Parish Update
The newsletter of the
Upshur Cooperative Parish, Inc.
Spring, 2014

Upshur Cooperative Parish, Inc.
and Crosslines, Inc.
68 College Avenue,
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-472-0743
www.upshurparishhouse.org
parishhouse@wwwc.edu
Find us on Facebook
**********************
OPEN 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday - Friday
Closed when schools are closed
because of bad weather.
**********************
The mission of the Upshur Cooperative Parish is to minister to the needs of all people in Upshur County, in the name of Jesus Christ.
**********************
POWERED BY PRAYER AND VOLUNTEERS

From the Director
Rev. Alicia Randolph Rapking

Feinstein Challenge

This winter I was reminded of a verse in Isaiah that became very powerful for me in the midst of this very dark and cold winter: "...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."

This is a simple promise that Isaiah makes--a promise that helps not only the recipient, but also the giver. Offering our food to the hungry and satisfying the needs of the afflicted has great impact on the lives of those in need. These simple acts might be all that is needed to bring a family out of a very difficult moment in their lives. We may never see the impact, but I trust that it is there.

The second benefit of this promise is that somehow through our actions, our lives can be lifted out of the darkness that might be shadowing us at the moment and cause our discouragement to be lifted into the light as at noonday. During the deep and dreary winter that is ending, the promise that the darkness of
(continued on next page)
discouragement will be as bright as noonday is a wonderful promise.

God provides us with all kinds of opportunities to help others, especially when it comes to offering food. This month Crosslines, Inc./Parish House are participating in the Feinstein Challenge, an annual event sponsored by the Feinstein Foundation to help agencies who have Hunger programs and Food Pantries.

Here is how it works. Money and food items donated to Crosslines during the months of March and April can be counted toward a total dollar amount. The Feinstein Foundation will then match a portion of the dollar amount that is contributed during that time.

While the match is not dollar for dollar, the challenge does help in two distinct ways. First, the challenge raises the awareness of food insecurity in our nation and around the world. It is estimated that worldwide approximately 21,000 people die each day due to hunger related causes. That is a death due to hunger about every 4 seconds.

Second, the challenge gives us incentive to work hard and raise money and food items that will be enhanced by the Foundations additional funds.

To participate make a check payable to Crosslines and memo the check for Feinstein Challenge. All non perishable food donations are already counted during these months.

Food Pantry Needs

- Peanut butter and jelly
- pasta and sauce
- canned vegetables
- canned fruit
- canned soup
- saltine crackers
- canned beans of any kind
- boxed cereal

We can give out fresh eggs. We will be able to give out fresh produce this summer!

Other Crosslines and Parish House Needs

Many times our neighbors need personal items and cleaning supplies and SNAP benefits cannot be used for these items. We can give these items out if we have them:

- Powdered laundry detergent
- household cleaners (no bleach)
- disinfectants
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Hand soap
- shampoo
- mouthwash
- toilet paper

Layette Needs

- Newborn clothing
- formula and bottles
- diaper bags
- crib sheets and bay towels
- baby bath and lotion
- Sleepers--both summer and winter for boys and girls, size 0-3 months only

Clothes Closet needs: Clothing and shoes (new and gently used), especially children's items. Household items

Please deliver these items to the Clothes Closet
Community Garden Opportunities

Each year, with the help of organizations and individuals we plant a garden near The Parish House to provide fresh produce for the Food Pantry. This year we are partnering with Create Buckhannon to build 40 raised beds in our garden. Create Buckhannon will use 20 raised beds to encourage folks in our community to raise gardens for personal use. The Parish House will use 20 raised beds to raise produce for the Food Pantry.

In addition to the Buckhannon Garden, we are establishing a garden at the Adrian church property. With this garden we hope to encourage folks in the southern part of the county to come out for a weekly meal and to receive produce from the garden. After this summer, we plan to build some raised beds at this location to make it easier to maintain this garden as well.

As always we need volunteers to help work, plant, and harvest these gardens. So if you are interested in giving some of your time, let us know.

One other opportunity that we all have for growing and sharing food this summer is a program called The Lord’s Acre.

The Lord’s Acre

In 1922, Rev. Henry Melton asked farmers in his congregation in GA to sign an agreement donating the proceeds from one acre of cotton to the church. The agreement was signed by 7 farmers. That year the Lord’s Acre on each of those farms was untouched by the dreaded boll weevil.

Several years later, in 1927, Jim McClure, head of the Farmer’s Federation in Western NC encouraged the Lord’s Acre for growing food, saying "An acre of potatoes, or corn for the Lord, on every farm in this section! What a spiritual awakening this would bring..."

In 1930, the Lord’s Acre became a vital contribution in that area of NC for feeding hungry people, especially through the Depression years. It is a vital program that is still in existence.

The Upshur Cooperative Parish would like to encourage our gardeners to plant 1 row, dedicate that row to God and share the produce with your neighbors or with the Parish House.

We can make a difference!

_Sow the seeds of kindness and reap the harvest of happiness_ 
—Chua Guat Mui
Crosslines, Inc. had a very busy year in 2013. Thanks to the generosity of so many churches and individuals we have been able to help many people. Here are some statistics from 2013:

- Total Assists—11,207
- Food Packages—3056
- Clothing Vouchers—1,636
- Families/Households Added—272
- Utility Assistance—$54,742
- Transients/Homeless—$ 9,089
- Housing—$12,221
- Food for Pantry—$27,237
- Cash Payout—$122,707

In addition we gave out over 1200 Holiday baskets during Nov. and Dec. We served over 400 meals on Christmas Day. We average 30-40 people for the Monday and Friday lunches.

In Nov. we began opening 5 days a week from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

We can always use more volunteers at the Help Desk and in the Food Pantry. Please consider being a part of our volunteer team.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"
--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thoughts from Marvin Carr, Parish Coordinator

The spirit of the staff and volunteers of The Parish House has brightened my days in this harshest winter weather in my memory! Passing through The Parish House and Clothes Closet, you catch that spirit of service in action. The meetings we have had, when not delayed by the weather, have been positive and creative: eg: Our annual parish conference with Mary Ellen, the March parish council and committee meetings.

I am looking forward to:

* Our Appreciation Dinner April 8, with fiddle tunes by Mark Lynch.
* Getting our New Storage building for the Clothes Closet erected ASAP!
* Undergirding that new building with support from THE BUILDERS' CLUB (Tina Horstman, financial secretary)—Your help needed
* Getting the 40 Raised Beds up in the Community Garden
* enjoying the new stove, etc., that Ken is installing in the Parish House Kitchen!
* enjoying the organized processes in gear for the Housing Repairs!
* Making Strawberry Jam, in preparation for Strawberry Pancakes!
* Welcoming a dozen & a half theological students from Drew in May!
* The Pentecost Sing on June 1...
Upcoming Events and Parish Calendar
Spring 2014

Reminder: The Feinstein Foundation will match a portion of the donations made to Crosslives during March and April. Non-perishable food items will also count. On checks, be sure to write “Feinstein Challenge” on the memo line. See director’s column for additional information.

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat--April 3-4, 5-6, Cedar Lakes

Upshur Parish Annual Appreciation Dinner--Tuesday, April 8, Chapel Hill UMC

Lenten Spiritual Renewal--Mon-Wed, April 7-9, Holy Rosary at 7:00 pm

Fish Fry Dinner--Friday, April 11, 4:30-7:00 pm, Chapel Hill UMC.
Fundraiser for 2014 mission trips. Cost: $10 for age 8 and up, $5 for children under 8 or half portion.

Lay Servant Ministry Training--Sat., April 12, Chapel Hill UMC.
All lay speakers and any lay servant will benefit from attending. Further information available at the District Office.

Bishop’s Confirmation Rally--Sat, April 12, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
West Virginia Wesleyan College

Children and Youth Easter Play by Rise Hanifan--portrays events leading up to and including the Last Supper, Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm, Chapel Hill UMC

Holy Thursday Taize worship and Communion--April 17, 7:30 pm, First UMC

Tenebrae Service--Good Friday, April 18, 7:30 pm, First UMC

Easter Sunrise service--Chapel Hill UMC, 7:00 am

Easter Sunrise service--Indoor, Hacker Valley UMC, 7:00 am

Spring Revival--Hacker Valley UMC, April 30-May 2
Special preaching and music each evening at 6:30 pm

Baked Steak Dinner--Fri. May 2, 4:30-7:00 pm, Chapel Hill UMC
Fundraiser for 2014 mission trip. Cost: $10 for age 8 and up, $5 for children under 8 or half portion.

Celebration of Mission Event (COME)–May 3, 10 am - 1 pm at Quiet Dell UMC. Churches should be collecting donations and holding fundraisers now.

Pentecost Picnic and Sing--June 1--Holly River and Jerry Run Theater. More information in upcoming Summer Newsletter due out last week in May.
Parish House/Crosslines, Inc. Partner form:

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip _________________

☐ I will support the Upshur Cooperative Parish/Crosslines with a monthly gift of
$________________________ for a period of  ☐ 1 year  ☐ 2 years  ☐ 3 years

☐ Our church would like to support the Upshur Cooperative Parish/Crosslines in prayer.

☐ Put me on the mailing list.

Upshur Cooperative Parish is WV Conference Advance Special Account #899.

Please clip and complete this form, slip it into an envelope, and mail it to
Upshur Cooperative Parish, 68 College Ave., Buckhannon, WV 26201. If you
enclose a check, please specify "Crosslines" for hunger fund and utility
assistance) or "Parish House" (for overhead expenses and programming of the
Parish House and Crosslines).