



Celebration Journal

FALL 2010

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
Romans 5:2b-5

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Pastor's reflection



Because of the present state of the economy, Rising Hope is going through a very difficult and trying time. Yet Rising Hope has taught me a great deal about hope, hope of the glory of God. The suffering of the people that come to Rising Hope is not hidden: jobs have been lost; applications have been rejected; benefits have been denied; medical conditions go untreated; meals have been

missed; and families have been evicted. Yet I will never cease to be amazed at the love, joy, and 'hope' that is evident among people that are so beaten down.

It is not that I don't hear a lot of complaints. I hear way more complaints than I care to hear. But I am also privileged to hear a multitude of simple prayers of gratitude. How often do you get to hear someone pray, "Lord, I am grateful I slept on a bed last night"; or "Thank you God, for the meal Rising Hope provided because I don't know where I will eat next"? Every day I overhear someone reminding a person whose world is falling apart, "The Lord will make a way."

Words of encouragement, hugs, prayer, or the laying on of hands for healing are daily

occurrences at Rising Hope. In spite of, or maybe even because of, all the suffering at Rising Hope, our congregation is quick to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. As incredible as it may sound our hope does not disappoint us. Like the words of the gospel song, we know, "He may not come when you want but He's right on time."

I remind myself of that hope as financial contributions, especially from the Conference, have taken the steepest drop in our existence and budgeting for next year is a challenge. I remind myself of that hope as major staff changes have required a major reallocation of my time. I remind myself of that hope when a problem with mold shuts down our food pantry until a temporary solution can be found. I remind myself of

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Mold Found in the Food Pantry

While we have had a most successful/rewarding summer and early fall, we had a setback recently when mold was found in the Food Pantry due to a malfunction in our air-conditioning system. We had to shut down the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet for a week, but we found renewed Hope once again at Rising Hope as the staff, volunteers, members and constituents came together to find a solution on how to continue these important ministries. We moved them to the Fellowship Hall and partitioned it into three sections so we could also continue to serve refreshments and lunch to our constituents. Our constituents rely on the food that we provide, both from the pantry and from the kitchen and the clothes from the closet, so it was imperative that we continue these services. The mold has now been removed and the rebuild is taking place, by wonderful volunteers, including the husband of our Food Ministry Coordinator. However, we now have an unplanned/unfunded cost of almost \$20,000 for the removal and rebuild. To date we have received donations of almost \$5,000 and we know that God will continue to provide for the needy along the Route One Corridor.



BOY SCOUT EAGLE AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD PROJECTS



Shed and School Supplies donated by Scouts.

Rising Hope benefited from a Boy Scout Eagle and a Girl Scout Gold Project this summer. Jack Edgar chose to install a much needed shed in the back of our parking lot for storing excess supplies and large equipment. Jack led a team of adults and teens who built the shed and then painted it and all of the other sheds to match it. It has helped us corral large items that will not fit within our building walls.

Christina Devine chose to help the children served by Rising Hope by hosting a summer reading program and also arranging the School Supply project. Christina had the children read "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid", and then she had them watch the movie and discuss what they

learned from the experience. Christina then organized the huge School Supply program that Rising Hope sponsors each year. Our member and constituent children go to 12 elementary schools and 6 or more middle and high schools. As each grade within these schools has a different supply list, it is a huge project to purchase and assemble all of the needed items to satisfy the range of requests we receive.

Saturday, August 28th, was our school supply distribution day and over 250

backpacks and related supplies were distributed to church members and members of the surrounding community.

We also want to thank the



Goodwin House, Aldersgate UMC, Christ UMC, Oakton UMC and many others who provided funds, backpacks and supplies to equip these children for the school year.

"God did not put us here to see through one another, we are here to see one another through."

Sula Tyler



"God did not put us here to see through one another, we are here to see one another through." This is the family motto of Sula Tyler's family and it has been handed down from generation to generation.

Sula is the new Coordinator of Children's Ministries at Rising Hope. She has been with us since August where she arrived just in time to observe Vacation Bible School. The next project was handing out School Supplies. She did not have to be in charge of either of these activities but it was a great opportunity to watch and learn.

Sula grew up in Western Baltimore County. Her Grandmother was President of the Nursing Ministry in her Baptist Church.

As a child Sula went along to help deliver baskets to people's houses. She has been involved in mission for a long time.

Sula went to college at Columbia University in New York where she lived with family. She has been an editor, a teacher and has worked in corporate America. She states that Rising Hope is her growing up life. We have to pass the faith on to others. She says Rising Hope is like being home. It's all about helping one another. So we say to Sula - welcome home.

Transportation Needs Met

"The Bicycle Doctor"

Charles Jones, a member of Heritage Presbyterian Church, collects new and used bicycles from many sources and after "mending, repairing and/or assembling", he donates them to local citizens who are in need of one for transportation. He recently donated a refurbished bike to Rodney Freeman, who has been coming to Rising Hope for six months. It was certainly a joyous day for Rodney who appreciates the generosity of "The Bicycle Doctor" and so do we at Rising Hope. We are thankful for the many sources of assistance that we have available to help our members and constituents. Praise the Lord.



A Day for the Hungry and Homeless

250 people were present on the Rising Hope property on the afternoon of the 6th of August. They were able to get fresh produce from Mid-Atlantic Gleaning and they received services from local and county mental health and outreach programs. They ate delicious hotdogs and hamburgers served by the Mt. Gilead food truck, "The Net". Jeff Majors and Griff the Comedian also visited with the people in attendance. Music was played by Crowns of Life.

That evening, almost 800 people packed into Bethlehem Baptist Church for a live concert put on by the renowned Harp Master Jeff Majors. Griff the Comedian also performed with side splitting comedy, as well as

the Rising Hope Praise Band and Singers.

The concert turned into a Blessed Worship service as Dwayne Sands gave his testimony on how he had benefited spiritually and physically since finding Rising Hope through its Hypothermia Clinic. Jeff Majors also selected one of the Rising Hope con-



stituents and washed his feet to show the true spirit of the Lord was present that night.

Attendees were given tickets if they brought food for the Rising Hope Pantry. Many cans and boxes of food were brought to fill our often sparse shelves. Fantastic sponsorships from very caring people and strong supporters of the Rising Hope mission enabled us to fund the concert and a love offering that night provided additional funds for our mission and ministries. Thanks to everyone from staff, sponsors, supporters, volunteers and the gracious staff and volunteers at Bethlehem Baptist Church who made the fantastic day possible.

Volunteer Reflections



Bob Dumond has been volunteering on Thursday morning in our Food Pantry for the last three months and when told he was doing great, he said, *"It's the best two hours of my week."*

Leigh Rosenmund is volunteering while on medical leave from her job. She says that working here this summer with a divergent group of people, including the very young has given her temperance and patience which is helping her cope with her current working situation.



Wilhelmina with Rebekah

Wilhelmina Hubbard has been volunteering for about 13 years. She says, "It feels good to help those who are now where I once was; i.e. Homeless". She knows what they are feeling and can share her love of God with them.



Leigh with Sula Tyler

Pastor's reflections

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that hope when the restoration of the mold problem will require an unbudgeted and unfunded expense of almost \$20,000. I cannot logically explain it, but I know our current suffering will produce perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

I have seen God act too many times here at Rising Hope to lament our situation. God has not brought

us this far to abandon us. Miracles happen every day at Rising Hope. Today we simply need a bigger miracle than normal. My joy in this time of struggle is that I know your love and the love of our connectional church for Rising Hope. My hope is in your encouragement, your hugs, and your prayers.

I know that God does not always come at the moment we want Him, but he is always right on time

Rev. Heary Kincannon

Our Mission is to bring the power of Christ and the support of the Church to the least, the lost, the lonely and the left out living along the Route One Corridor south of Alexandria. Our Vision is to become a Center of Community Change and Transformation manifesting the Kingdom of God in our community.

Holiday Happenings

For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we need the following to provide food, fun and fellowship for our members and our constituents:

- Nonperishable food items to be put into the Thanksgiving Baskets should be at Rising Hope by Friday, November 19.

- Food for Christmas Baskets should be at Rising Hope by Friday, December 17.

- Volunteers are needed

to prepare, at home, Christmas dinner turkeys and side dishes to be served to members and constituents who will be enjoying their holiday dinner at Rising Hope.

Please call Deborah Lloyd Allers at 703.360.1976 to volunteer.

You are also invited to attend our Christmas Eve Service at 7pm on December 24, 2010. The children of Rising Hope will be participating in the Celebration of Jesus' Birth.

Holiday Food Needs



- Hams, turkeys & roasting chickens
- Canned broth or gravy
- Boxes of stuffing
- Macaroni & cheese
- Boxes of cornbread & muffin mix
- Cans of vegetables
- Cans of yams or sweet potatoes
- Boxes of powdered milk
- Cans of evaporated milk
- Cans of fruit
- Boxes of potatoes (mashed, scalloped, or au gratin)

Was Vacation Bible School a huge success?

YES! It was a roaring success! Rising Hope's Vacation Bible School was held August 9 through 13. Here are some notes on how much children from Rising Hope and our community enjoyed the week:

1) There were more kids on the last day than there were on the 1st day.

2) Children wanted to be here. On Thursday there was a violent thunder storm at 8:30 am just as the children were picked up by staff or brought here by parents. One grandmother opted to stay in bed and not venture out in the storm. But that was not going to happen. Her grandson told her she had to get out of bed and take him to VBS. As he got out of the van while running to the church, he told her, "This is where I am supposed to be."

3) The teenage assistants wanted to be here. Two teenage helpers from Christ Church were only able to help

Mon-Wed, but on Tues afternoon as their Mother was driving them home, they told her they needed to be here on Thurs-Fri also, because who would be the voice of the puppet and who would play with the children. Mom canceled the appointments they had on Thurs-Fri and they were here with bells on.

Also, we cannot thank the Churches enough who supported us with supplies and with helpers: Messiah, Burke and Cranford donated the most wonderful Galactic Blast Off decorations you can imagine. There was a 12-foot rocket and a life size console for the assembly room. Posters and painted scenes of outer space made the church come alive. Burke purchased the Leadership books for us and Messiah lent us

the Galileo Gorilla puppet which were must have to put on our VBS.



Seven women and three teenagers from Christ Church volunteered as storytellers, craft/snack/recreation, and team leaders. The Rising Hope Staff and many members and constituents rounded out the effort.

We could not have done this without all of this wonderful support. Thank you and God bless your ministries.

Celebration Journal is a communications tool of Rising Hope. We send out **Celebration Journal** on a regular basis. Your support and assistance is critical. Without your support many on the Route One Corridor will not know the love and power of God to change lives. Many thanks to those who provided articles and pictures for their contributions to this newsletter.

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