

HANDS OF COMPASSION

A Ministry of the Rochester Church of Christ

840 W. Center Street
Rochester, MN 55902



Thank You, Pitman Teens!!



This past June we were blessed to have the help of the youth group from Pitman, New Jersey. I can't say enough how wonderful this group was! They worked so hard in getting things done at both the church and the House of Compassion.

During the time they were here, they repainted the parking lot and weeded the church. They repainted the living room in the new house., and they rebuilt the back porch of the old house. After a hard day's work, they put on an amazing VBS for our children. These teens gave up their vacation and worked so hard to create a better environment for us around the House of Compassion.

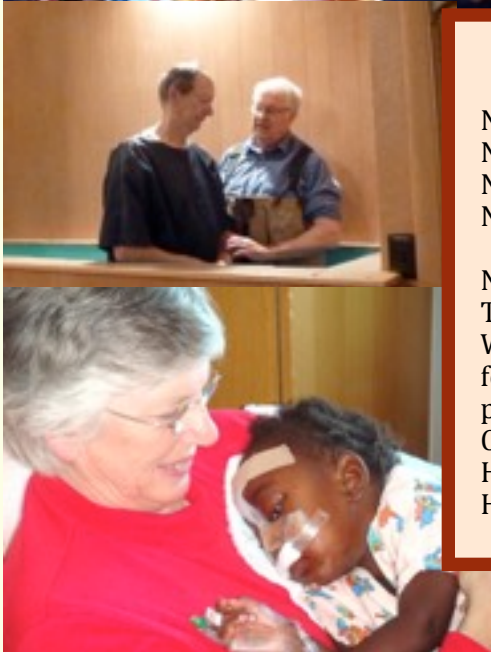


Thank you all for your hard work, your amazing attitude, and your Christ-like spirit. Your time here reflected the passage found in Galatians 6:2: **"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."**



Back Porch—Before

Back Porch—After



Hands of Compassion is...

Not just a place to rest.
Not just the making of a hospital visit.
Not just a ride given.
Not just a smile or a word of comfort spoken.
Not just a hand to hold.
The world can give this.
We do what we do in Jesus' name, and for His name's sake, and for His purpose...to bring all to know the Christ, to be housed and clothed with Him, to eat His bread, and to be with Him forever.



by
Stacy Sikes

Celebrating 30 years of ministry says so much about persevering service offered to thousands of hurting people. This ministry is truly God's workmanship accomplishing His work of compassion.

Phillip asked me to share memories of my fifteen-year tenure as Hospital Chaplain. Talk about a hard assignment limiting my recall to such a small amount of space. WOW! As I went through pictures, recalling people, their personalities, their character, their faith, and their reason for being at the Mayo Medical Center, I was reminded again and again of what I so treasured about being a part of the Hands of Compassion ministry: people! Beautiful, beautiful people! God graced me to be part of the most wonderful ministry on earth by serving some of the most beautiful people on earth. This is my supreme memory.

The beauty of these precious people was especially revealed through their suffering. Where but in a hospital setting could be found all kinds of sufferers and, therefore, all kinds of suffering? Vaguely do I remember the unkind. Vividly, however, do I remember the kind, the joyful, the prayerful, the people who declared, "In God I have put my trust!" These were those who "feared no evil" as they personally walked through the valley. These were those who ministered to my spirit. These were the people I remember with thankfulness because of their precious witness of faith. I can't help but sigh knowing some have passed, but sighs turn to joy for those in the Lord and now with the Lord. Thankfully, some of those precious souls were brought to Christ through this ministry. I also remember the many Hands of Compassion supporters whose identity was never on the front page of the newsletter but who certainly made the front page possible. Through their generous giving they have made such a ministry possible. THANK YOU!!

Though it's been over two years since I regularly greeted new houseguests, gave a lift to the Clinic, or walked the halls of the hospitals, the ministry continues, and God is praised. The same Spirit Who directed the service by Boots, Meagan, Toni, and I continues His ministry through Debra, Phillip, Chris and Cindy. Though some changes have been made in personnel, the same Spirit is still at work. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10) May God's name continue to be magnified through this great work.

Stacy continues to serve Hands of Compassion as a Board member. For the past two years he and his wife Carol have been living in Hibbing, MN working with the Hibbing Church of Christ, as well as caring for Carol's Dad, LeRoy Murphy, age 92. Their address: 1520 E. 39th St., Hibbing, MN 55746; Stacy's cell phone: (507) 951 0628

Honoring Your Loved One With Your Gift of Compassion

Honorarium and Memorial Donations to the Hands of Compassion: July 4— October 5th

In Honor of Bob and Doris Haas

Alan and Susan Haas

In Honor of Stacy Sikes

M.T. and D.J. Smith
Barney and Mary Blue

In Honor of Boots Young

Bud and Sue Hammans

In Memory of Paul G. Bingham

Paul M. Bingham
Janice Bingham

In Memory of Majorie Francis Hime Boyd

Beverly Lewis
John and Shelia Viscito
Marvin and Lindy Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Bourland
Judge and Mrs. Kerry Russell

Dr. Stephen and Janice Springer

Ronnie and Belva Sue Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bavousett
Mr. and Mrs. Specht
Clara Benedict

In Memory of Wilda DeBusk

Lowell and Linda DeBusk

In Memory of Elaine Heath

Eddie Heath

In Memory of Linda Haedge

Margaret Anderson

In Memory of Omar Eugene Inman

Margaret Harris
Chuck and Mary Bloomberg
Craig and Nancy Baugh
Margaret Anderson

In Memory of Deborah James

Vera James Staffy

In Memory of Joseph and Fern Martin

Jay Martin

In Memory of Nellie Miller

Gladys Willis

In Memory of Jessica Sikes

William Shireman
Kathryn Cox

In Memory of Victor Turoski

Julianna Turoski

Dollar Day

So many give so much to the Hands of Compassion every year so that we can continue to provide free housing and spiritual care for those who enter our doors. We are proud to be here for people as they deal with difficult times. For the past several years, we have held our Dollar Day campaign and many of you have been faithful givers during this time. We ask everyone who reads this letter to donate \$1 to this campaign. It may not sound like much, but every dollar counts in a big way. Churches, many of you have had Dollar Day campaigns where you have asked the members of your congregation to donate \$1 each. Our Dollar Day Campaign will be December 13th and we hope that all of you can be a part of it. A lot of people doing a little bit can go a long way. Thank you everyone for your efforts to keep this ministry going. It cannot work without your generous support.

Going Green!!

The Hands of Compassion Ministries is going green! Beginning with our next newsletter, we are offering the opportunity for you to receive your newsletter through email. The paper version will still be available to those who prefer the normal newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the email version, simply sign up by emailing hocministry@gmail.com. You may cancel and resubscribe to the paper version any time.

Hands of Compassion
A Ministry of the church of Christ
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Get Out Of The Boat!!

The account of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14:22-33 has always been a passage that intrigued me. When I was younger, I would read this story and ask the question, “Why didn’t Peter keep believing?” It seems that Jesus thought the same thing as he responds to Peter in verse 31, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” It seems that doubt is often times our response when we are confronted with fear. It is difficult to put our trust in God when we are in the midst of the storm. We see the winds and the waves raging around us in the form of cancer, sickness, surgery, financial issues, family issues and we take our eyes off of the Anchor that is holding us above water.

As stated before, I have often criticized Peter for his lack of faith, until someone pointed out to me the 11 people who stayed in the boat. They stayed where they felt safe. While Peter was getting out of the boat to face the wind and the waves, they remained in the one place on the lake where the floor was still solid. Peter put his eyes on Jesus and walked on water. I have asked myself many times, “Would I have walked on water, or would I have been like the majority and stayed in the boat?”

Through the Hands of Compassion ministries, I have met people who will get out of the boat. They have a faith that is so strong, even the fear of death cannot shake it. You all have been an inspiration as I watch you face these fears and continue to keep your eyes on Jesus. Peter made the mistake of giving in to his fear, as many of us do. But he did take that first step. God calls us to do the same when we are baptized into his death and raised to a new life (Romans 6). Take a leap of faith and “Get Out of the Boat!”

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