

The Staff

The newsletter of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

April 2007

Our Mission: To equip God's people for ministry with a vision to share God's Word



“FIGHTING THE POST-EASTER BLUES”

When the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter focus has come and gone, with all of its intensity and spiritual demands, we often find ourselves wanting to put our feet up, relax, and catch our

breath. For all of its drama, for all of its faith inspiring messages, and for its victorious conclusion and celebration, perhaps we feel as though it's enough to carry us through for a long time.

We have been touched by the wonder of God's love for us in the sacrifice of his Son. Our faith has been renewed in the mystery of God dying for his world and rising on the third day announcing that the sacrifice was perfect and complete. We were struck by Jesus' words that have come to us down through the centuries, "Do you believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe."

To believe is to have faith. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and convinced of what we do not see. (Heb. 11:1) Faith is the sure conviction that God is able to keep his word and accomplish for us the very things he has promised even though we may not be able to completely comprehend the "how?".

The following illustrates the point: "I will not believe in anything that I do not understand," said a man one day. "Neither will I," agreed another. "Nor will I," said a third. "Gentlemen," said one who sat near by, "on my ride to work the other

morning I saw some geese in a field eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Certainly," the three agreed. "I saw pigs eating grass. Do you believe that?" "Certainly," the three agreed. "I also saw sheep and cows eating grass. Do you believe that?" And they all said they did. "According to the marvelous working of God's creation, the grass was turned into feathers on the backs of the geese; into bristles on the backs of the pigs; into white wool on the sheep; and into hair on the cow. Do you believe that gentlemen?" "Certainly," they replied. "But do you understand how it happens?" After a pause, they said, "We don't quite understand how it happens, but we believe that it's true." "Gentlemen that is the very nature of faith."

A mother called her son in from playing in the backyard to come and eat dinner with the family. She told him to wash his hands and come to the table. After the prayer, the mother looked and noticed that the back of her son's hands were still dirty. She asked him, "Didn't I ask you to wash your hands before coming to dinner?" The boy answered, "I washed my hands, Mom. Remember? I washed them before I ate lunch."

Just as the boy needed to wash his hands again and again to continue to keep them clean, we need to continue in our Easter faith. That happens only as we continue to gather around Word and Sacrament, fellowship and worship, Bible study and prayer. A spirit-filled, faith filled life is not a point we reach but a life-long process.

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Folks, that reality is possible because our Lord willingly suffered and died and rose again for us. It's the hallmark of the Church when she is at her best. It is the hallmark of dedicated and able Christians when they are at their best, too.

May this Lenten and Easter season empower you to rise above the past to experience in the present the confidence that our future victory is secured by the very One, who is Lord over all.



FROM THE ALLEYS

Submitted by Laurie Burke

I know that you've all been sitting on the edge of your seats wondering what the line-up looks like at the alleys. We've had not one but two position nights since the last Staff. As this is how our teams are shaping up for the last quarter of bowling.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Shanghai Rollers | 6- Pretty Lucky Bowlers |
| 2- Triple Threat | 7- 9 & a Wiggle |
| 3- UnStopaBowl | 8- Ugly Ducks |
| 4- Lane Rovers | 9- Holy Rollers |
| 5- Alley Gators | 10- Old Goats |

With less than 2 months left... Can Shanghai Rollers hold on to the top spot? Who will hold high men's and women's averages? Who will have the men's and women's high game and/or series? (Who knew that bowling could be filled with so many questions?) Keep reading the Staff and you will have the answers. Or you could come and visit us at Strathmore Lanes located on Route 34 in Matawan/Aberdeen on Monday nights at 9:00.

See you at the alleys.



I thought Servant Sunday was great! I was moved by what we do together at Good Shepherd. Some of you might be looking for other areas to serve. Have I got an opportunity for you. I'll give you a hint, it has something to do with those people you saw wearing "Servant of the Lord" tags (They were the Sunday School Staff). If you would like to find out more about service in Sunday School (as a teacher or an assistant) please contact Lorraine Morrison or Laurie Burke.

Good Shepherd Children's Center

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL



Lots of new and exciting things going on at GSCC. We will be holding our spring Book Fair during the week of March 26th through the 29th. Parents will be invited to shop during drop off and pick up times, and the children will be able to shop on their own during their normal school hours. There will be so many wonderful titles to choose from for them. We will also be hosting a Build-A-Book workshop. The parents purchase a kit for \$6.00. The kit contains everything they will need to write and create their own book, and during scheduled times, the kids turn into their own author and illustrator, and then will have the opportunity to read the book that they wrote and made pictures for. These workshops will provide the kids a chance to use their creative juices and spend one on one time with a special family member, and me.

The weather is slowly but surely changing into spring, sooner than we think it will actually be nice enough to resume outdoor activities. Remember to include your children in outdoor chores as well, planting flowers, cleaning up leaves, and sweeping are among the many ways they can help out, get some exercise, and get off the couch and get moving. They can also exercise the family pet for fun, not only is it good for them, but for your pet as well. Remember, the warm weather can also be the perfect time to add to your family with a pet, pets are generally easier to train in the nicer weather...easier on you that is. Think adoption first! A lot of times the centers already have spayed or neutered the animal, and have an idea of their personality and which pet would best fit your lifestyle.

Lorraine Campo, Director, GSCC

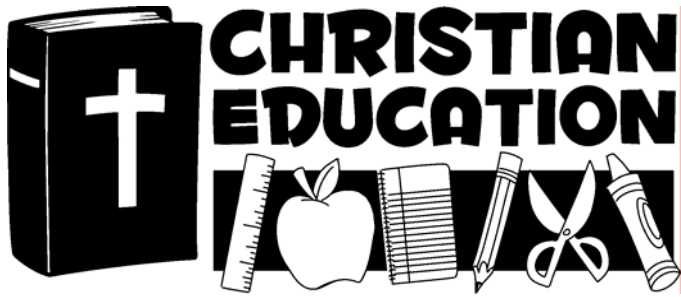


I am sure many of you have heard about the "Eagle Scout" award for the Boy Scouts. It is the highest honor a Boy Scout can receive. Did you know that the Girl Scouts also have an award similar to this? It is called the **Girl Scout Gold Award**. The requirements to earn this award are extremely challenging. They must give their time, and make a commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law through their significant accomplishments.

Jessica Van Handel has earned this prestigious award. Jessica had to earn four Interest project patches, which required approximately three months time to complete each project. She had to demonstrate her leadership ability and give at least 30 hours of time using her leadership skills for others. She also had to earn her Career Exploration and Senior Girl Scout Challenge Pins. The Challenge has five sections each section having a different activity to achieve. She had to use her skills of planning, time management and carrying through by doing a Girl Scout Gold Award Project that must have a minimum of fifty hours planning time involved.

Jessica's Gold Award Project was called "Creating, Organizing and Running a Religious Library at my Church". Yes we benefited from this wonderful experience. She planned, organized and catalogued books in our library. She also earned \$372.00 to purchase new books by the book sales she arranged.

Jessica should be congratulated for this wonderful accomplishment.



“Living Now”

By Amber Brown, Coordinator of Christian Education

Consider the following poem written by a teenager named Jason Lehman...

*It was Spring, but it was Summer I wanted
The warm days and the great outdoors
And then it was Summer, but it was Fall I wanted
The colorful leaves and the cool, dry air
And then it was Fall, but it was Winter I wanted
The beautiful snow and the holiday season
And then it was Winter, but it was Spring I wanted
The warmth and the blossoming of nature*

*I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted
The freedom and the respect
And then I was twenty, but it was thirty I wanted
to be mature and sophisticated
and then I was middle aged, but it was twenty I
wanted
the youth and the free spirit
and then I was retired, and it was middle age I
wanted
the presence of mind without limitations*

*My life was over and I never got what I wanted
You want to know why?
I was either regretting the past
Or anticipating the future
And I didn't live now.*

Does this poem ring true for you? Are you often so caught up in the issues of your past or making your goals for the future that you have lost sight of what is in front of you today...your time...your

family...your faith? As we approach Spring with excitement and anticipation and Easter with joy and praise; let us focus on the Savior and Redeemer who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Wherever you are in your walk of faith, Jesus is there, unchanged and unmoved. If you are regretting your past, He is still with you, unchanged and waiting...waiting for you to let go and to give Him the hurt and pain that is keeping you from moving on. We know that He is there because we celebrate His victory over death on Easter...when all of our sins and sorrows and hurts were nailed to the tree and left there so that we can move on to the full life He has for us. That life is ready to be lived in the here and now...one day at a time.

But don't get caught up, either, in what your future holds...no one knows that but God. Whether you look with joyful anticipation, reckless abandon or overbearing panic toward your future, don't miss out on what He has planned for you right *now*. Matthew 6:34 tells us to “not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about it self.” Yes, that's difficult to do when we have deadlines, obligations and family to worry about, but the key is not to worry. (How much time would we give back to ourselves if we did not worry?!) A neat reminder about the blessings of today is-

*Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery
Today is a gift, that's why is called the 'Present'*

Let us not lose sight of the gift of today-celebrate the joys of today, because today won't last forever...it is only here *today*. And if your today is filled with pain...that won't last forever either. Yes, your pain is real and difficult now, but soon this 'today' will be a 'yesterday' and you can live a new day in Him. Easter is a wonderful time for renewal and refreshment and reconnection to the King who is the *only* 'Yesterday, Today and Forever'. (Heb 13:8) So live for Him now!



Here's the latest from the LYF Front

*Submitted by
Alicia
DeSeana*

Thanks to everyone for coming out to support the youth group play, *The Case of the Kiss-Kiss Diamond*. Everyone had a great time putting on the show and we hope you all enjoyed being a part of it as the jury. So . . . still think you know who stole the Kiss-Kiss Diamond? Special thanks to Linda Cinquegrana for another great dinner! We really appreciate her hard work and dedication to our productions! As always, thanks to our parents for getting us to and from practice and for helping us with our lines.

As we move closer to July, the youth traveling to Orlando for the National Youth Gathering are starting to get more details. We just received our hotel assignment. Although we didn't get into the Peabody, the amazing hotel we stayed at last time, we look forward to our stay at the International

Plaza Resort and Spa. On a happy note we're staying across the street from Sea World!

This Gathering is going to be different than others in the past. Due to the large number of participants (over 30,000), sometimes things would get a little crazy. So this time, the Gathering will be split into three smaller groups (about 10,000 each) that will rotate through three tracks. One of the things the planners are hoping to alleviate is crowds for the popular speakers, bands, servant events and workshops. In the past, people have either sat in line for hours or were closed out of a session. We will be following Julie, a girl from Minnesota. At the end of the Gathering, all 30,000+ people will experience the same things but at different times. We know - - it sounds a little confusing to us too! One of the important things is that each night, everyone will gather for a Mass Event so the experience of being with the whole group won't be missed.

We can't believe the Gathering is only three months away!!!!



For Your Information



Happy Birthday to...

Susan Frank	4/01
Pat Beltran	4/01
Stephanie Garofalo	4/01
Elizabeth Pedersen	4/02
Alicia Vazza	4/02
Sandra Carter	4/03
Charles Myers	4/03
Toni Pryor	4/03
Alan Cline	4/05
Paige Larkin	4/06
Christopher Bowen	4/06
Paul Anemone	4/06
Jennifer Bergfeldt	4/07
Candice Green	4/07
Kevin Totten	4/08
Serina Figueiras	4/08
Gladys Ouge	4/09
Joan Brenner	4/10
Colleen Domis	4/10
Jeffrey Patterson	4/10
Jill O'Connor	4/10
Janis Lee Doran	4/10
Nancy Evegán	4/11
Daniel Furlong	4/11
Alexandra Verello	4/11
Julia Garg	4/12
Bill Burke	4/14

Russell Domis	4/15
Alyssa Petersen	4/16
Karl Carlson	4/17
Patricia Wait	4/17
Lynn Hughes	4/17
William Wait	4/18
Sandra Shipley	4/18
Rose Sydor	4/18
Julio Artache	4/19
Ken Magazzu	4/20
Daniel Cinquegrana	4/20
Janet Stacy	4/22
Madison Shear	4/22
Trevor Flynn Stead	4/22
Jeffrey Borkowski	4/24
Stephanie Weiss	4/25
John Cocklin	4/25
Emily Brown	4/25
Linda Butterwick	4/26
Jessica Toth	4/26
Peter Bergfeldt	4/27
Richard Battle	4/27
Corey Riggs	4/28
Angelica Nieves	4/28
David Dill	4/30
Eric Meitzner	4/30

Happy Anniversary to.....

Linda & Daniel Cinquegrana	4/04
Robert & Stephanie Pate	4/11
Lori & Herman Gonzalez	4/22
Joseph G, & Evelyn Kotora	4/22
William & Lisa Qualman	4/25
Gerald & Lori Donaghue	4/27

The Staff is published monthly for members and friends of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Mr. Ed Roynesdal

Music Director
Mrs. Amber Brown

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Those Recovering

Gunhild Nelson –mother of Carol Hahl

Those in Nursing Homes

Emmy Moore –sister of Katrina Clapsis

Those who are Shut-in

Joan Brenner

Irene Inneo

Josie Schubert –mother of Mary Artache

Those with Other Needs

Jean Reynolds

Evelyn Kotora

Ruth Gunderson –mother of Lynn Hughes

Ray Monel –father of Barbara Di Maggio

Jake Johnson –grandson of Pastor &
Georgeann

Gregory Pryor –brother of Patrick Pryor

Vincent Siclari, Jr. –brother of Ed Siclari

Jan Burkett –grandmother of Amber Brown
and Dani Sloan

Terry Hayes –mother of Laurie Burke

Eric Brown –son of Amber and Steve

Dylan Brown –grandson of Hatcliffes

Marilyn Evenga –sister-in-law of Alexis Dill,
awaiting liver transplant

Margaret Wrigley –suffering with arthritis

Christine Olewine –granddaughter of Lyman
& Deloris Laub

Trudy Conway

Those Struggling with Cancer

Alexander Toth – father-in-law of Jamie Toth

Gary Kellogg - father of Kyle Kellogg

Laurie Troutman – daughter of Child Care Teacher

Marie Giacomini – mother of Bill Burke

Peggy DeMarco – friend of the Kotora
Family

Nancy Musick – cousin of Tony Hansen

Joseph Spinelli – friend of Toni & Pat Pryor

Debbie Pryor – cousin to Toni & Pat Pryor

Ed Borkowski – father of Wayne Borkowski

Kathy Hill – friend of Pryors

Jimmy Walker – friend of McGrades

Kathi Farrell

Mildred Elliot – mother of Laurie Coletti

Ruth Cousens – mother of Don Cousens

Patrick (Patch) Rose – brother-in-law of Marie &
Dave Bergfeldt

Those in the Military

Chris O'Shea –nephew of Addie & Les Ebersole

Chris Hill –uncle of Stephanie Olson

Jeff Borkowski

Brian Farrell

Gordon Houston

Rob Farrell

Darrin Brown

Jeff Kotora

John & Annette Kope –brother and sister-in-law of
Maryellen Boggia

Patrick Galvin –son-in-law of Ouges

Joseph Puoplo –nephew of Clines

Brian Borkowski –nephew of the Borkowski's

Ashley Welsh –niece of Mary White-Stevens

Drew Williams –friend of Hogan's

Fabian Lopez –friend of Russell Domis

Dustin Brown –co-worker of Beth Meyer

Matthew Munoz –friend of Siclari's

Jon Griswold –brother-in-law of Heidi Griswold

Charlie Ratcliffe –friend of Bill Burke

Marc Artache –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache

Robert Bracero –nephew of Julio & Mary Artache

James McCabe –friend of White-Stevens'

And our Missionaries :

Rev. Chuck and Jeanette Groth in Cambodia
LINC – NJ

If you have someone on the prayer chain, please remember to give the office updates, i.e., no longer sick, no longer in the military. If they need to be removed, etc.

Thanks, Marie



Here is the schedule for the next few months for market day. We usually take off for the summer months, and then reconvene in September.

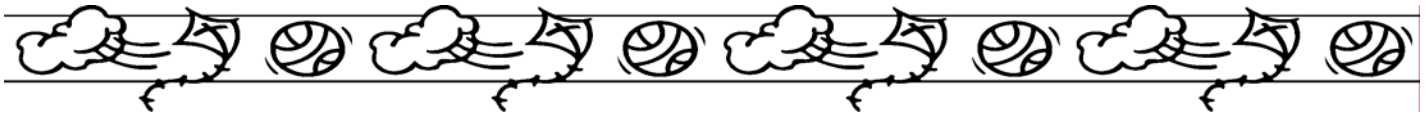
Month	Pick up Date	Pick up Time	Paper Orders Due	Internet Orders Due
April	4/14/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	4/3/2007	4/7/2007
May	5/19/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	5/8/2007	5/12/2007
June	6/16/2007	8:30-9:30:00 AM	6/5/2007	6/9/2007



Monthly
Prayer
Gathering

The next Prayer Meeting will be Tuesday, April 3rd, 2007 at 7:15 PM.

This is a small group. We bring our cares and concerns, and then we pray for each other. Please join us for the next Prayer Meeting.



SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

Palm Sunday Seder
5:30 pm

Please bring your own place settings and wine glasses. A free will offering will be collected.

Holy Week Services:
Maundy Thursday, April 5
Good Friday, April 6
7:30 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
7:30 am
& 10:30 am

Coffee House
April 21st, 2007
6:30 – 10:00 PM



“Victory in Heaven”

If you want to get a sneak preview of the music, go to:
www.vihband.com

Stewardship Report



God's Draft Choices

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on television are not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. For many hours, fans of professional sports will watch intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by professional football or basketball teams, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"* (John 15:16). God has made us a part of His team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on his life-saving work. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us—clay jars—with this treasure—the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry

His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God Who does the drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for His glory. Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). What a privilege it is to be part of and serving on God's winning team!

Pat Pryor
Stewardship Committee

Jesus is our chief steward. He gave without restraint. He gave His life to pay the penalty for our sin.

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him" (Isaiah 53:5).





”Food Pantry Closing”

It is with deep regret we announce the closing of the Food Pantry. We have had no requests for food (except for Thanksgiving and Christmas) for the past 6 months. We want to thank Carol Cunningham who volunteered several years ago to run the Food Pantry for all her hard work. We also want to thank all the volunteers who have supplied food when needed.

We will still do our baskets for

Thanksgiving and Christmas. The food that is in the pantry now will be donated to “Elijah’s Promise”. One of the confirmation groups is taking donations for them at this time, so we will give them what is left over.

Thank you for all your support over the years, and Thank You again to Carol for her dedication in taking care of this huge project.

Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Missions Committee



Easter Drive Aids Katrina Victims

Submitted by Paulette Hacker, Chairman, Mission Committee

This year, we will be doing something different for our annual Easter drive. Instead of our usual Love Loaf drive which helps World Vision and some local charities, we will be fulfilling our Christian duty by helping the forgotten victims of Hurricane Katrina.

We have received a list of families who are still in need of assistance from Reverend Little of Atonement Lutheran Church and School in Metairie, Louisiana. There are 51 eggs in our basket and each egg contains a label with the name and address of one of the families. We ask that you purchase a gift card for Wal*Mart or Home Depot (the amount is between you and God) and put it in the card provided and mail to the family. For those who prefer, we will have Love Loafs available for your change or bills or you may write a check made payable to “Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd” and place it in our white basket on the table in the Narthex. All the money will be sent to Pastor Little for use in his community.

We received an email from Reverend Little with this note to our congregation: “Thanks to Good Shepherd congregation and the folks there for your willingness to be of help to the folks of our area in the ongoing aftermath of hurricane Katrina. On behalf of Atonement may I voice our sincere appreciation for the help already provided to us, and for the help you plan as part of your Easter

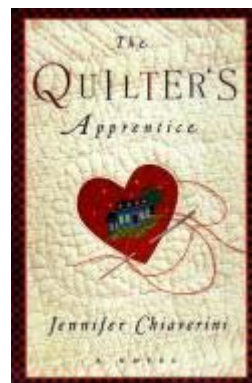
efforts you have under way.” You may visit Atonement’s website at alcs.org and see pictures of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on their church, school and neighborhood.

We thank you for your generosity to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Here are some pictures of Atonement Lutheran Church and the community after Hurricane Katrina.



BOOK CLUB AND DISCUSSION GROUP



We are meeting on Tuesday, May 8th @7:30pm, in the church library, to discuss:

The Quilter's Apprentice
by Jennifer Chiaverini

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at Junedh1@aol.com or call me at (732)840-6894. Happy Reading !!

June Hullings



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Worship Services

Sunday Communion Services

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Adult Bible Classes – 9:30 AM.

Youth Fellowship Meetings

2nd and 4th Sunday - 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM

Good Friday 7:30 PM

Easter Sunrise 7:30 AM & 10:30 AM

***The Lutheran Church
of the Good Shepherd***
3139 County Road 516
Old Bridge NJ 08857

God's love at work here!



Schedule of Upcoming Events

Crafter's for Christ!



The next Crafter's for Christ will meet on April 27th –

Hope to see you there. In March, the monthly craft group focused on how to make a knotted fleece blanket for our “Make One, Give One” program. They had to bring the materials for at least one blanket to make, then go home to make another to give to Ronald McDonald House or the Bridges Program. If you have any questions, ask Amber Brown.

"Fit Him In" Aerobics



"Fit Him In" Christian Aerobics

This energizing class of low/high

impact aerobics set to a praise music DVD will get your blood pumping and your body ready for Spring. The class will take place in the Education Wing and will begin at 9:00 AM. We will take some time prior to class to learn “the moves” so that we can actively participate with the DVD. After class, freshly juiced health drinks will be sold. Please wear comfortable attire.



"Service for Jean"

April 21st *"Service for Jean"*

A day of service for Jean Reynolds for housework, gardening, reading, talking, cooking, sharing and praying. More details to follow regarding date, time and contacts...



Program

April 25, 26, 27

"Bridges Program"

In conjunction with Holmdel Community Church, this mission project offers three opportunities to help the homeless people living under the Bridges in New York. We will be collecting clothing (mostly men's), toiletries (sample and trial sizes) blankets (“Make One, Give One” with Crafters for Christ) as well as preparing bagged lunches and delivering these items to Holmdel.



September 14-15 *"Women of Faith"*

A gathering of 16,000 + women in Philadelphia to celebrate and rejoice in the love of Jesus...sign ups starting now so we can obtain a “Buy Now, Pay Later Contract” for groups of 25 or more.

See **Amber Brown** for additional information on any of the above programs as well as to sign up and schedule donations. Please see **Marie Bergfeldt** for a schedule of assistance opportunities for Jean Reynold.