



# The Shining Light

August 2011

Volume 15, Number 3

## BEACON

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### MECCA Auction is BEACON's Biggest Fundraiser

The 18th Annual Metro East Community Charity Auction will take place on Saturday, October 8th at Belleville West High School. Doors open at 4:30 pm. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for BEACON (and other organizations). We have had good participation and lots of donations in recent years. What we really need to make MECCA a success for us is attendance. We have some great oral auction items, lots of beautiful baskets, artwork and gift certificates, and the best volunteers in the world to work the event. What we need now is YOU. It is only a success when we get people to come and bid on these items. Dinner and music are good, the fellowship is even better, and bidding on the items is the most fun of all!

You have to agree that dinner and entertainment for \$25 a person is a really good deal in 2011! Some of the items available in our oral auction are:  
 A week (timeshare) in Destin, Florida  
 A pizza and appetizer party for up to 100 at Shenanigan's in Belleville  
 A bonfire and haunted hayride at Eckert's in Millstadt  
 A \$250 gift certificate for Chiro-Med  
 A \$100 gift certificate for Craft Eye Photography  
 There will be additional items as well as many silent auction items to bid on. Please bring a friend and join in the fun to support BEACON

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#### Board Members

**John Laker**, President, Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
**Diane Runyan**, Vice-President, Faith Lutheran Church  
**Mickie Moore**, Secretary, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
**Gwen Borsch**, Treasurer, St Paul United Church of Christ/Blessed Savior Lutheran

**Rev. Dr. John Dawson**, Sterling Baptist Church  
**Rev. Rick Hodshire**, Cornerstone Christian Church  
**Larry Reid**, St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church  
**June Wolz**, Signal Hill Lutheran Church  
**Pearl Washington**, Radiance Center for Spiritual Living

**Rev. Dorothy Berry**, Wilkerson Chapel AME Church  
**Jim Eckert**, Union United Methodist Church  
**Yvonne Hayes**, St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church  
**John Prather**, First Church of Christ Scientist, Fairview Heights

## BEACON'S Relational Ministry

BEACON's Relational Ministry has been operating for almost ten years. Though it was started at the West End of Belleville, Relational has been meeting at Union United Methodist Church in Downtown Belleville for much of its tenure.

For those who don't know what Relational Ministry is, it is a hands on ministry which gives church volunteers and BEACON staff an opportunity to interact with local folks who are in need of some encouragement, a meal, an opportunity for Bible Study, or often just the fellowship of a familiar setting and some friendly faces. We try to incorporate some life skills training, as well as make resources available, but most of the folks who attend Relational on a regular basis are interested in the great cooking, the fellowship and the preaching!

An important part of this ministry in past years has been the partnership with Eden Seminary, which allows us to

be a placement for a seminary intern. This tradition has allowed BEACON to utilize the gifts of a number of first or second year (Master of Divinity) students and has been an opportunity for the students to fill a contextual



*Relational Ministry at Union Methodist*

education requirement.

Although we had no student for the 2010-2011 school year, it looks as if we will once again be working with Eden this fall.

One of the newer additions to Relational is that of a hot meal at each gathering. A group of men and women from Union United Methodist prepare and serve the meal once each month. Since Relational meets twice most months, there is an opportunity for other churches

to provide meals. Peace Lutheran Church has prepared and delivered a meal every other month for the past year, and meals have also been provided by Westminster Presbyterian and St Augustine. The attendance at Relational Ministry varies, but we usually have between 25 and 35. I would welcome any donation of a prepared meal, or a donation toward one I can purchase.

We provide a five dollar incentive at the end of each meeting. Incentives available are a Schnuck's gift card, 2 bus tickets, or a gas voucher. The Schnuck's card incentives have typically been funded by grants, most recently from Community Kindness and the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy.

While many of our participants are residents of the downtown area, it is not unusual to have a few homeless people to whom we can minister. Please call Laurie at the BEACON office if you are interested in participating or donating.



### Just In from Jade

“Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to what He promised.” Hebrews 10:23. BEACON has begun a reversioning process to reexamine who we are and who we want to be in the future. We remain as committed as ever to the

mission & objectives of BEACON.



Please pray for BEACON as we journey through this rigorous process to ensure we follow Jesus’s ideals in serving those in need in our communities at large. We, too, at BEACON trust God to what He promised.

### BEACON Statistics

<b>April</b>	<b>262 requests completed</b>	<b>17 furniture</b>	<b>6 transportation</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>209 requests completed</b>	<b>15 furniture</b>	<b>4 transportation</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>224 requests completed</b>	<b>10 furniture</b>	<b>6 transportation</b>

## Volunteer Barb Edwards

Although Barb Edwards is one of BEACON’s newest volunteers, she has been working as an intake volunteer on Friday mornings for about a year. Barb is a Belleville native and life long Methodist who grew up attending Union United Methodist Church. Not only is she a member there, she works in Union’s Food Pantry and as a volunteer receptionist two days per week. A recent widow, Barb has a

grown daughter and a grown son, with three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She has recently moved into a villa and is in the process of getting her house ready to sell. Barb likes to do puzzles and play cards in her limited spare time. She has two dogs, who provide walking exercise and a cat who runs the household. Barb brings a wonderful and compassionate voice to Friday



### Financial Matters

	Budgeted	Received	Budgeted	Rcvd
	April-June	April-June	YTD	YTD
Individuals	\$5,840	\$3,370	\$11,680	\$9,,565
Churches	\$7,750	\$6,565	\$15,500	\$14,988
Businesses	\$1,210	\$0	\$2,420	\$1,550
Organizations	\$1,250	\$1,891	\$2,500	\$2,241
Fundraising	\$3,750	\$2,230	\$7,500	\$5,502
Grants	\$2,250	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,200
Totals	\$22,050	\$18,056	\$44,100	\$39,046



### Lines from Laurie-The Homeless Initiative

As a way to advocate for the homeless, I have become involved with the Homeless Initiative of St. Clair County. This is a grassroots effort to find ways to serve the homeless in our community. Meetings have been held at St Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville, with good attendance and lots of press coverage. There are many people in the Metro East who would like to end homelessness and are willing to do their part.

A conference is planned for October 18th at St Paul's from 9 until noon.

discuss and plan ways to shelter people during extreme weather. The places which currently function as cooling centers in Belleville are only available for 6-9 hours a day, and this is not enough. Sheltering people during extreme heat and cold is only the first step, but it is an important one.

Many others are doing the hard work of researching available resources, talking to local government representatives, and following the steps to become a 501 C 3. A Board of Directors is being formed and a list

of advisors is being compiled. If you are called to help the homeless, please keep the Initiative in your prayers and be ready to volunteer once programs are in place.



A donation envelope is included in this newsletter. If you feel that BEACON is serving God's less fortunate in ways you believe are good, we would appreciate your financial support, or check the wish list on the back of this newsletter. BEACON operates entirely on donations and fundraising. We wish you God's blessings. Thank you.

**Metro East  
Community Charity  
Auction**



***Don't miss this year's M.E.C.C.A.***

***Auction and dinner!***

***Saturday, October 8, 2011***

***Belleville West High School***

***4063 Frank Scott Parkway West***

***Belleville***

***Doors open at 4:30 pm***

***Tickets \$25***

***Call BEACON at***

***222-8942 for tickets***



*BEACON would like to thank all who supported and helped with our two recent fundraisers, especially Sherry Foppe for the Quarter Auction and Yvonne Hayes for the Applebee's Breakfast. There was a good turn out and lots of hard work for both.*

## Recent Supporters

(May 15-Aug 15)

Kathleen Ashby-Ontiveros

Brady Baker

Joseph A Bank Clothiers

Jim & Sally Beaird

Shirley Bevirt

Katherine Bonifield

Chris Booth

Gwen Borsch

Charles & Susan Botula

Jack & Leta Brown

Laurie & John Brown

Jim & Patty Buckhannon

Christ United Methodist

Christian Family Church

Kathy & Frank Coe

Community Kindness

Cornerstone Christian Church

Anita Coughenour

Ralph & Edith Crago

Doug & Staci Cripe

Crossroads Christian Church

Ruth Dahm

Kevin & Maggie Daugherty

Delta Theta Tau Sorority

Diane Drovetta-Kreeb

Jim & Carol Eckert

Mardy Eisloeffel

Lisa Ellis

Faith Family Church

Faith Lutheran Church

Nancy Franke

Bob & Sharon Gage

Garden Heights Baptist Church

David Garris

Giddings Lovejoy

Presbytery

John Beverly Goretzke

Sharon Goretzke

Sherill Graber

Grace Church

Norman & Carol Hake

Yvonne Hayes

Tony & Vera Held

Dale Hodges

Bud & Janet Hollinberger

Ken & Shirley Holmes

Hope Church

Dennis & Kim Hubbard

Sallie Jefferson

Jean Jones

John & Robin Jurich

Doris Kempfer

Pat Killian

Chris Knavel

Wanda Knepper

John & Bobbie Laker

Ruth Mader

Megan McKay

Chris & Linda McEvilly

Diane Messer

Patricia Meyer

Joan Miller

Chuck & Mickie Moore

Earl & Virginia Morris

Beth Mueller

Ruel & Billie Neeley

Michelle Parsons

Peace Lutheran Church

Louise Phillips

Lisa Phillipson

John & Dala Prather

Prospect Park United Methodist Church

Radiance Center for Spiritual Living

Richard & Carolyn Rawlings

Helen Richter

St Augustine of Canterbury

St Paul UCC

Mike Sawyer

Sherry Simpson

Mike & Jade Sodam

Geraldine Thomas

Turkey Hill Grange

Larry Twigg

Union United Methodist Church

Joe & Onnie Wargo

Bernice Warning

Pearl Washington

Ed & Nancy Weston

Sue Whetstone

June Wolz

### Donations in Honor Of:

Dale Hodges on his Birthday

J.O.Y. Sunday School Class at Crossroads Christian Church

Laurie Brown by Ruth Mader

### Donations in Memory of:

Elizabeth Cropper by

Vera & Tony Held

Bob Anderson by Vera & Tony Held



## **What's New at BEACON's Furniture Ministry?**

The work at our warehouse is finished and an office and bathroom are very convenient additions. Volunteers from Cornerstone Christian Church continue to work with Bill Kniesly, BEACON's Furniture Ministry Coordinator, on the third Saturday of each month.

Beginning in October, a group of volunteers from Union United Methodist Church will be working with Bill on the first

Saturday of each month to pick up and deliver donated furniture to persons and families in need. In September, they will work the second Saturday (due to the Labor Day holiday).

We are in need of beds, dressers, couches, chairs, coffee and end tables, kitchen tables and chairs, bedding, dishes and pots and pans, and microwaves. We are not currently taking appliances or televisions, as these items

frequently don't fit the needs of our clients. Please call BEACON at 222-8942 if you or someone you know has gently used items to donate.



## **A Day of Renewal**

### **For Those Who Work With the Poor**

This is a yearly event held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. All who work at food pantries or churches or with service providers are invited. It is a chance for some badly needed Spiritual Renewal. The time is 9am to 3pm.

Featured Speakers are Dan Buck, former CEO of the St. Patrick Center, and AJ French, Executive Director of an organization founded to provide housing and employment services for individuals living with significant mental health conditions.

The cost is \$10. Lunch is on your own. The event is cosponsored by the Shrine, BEACON and St Vincent DePaul.

Call Judy Williamson at 394-6270 or email her at [jwilliamson@snows.org](mailto:jwilliamson@snows.org) for reservations or information.

BEACON  
P.O. BOX 23468  
Belleville, IL 62223  
Business Line 618 222-8942  
Client Line 618 222-8842

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Belleville, IL 62220 Permit No. 468
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Dated Material  
Please Do Not Hold

**BEACON's Churches**

**Partner Churches**

Central Christian Church  
Christian Family Church  
Christ United Church of Christ  
Cornerstone Christian Church  
Crossroads Christian Church  
Faith Family Church  
Faith Lutheran Church  
First United Presbyterian Church  
Grace Church  
Hope Church  
Life Church  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Radiance Center for Spiritual Living  
St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic  
St Mary Catholic Church  
St Nicholas Catholic Church

St Paul United Church of Christ  
St Stephen Catholic Church  
Signal Hill Lutheran Church  
Signal Hill United Methodist Church  
Sterling Baptist Church  
Union United Methodist Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Wilkerson Chapel AME Church

**Participating Churches**

Abdias Christian Faith Fellowship  
First Church of Christ Scientist  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Parkview Church of the Nazarene  
Redeemer Community Church (PCA)  
St Clare Catholic Church  
St Luke Catholic Church  
St Teresa Catholic Church

Zion Lutheran Church

**Supporting Churches**

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christ United Methodist Church  
First Baptist Church of Belleville  
Garden Heights Baptist Church  
O'Fallon Assembly of God  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
Prospect Park United Methodist Church  
St John United Church of Christ  
St Peter Cathedral Catholic Church  
Swansea Church  
Trinity United Church of Christ  
Well of Living Water Ministries  
*(Your Church's Name Could Appear Here!)*