

The Church and Society Committee has been building upon the interest of the Presbytery in caring for our children. Last year we passed our support of the overture to General Assembly to encourage our government and travel agencies to protect children against Child Prostitution and Endangerment. This summer there is a course at Rutgers University in Camden on Child Trafficking and Prostitution around the world. So interest and concern over this issue is building in our communities. We will continue to advocate for you, communicating with the travel agencies around our area and requesting that they not sponsor Charter Travel Trips for the purpose of Child Prostitution.

We are also working with the Camden Churches Organized for Progress to follow up on the 20/20 Story depicting the struggles and poverty in the city of Camden. This striking and emotional program traced the difficulties and challenges of children and youth in Camden and how hard it is to overcome the forces that hold them back. Many of our churches have responded with charity- food, clothing, donations, but our committee is looking for churches and members who might be willing to volunteer their time and efforts to continue a conversation with the other churches and the remaining Presbyterian Presence in Camden Woodland Avenue. Some of your churches are already involved and we commend you for that.

Our 2cents a meal program, which you will hear more about later, donated 1000.00 last year to the New Visions Program in Camden for homeless feeding programs. This year we donated 1000.00 to Your Food shelf program working with families in the Wood land Avenue section of Camden. We also donated \$1000 to the Woodbury Food Pantry. Internationally, we donated \$3,000.00 to the Haiti project organized by Presbyterian Mission Workers to teach people to fish and grow food. The committee holds Sudan as a high priority and is seeking a way to donate money from our 2cents a meal program to that area, as soon as the armed conflict subsides enough to get direct food donations in.

Of course the issue of justice is much larger than providing a meal. To that end we have advocated to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to encourage the House to Pass Senate Bill S.895 to expand the Child Health and Medical care act to provide 60 million dollars for medical care for underprivileged Children. If you are interested please email Nancy Pelosi at www.speaker.gov to voice your support for our children.

Our Church is in the middle of promoting and receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this Lenten Season. This by far is the most successful of our Presbyterian Offerings and has the greatest most immediate impact. Your OGHS sharing offering goes to help recent Florida Tornado victims, maintain mission camps in New Orleans and Mississippi, and international work such as Darfur Sudan, peace making efforts and mobile Health clinics.

Please encourage your church to be generous in this offering that goes to Refugee Resettlement, Hunger Programs and Disaster Relief. These are problems that only continue and your offerings allow us to get money to desperate situations quickly.

Finally, if you are interested in working for peace and justice and knowing more about ways to build connections between people and tear down walls of hostility, please consider attending the Peace conference this summer in Montreat in July. The Peacemaking offering has funds to subsidize any Presbyterian church member who wishes to attend this conference.