



Volunteer Ministries

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"Buoyed by Possibility and Grounded in Gratitude"

Follow Richard and Maxwell Brooke on a Blogging Tour of UCC Volunteer Ministries host sites. Between September 2010 and July 2011, the Brooke brothers (fraternal twins) will serve as *Partners in Service* volunteers with the assignment to travel throughout the United States. At each service site, the twins plan on making multiple media packages that present what the service provides to the local community, a virtual tour of each site, and their experiences and view of the site.

The Brooke Brothers Blogging Tour, or Twin Maps as Richard and Max are calling the project [they're twins and following a map—get it?!] began in Cleveland at the UCC Church House on September 9. They're already off and traveling. Bookmark the page www.ucc.org/volunteer/twinmaps.

As Richard and Max said to Jeff Woodard who wrote an article published on www.ucc.org to signal the launch of their tour—

"We're anxious and excited to show the story of all these volunteers who have this great passion." (Richard)

"Our generation feels like we can make an impact through volunteer work...We feel like we can change the world by taking things we're good at and making our communities better." (Max)

YOU ARE NEEDED DISASTER RECOVERY—Nashville, Tennessee Flooding May & August, 2010

Register at
www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster-recovery-volunteers/ltrnashville

Torrential rains on May 1-3, 2010 caused major flooding in the Nashville metropolitan area. The United Church of Christ is now registering groups to serve in this long-term recovery process.

YOU and YOUR GROUP can accompany people as they recover after these floods by assisting with home repair and rebuild.

Over 2,100 permits have been issued to home owners to repair/rebuild their homes. Many of these people do not have the means (insurance or funds from FEMA) to restore their homes without help from volunteers. Many have not had a safe place of their own since the floods occurred.

Our presence as the church and service with the clean-up and repair/rebuild of homes several months and years after a disaster helps assure people that they are not alone nor forgotten.



Looking for a Mission Moment to Share in Worship?

Visit www.ucc.org/volunteer/resources-for-volunteers.html

Summer Groups Off to a FAST Start

[from Website of Morgan Scott Project—local partner 2010, by Ray Boles]

Morgan-Scott Project is pleased to have youth work groups all summer from FAST (Faithful Advocates Serving Together). These groups will include young people from United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches throughout the U.S. This is in addition to the usual volunteer work groups that visit us each summer, so we expect to accomplish a lot this year.

The first group included 15 people from Northside Christian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, under the leadership of Rev. Frits Havenkamp, and six people from Carl Road Christian Church in Columbus, Ohio, led by Seth Stout.

This group placed underskirting around the trailer of a lady named Maeona, and painted and stained the wheelchair ramp and porches of a lady named Georgetta. Both ladies are in their 70's and live alone. (Georgetta gives back to the community by hanging clothes at the MSP Thrift Store.) In addition, this FAST group scraped, sanded, and painted the Gazebo in the Town Square of Deer Lodge, so the entire community benefited from their visit.

We appreciate the work of these young people who are dedicated to making a difference in the world.



NOTE:

I've been on Sabbatical this summer. It's great to be back. Help me get re-oriented. Send me your latest news.

Many Thanks to Susan Sanders and Tonya Adams in the Volunteer Ministries Office for keeping everything going smoothly during the past 3 months.

Thanks to each of you for your wonderful support and commitment to service.

—Mary SB, ed.—



**ALONG THE WAY...
NEWS FROM
VOLUNTEERS**

Read more stories of volunteer experiences and reflections at www.ucc.org/volunteer under "Resources."

Hi Friends,

Each month, we enjoy staying in touch with a brief update of goings-on here in Albuquerque. Serving at Menaul School as volunteers and living in New Mexico for an extended period of time brings benefits of "immersion" in the cultural uniqueness and diversity found here. The volunteers themselves bring together diverse backgrounds including Bangladesh, Minneapolis, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and the Dakota-Sioux tribe of Native Americans. We continue to work with the faculty and school administration to give shape and publicity to the June through July summer day camp program...During extra time, we tutor students in math and biology, and help faculty and administration wherever we are needed. Pat occasionally fills in at an administrative/reception desk when the usual staff is absent. She is also researching and writing up a proposal for the school's medical orders and procedures. Doing daily lunchtime duty (collecting and tallying up the cost of meals) helps us to learn the names of many of the students. We have also enjoyed attending all of the home basketball games. Our teams (both girls and boys) came within one game of playing in the state finals.

Weekends are great opportunities to see the sights, learn the history, and travel about. Some of the potpourri of experiences this past month include (1) Attending different churches each Sunday, (2) Attending the celebration of the Buffalo Dance at nearby Sandia Pueblo, (3) Tour of the Pinon Coffee Roasting Factory (the providers of the Pinon Coffee you find at all Trader Joe's outlets nationwide), (4) An evening of stage performances at the African-American Performing Arts Center (in honor of Black Heritage Month),

Kim and Pat Cartwright of Connecticut served with Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico between January and May, 2010. Here are excerpts from their first letter to family and friends—and their e-mail tag line!

***Gone for awhile,
Serving with a smile,
Having an eye
For what money can't buy!***

(5) Menaul School's Jazz Ensemble (known as *The Blackberries and the Giblets*), (6) Hiking to a mesa atop the ancient lava escarpment (i.e. 150,000 years old) of several ancient volcanoes (10 or so miles to our west) after paying careful heed to the warning sign to stay on the path and to avoid rattlesnakes, (7) Visit to the Sandia Ski area and Sandia Crest (10,678 feet elevation) where the snow is deep. Kim plans to ski there in the next week or so, before the snow melts.

Pat is learning the fine art of quilting and has completed a lovely wall-hanging, picturing a variety of southwestern pottery with beautiful and rich earth colors. In his spare time, Kim has made a portrait sketch on stitcher's canvass of Pat wearing a cowboy hat, and is trying to fill in the colors with cross-stitching floss. He has also been collecting naturally colored rocks in the area and is planning to make paint using their pigments. He figures that painting a southwestern scene will work best if the paint is made from natural stuff, rather than a tube of paint from an art store. He says: "It's worth a try," so one frequently finds him stopping the car, kneeling down and scooping up stones and other colored minerals found alongside the road. We'll see. ... We are also attending a Thursday evening Lenten study at one of the Presbyterian churches, and are enjoying the fellowship with these people. A number of the congregations we have attended are blessed with musical talent, and regularly include at worship ensembles with electric guitars, piano, organ, brass instruments, drums, and keyboards. The music is spirited and worshipful with a mix of traditional and more contemporary, a real joy and catalyst for worship.

Summer Young Adult Service Communities

Ecumenical Collaboration
United Church of Christ & Alliance of Baptists

Well Done!

Some views from orientation—keeping connected via facebook, text and phone
—all kinds of service and advocacy settings in six locations around the U.S.
—serving faithfully
—reflecting on future directions in life
—Summer YASC volunteers were awesome!



WELCOME Young Adult Service Communities

for 11-month programs at

The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, Arizona
BeatiCorps at Church of the Beatitudes UCC, Phoenix, Arizona
Westmoreland Volunteer Corps at Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda, Maryland

5 new volunteers have just begun with the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps
The BeatiCorps just welcomed 4 new volunteers to Phoenix
And the newest of the year-long UCC Young Adult Service Communities—The Good Shepherd UCC has recently welcomed the 4 volunteers who will be serving in southern Arizona this year

Meet and Greet Events at all locations allowed the Committees in each church to get to know the new community members. Everyone is currently in the midst of orientation to their volunteer community, the hosting church, and their service sites.



BeatiCorps YASC
at Church of the Beatitudes,
Phoenix, AZ



Happy Birthday, Cathy! YASC at The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ





ALONG THE WAY... NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS

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Susie's Story... [from 'The Changing Tides' Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS]

It's a long way from South India to South Mississippi, but distance didn't deter Susie Tharyan nor dampen her enthusiasm to spend most of her summer volunteering as an intern at Back Bay Mission. What she has found here is similar to her experiences in her hometown of Vellore—famous for its medical school, Christian Medical College and Hospital.

Susie is part of a new venture between the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists who joined together this year to host a 10-week summer placement program for young adults—Young Adult Service Communities (YASC).

She comes by volunteering naturally; her parents have a long history of working with nonprofit organizations. Both are closely associated with the MBKG Kasam, also known as the Family Village Farm, for orphaned children, in their hometown. Its primary sponsor is UCC/Disciples Global Ministries.

"I come from a country of more than a billion people where 30-40% live below the poverty line," she says. "you get used to it because it's there in front of you." Although India has a "booming economy," she says. "these people earn less than \$1 a day."

But she was 'hit in the face', figuratively speaking, when she first arrived in Biloxi, by a homeless woman who knocked at the door of the Mission's Guest House and asked for a place to stay.

Could it happen here as well?

"Showers and laundry facilities are a luxury to these people," she observes. "in my country, the acute poverty is greater and India needs hundreds of projects to provide shelter for the homeless, food pantries and soup kitchens for the hungry."...

Although she knew she would learn 'best practices' of organizations such as Back Bay Mission, Susie came to the United States with no expectations.

"But I'm leaving with so many ideas," she says, her eyes shining and excitement mounting in her voice. "this has definitely been an eye-opener and a life-changing experience." ...

"I would like to involve children in outreach in my home village," Susie muses, by taking her message to schools and making students and their families, mostly middle class, aware of yet unknown opportunities. First on her agenda is getting toilet facilities built for the homeless in her own hometown.

At age 23, Susie has earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in communication. She has worked for a year in advertising with a public relations firm and her job awaits her when she returns home in December. But she doesn't see herself doing advertising forever.

Her 'flat mates' in the BBM Guest House have been two other YASC interns—Katy Kammerdieker from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, who has worked with the housing recovery construction crews and Sharae McCreary of Toledo, Ohio, who has worked with a number of duty stations: in the Micah Center, the Food Pantry, at the front desk in the client lobby and done outreach with the - - Home at Last - - caseworker. The three women have carefully planned activities together, arranging to have two meals a day together, exploring the local environs, traveling to New Orleans and mapping out a trip to Florida.

Katy, the daughter of two former missionaries, says mission work is in her blood and because she'd always wanted to do construction work but never gotten the chance, the summer volunteer opportunity came as a 'call from God.'

From Biloxi, Sharae will return to the University of Toledo where she is a junior social work major. Katy looks, eventually, forward to doing 'some sort of full-time missionary or outreach work, perhaps in disaster recovery.'

And Susie will head to St. Louis volunteering with [Neighborhood Houses and the Deaconess Foundation] before going home to Vellore, her head filled with dreams of a better life for its homeless population, her heart bursting with enthusiasm for making that happen—and her mouth watering for those hot and spicy Indian curries.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

'Partners in Service' Volunteers from the U.S. and Around the World

Continuing Long-Term (9-12 months)

Volunteers continuing in long-term assignments include: Ed Finertie, NE at Humane Borders, Tucson, AZ; Maria Paulson Romby, Norway at Meeting Ground, Elkton, MD; and Keith Smallwood, OR at JOIN, Portland, OR

Long-Term (9-12 months)

Wadim Baslow, Germany at Religious Coalition for Emergency Needs, Frederick, MD
Maxwell Brooke, NC "Virtual Volunteer" with UCC Volunteer Ministries' Site Journey, TwinMaps
Richard Brooke, NC "Virtual Volunteer" with UCC Volunteer Ministries' Site Journey, TwinMaps
Reena Burton, CA at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia, PA
David Chok, Ukraine at Hopewell Farms, Mesopotamia, OH
Camille Clicheroux, Belgium at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Yannik Dietz, Germany at Gould Farms, Monterray, MA
Kolja-Alexej Dreger, Germany at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Kevin Duplat, Belgium at Neighborhood Houses, St. Louis, MO
Hannah Campbell Gustafson, MN at Plymouth House of Healing, Seattle, WA
Andre Kayser, Germany at Religious Coalition for Emergency Needs, Frederick, MD
Robin Koss, Germany at Every Child's Hope (ECH), St. Louis, MO
Nelson Oppong, Germany at CWS Immigration & Refugee Resettlement Office, Lancaster, PA
Kai Roevenich, Germany at Neighborhood Houses, St. Louis, MO
Joseph Rwanyindo, Belgium at Camp Courageous, Monticello, IA
Pam Small, IN "Virtual Volunteer" for Disaster Recovery, Nashville, TN
Jenna Urwer, Germany at La Puente Home, Alamosa, CO
Hanna Weinsheimer, Germany at Camp Courageous, Monticello, IA
Zebulon Young, CA at Old First Reformed UCC, Philadelphia, PA

Short-Term (1-8 months)

Lizzy Beach, CA at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Marcia Beer, WI at Faithful Advocates Serving Together, Deer Lodge, TN
Chris Hale, CT at Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center, Silver Lake, CT
Jessica Lambertson, IN at The Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita, AZ
Barbara Laucks, FL at Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC
Phil Laucks, FL at Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC
Patricia Lincoln, NC at Abernethy Laurels Retirement Home, Newton, NC
William Lincoln, NC at Abernethy Laurels Retirement Home, Newton, NC
Mary (Bette) Mulley, AZ at Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM
Daniel Sather, IN at Open Door Community, Atlanta, GA
John Small, IN at CWS Ecu-Build, Cedar Rapids, IA
Jeanette Tangeman, OH at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Terry Tangeman, OH at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Susie Tharyan, India at Neighborhood Houses & Deaconess Foundation, St. Louis, MO
Connie Waidmann, TN at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Robert Waidmann, TN at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Whitney Waller at Urban Spirit, Louisville, KY

UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES OF WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

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For over 50 years, Volunteer Ministries has provided opportunities for people to share their gifts of service and witness to others. Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices. The logo of the towel and basin remind us of God's call to serve.



New Postings on the website!
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>

MISSION TRIPS IN THE UNITED STATES

SERVICE DAYS

PARTNERS IN SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

UCC YOUNG ADULT SERVICE COMMUNITIES