

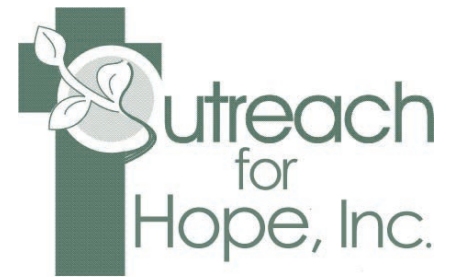
SEEDS OF HOPE

a Newsletter from Outreach for Hope Inc.

Fall 2012 Issue 06



Pastor Suero welcoming worshippers



FAITH/SANTA FE'S BIG FAMILY IS GROWING

Outreach for Hope support boosts diverse ministry

Two blocks north of the Greater Milwaukee Synod office on S. Layton Boulevard in Milwaukee is a beautiful 105-year-old Lutheran church, Faith/Santa Fe. The diagonal line between Faith and Santa Fe does not represent a division: Santa Fe is Spanish for "Holy Faith" so we might say in English the church is named "Faith, Holy Faith."

Each week, from Tuesday through Sunday, up to 1,000 people walk through the doors of this church. Some

speak Spanish, some speak English, and some are bi-lingual. Whatever one's mother tongue does not matter: all are welcome here. Worship takes place in both languages.

VBS Volunteer Becomes Pastor

Two full-time pastors serve at Faith/Santa Fe. Pastor Richard Suero has ministered to the growing congregation for eight years; Pastor Paula Canby, who volunteered to teach Vacation Bible School in 2008, experienced God's call to ministry, completed her theological studies, and was ordained this year.



Pastor Canby, during Saturday program

From the very first, she felt "embraced" by the people at Faith/Santa Fe. She finds her greatest joy in helping the people she meets there each day.

Joining the pastors in this ministry is Lois Peterson, who came to the church in 2002 with her husband, Pastor Richard Peterson, to minister to the Latino community. In an interview she recalled the challenges her husband faced "to bring people together from two distinct cultures" and how "tirelessly he worked so that it could become an ELCA congregation with a distinct Latino understanding."

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When Pastor Peterson accepted a call to serve at First Lutheran Church in West Allis, Lois continued her work at Faith/Santa Fe. She is an accomplished pianist and speaks both Spanish and English, which are special gifts to her ministry in this congregation. She plays the piano for worship services, teaches piano to children and teens in an after-school program twice a week; she also helps coordinate ESL classes and after-school homework classes. This year those classes are made possible with help from college students at Marquette University and UWM. Lois also pitches in to help in the church office where Sunday bulletins, weekly calendars, and monthly newsletters are printed in both English and Spanish.



Piano lessons w/ Lois Peterson

The Big Day is Sabado - Saturday

On Saturdays Faith/Santa Fe is teeming with activity. Children come on that day for Bible classes, so they have Saturday school rather than Sunday school. Saturday is also the day the food pantry – one of the larger in the Milwaukee area – distributes food to 165 families. At noon church volunteers serve a community meal to all the food pantry workers, to the children in Bible classes and their families, and to others in the community in need of a nourishing meal. (Faith/Santa Fe was featured in the July 2012 issue of *The Lutheran*

magazine. The cover theme was “Poverty in America”.)

When Pastor Suero talks about his ministry at Faith/Santa Fe, he doesn't like to focus on all the work they do; instead, he prefers to speak of “who we are”: people living in God's grace. To him it is a privilege to be serving God, and everything good that results is a blessing from God. For that, “We celebrate.” Sadly, though, “the shadows remain” because for every family that is helped, there are so many more in need.

Many of the people who live in the south side neighborhood face insurmountable problems each day. Families are often broken, economically deprived, and feeling excluded from the mainstream of American society. Whatever their needs – helping someone get a green card, helping another with a resume, walking with still another for an appointment – Pastor Suero and members of the Faith/Santa Fe community do whatever they can to help. Financial support from Outreach for Hope has helped to strengthen and grow Faith/Santa Fe's vibrant ministry. It means so much to people to find that Faith/Santa Fe is a welcoming community where they are accepted just as they are. To many, it has become their home. Or, as Pastor Suero likes to say, “I have a big family!”

~By Marjorie Pagel

Marjorie is a member of Whitnall Park Lutheran Church, Hales Corners and a past editor of "Gleanings" for Women of the ELCA



Lively Latin Music

Big Family Is Multiplied with Partnerships

The community supporting Faith/Santa Fe stretches much further than Milwaukee's South side. Four ELCA congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod partner with Faith/Santa Fe: Unity (Milwaukee), Gethsemane (Brookfield), St. Stephen the Martyr (Greendale), and Vernon Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mukwonago.) There is also an active partnership with Luther Manor, Wauwatosa.

The food pantry is restocked weekly through a number of resources; Feeding America – Eastern Wisconsin is the largest provider. Staff and volunteers fill up trucks and stock the pantry; other volunteers prepare and serve the meal. One day in September Pastors Suero and Canby joined volunteers to harvest 3,500 pounds of sweet corn for the food pantry. Another day they joined a group of walkers who were raising funds for Feeding America.



Paula Canby's ordination, 6/10/12



First Communion Class



Members create Piñatas for Las Posadas

PRISON IS PART OF CHURCH LIFE AT OUTREACH FOR HOPE MINISTRIES

Director's Note – Rev. Jim Bickel

On any given Sunday in most Outreach for Hope congregations you will find men and women worshipping there who have been in prison. And it would not be out of the ordinary to hear public prayers for several members of the congregation mentioned by name, who are currently incarcerated.

There is a reason why incarceration issues are so much a part of the life of churches funded by Outreach for Hope. It is because there is a disproportionate number of people in poor neighborhoods and people of color who are incarcerated. The perception is that those groups have a higher rate of drug use, hence more people in prison. However, that is not the case. Poverty and racism, sadly, skew the justice of our penal system. Reducing racial and economic disparities are included in a larger campaign being organized by church and community groups, called "11x15." **Its goal is to cut the State's prison population in half, to 11,000 inmates, by the year 2015.**

Sentenced to 45 Years in Prison

In early September I was attending worship at Cross Lutheran, 16th and Walnut, in Milwaukee. Sitting behind me was a lovely family: husband and

wife, and two polite boys. Near the end of the service Andre Brown, from Project Return, spoke to the congregation about the "11x15" campaign.

It took me by surprise when the woman with the family behind me got up at the end of his presentation and announced, "I was sentenced to 45 years in prison. Fortunately, I was very lucky to get out after three. They were terrible years. I want to help your program with whatever I can." After the service, I turned to the woman and said, "I really appreciate that you shared your story." Then her husband interjected, "I was in prison for 17 years." The two boys stood patiently next to their parents, listening. The woman went on, "We've been coming to Cross for awhile now. We're comfortable here. We feel accepted."

Acceptance Doesn't Come Easy

The affirmation her family is receiving at Cross Church is far more significant than most of us realize. When society labels you as an ex-offender or felon, it's hard to feel comfortable anywhere. You are judged; you are looked on with suspicion; you are denied jobs before you even have a chance to prove

yourself; and your kids are under suspicion as well. But at this congregation, supported by gifts to Outreach for Hope, they felt welcomed and loved.

Acceptance and love, especially for those who are pushed to the edge of society, are at the heart of the 21 congregations and ministries of the Greater Milwaukee Synod supported by funds from Outreach for Hope. Isn't that what Christ called us to and demonstrated over and over again? In Outreach for Hope congregations there are people currently homeless, people unemployed, people without health care, people that have loved ones in prison, people with little hope that their future will be any better than their past.

Your gifts to Outreach for Hope respond to that call of Christ. To paraphrase Jesus' words in Matthew 25:36, "When I was released from prison, you welcomed me." Please give generously to the ministries that welcome people who need to know how much God loves them and values them. Jesus said that when you show such love and acceptance, "you have done it for me."



Andre Brown of Project Return... speaking about "11 x15"

To learn more about the
11x15 CAMPAIGN
<http://prayforjusticeinwi.org/>

To schedule an
11x15 CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION
AT YOUR CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION
contact Terry Sherman (630) 405-8902

A RESURRECTION ON 'HOLY GROUND' SURROUNDING HEPHATHA

Hephatha Lutheran Church is Focus of 2012 Habitat Blitz

Twelve properties within a two-block circle of Hephatha Lutheran Church were the target of a dramatic renovation that brought hundreds of Habitat for Humanity volunteers to 18th and Locust in Milwaukee. The transformation had been twelve years in the making, beginning with the faith-based advocacy group, MICAH (Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope), which promoted the theme "Holy Ground." It was an empowerment message to emphasize what God was doing and could do in neighborhoods that were struggling economically.

Hephatha Church got fully engaged with the vision of "Holy Ground," taking several neighborhood walks each year with Alderpersons, police, and leaders from Habitat for Humanity. The walks put a dramatic light on the many houses in foreclosure, and houses with rampant illegal drug use and prostitution, all within blocks of Hephatha Church. It was Habitat staff who realized the potential of "Blitzing" the neighborhood with their building program.

Ten Houses in Five Days

During five days in the middle of May, more than 300 people arrived from around the nation to join in building ten houses, all located within two blocks of Hephatha. Many of those who traveled to Milwaukee were young adults who had volunteered with Ameri-Corp. The Hephatha Fellowship Hall was headquarters for the week, as wave after wave of hungry workers came for lunches prepared and served by Hephatha members and their partners from across the Synod.

The second "Blitz" week took place in September with 70 volunteers getting two more houses built, each less than a block from Hephatha, making it an even dozen.

Years of Partnership Building Lead to Blitz Week

Mary Martha Kannass, Hephatha's pastor for over 20 years, reflected, "This summer of renewal and hope did not arrive accidentally. It goes back to the days when the Greater Milwaukee Synod made a commitment through Hephatha Church to remain present in this neighborhood as it experienced struggles and instability. The Synod's support, with grants from Outreach for Hope, helped make Hephatha a stable partner in the community. Hephatha became the catalyst for the major venture of neighborhood renewal you are seeing today."



Blitz Building



Refueling at Hephatha

HEPHATHA MEMBER'S DREAM CONNECTS WITH BOARD MEMBER'S PASSION



Marquitta Smith and Nancy Groethe have been acquainted for years through the Partnership their churches share; but the Habitat building project brought a new dimension to the Partnership of their churches. Marquitta is a member of Hephatha Lutheran Church. Nancy is a member of Bay View Lutheran Church and she is also on the Board of Directors with Outreach for Hope.

18 moves in 10 years

Marquitta stepped into Hephatha for the first time when she was 8 years old, invited by Pastor Mary Martha to enter and enjoy the friendship and love of their church. Today Marquitta will tell you that Hephatha Church became the most stable foundation of her life. As a youth she, with her siblings moved 18 times in 10 years. Four of those times the sheriff came to move them onto the street. Her dream was that someday she and her children would have the stability she never had as a child. Today, Marquitta gives thanks that she has been chosen to become one of the new homeowners of a Habitat house. Soon she and her three children will be living less than two blocks from the community of faith that has been her rock through the storms and joys of life.

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Hardhat and Hammer Energize Her

Nancy Groethe has dedicated her volunteer time to many good causes, including her work on the Board of Outreach for Hope. But the organization that has energized Nancy more than any other is Habitat for Humanity. Her first exposure to Habitat for Humanity was twenty years ago, when her congregation, Bay Shore Lutheran, sponsored a Habitat home. Each week throughout the year Nancy arrives at a Habitat for Humanity building site with a hardhat on her head and a hammer in her hand, to help build homes with families eager for the stability, the pride, and the opportunities that homeownership brings. Nancy's joy in her work with Habitat for Humanity took on added meaning when she came to help during the Hephatha Blitz week. Marquitta, from their Partnership congregation, Hephatha, would soon be living with her family in a house being built by Habitat.

Read Marquitta's story in her own words, written for her congregation. Go to www.outreachforhope.org. Click on her picture in the 'homepage' slide show.

OUTREACH FOR HOPE PLEDGES \$350,000 FOR 2013

The Board of Directors of Outreach for Hope committed to provide \$350,000 in 2013 for the twenty-one congregations and ministries approved for support next year. Board members reflected, "These are ministries that

work each day with those who struggle below the poverty line. We need to keep our support strong."

The Board of Directors, in raising the commitment, is also seeking to touch the hearts of all who support Outreach

for Hope. Your additional dollars are needed not only to meet the growing impact of poverty, but also to be part of the church's mission to transform lives and communities.

Specific ways your gifts go to work:

Children and Youth. Hundreds of children each week find their neighborhood church to be a place of stability and safety, as well as a source of guidance for the challenges they face.

Salary Support for Pastors. Churches working in low-income communities need dedicated pastors who can connect with the neighborhood and develop leadership within the congregation.

Program Needs. Helping with the daily needs of life through meal programs, clothes closets, clinics, and shelters is part of the life of churches walking with the poor.

Please consider a gift today:

- ~ Mail your gift to Outreach for Hope
- ~ Donate on line at www.outreachforhope.org
- ~ Make a transfer of stock and receive substantial tax benefits
- ~ Consider a leadership gift. Call Pastor Bickel at 414-671-1212



Traffic Tuesdays/Martes Maravillosos,
Church of the Redeemer, Racine



Pastor Kevan Penvose (left) at Unity's
Community Meal

CONSIDER THIS...

Quote:

God of all humankind, make the roof of our house wide enough for all opinions. Oil the door of our house so it opens easily to friend and stranger and set such a table in our house that our whole family may speak kindly and freely around it. Amen.

~ Adapted from A prayer from Hawaii, 1000 World Prayers

Bible Verse:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those who have no hope. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. ~ Proverbs 31:8-9

'HOPE' FOR THE FUTURE

Encouraging Generosity for Generations

The formation of a generous heart begins at an early age. My two adult children and their spouses have their hands full at the moment. Their children, my grandchildren, 6 years, 2 years and 6 weeks, are beginning to interact with each other and are coached "to share."

This is where encouragement of generosity begins. It is a good thing. It is also the beginning of a steep learning curve for the next generation in our family. I am pleased to see my children and their spouses "step up to the plate" to teach life's basic lessons. At this young age they are planting the right seeds.

Some who read this are in the busy stages of parenting, like my children, teaching a younger generation to share; others are observing, as I, how important these lessons are for the long haul. Learning to share dolls or books or toys is a first step. The best is yet to come... giving of self in time, abilities, and financial resources. It is never too late to model how one might give and be an example for others.

One Opportunity for Sharing is Often Missed

At the end of life, a portion of accumulated assets could be directed to benefit others, beyond family, through ministries of the church or other charitable organizations. Imagine, the last "word" you or I could have is one that demonstrates this form of generosity. Imagine... a will that demonstrates how the principles of

sharing you taught your children and reinforced in your grandchildren, are consistent with a final act of sharing.



Somewhere along the way you learned sharing offers a good feeling. Discover it again, when you prepare or update your will and include charitable causes. Let your will reflect the values you share and always want to impart to others. Let your will echo generosity and, in a final analysis, provide a lasting teachable moment for those you love.

"You make a living by what you earn.
You make a life by what you give."

~ W. Churchill

Pastor Westfield
262-224-9574 or Email
larry.westfield@elca.org

Hope for the Future Society at OFH

"I want to leave a legacy of Hope for the future of churches working in communities of poverty, by including a gift to Outreach for Hope from my estate."

There are five individuals and couples who have already made that commitment in their will. Will you join them as a charter member of the Hope for the Future Society? Leave a legacy that will touch lives for years to come.

Contact Rev. Larry Westfield or Rev. Jim Bickel to learn more.

2012 OUTREACH FOR HOPE CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES

MILWAUKEE-FAR NORTH

Capitol Drive Lutheran Church
Divine Word/Pentecost Lutheran Church
Florist Avenue Lutheran Church
Peace Lutheran Church

MILWAUKEE-NEAR NORTH

All Peoples Church
Cross Lutheran Church
Hephatha Lutheran Church
Incarnation Lutheran Church
Reformation Lutheran Church

MILWAUKEE-CENTRAL AND SOUTH

Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Lao Ministry
Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church
Unity Lutheran Church
Redeemer Lutheran Church

KENOSHA

Grace Lutheran Church
ELCA Urban Outreach Center

RACINE

Emmaus Lutheran Church
Racine Neighborhood Camp
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer



ANNUAL FAMILY BIKE RIDE REGISTRATIONS DOUBLE

This year's 5th annual Outreach for Hope Bike Ride, an event that functions both as a way to increase awareness of our mission and as a major fundraiser for our organization, attracted double the number of registered riders this year over last.

Just shy of 300 riders registered to ride, a number that was likely aided in no small part both by the day's beautiful weather as well as by a challenge grant provided by Dave and Barb Hammer. The Hammers offered to add \$25 for every person registered for the ride, a generous offer that netted this year's

ride an extra \$7,500.

As in years past, the ride offered both a family ride -- 14 miles along the Glacial Drumlin Trail -- and 30- and 40-mile road rides that wound through parts of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and areas near Delafield, Dousman and Palmyra. This year's routes featured new signage, mileage markers and directional markers, added to make it easy for riders to know exactly where to go and how far they'd gone.

A group from All Saints Lutheran Church in Wales hosted a rest stop at the mid-point of the trail ride. St.

Matthews Lutheran in Palmyra welcomed the road riders at their church, while the youth group from Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha celebrated the return of every rider with cheers and cowbells. After riders rolled across the finish line, they enjoyed a picnic lunch and a short presentation by Pastor Paula Canby and several youth members of Faith/Santa Fe Church in Milwaukee, giving focus to one of the ministries supported by OFH.

Sound like fun? Be sure to watch for details about next year's September 7th ride, which will be available on our web site, www.outreachforhope.org. Join us and help us double registrations again next year!

~ By Jill Rick
Jill writes the "Now You Know" column in "Waukesha NOW"

THANK YOU to:

All who donated to the OFH Bike Event
Dave and Barb Hammer for registration matching gift
Al Groh for leadership gift
Anonymous gift - for all new signage
All who rode and secured pledges
Pacesetter congregations and representatives
Picnic Presentation: Faith/Santa Fe, Milwaukee
Rest Stop Host: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Palmyra
Rest Stop Host: All Saints Lutheran Church, Wales
Bike Route Designer: Daren Maas
Graphic Artist: Heidi Bischmann
Registrar: Chris Durfee
Planning Team: Dave McAdow, chair; Heidi Bischmann, Nic Bur, Lloyd Buth, Mike Groh, Dave Hammer, Liz Westfield and Jim Bickel
Videographers: Orphonic Multi Media

Corporate Sponsors:

Augustine Financial – Brookfield
Bicycle Doctor – Dousman
Brennan's Market – Brookfield
Cesarz, Charapata, Zinneker Funeral Home – Waukesha
CDW - Vernon Hills, IL
Culvers on Grandview – Waukesha
Cut Fresh - Milwaukee
Equitable Bank - Wauwatosa
Greater Milwaukee Synod – Wellness Fund
HM Bicycle Law - Milwaukee
Lorleberg's True Value Hardware - Oconomowoc
MC Print Solutions - Waukesha
Pro Health Care - Waukesha
Schlotzsky's – Oconomowoc
Thrivent – North Metro Milwaukee Chapter
Thrivent – Southeast Waukesha County Chapter
Thrivent – West Waukesha County Chapter
Water Doctors - Waukesha



Riders await instructions and blessing

Family Bike Ride by the Numbers

Total funds raised
\$52,456
Riders, volunteers & guests
350
Number of Registrations
298
Churches Represented
49
Number of Families Registered
77
Synod Pastors Involved
32
Reserve Saturday, September 7th, 2013 for next year's ride



Pastor Earnest Tate ready to ride



It was a Family day



Crossing the Finish Line



1212 South Layton Boulevard
Milwaukee, WI 53215
www.outreachforhope.org
Contact: Rev. Jim Bickel
(414) 671-1212
jim.bickel@milwaukeesynod.org

The mission of Outreach for Hope is to provide financial support for life-giving ministries that walk with the poor in communities of the Greater Milwaukee Synod - ELCA

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