

Volunteer Ministries



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SERVING TOGETHER....

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” I Cor. 3:6



We are right in the middle of volunteer application season — applications arriving for summer positions — applications coming in for positions that begin in the fall. Particularly in those sites that use “Partners in Service” volunteers on an on-going basis, it is inspiring to see the ways that new people interact with the work of those who have gone before and how they serve with others who are there at the same time. The volunteer apartment at

Evangelical Children’s Home in St. Louis is a living example of these connections. It is set up with one wall open to redecoration each year by the resident volunteer. So those who serve at ECH literally see the stories and creativity of those who have gone before them.

In the newsletter of Epiphany UCC in St. Louis which has hosted mission trip groups for the past two summers, their pastor, Rev. Mary Albert, writes about ways in which the volunteer groups have multiplied the congregation’s ministries and influenced its identity.

“Another field of work this summer has been the Urban Mission Experience Program. Last year it was just an experiment when three groups came to try out a mission experience here at Epiphany. This summer five groups came from five states. Each group blessed us with gifts and taught us lessons. From the Boulder, Colorado group we learned that we may have been thinking too small when we designed the program. Our building and hearts and hospitality are big enough to host groups as large as 40. Thanks to our Janesville, Wisconsin guests, our youth rose to the challenge of being a host youth group. With the help of the group from Fort Wayne, Indiana, we learned about taking risks and welcoming the neighborhood into our church....

Yet the harvest is far from finished. Now completed, the ramps [which groups built for Epiphany’s building] will become seeds again – making it possible to receive the presence of people who have not been able to be with us. Neighbors experiencing welcome and invitation are seeing signs that God is up to something in this congregation. Our youth, who have glimpsed groups from other churches on mission, are asking if they might be able to go on a mission trip themselves. These are new seeds that have been sown. Let us water them with prayer, and see what growth God will bring through us in due season.”

Mary Albert, Pastor, [*The Enlightener, September 2007 Epiphany UCC, St Louis, MO*]

We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

Howard Zinn from his book “You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train”

Welcome Returning 'Partners in Service' Volunteers

Placed Again U.S. 'Partners in Service' volunteers:

Richard Freridge, Michigan, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Judy Moore, Vermont, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Doug Moore, Vermont, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Tim Rowles, Ohio, at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Jennifer Rowles, Ohio, at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS

International "Partners in Service" volunteer:

Fabian Thiele, Germany, at Evangelical Children's Home, St. Louis, MO



Thanks to 'Partners in Service' Volunteers Recently Completing Service

Thomas Gorham, South Dakota, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Allan Thiele, Michigan, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Roberta Thiele, Michigan, at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Peg Jacobs, Kentucky, at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
John Small, Indiana, at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS

Highlighting Long-Term Volunteer Possibilities

Westmoreland Volunteer Corps

The Westmoreland Volunteer Corps (WVC) is now accepting applications for a one-year program in the Washington DC area beginning in fall 2008. Persons of all faiths are welcome to participate. If you are a college senior with a passion for social justice and an interest in helping others, we encourage you to consider participating in our successful program. WVC has a 23-year history of changing lives -- of those who volunteer and those who benefit from their involvement.

The WVC is a one-year domestic volunteer service program sponsored by Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ in Bethesda, MD, a few steps from Washington D.C. It offers five young adults, typically recent college graduates, opportunities to work in direct social service through placements with Washington area service agencies. WVC identifies positions with over 15 participating agencies in Washington, DC, and suburban Maryland and Virginia, providing services such as employment counseling and job search, case worker support, maternal/child health care and other health programs, homeless services and shelters, refuge services, social justice and advocacy, and elderly support. The goals of the participating agencies are matched with the interests, skills, academic training, and career goals of the five volunteers. These positions provide opportunities for volunteers to explore possible career paths in social service, health care, law, housing, religion and education, and international aid among others.

For more information please visit the website www.westmorelanducc.org.

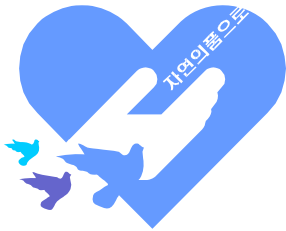
See "Partners in Service" booklet for more opportunities. Booklet and on-line application available at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>. Call United Church of Christ Resources 800-537-3394 for a printed booklet



Mission & Ministry Week May 26-30, 2008



Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center 30 Craig Springs Circle, New Castle, VA



An opportunity for Disciples and UCC persons interested in leadership development training for hands-on mission opportunities.

This event will be an actual work trip experience. Participants will be involved in hands-on mission work each day and will also participate in worship planning, meals, work leadership and daily reflections. There will be free time each evening.



\$200 per person *includes* lodging, food, resource notebook, and t-shirt

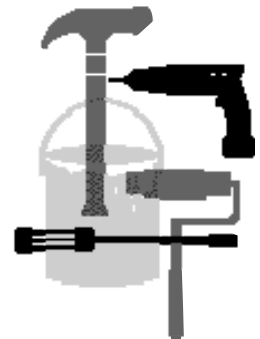
DEADLINE IS MAY 9TH.

For Virginia residents who wish to come **only to work for part of this week**, contact Alisha Bennett at Craig Springs,

540-864-5768

craigsprings@ccinva.org or craigsprings@hotmail.com

For information about this event please contact either
Carl Zerweck @ 1-888-346-2651 (DHM) or
Sue Gordon (434) 846-3400 (CCINVA)



Ministry & Mission Week
May 26th-10am to May 30th lunch
2008
Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (O) _____ (H) _____

Cell: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Cost: \$200 per person includes lodging, food, resource notebook, t-shirt

Where: Craig Springs Camp & Retreat Center, New Castle, Virginia
For directions, see craigsprings.com or ccinva.org.



Return this form to:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia
1290 Enterprise Drive ~ Lynchburg, Virginia 24502-5744



First Parish Congregational United Church of Christ Saco, Maine



What follows is a developing story that testifies to the multiple directions of transformation that God can make happen through our service of accompaniment.

The following two columns are from *The Times-Picayune* newspaper in New Orleans.

At the beginning of March columnist, Chris Rose, interviewed a member of a UCC volunteer group serving in New Orleans – Jeff Galasyn, 17 years old, of First Church UCC of Saco, Maine. It could have been any of the almost 2900 short-term volunteers who have served in New Orleans through the UCC South Central Conference or the thousands who have served in Mississippi or Florida.. What Jeff says and does and how Chris responds, illustrates the multi-dimensional transformation that happens when we accompany people as they rebuild their lives in recovery. The story weaves its way through even more lives with the second column on March 19 in which Chris Rose tells some of its continuing dimensions as 84-year old, Roma T. Lambourne read the March 2 article and responded in her own faithful actions that continue to inspire.

ALONG THE WAY... NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS

God does make all things new. *And Hope Shall Bloom.*

Read the entire columns at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer> in the “stories and resources” section. Find the *Times-Picayune* website at <http://www.nola.com>.



John and Pam Small, Indiana, at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS February 14, 2008

We've been hit with a cold front and today it barely broke 50 degrees. For the most part, we've been in T-shirt weather this week. I know..... wha-wha-wha. It is not very nice up north.

We turned over two houses to their owners last week and that was a fun experience. One of the houses belonged to a couple that have been in the same area for over 80 years and they have seen many changes in the neighborhood. We started rehabbing that home last spring. The other home was a new one completed by BBM volunteers for Stanley Smith and his wife. Stanley works for the East Biloxi Coordination Center as a laborer. The EBCC is all about helping those in east Biloxi get back on their feet. I've attached a picture of Stanley's "garden" with his interpretation of what Biloxi looked like following the storm. It reminds him of how bad his neighborhood looked and how far it has come in 30 months. Stanley worked with us in completing his home and keeps his property "neat as a pin". As you can see by the photo, it is a two small two story with three rooms and two baths.

We will be completing two more homes in the very near future. And, if all goes well, we will be starting the house I told you about several weeks ago that will be 12 feet above ground. Exciting! Two other homes will have the rough-in (electrical, plumbing, HVAC, structural) inspections completed this week and then we can begin putting them back together. Large numbers of volunteers are headed our way and projects are moving at warp speed. We stay on the run .



Where Are They Now?

Partners in Service Alumni on the Move...

Candy Shoop, Florida Conference UCC Disaster Recovery Ministry 2005-6 works with the Volunteer Center of Washington County in Wisconsin. She recently wrote, "I thank God every day for my experience and not one day goes by that I make sure that I share what I have learned in Florida thru God's work. I miss my mission work everyday but I am still in a smaller way fulfilled in my work at the Volunteer Center of Washington County. I am very involved with our missions committee and planning next years adult mission trip". (Feb. 19, 2008) Want to reach Candy? info@volunteernow.net

Heather Iriye, UCC Still Speaking Initiative, Cleveland, OH, 2005-6 has been working with Meeting Services of the national setting of the UCC and is now moving to the United Kingdom to pursue her talents aerial acrobatics in the circus. She recently performed in a 2-person show in Cleveland, OH, ***Not Exactly DanceWorks*** — presents the internationally acclaimed *Juggling Show Spectacular Extravaganza of Object Manipulation Specialist Aaron Bonk* in a unique performance featuring the enthralling movement artistry of special guest *Sora Sol*, [Heather's stage name] Cleveland's premier Aerial Dancer. Experience the laughter and awe inspired by this dynamic duo in a stunning display of Juggling, Dance, Comedy and Aerial Acrobatics that will ignite your imagination and stimulate your senses.

Gabriele (Bykowski) Almocera, otherwise known as **Gabi**, Ryder Memorial Hospital, Puerto Rico, 2003, was married October 26, 2007 in Germany.



UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Office of Volunteer Ministries
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

Mary Schaller Blaufuss
Executive for Volunteer Ministries
blaufusm@ucc.org
216-736-3214
Toll free: 866-822-8224 ext. 3214

Diane Dicken
Administrative Assistant for Program
dickend@ucc.org
216-736-3216
Toll-Free: 866-822-8224 ext. 3216

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.

Check out the new look on the
website!
New Address too
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>

PARTNERS IN SERVICE
MISSION TRIPS
LEADERSHIP TRAINING
SERVICE DAYS