

Justice Corner

Petersburg Parishioners: are you looking for a New Year's resolution you'll want to keep? Why not put your faith into action by assisting one of the following ministries and organizations? The opportunities are many! And save this insert for future reference.

Alpha Community Center, 330 East Court Street, Sidney
Primary Contact: Jan Geuy, 937/498-9758;
jangeuy.alphacommunitycenter@gmail.com

What does your ministry do? We serve the community in four main ways: daily soup kitchen meals, emergency pantry, children's programming, and rent/utility assistance. The Center is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers can serve breakfast daily (6:30-8 a.m.), lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and children's meals on Wednesdays (3:30 p.m.). We will have also established a tutoring program.

How else can people help? We accept monetary donations and can always use non-perishable food items, diapers, and baby wipes.

Did you know? Holy Angels Parish (937/498-2307) operates the Alpha Soup Kitchen on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; its volunteers already include a group from Immaculate Conception Parish. Hands of Hope operates the soup kitchen on Saturdays (contact: Dave Porath, 937/622-2125).

Auglaize County Crisis Center, P.O. Box 328, Wapakoneta
Primary Contact: Shirley Longworth,
419/738-5511; crsiscen@bright.net
Secondary Contact: Misty Mihm, contact as above

What does your ministry do? The Crisis Center serves as the domestic violence program for Auglaize County, providing crisis intervention for those who are at risk for or victims of family violence. Safe, confidential shelter is provided, as are food, transportation, and legal advocacy. Other services include assisting families in obtaining job skills and employment, affordable housing, and educational opportunities. K-12 school-based programs are provided in conflict resolution and teen dating violence as part of the organization's effort to stop the intergenerational cycle of violence.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers may assist with the children's program, including reading, tutoring, baking, crafts, playing games, etc. Fundraising is also an area for which volunteers are needed. Some volunteers provide services or activities based on their personal talents/interests, such as hair cutting and styling, massage, facials, baking, aerobics, or building maintenance.

Candlelight Missions, Inc., P.O. Box 1645, Wapakoneta
Primary Contact: Cindy Colaprete, 419-302-5979;
baglady1975@gmail.com
Secondary Contact: Mandy Tangeman, 419-230-7489;
emtangeman@ohiolink.net

What does your ministry do? We help to improve lives of those less fortunate. A non-denominational, faith-based organization, Candlelight Missions provides food, medicine, coats and hats for kids, etc., to families that are in dire need of help. We have also provided support to other non-profits. Our goal is to ease, in some small way, the burden of specific, acute needs to families and non-profits in this troubled economy.

What volunteer opportunities are available with your organization? We may occasionally need help delivering food or working an event. Monetary donations are always welcome.

How else can people help? We raise money through the sale of chicken and BBQ rib dinners once a month from April through October. We also hold scrapbooking events twice a year (for which volunteers can provide home-baked goods).

Card Ministry

IC/SL Contacts: Jenni Doseck,
937/693-2370; jennidoseck@yahoo.com and
Michele Meyer, 937/693-3027, shells_belles@yahoo.com

Contact for Saint Joseph: Maria Trump,
419/656-2325; rianne357@hotmail.com

What does your ministry do? We send cards to those who are sick, homebound, in the nursing home, in need of any prayers, as well as those who have succeeded in some way.



What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers can send cards.

How else can people help? They can give us the names and addresses of those needing cards, as well donate cards and stamps (at IC, dropping them in the basket at the back of church).

Catholic Social Services, 1201 Fairington Drive, Sidney
Primary Contact: Kim Custenborder, Development Coordinator, 937-214-1126, custenborderk@cssmv.org
Secondary Contact: Kathy Sell, Director, 800-521-6419 (ext. 1105), ksell@cssmv-sidney.org

Catholic Social Services strengthens individuals and families through faith, services, and charity. We do this by caring for the elderly, finding families for babies, preparing children for a bright future, and empowering people to overcome problems. Our Senior Outreach Program keeps seniors safe in their homes, reduces social isolation, and provides relief to full time caregivers. Volunteers for this service provide visits, phone calls, and caregiver relief. Please check our Facebook page or visit www.cssmv.org for more opportunities.

Fish Pond Food Pantry

Contacts: Terry and Mary Coleman, 937/596-5382
(Mary's email is coleman.m@rhodesstate.edu)

What does your ministry do? We provide groceries twice a month to those in the Jackson Center, Botkins, Montra, and Maplewood communities.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers can help serve at the food pantry from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

How else can people help? The Food Pantry accepts donations of food and money.

God's Storehouse, 107 W. Pearl St./P.O. Box 72, Wapakoneta

Primary Contact: Carol Berg, 419/738-7456; jfb@bright.net
Secondary Contact: Joy Kantner, 419/738-7456

What does your ministry do? We operate a food pantry and clothes closet. Referred clients shop off the grocery shelves weekly. The clothing/household goods area is open to the public, with 100% of sales used to purchase groceries (including hygiene/health products and laundry/cleaning supplies). Clothing and household items are also provided. Hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Our area of service is generally the Wapakoneta School District, but some exceptions are made. Assistance is available for anyone who is in genuine need. Staffed entirely by volunteers (currently 48 of them!), the organization was founded in April 1983.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Help is often needed in the food area —assisting clients, sorting food, sometimes even picking up donations from someone who is unable to transport.

How else can people help? (1) Prayer is always needed. (2) Monetary donations make this ministry possible. God's Storehouse greatly appreciates the generous support from local churches, individuals, service organizations, especially the space and utilities provided by St. Joseph Church, which allows all donations to be used for purchase of food for struggling families. (3) Food donations and fresh produce are always very welcome. (4) Refer a person in need.

Heart to Heart Ministries (at IC and SL)

Primary Contact: Casey Dietz,
937/693-1564; dietz@nktelco.net
Secondary Contact: Joyce Platfoot, 937/693-6251;
joyce_43060@hotmail.com

What does your ministry do? Heart to Heart is a confidential outreach program that provides new clothes at Christmas for those in the Botkins and Jackson Center communities who are in need.

What volunteer opportunities are available? During early Advent, parishioners select one or more hearts from the charts displayed in the back of the churches. Each heart contains information about the item needed and the size or age of the person for whom it is needed (e.g., long-sleeved shirt for girl, size 10).

How else can people help? Volunteers can help with some last minute shopping, as well as cutting out, putting up, and taking down the hearts at church.

Loaves & Fishes Community Meals, Wapakoneta

Primary Contact: Brenda Wellington,
419-204-2263; bmwbki@bright.net
Secondary contact: Steve Sadler (St. Joseph)
419-235-7379; shs5393@yahoo.com



Loaves & Fishes provides a free meal and fellowship every Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (Glynwood & Hamilton roads). All are welcome, regardless of economic circumstance. Each week the meal is prepared and served by a different church or organization. We welcome any church, club, or organization into our family of those who prepare and serve meals. We are also very grateful for monetary donations.

A weekly meal is delivered to those who are homebound. If you know such persons, please pass their information on to us or give them the above contact numbers.

Kairos Prison Ministry (Kairos is Greek for "God's special time")

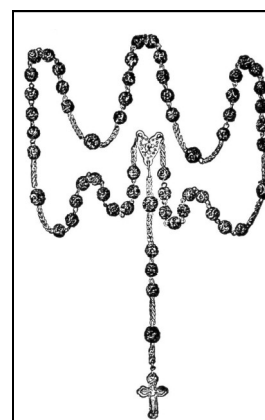
Primary Contact: David Goff, 937-926-5591, goff.16@osu.edu

What does your ministry do? Kairos is a prison ministry that brings God's love to male and female inmates in the U.S. & internationally, through Christian Renewal Weekends like Cursillo, Emmaus Walk, Cum Christo, etc.

What volunteer opportunities are available? One form of direct volunteering is to serve the prison retreat weekends on the ministry team. You might act as a Christian sponsor to an inmate during the retreat, or work on the kitchen or music teams. Kairos also needs those willing to serve on the cookie counting team.

How else can people help? Each Kairos retreat weekend costs several thousand dollars and requires several thousand dozen cookies, as well as other forms of Agape, such as making colored placemats and posters demonstrating God's Love. Financial donations and fundraising assistance are also needed.

Anything else we should know? The recidivism rate for those who attend a Kairos weekend is significantly less than those who do not have this opportunity. These weekends are so positive and powerful that they will change lives, both yours and the prisoners'. There is nothing more meaningful than bringing God's love to someone you don't even know.



Honoring The Power of Prayer: Cenacle for Life

Primary Contact: Lilly M. Hill,
513/460-2490

What does your ministry do? Participants meet at 6:45 p.m. on Thursdays in the babysitting room at St. Joseph Church. We pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, and promise to fast once a week.
What volunteer opportunities are available? Come and pray with us!

Tell others. Pick up brochures at church to distribute.

Meal Ministry

Initial Contact for IC: Jane Steinke at the IC office, 937/693-2561; iccstlc@bright.net

Contact for Saint Lawrence: Mary Coleman, 937/596-5382; coleman.m@rhodesstate.edu

Contact for Saint Joseph: Alita Cramer, 567/242-3575; acramer@watchtv.net

What does your ministry do? The Meal Ministry serves parishioners who are temporarily unable to prepare/provide meals for themselves, for example, because of illness or recent hospitalization. One meal is provided daily, or as needed.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers are contacted by their parish coordinator to contribute a meal for the individual or family in need. Volunteers deliver the meal to the home on the designated date. At IC the meal providers are coordinated by Darla Dietz; please call her at 937/693-2753 to volunteer.

How else may people help? Please call your parish coordinator if you need assistance or know of an individual or family who might need assistance, and she will make the necessary arrangements.

Mercy Unlimited, Inc., 38 East Auglaize Street, Wapakoneta

Primary Contact: Tammy Brown, 419/738-3161; mercy@bright.net

Secondary Contact: Charlene Smith, 419/738-3161; mercy@bright.net

What does your ministry do? Serving eastern Auglaize County, Mercy Unlimited operates a food pantry, gives good clean clothing to families in need, and provides emergency housing and prescriptions. We provide financial support for a chaplaincy team at the county jail. Mercy also partners with Auglaize County Job and Family Services to distribute school supplies to qualified students.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers can staff the food pantry or thrift store—as interviewers or workers—serve on the jail ministry team, or assist with social media.

How else can people help? Volunteers can serve on committees, and involve themselves with fundraising, marketing, public relations, and food reclamation.

*Petersburg parishioners who reside in Shelby County may wish to contact **Agape Distribution**, 209 Brooklyn Avenue, Sidney, agapedistribution.org, which operates a food pantry.*

Neighbors to Neighbors (at IC and SL)

Primary Contact: Linus Greve, 937/693-2278, lsrgreve@gmail.com

Secondary Contact: Dean Altstaetter, 937/538-0096

What does your ministry do? We help those in the community who need assistance with (typically) yard work or cleaning, etc.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Anyone is welcome to help out by calling us. We are trying to find more volunteers, so anyone who could step up would be greatly appreciated.

How else can people help? Let us know if anyone needs assistance.

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, 125 S. Central, Lima

Primary Contact: Stephen Jenkins, 419/224-2086; odbread@wcoil.com

What does your ministry do? Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen provides nutrition and comfort to those who hunger. Hunger does not have a season in which it ceases. Hunger exists 52 weeks of the year and comes in many forms. We serve free meals Monday-Friday (including holidays) between 10 a.m. and noon.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers help every day with meal preparation, serving, and general clean-up, such as mopping floors and washing dishes. They also unload trucks, organize shelves, and assist visitors with basic needs, such as getting the meal, finding their clothing size, or offering a listening ear, encouragement, and prayer.

How else can people help? We depend solely on the generosity of individuals, business, organizations, and churches to meet our financial needs. Gifts are used frugally to cover costs of food, basic supplies, utilities, and the simple payroll necessary to this operation.

Right to Life of Shelby County, Ohio

www.shelbycountyrctl.org

Primary Contact: Ann Cordonnier, 937/498-1812; office@shelbycountyrctl.org

Secondary Contact: Kevin Schmiesing, 937/492-5584; director@shelbycountyrctl.org

What does your ministry do? Right to Life is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization that promotes respect and legal protection for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death, with a focus on the issues of abortion and euthanasia. Practically, our work involves the following: a thrift shop to provide low-cost or no-cost diapers, baby supplies, and clothing to families in need; educational programs on life issues (e.g., talks to school and church groups); and public awareness events (e.g., prayer vigils, fair booth).

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers assist with all of these programs. The greatest need is for volunteers to staff the thrift shop, open Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.. Volunteers also help with newsletter mailings, parade float construction, and planning and managing events for fundraising and public awareness, among other tasks.

How else can people help? We encourage people to become members of Right to Life (dues are \$12 per year). The public is welcome to visit the office and thrift shop.

*Petersburg parishioners who reside in Auglaize County may wish to contact the **Family Life Center**, 150 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, familylife_ac@yahoo.com, for various volunteer opportunities.*

Saint Vincent DePaul Society, 107 W. Pearl Street,
Wapakoneta, 419/738-7456
Hours of Operation: Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

What does your ministry do? St. Vincent De Paul Society-Helen Steinke Conference is an organization of volunteers from area churches of all denominations. We assist the needy who reside within the Wapakoneta and Waynesfield school districts with rent, utility bills, prescriptions, and gas vouchers.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers answer tele-phones, schedule applicants, and making referrals for assistance.

How else can people help? The ministry is supported by donations from churches, service clubs, and individuals. 100% of all donations are used to provide assistance.

Stephen Ministry

Primary Contact: Polly Scherger, 419 738-8098; stjoesm@bright.net

What does your ministry do? Stephen Ministry shares God's love with others and builds up the Body of Christ. A free, strictly confidential service, Stephen Ministry is a formalized one-to-one Christian care-giving relationship that ministers to people experiencing any kind of life transition or difficulty. A Stephen Minister honors the dignity and sacredness of each person. The Stephen Minister is God's healing presence.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Petersburg parishioners, carefully and prayerfully discern whether God is calling you to be His healing presence to another by becoming a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers commit to two years of service. They receive 50 hours of training, covering such topics as quality Christian care, confidentiality, listening, boundaries, assertiveness, grief, and how to be a healing presence. Stephen Ministers meet twice a month for prayer, structured supervision, and continuing education. Watch the bulletin for future training opportunities .

How else can people help? Think "Stephen" and suggest Stephen Ministry to family and friends when they are experiencing any of life's difficulties. Consider accepting a Stephen Minister for yourself when facing difficulties.

The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Solidarity

Care for God's Creation

If you haven't seen a ministry that interests you, consider the above list for ideas. For more information about the themes, go to catholiccincinnati.org to locate the Catholic Social Action office and the resources it provides. There's a role for *every* one of us in bringing justice to the earth!

This flier has been provided by the Petersburg Parishes Social Justice Commission, whose members are Beth Boerger, Jenni Doseck, John Doseck, Deb Parker, Bob Scherger, Maria Trump, and Rachel Barber.

Teens for Truth

Primary Contact: Kim Poeppelman, 419-733-3447;
pupman@roadrunner.com

Secondary Contact: Teresa Harshbarger, 419-738-5367;
btharsh@watchtv.net

What does your ministry do? The Teens for Truth's goal is to spread awareness about the dignity of Human Life at any age and to teach God's truth about the moral issues we face in our daily lives. Whether it be marching in a parade, painting the "Breath of Life in a Beating Heart" symbol on buildings, praying the rosary on Radio Maria, holding retreats, conducting prayer vigils, praying at abortion centers, etc., the Teens for Truth organization strives to promote a culture of life, and to learn about and show others the love that God has for all His people.

What volunteer opportunities are available? We occasionally need snacks, drinks, etc., for our events. Anyone willing to have the "Breath of Life in a Beating Heart" painted on their outdoor building (for free) is appreciated. Monetary donations or items for the Women's Centers are always needed. All are invited to pray the rosary with Teens for Truth on Radio Maria (88.7) on the 4th Monday of every month.

Women's Center-Sidney

Primary Contact: Mary Rosenbeck, 937/596-5330;
dmrosenbeck@gmail.com

Secondary Contact: Joyce Platfoot, 937/693-6251;
joyce_43060@hotmail.com

What does your ministry do? The Women's Center offers free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, free parenting classes (through which parents can earn free baby items from the boutique), emergency assistance diapers and formula, free maternity clothes and educational information about abortions, birth control, and STDs.

What volunteer opportunities are available? Volunteers can serve as mentor moms, consultants, and help with cleaning or office work.

How else can people help? We have four prayer lines we call when we have an abortion-minded client come into the center; we can ALWAYS use prayer "warriors." We accept donations of used maternity clothes (in good condition), as well as diapers, wipes, or new baby items any time of year (there are baskets at the back of IC). All funds come from private donations and grants. Please refer family and/or friends who may need assistance.

*Don't forget our **Sister Parish** relationship with St. Peter Church, Monticello, Kentucky, including our new effort, Mountain Moms. More about this in 2013!*

The Social Justice Legislative Advocacy Network also begins in earnest in 2013. If you would like to receive emails on a regular (but infrequent) basis about current social justice issues and the steps you can take to influence public policy, please let us know and we will add you to the mailing list.