

## What Sa Matter? . . .

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One time during the heat of summer I walked past a church on the edge of town. I didn't know what time it was except it was morning. My watch was lost the day before and I was planning on purchasing a cheap Timex with actual hands in the dial instead of the digital one I'd been using.

People were arriving and shortly thereafter we started praising the Lord. I wasn't aware the time was 9:30. People treated me like a real person.

The man's reply was, "What sa matter, don't you have a watch?" I replied, "No, I lost mine yesterday." He then took his cheap Timex with actual hands on the dial off his wrist and said, "Here, now you do." I said, "Thank you," and checked the time. It was 1:15. Most of us get antsy if worship goes beyond an hour. Phew! Three hours and 45 minutes!

Then they filled my pack with all kinds of food. I left filled up in many ways. God is Truly Great!

I've found some expensive watches over the year and a half since the cheap Timex has been in my possession. They have all been given away because I like my "what sa matter" watch. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we were truly concerned for others so much so we'd be willing to give away the shirt off our backs and a lot more without even thinking about what we should get in return? I sure think it would be.

In Luke 3:11 John the Baptist said whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it.

Have you counted your shirts lately?

Till the next time. . .

In Christ's love,

**Don**

*Miles to date: 8,563*

*Money picked up along road:  
\$640.33*

*Unsolicited money given by  
motorists: \$901.08*



**A bright morning** at Wayfarers' House! Marika Rein [2nd from left] is an intern from Delaware Technical Community College, currently working with the program at Clairvaux Farm. Also in the photo: Elaine [right], Janine, and Shelby. Marika's creativity and friendship have deepened our community life. She has brought (no doubt from her home in Paris, France!) a warm, human perspective which has enriched us greatly.

The present form of the world passes away, and there remains only the joy of having used this world to establish God's rule here. All pomp, all triumphs, all selfish capitalism, all the false successes of life will pass with the world's form. All of that passes away. What does not pass away is love.

- Archbishop Oscar A. Romero

## A Partnership in Mission . . .

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began a Chapel for mission in the next town to our East called Cecilton. The Chapel and Parish Hall were constructed for one purpose and that was to bring the good news of Christ to children in the town of Cecilton. In 1980 the Chapel was found to be infested with termites and had to be torn down, but the Parish Hall functioned as a Day Care Center for over ten years and met the needs of many young families during that time.

In the mid 1990s we sold the Parish Hall and among other things established a \$50,000 fund for Mission in our immediate community, including helping members of our Church when they hit hard times. We use the interest of up to \$3000 each year for these purposes. It is a joy to have money to help those in need.

We are fortunate to have Clairvaux Farm in our community, since it provided us with a built in avenue

for serving others. There are four drives each year for the Farm. In the fall and spring there are food drives. In the summer there is a drive for cleaning supplies, and a Christmas a drive to make sure that everyone has presents for Christmas. Oh yes and at Easter, there are dyed eggs given and upwards of 40 Easter treats. Extra food and extra anything always finds its way to the Farm, and members of the Farm join us for Halloween Parties and other events. Carl Mazza has spoken to us on several occasions as we seek always to keep getting the word out to our members and others of the needs of the Farm. We also put together what can be termed arrival kits for each visitor to the Farm that include tooth brush, tooth paste, soap, and soap dish, and other sundries needed when one moves into a new place. Farm residents call these kits "happy bags."

We are members in our community of an organization called Faith

In Action developed in the mid 1980's to assist people in the Earleville, Cecilton region who are in need of food, fuel, electric, and medicines. We deliver soup to members of our community who are shut-ins each winter. Last year we delivered 255 quarts of soup. We collect coats each fall to assist others in the winter. Our mitten tree in Advent collects mittens, socks, hats, underwear, and other necessities to help others meet the cold winter. And we even have found a way to help water birds in our area by donating clean rags, towels, and sheets to a group in Delaware that cleans oil and polluted coated birds found in the Delaware Bay. With all of this going on all year, we need 80% of our people involved in Mission. It takes our time, talent, and treasure. We work with money, goods, talents, and try to make converts for Christ in all these ways.

We are blessed and grateful that Christ has chosen us in this region to be his hands and feet in His

body to do the service of mission to others, some who are close, some who are far away, some who are friends and some who are strangers. In all of this ministry and mission we recall on a regular basis hymn lyrics by Jeffrey Rowthorn found in our Hymnal and Supplement "Wonder, Love, and Praise". Its first verse reminds us this way:

Lord you give the great commission: Heal the sick and preach the word. Lest the church forget its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us  
For the work of ministry

If you do not have a Mission Group in your Church or Mission programs, my Committee and I would be pleased to help you, no matter where you are located. You can reach the Church by writing to: *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 10 Glebe Road, Earleville, Maryland 21919.*