

The Messenger

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RECLAIMING SANE LIVING IN AN INSANE WORLD

Reynoldsburg United
Methodist Church
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Following a seven-week fundraising effort based on the parable of the talents, members and friends of Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church brought their proceeds to the church for the collection weekend on May 31 and June 1. The ambitious undertaking—posed by Lead Pastor Jeff Greenway on the weekend of April 12-13—started with a distribution of \$50 to every adult and \$10 to every child who wished to participate in the effort. A total of \$67,000 was distributed and over \$116,700 has been collected.

The challenge was to multiply the initial seed money, the proceeds of which will be distributed equally among the following four charities: 1) the purchase of food to be distributed locally, 2) Jackson Area Ministries—a partner in southeastern Ohio for local mission work—for construction of their new headquarters, 3) the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) for Hurricane Katrina relief, and 4) helping to build a church in another country.

The initial investment of \$67,000 was generously fronted by a number of families from the church as a loan—to be paid back before any proceeds are distributed. The church put faith into practice when they dispensed the money with no tracking system. “This is God’s money,” cautioned Greenway, as the money was passed out in the church’s weekend worship services. The \$67,000 loan was paid back in full with

over \$50,000 to go toward the four local, national and international efforts.

“We gave some suggestions for multiplying the money,” said Greenway, “but people really used their creativity to come up with their own ideas. One lady sold over \$300 worth of homemade pies. A gentleman sold \$600 worth of manure for gardening. We set up a marketplace at the church on weeknights to allow people to sell their wares. We even had a church-wide yard sale.”

So far, two of the four charitable efforts have received their share of the proceeds. A Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team hand-carried a check for \$12,500 down to UMCOR representatives in New Orleans (see related story on page 7). The money is being allocated to repair a flood-ravaged home of a retired, disabled veteran who swam for his life to leave that house after the water crested twelve to thirteen feet in that area.

The second installment of the proceed money was presented to Bob Davis, Director of Jackson Area Ministries, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of their new headquarters. Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church has partnered with Jackson Area Ministries for the past twenty-six years in providing WorkCamp teams to southeastern Ohio locations.

The remaining funds will be allocated later this summer—on August 10, by way of a truckload of food to be distributed to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and funds

to Reynoldsburg Helping Hands—and in January 2009 when a mission team travels to Africa to partner in the construction of a church there.

“We are celebrating the success of this effort with our people to reinforce that their efforts are truly making a difference,” added Greenway.



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