

Peacemaking/ Social Concerns



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

TOOLS AND BLANKETS

Again this summer, the Peacemaking/Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring the Tools and Blankets Offering for Church World Service. Just a few of the many things that are possible through gifts to this program:

Pakistani men learn trades and improve the lives of their families as CWS helps rebuild lives and create livelihood opportunities in long-term recovery from the devastating 2005 earthquake. Men are trained in fields like masonry, welding, carpentry, electrical work, and plumbing. Trainees receive a tool kit upon completing a course.

This past year CWS provided 15,950 lightweight blankets and 5,245 heavyweight blankets for needs of people affected by emergencies or economic hard times. For example, at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, grandmothers caring for children and grandchildren received 100 heavy weight CWS blankets as well as 150 baby blankets.

In Bosnia as part of CWS's Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons Initiative, 100 refugee families, some 400 people-living in poor conditions in six municipalities in Canton are moving to houses in villages or on urban outskirts.

The colorful rainbow Tools and Blankets envelopes will be in the pew racks during July and August. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

FOOD BANKS



Our food banks will be in great need of donations during these hot summer months.

Children will miss the school breakfasts and lunches so families' needs will be greater.

And many of those who donate regularly will be away for the summer. So those of us staying here will need to help more. The food bank barrels will be in the breezeway on July 4 and again on August 1. Other times you can take your food donations inside Illingworth Hall. Or you can make cash donations any Sunday in the pink Food Bank envelopes in the pew racks.

During July our gifts will go to the Valley View Community Food Bank in Youngtown. In August the Agua Fria Food Bank in Avondale will receive them.

Thanks for helping!

BUSY SUMMER FOR PC(USA)

While we in Sun City experience a welcome slowing down of meetings and activities, the summer will be a very busy one for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our General Assembly will be meeting in Minneapolis July 3 - July 10. Commissioners will be inspired by out-standing worship and music and the necessary business sessions. Committees will have to deal with many varied overtures from synods and presbyteries. With peacemaking overtures and reports on the agendas of at least a half dozen General Assembly committees, hundreds of commissioners will have the opportunity to help develop positions on these issues for consideration in plenary sessions. The Israel-Palestine conflict continues to attract the most interest, but the General Assembly will also consider such important and provocative issues as gun violence, economic justice, Christian-Muslim relations, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the situation in Columbia, and future directions for peacemaking in the Presbyterian Church. We will watch with great interest the outcomes of these discussions!

GHOST RANCH EVENTS LATER IN THE SUMMER

July 25 - August 1 *We're All in This Together: Confronting the Structures of Injustice*, Ghost Ranch Seminar sponsored by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and Presbyterian Voices for Justice. Register at: www.ghostranch.org.

August 25-29 *Re-Membering Peace: Still the Believers' Calling*. Ghost Ranch seminar celebrating 30 years of Presbyterian Peacemaking. Register at: www.ghostranch.org.

Submitted by Ruth Mehl



Food Bank Donations for July

Packaged meals, canned meats

Food Bank Donations for August

Cereal, canned fruit and vegetables

Please place your donations in the bins in Illingworth Hall. *Thank you!*