

HUNGER ACTION NEWS

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CONGREGATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Many times there is so much need that individuals and congregations feel overwhelmed when we talk about hunger and poverty in our communities and the world. *Be encouraged!* The Presbyterian Hunger Program offers 5 (five) different ways to make a difference, most of which don't take a lot of money to have a big impact. They are: *Direct Food Relief*: feed people in immediate need; *Lifestyle Integrity*: challenge Christians to lead simpler lives; *Influencing Public Policy*: advocate for broader social and government action; *Education and Interpretation*: educate the church about hunger, its causes, and its cures; *Development Assistance*: help people help themselves.

Here are five different congregations in our Presbyteries that are engaged in creative ministries that help people who are hungry:

Ewing Presbyterian Church – This summer small groups met regularly to explore the connections between their food and their faith, using a variety of resources such as the *Just Eating Curriculum* and Barbara Kingsolver's book, *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. Having discovered a deeper awareness about their relationship to food, members have committed to specific lifestyle changes and form a follow-up support group.

The Presbyterian Church of Bound Brook held their 5th annual **Peace on Earth Market** featuring Fair Trade goods from groups around the world, such as Equal Exchange, Sustainable Threads, Import Peace, Girls at Risk, Heifer, Women's Bean Project, Ania's World of Goods, Mother's Co-Op, SERV, Original T-Bag Designs, Navajo Jewelry, Carved Olivewood, and MORE! For more information about all the ways that BBPC reaches out to their neighbors on a local and global scale go to <http://bbpc.org>.

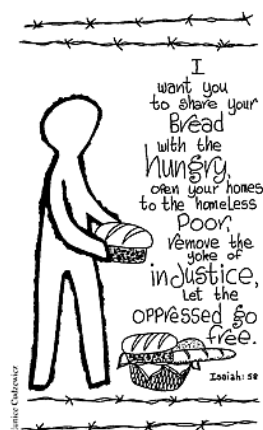
Hoping to touch a growing immigrant population in their community, **Forked River Presbyterian Church** began a Learn English at Preschool (LEAP) program in 2007, an expanded community outreach ministry for preschool children that grew out of their Precious Journey Preschool. A grant from Presbyterian Women Creative Ministries is making it possible to develop a model that can be shared.

Jacksonville Presbyterian Church is engaged in the mission: "To serve Jesus Christ by caring for God's creation and its people." If it seems a stretch to see that caring for creation can help hungry people, consider that climate change is already having a profound effect on the poor and that biofuels are increasing carbon emissions. Jacksonville's Earthcare Ministry includes distributing compact fluorescent bulbs to neighbors, a watershed project that monitors chemicals in creeks and streams, as well as in clean-up projects in the community around them.

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Middletown exciting new PAR (Plant-a-Row for the Poor) Garden promises to demonstrate a new model of community life that will engage all kinds and ages of people inside and outside of the congregation will serving—and involving—hungry people. The 2500 square yard vegetable garden on the church's front lawn will provide vegetables for the poor, while sending a message to the community that this congregation is serious about hunger, poverty, and the environment. It will also serve as an outdoor classroom for the newly opening Westminster Pre-School.

Let us know what you are doing!

Twice the Effort, Greater Impact



Presbyterians care about hunger and are involved in local food banks plus as any number of creative programs designed to build relationships and address root causes of hunger in the USA and around the world. Our presbyteries are building a new Hunger Action and Advocacy Program that will enhance our congregations' and presbyteries' capacity to have lasting impact in work with and poor and vulnerable and offer the church the chance to live our faith.

Hunger Action News is a one-page newsletter on hunger issues and how our presbyteries are addressing them. Hunger Action Enabler/Advocates Rev. Marcia MacKillop (609-672-6668) and Rev. Phyllis Zoon (201-910-7047) are available to help congregations.

Find lots of good info at njpres hunger.wordpress.com



OGHS is easy and fun to promote!



Ecumenical Advocacy Days—Marcy 19-22

COMING SOON—SAVE THESE DATES

One Great Hour of Sharing is easy and fun to promote. Skits, children’s sermons, minutes for mission and more can liven up your promotion. This year we will offer OGHS training for anyone who would like some practical ideas for spicing up your interpretation. Workshops will be held on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on **February 13, 2010** at the New Brunswick Presbyterian Center and **February 20, 2010** at the Monmouth

Presbytery Center. *Watch for news of two more workshops to be held on week nights.*

Equipping the Saints—January 16, 2010—two workshops to explore issues with some hands-on experience: 1) Curriculum for Children and Youth, 2) Creative ideas from the Presbyterian Hunger Program to address hunger.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days—March 19-22, 2010—A Place to Call

Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples—with a visit to the Washington Office. Scholarships available!

Revive! Justice Revival—June 11, 12, and 13 in Trenton, NJ. An exciting interfaith event inspired by the EnVision conference of June 2008 and the Sojourner Community’s call for national “Justice Revivals.” Speakers include Shane Claiborne (invited), Bart Campolo, Cornell West, and more.

“BY CHANGING POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW POVERTY AND HUNGER TO PERSIST, THEY PROVIDE HELP AND OPPORTUNITY FAR BEYOND THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH WE LIVE.”

BREAD FOR THE WORLD: HAVE FAITH, END HUNGER

Bread for the World is celebrating their 35th Anniversary this fall. They represent a collective Christian Voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow poverty and hunger to persist, they provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live. Their

2009 Offering of Letters focuses on HR2139 and S1524.

We are grateful for those churches in our Presbyteries who have been doing an Offering of Letters. We can appreciate that not all congregations are at this point in their commitment to hunger, but we want to encourage your congregation to prayerfully consider this step in your

development of hunger action commitment.

In the fall of 2010, we hope to bring the Rev. Dr. David Beckmann to our area, where he will encourage and inform us about how we can become more involved in the policies and laws that affect hungry people in our world.



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JUST LIVING: SEASONS AND CELEBRATIONS

Each season brings with it unique opportunities and challenges. All of us strive to live in accord with God’s word, and how each person engages in practicing lifestyle integrity will vary.

Thanksgiving is a time of feast and celebration. For many Thanksgiving also marks the first major holiday of the holiday season. Retailers in the United States begin their most

profitable season as consumers prepare for Christmas gift giving. Use the guide for Thanksgiving to help you create a celebration that celebrates the blessings God has provided. Simplify your Thanksgiving and focus on God, your family and friends by implementing some lifestyle practices and tips from the guide.

In Advent we wait for the coming of Christ. At Christmas we celebrate Jesus’ birth. Shape your seasonal celebration to center on the true meaning of Christmas. Prepare for the holiday by simplifying life, incorporating prayers, giving alternative gifts and serving sustainable foods. Share the love of Christ with others throughout your life with a living witness this season.

The new Just Living series offers creative, hands-on actions for families, couples, and individuals.
www.pcusa.org/justliving/seasons.htm