

# Mission . . . POSSIBLE!

January 2008

A Quarterly Newsletter from the



## A Note from Dev. ...

By: Rev. Roger Lutze, Director of Development

Happy New Year! This is the greeting we hope to hear this, the first of the year, and then hope that it holds true for the whole yearlong. After all, the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in our Constitution, is it not?

We are beginning this New Year on a happy note – our new boiler is working well and we do not have to be afraid of the next boiler inspection or of having problems with the heat this winter. A special thank you to all who helped support this special need here at Flint Eastside Mission. I have a picture of the work being done, unfortunately I do not have a before picture with which to compare the after picture.

The old boiler was the size of a Volkswagen parked in a small garage. We have been assured this one will be a great improvement in the area of efficiency and it has given us a little more storage area as well.



Work completed by: A & S Plumbing

As we recount the events of the last quarter of this year we know God's blessing as we took part in the Thanksgiving and Christmas activities. The volunteers were such good help it made the days go very smoothly.

As usual our needs are great this early part of the year and we are calling on you to continue your support this year and especially during these slow times of the year. The need remains great and as we can glean from the news reports it is only getting more severe.

Some of the people we help are like Norma who comes almost every day for lunch. Norma has a Social Security check each month but after paying her rent and other regular bills there is not enough left for an entire month's worth of food. The lunches she has here at Flint Eastside Mission supplement her income so it will last for the entire month. Norma is not the only one who comes to us with this identical circumstance; others are in need of supplements to their income as well.

Others that come to us are like Darren who works whenever work is available but has many days of lay-off without pay and the mission is there to help him through those weeks where work is scarce. Darren is one of those who is re-training for a more permanent job and greater job opportunity so I expect that his need is temporary. Unfortunately as he moves on to a more permanent job there will be others coming along behind him who also need a helping hand. A helping hand, through the mission, that will only be possible because of our loyal donors like you. God bless you and Happy New Year.

## Holiday Dinners ...



Barb visits with one of her special guests.

Ahh - the holidays. Many of us rush here and there buying gifts, fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, grumbling most of the way because of the traffic, crowds, cost, etc. The cold hard truth is that there are many among us that are not able to purchase the "essentials" for making the holidays bright. This is yet another way that the Eastside Mission continues to help those that are in need on Flint's Eastside.

On November 22, Thanksgiving dinner was served at Eastside. Many volunteers came to make it a great day! Over 160 meals were served. On December 15, Christmas dinner was served to more than 350, with over 1,500 gifts being distributed to men, women and children.



District Superintendent, Dr. Anthony, helps count plates.



Volunteers of **all** ages are welcome!

For Christmas we changed things a bit to include hot chocolate being served to those waiting in line to go into the clothing house to choose their gifts.



Brrrr!



A peek inside the gift room!

There were also a couple of visitors from the North Pole!!



Santa, his elf and Barb

And as always, special thanks to "The Cake Lady" for providing the dessert!!



"The Cake Lady" – Zandra Eller

### **Barb Burdine to Retire ...**

After several requests to write a feature piece on Barb Burdine, it is with a sense of bitter-sweetness that I am able to finally prepare it. As of April 2008, Barb Burdine will retire after almost 14 years of devoted service at the Flint Eastside Mission. In July of 1994, Pastor Bill and Barb started the Mission with the "go ahead" of the Eastern Michigan District. Since that time, thousands have been served by way of:

- food pantry
- hot lunch program
- clothing house
- baby ministry
- Back-to-School Bash
- Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas meals
- plus, countless other services that have come and gone over the years

As Barb has said many times through the years, it's not her Mission – it's God's Mission! None of this would be possible without His guidance and opening of the doors that the Burdines have fearlessly walked through over the years. In honor of her retirement, our goal is to pay off the small amount of debt that the Mission has, by presenting a check to the Eastern Michigan District during District Assembly on April 15 (to be held at Flint Central), so that the new director, Rev. Roger Lutze, will begin with a clean slate. To do this, we need to raise around \$24,000. It is a

daunting task, however, broken down a bit, it's a totally achievable goal!

Considering that there are 71 organized churches on the Eastern Michigan District, if:

- 1 church gives \$1,000 +
- 5 churches give \$750 +
- 5 churches give \$650 +
- 10 churches give \$500 +
- 10 churches give \$400 +
- 10 churches give \$300 +
- 10 churches give \$250 +
- 10 churches give \$150 = \$24,000!!

Any amount that you can give would be greatly appreciated by God and the Burdines! If you would like to participate, send a check to the Mission with "debt" written in the memo portion of your check. What a wonderful way to honor the Burdines as they start off their full retirement together!



### **Pastor's Corner ...**

By: Pastor Bob Cattane  
 The holidays can be a stressful time for many. The common question was how am I going to provide for my family this holiday season. Those at the mission, as always, were confident that God would provide and He did. As we see Michigan fall deeper and deeper into a financial hole, God is holding us up by His glorious hands. Myself along with several others on Flint's Eastside have experienced Heaven's floodgates opening up and the pouring out of His blessings upon us. I believe that 2008 is going to be a transforming year for this area. As the number of the faithful increases, we will see the wonderful presence of God like we have never seen before.

"I will lie down and sleep in peace,  
 for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in  
 safety." Psalm 4:8