age. Children who are not growing according to national standards are referred here by clinics and physicians throughout the Greater Boston area for special care and follow-up.

The children in the Grow Clinic are mildly to moderately malnourished. Because malnutrition is both a medical problem and a social/economic condition, the clinic takes a multidisciplinary approach to the care of FTT children and their families. This approach recognizes that there is a relationship between a safe and secure family environment and the nutritional status of the child.

Last updated Jan ’02. Source Grow Clinic Web Site.

Interfaith AIDS Ministry

60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02165
Contact: Rev. Edward Franks, Executive Director
Phone: (617) 969-8511

Interfaith AIDS Ministry provides emergency supplemental aid and pastoral care services 1,100 occasions annually to persons with AIDS at the request of hospitals, AIDS service organizations, clinics, Visiting Nurses Associations and other organizations located in the seven eastern counties of Massachusetts. IAM partially funds two part-time chaplains to people with AIDS and has teams of volunteers to render practical assistance. IAM is funded primarily by the Episcopal, American Baptist, United Methodist, United Church of Christ and Unitarian denominations with some Jewish, Roman Catholic, foundation, and individual support. IAM is a no-fee agency.

Last updated Jan ’02. Source http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~pluralism/98wrb/resource.htm

Meadows House

Elizabeth Del Valle-Libier, 25 Central St., Ashland, MA 01721
508-231-4516

This is a transitional supportive housing and vocational training program for women released from the Department of Corrections who would otherwise be homeless or at risk of homelessness.

New Hope
140 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: 508-226-4015, Fax: 508-226-6917
http://www.new-hope.org/

At New Hope, we offer a variety of individual and family support services through six complementary programs. We are a non-profit human service agency with nearly 20 years of experience in assisting people in crisis and delivering innovative quality service.

Our efforts are made possible by funding from government contracts, the United Way, donations from business, civic, and church groups, as well as the generosity of individuals - both as donors and as volunteers.

Through continuous evaluation and constant improvement, we strive to fulfill our commitment and our mission.

Making Women & Children Safer...
...Making Families Stronger

Last updated Jan '02. Source New Hope web site.

Re-Vision House Urban House
38 Fabyan Street
Dorchester, MA 02124
617) 282-7757
http://www.volunteersolutions.org/mit/volunteer/agency/one_10466.html

The Re-Vision House Urban Farm is an innovative urban agriculture/aquaculture project based in a Dorchester shelter for homeless pregnant and parenting women. Our project aims to increase access to affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food for shelter residents and community members through our community-supported urban farm and greenhouse, while enhancing the delivery of nutrition services throughout our community and increasing local awareness of the social, environmental and economic benefits of urban agriculture. We grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and flowers in our two greenhouses and on nearly 1/2 acre of land. Produce is used by shelter residents, distributed to community members through sales- and work-exchange programs, and sold at two neighborhood farmers' markets. Shelter residents are employed in the greenhouse and receive horticultural and aquaculture training through our employment and training program. A community board consisting of six organizational members and six community members governs the farm.

Last updated Jan '02. Source web site listed above.

Rosie's Place
889 Harrison Ave.
Boston, MA 02118
Phone 617-442-9322
Fax 617-442-7825
http://www.rosies.org

Rosie's Place was founded in 1974, when Kip Tiernan, a Boston activist, noticed that women were disguising themselves as men in order to get shelter. Kip quickly learned that not only was there no shelter for women in Boston, there was no shelter for women anywhere in the U.S. With a handful of committed volunteers, Kip started Rosie's Place in an abandoned grocery store in the heart of Boston's South End.

Today, Rosie's Place has evolved from simply providing shelter to offering solutions -- from the immediate to the long term. Among our programs are lunch and dinner every day; emergency shelter; permanent housing; advocacy; clothing; a food pantry; a food cooperative; job training (Women's Craft Cooperative) and more.

Rosie's Place strives to provide a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

**Seafarer's Friend**  
25 Williams St., Chelsea, MA 02150  
617 889-6315  
http://www.seafarersfriend.org

Seafarer’s Friend extends the ministry of churches, organizations, and concerned individuals to meet the unmet spiritual, social, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers, maritime workers, and their families in the New England maritime community.

_Last updated March ’05. Source web site listed above.

**The Way Up**  
319 K St., South Boston, MA 02127-3102, 617-268-6669

*The Way Up Founder Preaches at Harvard:* Gene Langevin, founder and co-director of The Way Up, an American Baptist-related youth ministry, preached at the Harvard University Memorial Church in October '01. This was part of the 40th anniversary celebration of his class of 1961. His sermon was entitled "Reflections on Our Lives in the Year 2001." The Way Up youth program is now in its 38th year and is co-directed by Langevin and his sister, Patti, both American Baptist ministers. The program is for girls and boys aged 8 through 17 who are referred to the program by officials in various social agencies and the public schools. The program operates out of First Baptist Church of Wollaston, First Baptist Church of Plymouth, and the South Baptist Church of South Boston, where the Langevins are also co-pastors.

Once the children and youth are part of The Way Up, they are provided with a variety of services, including counseling, remedial education, recreation, classes in music, drama and art, family visits by the Langevins, field trips and parties.

There is no charge for any of The Way Up’s services. The program is supported from various sources, including the Institutional Support Program of TABCOM.

_Last updated Feb ’02. Source ABC Newsletter VINE.

**Worcester Area Mission Society**

128 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501  
508-832-3937  
http://www.myplanet.net/wamsucc/

The Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS), United Church of Christ, is the designated social ministry arm of the Central Association of the Massachusetts Conference and provides a way for city and suburban churches to enjoy a mutuality in mission. The Society works with congregations and other institutions to renew struggling communities by creating sources of neighborhood, social, and human capital.

_Last updated Jan ’02. Source web site listed above.

Last updated March 2005
**Discretionary Mission Funds - Global**

P.O. Box 247; Cambridge, MN 55008  
www.cscsshelfter.org  

Children's Shelter of Cebu has been caring for children in the Philippines for over 22 years. We care for orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children by giving them a safe place to live and a large measure of love. CSC has two residences, which house 30-35 children each. In 2001 we added a third residence for teenagers. Our seven residents there are learning independent living skills while finishing their education.

In 1998 CSC opened the Children of Hope School to better meet the unique educational needs of our children. Our curriculum is designed to meet children at their points of need and ability. No child is excluded because of physical or mental disability. COHS features the latest technology as well as a strong concentration on music and art. Children have the opportunity to study piano and take instruction in a number of instruments. Our band performs several times each year.

Children receive comprehensive services. We attempt to provide a family atmosphere but place a high priority on finding families for our children. CSC children have been adopted all over the world.  

Last updated March '05.

**Church World Service**

28606 Phillips Street  
P.O. Box 968  
Elkhart, IN 46515  

Phone: 1-800-297-1516  
www.churchworldservice.com  

Founded in 1946, Church World Service is the relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS supports sustainable self-help development, meets emergency needs, aids refugees, and helps address the root causes of poverty and powerlessness.  

Last updated Jan '02. Source web site listed above.

**Emergency**

Each year unexpected occurrences, both natural and human-made, demand our attention and ability to help those in need with prayer, hands-on support, or financial assistance. In 2001, we held designated offerings for specific causes: victims of the September 11th attack ($3875) and Afghan refugee relief ($1344). Again, in early 2005, the congregation responded to the Asian Tsunami by raising $2393 for relief.  

Last updated March '05.

**Ms. Martha J. Hackett**

66 Hall Ave.; Watertown, MA 02472  
(617) 924-5626  

Marty is a nurse/midwife who has taken on the country and people of Myanmar (formerly, Burma) as a lifelong mission. She supports a number of orphanages and seminaries in the country, providing them with supplies and funds as often as she can. All foreigners were expelled from Burma in 1965, so Marty has had to limit her visits to Burma to only every 3 years or so.

Marty has used the donations sent from the Franklin Federated Church to support a particular orphanage. Located in the capital city of the Southern Shan States, Taunggyi, the orphanage was opened by 3 retired teachers. These 3 elderly single women, prominent members of the Baptist Church in town, decided to pool their pension monies and be of service to 12-15 orphans, offering medical, education, and housing assistance. The numbers of orphans helped by the women has skyrocketed, though; when Marty visited the orphanage in February 2002, there were 84 children living in the women’s home.  

Last updated March 2005
The orphans have come to the three women in a number of different ways, and some are not orphans, but have been abandoned by their families (due to disability or a parent remarrying, for example). The ages of the residents are varied and over the years -- some have completed high school and have moved away.

The retired teachers’ pensions total about $9 per month, while a bag of rice costs more than $5 and lasts only a day and a half. Some of the older residents go out to work and bring in money, and some of the orphans who have moved away send back money (they still consider the elderly women and the other residents of the house to be their family, and it is a strong tradition in Burma to support one’s family), but much of the orphanage’s funds come from donations like ours.

On her trip in February 2002, Marty was in Burma for 17 days. She met with church leaders and visited the many seminaries and orphanages that she supports. She took in $1000 in books and $3200 in medicines to a few seminaries in Rangoon. For the orphanage in Taunngyi, Marty took medicines and antibiotics, crayons, books, pencils, knitted hats, soccer balls, and Frisbees. Marty’s cousin, who accompanied her, brought balloons and made balloon animals for the young children.

*Last updated Feb '02 by Martha Brewer phone conversation with Marty Hackett*

**Heifer Project International**

P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203
Tel.: (800) 422-0474
E-mail: info@heifer.org

Heifer animals (and training in their care) offer hungry families around the world a way to feed themselves and become self-reliant. Children receive nutritious milk or eggs; families earn income for school, health care and better housing; communities go beyond meeting immediate needs to fulfilling dreams. Farmers learn sustainable, environmentally sound agricultural techniques. The idea of giving families a source of food rather than short-term relief has continued for more than 50 years. As a result, families in 115 countries have enjoyed better health, more income and the joy of helping others.

We direct our giving to Overlook farm in Rutland, MA, a 270-acre working farm that educates the public about world hunger, poverty and solutions. More than 20,000 visitors come to Overlook each year to participate in tours, service learning groups, educational programs, or to attend special events.

*Last updated March '05.*

**SERRV International (A Greater Gift)**

500 Main Street, P.O. Box 365
New Windsor, MD 21776-0365

www.serrv.org/

SERRV is a nonprofit alternative trade organization that promotes social and economic justice for people in developing regions of the world by marketing their handicrafts in a just and direct manner. We promote SERRV by selling their crafts at our annual Church Fair.

*Last updated Jan ‘02.*

**Shalom Project (Chile)**

C/O Paul Nickerson, MACUCC
One Badger Rd.
Framingham, MA 01702
pnickerson@macucc.org

¡Saludos desde Chile! (Greetings from Chile!) The Shalom Center will be a camp style gathering place for people in Chile and the world to come together to explore relationship building and the avenues for peace and a healthy environment. It will be a place where people are empowered through a meaningful encounters with God, themselves, others, and nature to go back to their communities and choose to make a difference. The Shalom Center is a physical place nestled in the beauty of the Andes Mountains: a camp. The Shalom Center is programs: environmental education, peace education, and spiritual development. The Shalom Center is people: People who learn through transformative educational experiences and are empowered to start their own projects in their own communities.

*Last updated June ’02 from Elena Huegel.*
DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

Through the year, designated offerings are received to support various projects, many of which are coordinated through the UCC and ABC. It is through these offerings that we become mission partners, responding to God's call to respond to those in need.

In **February**, we take an offering for **The TOOLS OF HOPE & BLANKET Program**. This is a great way to become a partner in the development work of Church World Service. By providing the right tools at the right time, CWS makes a world of difference in the lives of people in need. Blankets, tents, bedding, and other emergency supplies in the wake of natural disasters and human calamities are very real tools of hope. So are hoes and trowels, a well and pump for a village, education and training, fishing nets and fingerlings to stock a pond, and a small-enterprise loan — large or small, if it empowers people and brings a better tomorrow, it's a tool of hope!

In **May**, a combined world-wide offering is received with the proceeds split between **One Great Hour of Sharing**, sponsored by Church World Service, and the **World Mission Offering**, sponsored by the American Baptist Churches. These worldwide offerings support the hungry, homeless, and oppressed around the world through programs which include economic development, disaster relief, primary health care, community outreach, Christian education, and discipleship.

In **October**, a combined national offering is received with the proceeds split between **America for Christ**, sponsored by the American Baptist Churches, and **Neighbors in Need**, sponsored by the United Church of Christ. These national offerings support various programs that address challenges faced by many people within our nation. Programs include American Indian Ministry, Partnerships for Revitalizing America's Cities, Advocacy for Women and Children, Living in a Multiracial and Multicultural World, Congregational/Community Revitalization in the Appalachian Region, etc.

On **Christmas Eve**, the **Retired Minister and Missionaries Fund**, sponsored by the American Baptist Churches and the **Veterans of the Cross Fund**, sponsored by the United Church of Christ, is received. The combined gifts split between these offerings help support the financial and emergency needs of retired ministers/missionaries or their widowed spouses.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

“What can I do? The problems are too many and I am only one person.” But in our church, “only one person” has: volunteered at a food pantry, organized a rummage sale, labored on a Habitat home, worked at a soup kitchen, walked for hunger, participated in many men's and women's group service projects, collected money for UNICEF, rang a Salvation Army bell at Christmas, written to shut-ins and service men and women, read books for Heifer Project, worked a booth on the Common, and participated in many other projects too numerous to mention, but one fact remains, each one important.

There are many ways to help local, national, and global missions:

1. Support our church mission with your time, talent, and money.
2. Educate yourself. Watch the weekly bulletin, Connections, the mission bulletin board, the narthex table, and newspapers for news of what is happening in the mission world and ways you can actively participate. Take part in workshops and classes that are offered.
3. Write to a missionary or shut-in. They would love a card or note from you.
4. Pray for your government leaders, missionaries, and mission workers. Write to them with your ideas.
5. Involve yourself in a local mission activity.
6. Serve on the Missions Committee!

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”, Luke 12:34