



Project URGE Winter 2008 Newsletter

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A Constructive Group Jacob's Ladder Team

The Project URGE team known as “Jacob’s Ladder”, led by Fred Stresing, has been active for over four years, painting, patching walls, dry-walling, insulating, making bike racks, scraping floors, yard clean-up, sorting and delivering coats, building shelves, and much more. The team centers around helping to restore and renovate facilities of organizations who serve the under-resourced and who operate on highly restricted budgets.

A priority is usually given to those affiliated with Project URGE (approximately twenty), because these organizations have shown a willingness to collaborate with others. Three or four people working here and there on two Saturdays a month may not first appear significant; however, these efforts in 2007 alone accounted for more than 300 collective hours in service labor, and a savings to these organizations that exceeds \$8000! The disappointing aspect for this team has to do with a lack of participation from a diverse church population, and that it’s been the same three or four individuals showing up to do the work the past few years, despite bulletins in our newsletter, church presentations and pleas for others to join at our monthly meetings. There are churches on nearly every corner in the City of Rochester, and yet there is little effort outside of their own four walls.

Volunteers are Chris Boss (Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, Canandaigua – CWC), David Hanlon (CWC), Keith Jarrell (Browncroft C.C.), Mike Mahoney (Grace UMC), Garry Manuel (CWC), Joe Marchiony (Transfiguration Church), Phil Rhoda (CWC), Steve Shoemaker (CWC) and Fred Stresing, (St. Bridgets in Bloomfield),

Mike Williams (CWC), as well as youth leader, Linda Ensman (United Church of Bristol) and four of their dedicated youth.

Additionally, quietly working behind the scenes, David Hanlon has helped with architectural design work, as well as helping to plan and structure a construction/rehab team that should begin work in city neighborhoods soon.

In 2007 the Jacob’s Ladder team has worked at Francis Center (Catholic Family Center), Friends Helping Friends, Little Lakes Church, Outreach Temple, RAIHN (Rochester Inter-faith Hospitality Network), Rochester Family Mission and about half their work hours were spent at Risego, Inc., on Arnett Boulevard.

Those interested in helping with this ministry should contact Fred Stresing at 229-7496 or e-mail: Fred@projecturge.org or you may call the Project URGE office 223-8340.



David Hanlon



Fred Stresing



Steve Shoemaker

The Oral G. Roberts Friday Night Youth Café

In October, West Avenue United Methodist Church, Rev. Adrienne Phillips, Pastor, celebrated the one-year anniversary of the opening of its Friday Night Youth Café. As part of the anniversary celebration, it was announced that the official name of the Café would be **The Oral G. Roberts Friday Night Youth Café**, named in memory of a youth member of the church, Oral Glendon Roberts, who was a 2005 victim of homicide.

The Café is designed as a safe haven for community youth where they may come every Friday night, from 7:00-10:00 PM to have dinner and engage in fellowship and activities under the supervision of volunteers who staff the program.

The Café has community partnerships with the Otetiana Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley, and The Neutral Zone Christian drama group. Community organizations and speakers are invited in to share information, make presentations, and inspire and challenge the youth.

On December 7, 2007 the Oral G. Roberts Friday Night Youth Café was presented with the **Community Leadership Quality Award** by the Youth Services Quality Council in recognition of "proven commitment and outstanding contribution to youngpeople in the Rochester community."

Help is needed in these areas:

- Volunteers to commit to be onsite one or more Fridays a month in such areas as general supervision, food service and clean up, security, activity leader or guest speaker
- Donations: table games; recreational equipment; TV; computer & monitor; art supplies, cash donations to assist with Café monthly birthday celebration for the youth and other special occasions. Assistance is also needed for room design: painting, and decoration of the youth rooms on 2nd floor of building to create a more colorful and welcoming environment

Visitors are welcomed and youth groups from area churches and community centers may come as a group with their adult leadership to participate (such groups should call in advance so dinner numbers can be adjusted accordingly).

For more information or to volunteer, please call the church at 585-328-8745 or email Rev. Phillips at revaphillips@hotmail.com

Williamson High School's Rochester Outreach

Once again, approximately fifty five students, faculty and volunteers from Williamson High School came into the City of Rochester to help with a variety of efforts for the following Project URGE affiliates: Foodlink, Women's Place, Outreach Temple Home Mission, Sanctuary House (CFC), Mercy Residential, Grace Community Village and Community Lutheran Ministry.

This day of service has been an ongoing effort since the Spring of 2005! School volunteers have come by bus and are dropped off at the various locations to work for four to five hours. The tasks vary from sorting food and clothing, to cleaning, painting and organizing supplies for summer camps.

This has consistently been a win-win for all involved. This partnership does several things: 1) creates awareness around issues of poverty, 2) assists the organizations with lightening the work load, 3) plants a seed for community involvement in the future and 4) builds new relationships.

"Thank you very much for coordinating our visit to the various Project URGE sites today. It was such a worthwhile, rewarding experience for all of us. Our students came back tired, but very reflective about what they did today as well as what a great service each organization provides for the community." Ms. Krista Lewis, Williamson High School Assistant Principal & Community Service Coordinator

Project URGE welcomes participation from other schools. Please contact us at: 585.223.8340 or ProUrge@aol.com



Youth Mission =

Praise + Worship + Dialogue + Work + Food + Fun

Join In and Become Part of the Equation!!

In December, discussion took place on beginning an effort to bridge the gap between youth in urban, suburban and rural areas, as well as the denominational divide. Many churches were represented at the first meeting, and at a follow-up meeting on January 13. At the January meeting the details of Project URGE's first Youth Mission event were discussed. Presently there are six urban/suburban churches committed to the March weekend; however, we expect a few more to join the effort, as not everyone could attend the meeting.

The kick-off for this event will be Friday, March 28th, where youth will join for prayer and guided discussion. The youth will then will form teams that will meet on Saturday morning at soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other service facilities. Through our work we will remember that service is a form of worship and honor to God.

Early Saturday afternoon the groups will all meet back at one of our churches to have lunch. After lunch the groups will reflect on their service. Bible study, games and a discussion will all serve in breaking down the barriers of poverty and racism.

We will finish our day with pizza, wings, bowling and a great time to celebrate our time together!

On Sunday, March 30th, we'll meet at the Outreach Temple (COGICU) on Murray St., near Lyell Ave. for the 11am service (this is optional). Later that evening some of the youth will be volunteering to cook and serve at the annual Project URGE Dinner at Fairport United Methodist Church.

The plan is to continue with monthly meetings. The next meeting in April, date to be determined will be hosted by a suburban church. Our May meeting will then be hosted by an urban church. This effort will continue throughout the year with the hope and promise that new relationships will be built and that many stereotypical walls will fall. Our eyes are focused toward a weeklong mission event in 2009 in our own great City of Rochester!

Project URGE leaders are very excited about the opportunity to fulfill a mission that God has planted in our hearts

and that works toward the set of goals given to us from the outset of this ministry.

John 17:21-23 "My prayer is not for them alone, I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

For more information please contact:
Youth Pastor, Jon Stephens – 394-5857ext.118.

Discussions about breaking down the barriers of poverty and racism.

Service to our Community



Prayer

Games

Lunch & Dinner



Where Are You - In the Hustle and Bustle?

(We're not talking about Christmas!)

So, let me ask, what are you doing? Okay, now what is your church really doing? Those are fairly innocuous questions, are they not? But have YOU ever really thought about it?

If you feel threatened by the question before playing the answer, the initial reaction may strike a chord of defensiveness, indicating that something is out of balance, or just plain, not right. It's a question that gets set aside or buried in the ***hustle and bustle*** of life, so we never really have to answer it, or let alone, ask it! The second phase of this response is usually our own rationalization relative to the ***hustle and bustle*** of our lives or the number of tasks we perform within our church walls.

Have you noticed? There is a crises just about everywhere you look: Rochester, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Israel, Palestine, Washington D.C., Pakistan, Iraq and perhaps even in your own home. Poverty, racism (ethnic conflict), religious-based wars, and corruption account for the majority of systemic issues causing the decay of the world that we live in. The scenario is reminiscent of the late '60's and early '70's. The advancement of technology and the ability to communicate globally have not solved these deep-rooted problems that ripple throughout the world. And, have you noticed? Legislation has not always succeeded in changing hearts or minds.

The majority of churchgoers are sitting on their hands! How does this translate to those outside the faith? The words and actions prescribed in the Bible don't seem to resonate or take hold with the majority of our Christian brothers and sisters. I too was once in this place and bore that same responsibility!

A December 24, 2007 article in the Wall Street Journal helps highlight the lack of sensitivity to the challenges that we face. "Inflatable yard decorations were the fastest-growing decorating category in 2006, with people spending **\$500 million** in 2006, up from \$100 million in 2003, according to Mintel International Group, a market-research firm." Not only are most of these lawn ornaments ridiculous looking, but a waste of time, energy and resources. Imagine where that \$500 million could have been spent! (Thanks to my nephew, Casey, for that tidbit)

Have you noticed how many people get headlines in the paper, or television coverage, or the ear of a politician, that do no more than squawk about the conditions of children, the poor and racism, yet, do relatively little or absolutely nothing to advance the momentum for a positive change toward those conditions? Some pastors and leaders won't even cross the street to talk to their neighbors in the church, organization or a ministry next door, because they don't control the activity. C'mon! Let's be honest – we know it is true. And, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love!" - Really? The same rings true with some organizations.

Let's also examine how many of us listen to "talk radio or TV" (left and right perspectives) and think we become equipped and informed to argue about the hot button political issues, but in reality do nothing to impact positive change for the community in regard to those issues. It is much easier to set apart and divide, rather than spending quality time focusing on the path Jesus really took to live out the example for us to follow.

There are a few questions that Brian McLaren presents in his book, "*Everything Must Change*", that aren't new: *Why hasn't the Christian religion made a difference commensurate with its message, size and resources? What would need to happen for followers of Jesus to become a greater force for good in relation to the world's top problems? How could we make a positive difference?*

Haven't many of us been asking these questions since we were teens? Many of us became disillusioned with church and the "establishment" and left to find our "own path" toward a righteousness, only to find ourselves returning to the church once again, because we truly **know** in our hearts and minds, the answers are there. How do we (Christians) align our actions while growing so complacent, apathetic and powerless, with a seemingly untapped comprehension of key verses in the Bible? How do we consciously reject the ***hustle and bustle***? In order to have these words translate into

action, one must call upon the Holy Spirit and then act upon the message in order to facilitate change. Many Christians are not bearing fruit because they are not following the action plan nor are they even listening for the call to the plan!

John 14:26,27 “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”

Attending church for one or two hours each week is not becoming part of an action plan. Hopefully church will inspire and inform us to live out our faith moving toward action, but the truth is that most of the inspiration has been drowned out by the time the Sunday afternoon NFL game gets tuned in, and if not then, by Monday as we become immersed in our occupations and family obligations.

I’m certain you have noticed how strong and unified Christians become when responding to catastrophic events such as 9/11 or a hurricane Katrina. My point is simply that we need a more consistent and unified effort on a daily basis, not just reacting in the final moments of catastrophic tragedies. The problems are indeed intensifying below the surface and now visibly bubbling up! Will Christians continue to wait for the worst or until it knocks on their door to act?

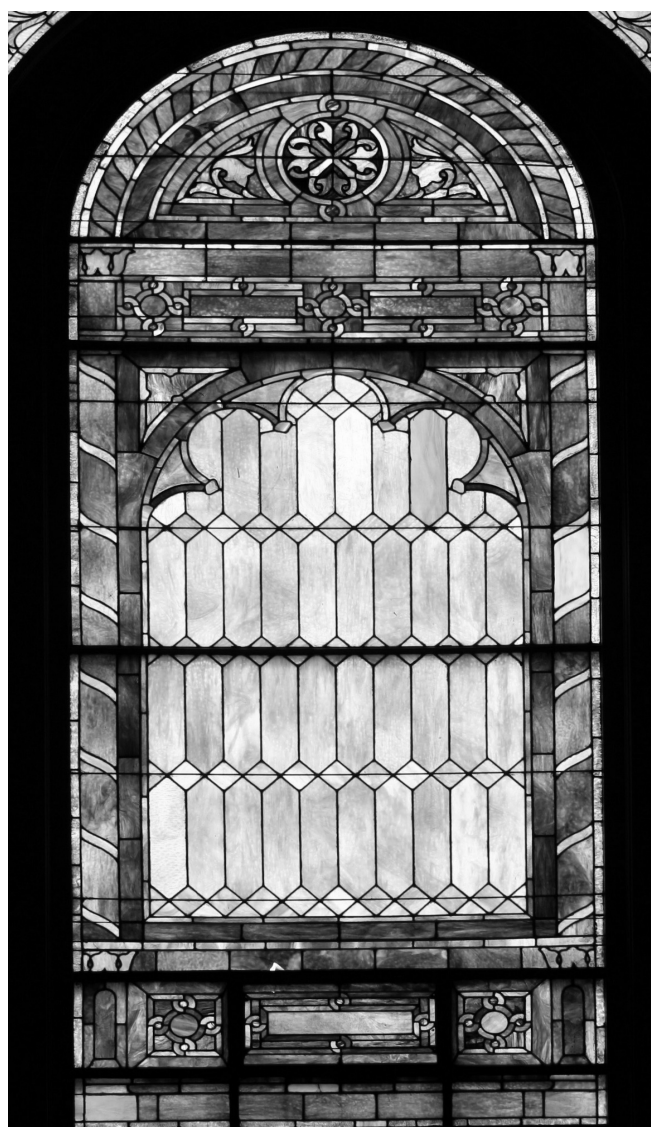
I have maintained there needs to be a well-focused, holistic approach to meeting the challenges. This will require prayer, intellect, hands, feet and finances. **Where are you?** When will you and the church tackle the question?

We in Project URGE invite you to become involved in changing the landscape and begin making a difference now. Assess what constitutes your own “*hustle and bustle*” and consider carving out dedicated time (just as you would for taking your son/daughter to a sporting activity or watching a football game) for serving to make an impact in critical need areas. A partial listing of serving opportunities can be found within this newsletter. You can also phone, e-mail or visit our website www.projecturge.org for further information or discussion around how you or your church might find opportunities to make a difference.

Proverbs 3:27 “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”

Philippians 2:12,13 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

by Garry Manuel
Director and Founder of Project URGE



Where Are You?

URGEnt Presentation & Tour

Once again on the Saturday morning of November 3, 2007, **Project URGE** hosted its fifth year of presentations and tour of Rochester organizations, ministries and agencies, and their facilities.

There are committed people and organizations in our community who diligently face staggering societal challenges daily. To a large extent, their stories fly well below the radar screen of the communities, neighborhoods and churches who may be able to support them both financially and through volunteerism. This is a chance for churches, individuals, funders and government officials to meet with representatives of the organizations, as well as tour some of the area homeless shelters, soup kitchens, drug and alcohol rehab facilities, children's ministries, after-school programs, learning in more detail about how their efforts are benefiting the community. Our hope has always been that spending a Saturday morning with us will lead folks to becoming informed about some of these vital initiatives, which in turn might open the door to greater volunteer participation, understanding and strengthening of support community. Project URGE is confident that with any new volunteer, there is a high probability that a friend, family member or associate will join the effort in the future. One of our affiliate organizations still receives a monthly donation from a person who took the tour four years ago! There are a few groups of people who have been serving monthly at homeless shelters since our very first tour.!

The presentation and tour once again commenced from Browncroft Community Church. Browncroft sits on the border of the city and suburbs and has plenty of parking, which enables us to disperse quickly to the tour destinations. Many of the ministries and organizations are located in close proximity to each other, diminishing the time spent in vehicles, allowing enough time for some questions and personal chatter.

In past tours over 70% of the participants had never known about the activities of the organizations or about the possibilities of volunteering. This year's results scarcely differed. Approximately 55 people participated in the presentation and tour, coming mainly from churches. Participants came from all over the Rochester area –from the southeast in Rushville (east of Canandaigua) to Brockport and in between.

Tour participants were able to meet with representatives from Foodlink, Rochester Family Mission, RiseGo, Recovery House of Rochester, His Branches, Embracing Options,



Grace Community Village, Mercy Residential, Sanctuary House, Francis Center, Community Lutheran Ministry, Friends Helping Friends, Salvation Army, Crosswinds Downtown, Mom's In Touch, Outreach Temple, Teen Challenge and Project URGE.

This year Project URGE combined the tour with the **Coatlink** mission that takes place each Fall. At the tour site we collected coats, gloves, mittens, hats, canned goods and non-perishables. Participants of the tour were able to drop off items as they entered and several churches brought bags of clothing. These goods are distributed to many agencies affiliated with Project URGE, that help the under-resourced. This was the first year we included food items, so there wasn't an abundance of non-perishables.

Tour organizers were primarily Deacon, Ron Tocci (Church of Assumption), Jane Ames (Project URGE) and Garry Manuel (CWC & Project URGE director). We thank Foodlink (especially Tom Foster, Jack Montague and Frances Pesavento) for the continental breakfast food provided and to Glenn Miller for coordinating the set-up and facility use at Browncroft Community Church.

URGEnt Continued

Thanks also go to Roberts Wesleyan College's Center for Christian Social Ministries for use of the van and intern Jamie Mort, as well as our other drivers: Chris Boss (CWC, Jacob's Ladder team, Project URGE board member), Van Smith (Church of Christ & Rochester Recovery House), James West (director of Teen Challenge), Bonita Osbourne (Outreach Temple), Ron Tocci and Garry Manuel.

Additional thanks go to our collectors and sorters: Fred Stresing (St. Bridgets, Jacob's Ladder team), Kathryn Pridey (Fairport UMC, Coatlink leader, Project URGE board), Cindy Mead (Walnut Hill CC) and Glenn Miller (Browncroft CC).

"What is missing in our urban centers are disciples. We have plenty of church buildings, members, and activities. But where are the disciples?"
Pastor, Dr. Tony Evans

1 Timothy 6:17,18 "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Psalms 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"



Coatlink 2007 Results & Donations

We thank following churches from whom we received donations (as well as individuals donations)

- * St. John's in Victor
- * Browncroft Community Church
- * Crosswinds Wesleyan Church (Youth Group)
- * Ogden Presbyterian
- * Outreach Temple (COGICU)
- * Fairport United Methodist
- * Calvary Church in Newark

Volunteers at the collection site included:

- * Kathryn Pridey – Fairport UMC
- * Glenn Miller – Browncroft CC
- * Cindy Mead – Walnut Hill CC
- * Fred Stresing – St. Bridgets in Bloomfield

Donations were delivered to:

- * Rochester Family Mission
- * Outreach Temple
- * Sanctuary House
- * Grace Community Village
- * Francis Center
- * Joy Community Church
- * Teen Challenge
- * A Horse's Friend

Collected approximately 15 lbs. of food

Apparel collected included:

- * 12 bags of women's coats (~ 190 total)
- * 6 bags of men's coats (~90)
- * 6 bags of children's coats (~160)
- * 5 bags of sweaters (~200)
- * 2 bags of assorted kid's clothes
- * 3 bags of assorted women's clothes
- * 3 bags of assorted men's clothes
- * 1 bag of assorted teen's clothes
- * Approximately 60 blankets
- * Approximately 75 sheets
- * Approximately 25 towels (new and used)
- * 1 large shopping bag of hats
- * 1 large shopping bag of mittens and gloves
- * 2 large shopping bags of scarves
- * 1 large tote box of assorted shoes and boots
- * 2 large boxes of new hats, gloves, scarves and mittens (provided to Ruth Fisher for Christmas at the shelters)
- * 5 new cats (1 men's, 1 women's, 3 children's)
- * Other assorted items

Summer Camp 2008

Although winter is still with us, 942 Joseph Avenue is humming with plans for the 2008 Summer Camp. After a long winter all the children are looking forward to the excitement of summer fun. But there's lots to do before the first day of camp on July 7th. Fund raising, events planning and logistics...

Clowns, field trips to churches, parks...what about a picnic at the park?...reptile shows, ice cream bars...ALL you can eat!!-pizza...what about hiking?...crafts...daisy chains...climbing rocks for summer fun!!...reading a book,-writing an essay... It's all part of Summer fun!!

Would your church or organization want to sponsor a day or two, maybe even a week? The week of July 14,15,16,17 and 18 is taken for ages 10-16 by Fairport United Methodist Church. We STILL need sponsors for the other weeks. Each week we leave Wednesdays open for skating.

Camp Dates for 2008
July 7-August 15, 2008

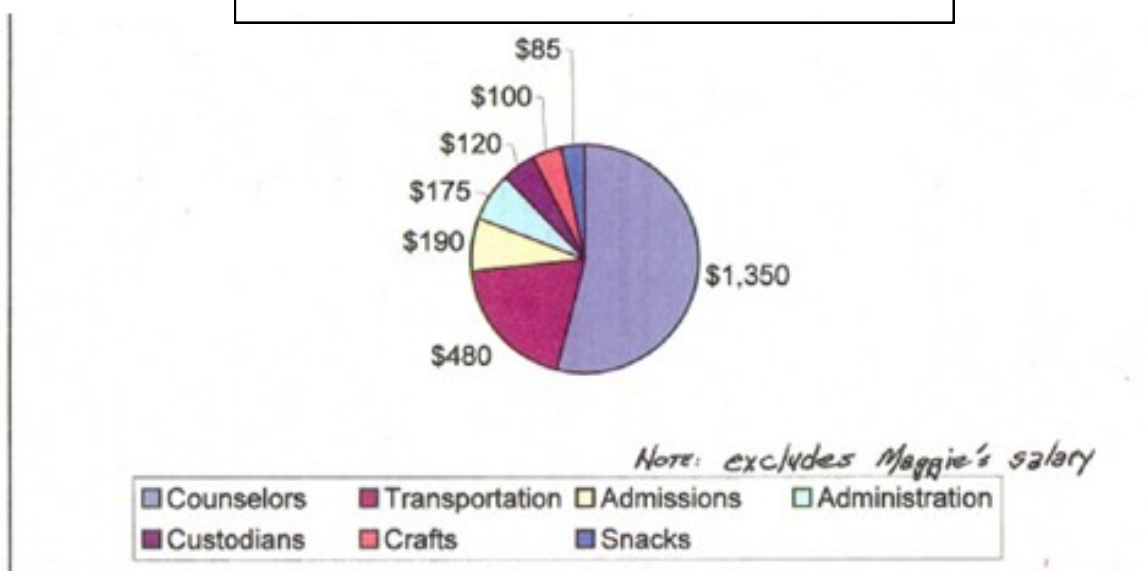
We have a need for your financial support as well. The cost per child for six (6) weeks of camp is \$750.00 . That's \$25 per child per day or \$125.00 per week. We are looking to minister to 130-150 children for the summer. Won't you consider how you can support our children this year?

Love you!!

Miss Maggie Harris



A Day at Summer Camp At Community Lutheran Ministries



Sources of Income: Department of Social Services	\$865
All Others	\$1,635
Total per Day	\$2,500

Come Join the FUN!!!

Pastor joins CLM Board

The board of Community Lutheran Ministry is pleased to announce that Rev. Keith Knupp, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencerport, NY, has joined the board as an ex officio member. Pastor Keith brings with him a love of God and an interest in inner city ministries.

Our church has been privileged to be a host church for Miss Maggie's Summer Camp for the past 4 years. The first year we hosted all 120+ children and for the past 3 years we have hosted the older children, ages 10-16. Each and every year has been a blessing and holds special memories. My most recent memories from this past summer are the children responding so positively to Chris Cuby and Tony Jordan from R.O.O.T.S. (Recognizing Others Outstanding Talents). Chris and Tony helped the children to consider what traits and characteristics they need to develop in order to be successful. They emphasized education and personal integrity.

On a typical day the children and youth arrive around 9:30am. Each morning we schedule a classroom-learning type setting. Miss Maggie and the adult counselors emphasize the need to include reading and writing exercises to continue development of the children's language skills. Over the years we have held discussions about music and media and their influence on the culture and many other topics relevant to their lives. The children and youth have shared their hopes and dreams as well as their fears and disappointments.

We have lunch around Noon. In the past we have relied on Foodlink to provide lunches and have also been blessed with other churches participating by providing lunch for us!!

After lunch we typically go outside, weather permitting, and participate in activities such as canoeing on the canal, visiting the Perinton Recreation's Aquatic Center, picnicking in the park and many more.

The children and youth are accompanied by adult counselors who are with the children all summer. Their relationships with their children allow the host churches to focus entirely on the programming and the establishing of new relationships with the children and youth.

I look forward to the familiar faces of the children that attend Summer Camp each year. I am always excited to see the new faces that join us! We all grow and learn by being together for this time. My summer would not be complete without a visit from Community Lutheran's Summer Camp!

Pam Renfro—Fairport United Methodist Church



Rocket Launching



Mountain climbing



Stop the Violence March



Talent Day Picnic



Wells Christmas Project 2007



This is the second year that Project URGE has been involved with the Wells Christmas Project. Mary Manuel (Crosswinds Wesleyan Church) organized the collection. Several members of the Outreach Temple Church (COGICU) including Sister Bonita Osbourne, Sister Velma Scott, Sister Truskie Rogers, Sister Eva Irene Daughtery and Bishop and First Lady McGee, Laura Boss (Crosswinds), our intern from Roberts Wesleyan College, Ms. Jamie Mort and Tricia Jermyn donated and wrapped Christmas gifts to be shipped to the children.

The beauty of this effort is found in how God connects people in unique ways. A casual conversation on a beach in the Adirondacks turned into an opportunity to minister to rural children in poverty. One of the main contributors to the project these past two years happens to be a primarily African-American church, located within the "poverty crescent" of the City of Rochester. We find them reaching out to predominantly, poor, Caucasian children, nestled in the rural Adirondack Mountain region! Unintentionally, in a rather profound way, this really epitomizes what Project URGE is about.



Below is a note from a teacher in the Wells School system, describing the town and the people:

***Wells, New York** is located in the Adirondack Mountains in Hamilton County and has approximately 725 year-round residents. In the summer, the County of Hamilton swells to twelve times its winter residency.*

We are a very rural community. The town consists of two small country stores with gasoline, a diner and a restaurant. The work in the area is seasonal unless you work for the Town or New York State or travel to Gloversville, the nearest City, which is approximately 40 miles away. This is also where the nearest grocery store is located.

Many homes are single parent, low-income homes. A large percentage of the parents in these homes were unable to complete high school. Therefore, unemployment is very high. The jobs, which are available to these individuals, are menial and the pay is well below New York State's average household income. There is one school in Wells, Wells Central School, educating 184 students in Pre-Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students from Lake Pleasant and Piseco Lake come to Wells in seventh through twelfth grades. School lunches are free to all students due to low socio-economic conditions.

Our children are very kind, well mannered, and very appreciative. When our children travel for a field trip to Albany, they have a two-hour ride on the school bus each way. We never have behavior problems on these trips and the children are always excited and on their best behavior. On numerous trips, the host organization has complimented us on our children and they are always welcomed back. In some cases, these field trips are the only time the children leave the Town of Wells. In addition the community's children are actively involved in bettering their community by mentoring and community service projects. In a time when the world's business and social ethics seem to be faltering, the students at Wells Central demonstrate a high level of good choices for healthy living.

In closing, the communities of Wells and Wells Central School staff are grateful for your generosity.

*God bless and Merry Christmas,
Margaret Kellam.*



Concert Of Praise 2007

October '07's URGEnt Weekend Kicked Off with a Concert of Praise

The Project URGE Concert of Praise (CoP) once again provided an opportunity for a diverse group of folks from a variety of urban, suburban and rural churches to participate in a praise and worship service. This year the event landed back at Crosswinds Wesleyan Church on a Friday evening. It came at a time of great sorrow and concern, as the City of Rochester had just had two homicides within a week, leading up to the CoP date.

Our guest speaker, Pastor George Nicholas (from Grace UMC), had presided over the funeral for Latasha Shaw, who had been stabbed weeks before, as she went to retrieve her daughter from an altercation, at Dewey and Driving Park (just a couple blocks from the church). Indeed this was a heavy time. Pastor Nicholas delivered a hard-edged message for some, painting the scenario of "white flight" and the exodus to the suburbs by many, leaving the City of Rochester with pockets of extreme poverty that has led to the decline of city schools as well as in the attendance of many urban churches, that at one time thrived financially. The message closed with a plea for urban and suburban churches to stand together to reverse the tide. It was a message that was heard earlier in the evening, as the praise and worship musicians led people in the song, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love". That song has become the Project URGE anthem, and is at the very core of our Project URGE call for unity and strength by working together across racial and denominational lines.

The worship team was comprised of worship leaders, singers and musicians from Crosswinds Wesleyan Church (Jon Stephens, Stephanie LaBarge, Garry Manuel, John Nicholas), Bible Baptist Church (Tony Hiler & Willie Jones III), Bethel Christian Fellowship (Holly Mason & David Kluge), Outreach Temple (Velma Scott), and Grace United Methodist Church (sorry if we missed anyone). The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Choir, directed by Shawanda Owens, closed out the evening with a number of powerful worship songs

Two youth members from the Outreach Temple, Tamara & Jeremiah Barley, danced under the name of "Dancers For Christ (DFC)", doing a masterful job with inspired and innovative choreography. They were a delight and indeed were, *dancing for Christ!*

In addition to music and dance, we had the privilege of having artists David Haygood Jr. (from House of God), Richmond Futch (Bethel Christian Fellowship) and Katie Boss (Shema Yisrael) painting throughout the worship service. David and Richmond's work can be found at Gallery One in the Executive Office Building in the heart of downtown Rochester.

Garry Manuel and Jane Ames highlighted the past years events and accomplishments within Project URGE. God has truly blown his wind into our sails so that Jesus might be glorified, and so that others would know this work could only be accomplished through His blessing and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Melody Burri, Greig Holman, Mike Sessler and Steve Gardner (from Crosswinds) did a wonderful job helping us with set-up, clean up, graphics and other details. The Project URGE team is so grateful for their servant hearts!

At the close of the evening folks met and conversed over light fare and refreshments in the lobby. A joyful time and fitting for the close.

This was leading into our URGEnt workshop, seminar and dialogue session the following day at Grace United Methodist



James Meeks - Pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Chicago:

"Most black children grow up never having had dinner with white people. Most white people grow up never having had African-Americans in their homes. So we view each other as 30-second sound bites on television. We can do it with ten families, do it with five, do it with those who are willing. It has to get started somewhere. The world will never see how colorblind Jesus is until they see how colorblind the church is."

To Our Friends and Partners

and Future Friends and Partners

We need your continued support in order to expand and go deeper, building on accomplishments of the past six years. These efforts **ARE** working. Please look below at our mission and goals. We have made strides in every area! The Lord has blown wind into our sails, and yet we are called to do more. As you join with us by volunteering or supporting these ministries financially, or both, transformation will continue to occur. In a time where instant gratification is predominant; perseverance, prayer and patience is required to facilitate these needed changes.

Project URGE has had only ONE, **part-time** staff person (shared with Grace Community Village) for the past year (who came to Project URGE by way of a Roberts Wesleyan College internship)! In looking at the list of initiatives launched in the last six years, it becomes clear that we are well beyond the point that a volunteer can be expected to carry out the demanding number of tasks needed to complete these efforts. Some of these tasks require many hours of dedication for weeks/months/years that will undoubtedly extend into several years ahead. Paid staff hours are now a necessity in regard to carrying out the mission of the 4 Point Plan and the number of hours required administering the programs and initiatives we are presently involved with.

In addition, we need \$10-15,000 to jump-start the F.O.R.T.H. proposal, as well as, having a need for more volunteer mentors. Our ongoing efforts to keep people informed through our newsletters, brochures, e-mail briefs, meetings, newspaper publicity and website are not free and so expenses are incurred. We are not an organization that consistently sends out appeals for financial giving. Our time is better spent developing and strengthening our initiatives and helping our affiliated organizations, rather than on investing time and money on fundraising. Don't you agree? In addition to our present list of faithful donors, our hope is to have 60 people commit to giving \$1000 over the next year. I realize that not every one can afford to give this amount, though many could. We have folks that give \$25 a month. No matter what the level of support might be, it is important and valued.

Goals & Objectives:

1. **Assist churches** in uniting to minister together, in an effort to promote and spread the Gospel message by working on problems that deal with (a) poverty, (b) racism, (c) health related issues, (d) employment & (f) spiritual empowerment.
2. **Provide information** listing ministry titles, needs and contacts. Collect and distribute materials that may be helpful to ministries and organizations affiliated with the Project URGE family.
3. **Be a catalyst for church partnering.** Linking those who are willing to serve in specific areas, with those who might benefit most with regard to available strengths in resources, talents and gifting.
4. **Create a forum for dialogue** on how to implement change and forming subgroups to work on specific initiatives.
5. **Encourage cross-cultural exchange**, both in worship, teen ministry and outreach in general.
6. **Establish workshops**, seminars & task force meetings as needed, in regard to the development of the various ministries and Project URGE itself.

In closing, we are so appreciative of the MANY volunteers who are *living out* the Gospel message through their work in Project URGE and with our affiliated organizations. We are so pleased and encouraged to see the new connections and relationships being built. Whether through donations or volunteering we invite you to be part of the solution to the challenges we face.

Blessings and peace,



Garry Manuel Director/Founder

Project URGE 2007 Financial Statement

Project URGE, Inc. – Annual Financial Report

	Jan - Dec 07
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Income	28,118.09
Total Income	28,118.09
Expense	
Advertising and Promotion	0.00
Bank Service Charges	23.00
Dues	89.95
Insurance	503.00
Office Expenses	159.43
Payroll Expenses	13,750.00
Postage	232.18
Programs	12,500.65
Telephone Expenses	570.03
Website Expense	289.16
Total Expense	28,117.40
Net Ordinary Income	0.69
Net Income	0.69

Churches:

Crosswinds Wesleyan Church
 Church of the Assumption
 Fairport United Methodist Church
 Grace United Methodist Church
 Ogden Presbyterian Church
 Outreach Temple (COGICU)
 Webster Baptist Church

Individual Donors:

Janice Aldridge
 Bernadine Bader
 Chris & Laura Boss
 Charile & Barb Castilano
 David Dey
 David Honness
 Garry & Mary Manuel
 Mildred Manuel
 Glenn Miller
 Kathryn Pridey
 Brian & Natalie Rooney
 Mary Stevens
 Fred Stresing

Project URGE, Inc. Contact Information

Main Office—

Garry Manuel—Founder & Director
 31 W. Church St.
 Fairport, NY 14450
 (585) 223-8340
 ProUrge@aol.com

Satellite Office—

Jane Ames, MSW—Administrative Assistant
 121 Driving Park Ave.
 Rochester, NY 14613
 (585) 458-5927 x104
 jane@projecturge.org

Project URGE Mission Statement—

*Connecting and uniting churches,
 organizations and individuals
 in working together to
 break down barriers of
 poverty, race and despair
 in the name of
 Jesus Christ.*

**Project URGE, Inc.
 is a faith-based, non-profit
 501(c)3 organization.**

YOUR Support is needed :to

Bread Run – pick up bread and baked goods at Tops in Canandaigua on Saturday mornings and deliver to homeless shelters and soup kitchens in the city of Rochester. This group has been active for over four years.



Children & Youth Ministries Development

– keep ministries updated on events and information related to Children's ministries.

*Share information about summer camps and programs that are successful. Engaging churches to host and support summer camps.

*Urban/Suburban Youth Mission Program, which will be serving the community, holding Bible study and discussion groups, visiting each other's churches and sharing a time for recreation in an effort to break down existing walls and barriers.

*Back to school supply collection for those in need (to be distributed by several affiliates)

Coatlink – Fall effort to collect coats, blankets, hats, gloves etc. for distribution to homeless and underserved. This has also expanded to non-perishable food items.



Christian Community Development – working on concepts presented by Dr. John Perkins through CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) and his workshops; Discovering ways to implement real change in the community. We host seminars, workshops and bring in practitioners from urban centers like Chicago and L.A. to share their practical expertise and stories of hope.

*4 Point Plan which is promoting churches, organizations and neighbors to work together in four areas along the "poverty crescent" to create grassroots, positive change for a strengthened community.

*Create job opportunities in the building and construction trades by starting a business that will rebuild homes and neighborhoods, employing those in the community.

F.O.R.T.H. (Faith Organizations Restoring & Transitioning Homeless) – a mentoring and housing piece to help families become self-sustaining with training, guidance and housing.



Concert of Praise – planning and implementing our annual praise event, which attempts to bring many churches together in worship. This also may include workshops and service events in the future.

continue these efforts in ministry

Grant & Research Team – research and inform about possible grants for Project URGE and it's affiliated organizations. This may include efforts to distribute information, organizing and some writing. In addition, this team has been engaged with working with FACT (Faith and Communities Together) and helping to provide training, advice and capacity building to smaller non-profits.



Jacob's Ladder – helps to renovate, paint, maintain ministry facilities and shelters around Rochester. This group has saved organizations serving the poor and homeless, time and money, so they could spend their dollars on the people and programs!



Newsletter – our quarterly newsletter is free and mailed to churches, organizations, individuals and donors as a way to help keep the awareness of opportunities to serve and the number of activities that are making a difference in our communities in the forefront.

Prayer Team – prayer for Project URGE ministries, community, and volunteers.



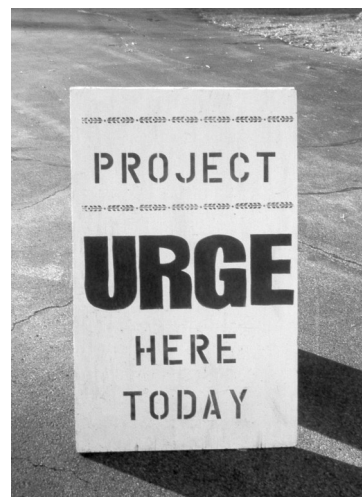
Presentation & Tour – demonstrating ways for churches, organizations, families and individuals to become aware of volunteering and support opportunities for twenty plus organizations by learning of the activities and touring the facilities.



Publicity – preparing and distributing materials for publicizing ministry opportunities and events for Project URGE and it's affiliated organizations while demonstrating a knowledge of how Project URGE functions in the community. This includes our website information, Booklet of organizations and opportunities to serve, brochures and church presentations.

Social Events – which include our annual dinner, celebrating our work and the relationships we are building, as well as, our picnic including food, games and fellowship.

Volunteer/Organizational Coordinator – we steer or place interested volunteers in appropriate organizations while evaluating volunteer experience. We also set up volunteer and service opportunities for churches, youth groups, colleges and high schools, with over twenty organizations. In 2008 we expect to help coordinate volunteer opportunities for over 500 people.



Thank You for Your Service in 2007

Project URGE Honors Servants of the 2007 Bread Run Team!

Project URGE is grateful for the God honoring service of the following families and individuals: Mike & Doreen Benschop, Terry & Joe Bognanno, Nelson Bowen, Mary Ciesinski, Linda Conklin, Mike Furlong, Paul & Brenda Heilman, Garry & Mary Manuel, Anita McCracken, Karen Salaczynskyj and Vera & Scott Velasquez.

These families and individuals have faithfully delivered bread, baked goods, and desserts from Tops in Canandaigua to 8-10 shelters every Saturday morning and every other Sunday in 2007 to soup kitchens and organizations involved with feeding the hungry. This team has grown out of Crosswinds Wesleyan Church in Canandaigua. Some families have been delivering since this ministry began! We certainly welcome participation from other churches in the Canandaigua area that might have persons who would enjoy being involved in this ministry. In an evaluation of services both Project URGE affiliates and board members rated this service highly.

The trip is approximately a 60 mile round trip for most, which takes about 2 ½ hours to complete. The effort not only feeds people, but also saves these organizations who do the serving, both time and money. This team has been operational for approximately four years, delivering to: Recovery House of Rochester, Women's Place (CFC), Outreach Temple, Sanctuary House (CFC), Mercy Residential, Grace Community Village, Eastern Service Workers Association, Francis Center, House of Mercy and others, if there is an overabundance. Clothing and hygiene products are sometimes delivered to these same destinations, as they become available.

If interested in becoming part of this team, please call



Rochester Family Mission Extends Warmest Thanks

To each and everyone of you who participated in the RFM Holiday Food and Toys Basket Program we extend our heartfelt

THANK YOU!!!

On behalf of Barbara Thomas, Executive Director of the mission and all the staff we want you to know that we had an awesome God experience with this years Thanksgiving and Christmas Distributions. We have nearly doubled the number of families served in the last 3 to 4 years, this year our number exceeded 500 for Thanksgiving and 600 families for Christmas!!! We moved over 10 tons of food in the filling of the baskets for Christmas alone! It took a lot of volunteers hundreds of man hours to pull this off and get these families served! In addition, hundreds of toys were purchased, wrapped and distributed as well.

We intend to prepare a mailing list to contact people who might like to participate again next fall. If you would like to be on that list just send Lynn and I an email message expressing your interest. We will begin to contact people in September of 2008. If you want to see first hand God's love being displayed in our community this is the place... Whether it is writing a check, praying for us or coming in and getting your hand dirty we would love to share this experience...

Thank you again and may God Bless you, your family and loved ones!

Lynn and Glenn

THANK YOU!

We are so thankful for the many generous churches, businesses, groups and individuals who donated money, food and time to enable Rochester Family Mission to serve more families over Thanksgiving and Christmas 2007 than we have ever before. Many children were blessed on Christmas morning through the donations of toys, gifts and money to purchase gifts for children who otherwise would have gone without! God is so faithful!

TEEN Challenge Visits Churchville Chili High School

Dear Friend,

We have been privileged to provide drug awareness education in local schools this year. Our goal is to positively influence young people who are either experimenting with drugs and alcohol, or thinking about it, to not use them. They are at a very critical and impressionable time in their lives. Our students and staff have shared personal stories of their past, and the dangers of drug addiction with middle and high school students. The feedback that we have been receiving has been every positive. I've included a letter from Nancy Thornton, Health Education Teacher of Churchville-Chile High School.

(Project URGE appreciates the difficulty you may have in reading this reprint but felt it important to include)

*Churchville-Chili High School
5786 Buffalo Rd.
Churchville, NY 14128*

Monday, December 3, 2007

Dear "Guys",

Words cannot express my gratitude or appreciation. As the "teacher" Thursday and Friday in class; I was honored to have you in my health classes telling your story to the students. The honesty and expressions you used to express your experiences with substances; and the potentially powerful strength of addictive substances truly made an impact on the students. I truly thank you.

I have enclosed letters written by the students to the participants in class on Thursday; Eric, Troy, Adrian and Eric. I have placed them in separate envelopes for each individual. I hope the feedback from the students truly is an inspiration and blessing to you.

I honestly, heartfelt want to thank you for your time, effort and dedication. You each opened the eyes of some of the students; showing the "real" effect of substances on an individual's life.

With sincere gratitude, appreciation and admiration; again I thank you.

*Respectfully,

Nancy Thornton
Health Education Teacher*

Conducting school meetings in local schools gives our students an opportunity to give back to others, even while they themselves are receiving help here at Teen Challenge. It's also our hope that we can help prevent a young person from becoming bound by addiction, and its tragic consequences.

Your investment in the lives of our students is not only touching their lives, and their families, but also this community as well. Your partnership is so greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Please consider a \$25-50 monthly donation. We are hoping to have 25 donors commit to \$50 a month to help support the additional expenses we will incur for 2007. Our programs and initiatives speak for themselves. We remain committed to our mission:

Connecting and uniting churches, organizations and individuals in working together to break down barriers of poverty, race and despair in the name of Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:18 - "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Contributions can be sent to:

**Project URGE, Inc.
31 W. Church St.
Fairport, NY 14450**

Or through PayPal on our website:
www.projecturge.org

Project URGE Annual Fellowship Dinner

Our Annual Fellowship Dinner this year will be on March 30, 2008. We will be returning to the dining room at Fairport United Methodist Church in Fairport.

The tickets this year will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 and under. The menu has not been decided. When registering for the dinner please alert us of any dietary concerns. I am sure it will be good as always. This is not only a great chance for fellowship but it helps the youth at the church with their mission projects.

Put March 30th on your calendar and send your checks to Eva Daughtery, 12 Ranch Village Lane, Rochester, NY 14624 to register your attendance. Checks should be made payable to Project URGE Inc.

Fairport United Methodist Church
31 West Church Street
Fairport, NY 14450

Project URGE 2008 Meetings

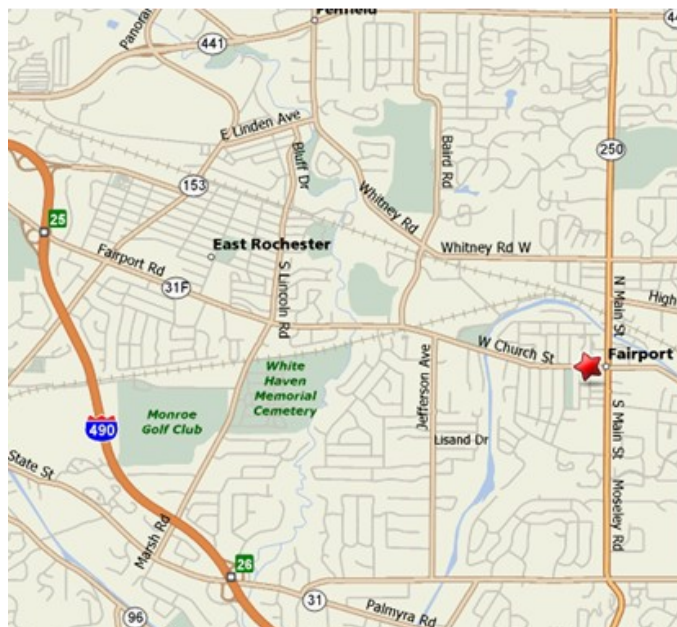
Project URGE General Meeting 2/27/08 7:00pm
Grace United Methodist Church
121 Driving Park
Rochester, NY
(near Lake Ave)

Project URGE Annual Dinner 3/30/08 4:00pm
Fairport United Methodist Church—see info below

Project URGE General Meeting 4/27/08 4:00pm
Outreach Temple
218 Murray Street
Rochester, NY
(off Lyell Ave)

Project URGE General Meeting 5/16/08 7:00pm
Walnut Hill Community Church/New Song
359 W. Bloomfield Rd.
Pittsford, NY

Project URGE Annual Picnic 7/13/08 3:30pm
Ellison Park—off Blossom Rd.



Fairport United Methodist Church

From the East—490 West to Rt. 31F Exit. Travel east on 31F to village of Fairport. Church on your right.
From the West—490 East to Rt. 31F Exit. Travel east on 31F to village of Fairport. Church on your right.

A Horse's Friend



Where Kids Saddle Up for **SUCCESS**

Volunteer Stable Help Needed (in exchange for riding time)

FYI: we are a western riding program

'A Horse's Friend' is looking for responsible people with horse experience or willing to learn, to help care for our horses used in our youth program. We need help daily in the following areas:

- Feeding/ Watering
- Grooming
- Stall Cleaning
- Turn out & in
- Exercising
- Light Farm Maintenance (ex: fences, stall repair)

One hour or all day, whatever you can offer. Both AM and PM opportunities available.

If you are interested please contact us at either ahorsesfriend@yahoo.com or 585-503-4087 (Matthew Doward - Executive/Program Director).

Our program does qualify for community service contribution. To find out more about our program please visit our Website listed below.

'A Horse's Friend'

910 Center Place - Suite D - Rochester, NY 14615

Email: ahorsesfriend@yahoo.com

Website: www.ahorsesfriend.com

Project URGE

31 West Church Street
Fairport, NY 14450

Visit us at www.projecturge.org

Check Inside for:

- Information on the developing Youth Mission equation and how your youth can become involved!!
- The blessing of an Inner-City Rochester Church reaching out to a small Adirondack village.
- How you can both bless and be blessed by being a host location for a day or two of Community Lutheran's Summer Camp.
- Many stories of Project URGE's work to connect Urban and Suburban congregations.

