

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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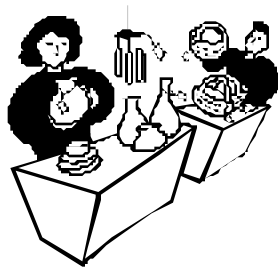
ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGES

Beginning Sunday, September 7, there will be changes in how announcements occur within the church worship service. The Worship Committee wants to make the most of our worship time together.

Microphones will no longer be passed around the sanctuary *during the announcement time*. Instead, one "event announcer" will make all the announcements at the beginning of the service. Those with announcements can contact Carol Sterup by phone at 293-6603.

PW BAZAAR IS COMING

Plans are underway for the Annual PW Fall Bazaar. Mark your calendar for September 27 and 28 and keep working on your favorite crafts and get out your favorite time-tested recipes, or maybe try some new ones, for the bake sale. The bazaar is our major fundraiser, so be ready to come and support us. For more information on "what Presbyterian Women do," see the article on page 9.



PASTOR'S PEN

Some months, I really have to work a bit to come up with a good idea for this column (some readers may suggest that some months, I work in vain...). This, however, is not one of those months. This month, if I were to write everything I want to say about every good topic I've thought of, the column would probably end up roughly as long as the whole newsletter usually is, and the editor (not to mention you readers) would not be very happy with me. So I'm going to offer some quick thoughts on a number of topics, and invite any of you who so desire to engage me in further discussion on any of them. Here goes...



We're just wrapping up our most suc-
(Continued on page 2)

In this issue

	<u>Page</u>
Blair's African News	3
Christian Book Fair	2
Dates to Remember	5
Financial Report	5
Focus on Mission	10
Interviews by Soul Train	8
July Clerk's Corner	6
June Clerk's Corner	4
Mid July/August Calendar	11
Thanks from Curt Brophy	7
What PW Do	9

(Continued from page 1)

successful season of church softball to date. By “successful,” I don’t mean that we’ve won more games than we’ve lost—our record is pretty similar to the past couple of years. What I mean is that I think this year’s team has been our best yet at playing hard together, having fun together, and representing the welcoming and hospitable spirit of Community Presbyterian among the other churches in the league. Now, if only we could be a bit less hospitable to opposing batters with two outs...

My second trip to Kenya is approaching fast. We will leave on July 29, and return on August 18. The Presbytery’s team of 11 people, including Melissa Barentsen, Boots Misheski, Mary Jo Moorhead, Jackie Petik, Bonnie Thompson, and myself from CPC, will be spending time sharing crafts, Bible stories, and songs with kids from the presbyteries of Chogoria, our partners in Kenya. We would be honored if you would include us in your prayers during our trip...

By the time you have this newsletter in hand, we will have officially bid Godspeed to Curt Brophy, who has served as our Youth Director for the past two years. Curt and Kadra are headed to Dubuque, Iowa, where Curt will begin his studies at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary this Fall. Curt has begun the process of becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian church, and I am, at the same time, excited and faintly envious for the adventure that lies before him (I remember seminary very fondly). I am also somewhat sad that we will no longer have Curt and Kadra around on a daily basis, but our loss is the Church’s gain. We haven’t seen the last of the Brophys, though. Curt is under care of

our congregation and our presbytery for the duration of the process, and he will be coming back to report to us from time to time. Kadra and Curt also plan to return, so far as I know, for Confirmation Sunday on October 5—they are each mentoring one of our current confirmands. Please take a moment, either in church on July 20 or by email (brocur@yahoo.com) to offer Curt and Kadra your best wishes.

As Curt leaves to begin his trek toward ordained ministry, I find that I have passed milestone in my service here at CPC. As of July 1, I have been the pastor here for 5 years! I can hardly believe it, but the calendar doesn’t lie...

Finally, the General Assembly of our denomination held its biennial meeting recently, and made several important decisions that have the potential to widely impact the future of the church. I will have something to say about these decisions, and how they might affect us, but this will require more time and study for me to prepare. So, for now, I will simply say that, while many of the GA’s actions give me great concern, those concerns are far smaller than my confidence that it is God, not the General Assembly, me, or anyone else, who is sovereign over the universal church and over our denomination, and that, ultimately, his will will be done. For this moment and for all time, that is really enough.

CHRISTIAN BOOK FAIR

In September, during the weekend of West Fest, the Mission Outreach Committee plans to sponsor a Christian Book Fair. It will be held in the narthex on Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21. This will be a great time to stock up on Christmas gifts!



BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from a freezing Nairobi! Now, I know you have a very strong tolerance for freezing, but imagine a country going through winter without indoor heating! It's chilly, but survivable (I hope).

By far the coolest thing I've done in the last month was traveling to Mozambique. I've had this beautiful mental image of the country ever since I heard the Bob Dylan song about it, and after a few sedentary months in Nairobi I was thrilled to go somewhere new. Of course, I wasn't going for a vacation on the beach but as a note-taker/administrative assistant for two important planning meetings for the AACCC's 9th General Assembly. But still - Mozambique!

When we stepped out of the airport, my colleagues and I were greeted with a warm beach-y breeze. I did catch glimpses of the ocean, it was picturesquely framed by a mosque and colorful plaster buildings out my hotel window. I also was reminded I was at the beach when we drove past an outdoor site which will host one of the venues of our continental gathering in December.

Planning the conference has really been a series of tasks, most of them leading to new assignments as soon as they are completed. So there have been very few moments when we can really cross off items on our to-do list. Until this meeting. We were crossing off items left and right, and all who attended were brilliant and helpful. This meant my fingers were madly typing the whole time, but it was a great feeling to have so many Assembly ideas flying around the room.

I got home on a Tuesday night, and Friday morning, I was in the airport again

enroute to central Kenya for the YAV closing retreat. Closing YAV activities for me - there was a retreat and a luncheon - are bittersweet; I am sad to see the year come to an end, but since I will actually be here until December I can't fully throw myself into the concluding spirit. Last night the last volunteer living on my street went home. I am not sure why he thinks Texas is a better place to be than Kenya, but it finally brought the point home that people are leaving.

This fact made me think of one of my favorite quotes by one of my favorite authors, Jonathan Safran Foer. If you don't mind, I will end with it: "So many people enter and leave your life! Hundreds of thousands of people! You have to keep the door open so they can come in! But it also means you have to let them go!"

Thank you for your prayers and support, and I look forward to seeing you in August when I'm home for a couple weeks!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blair Moorhead is currently serving in Nairobi, Kenya with the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. For more news about her work in Africa, Go to Blair's blog at:

<http://blairinkenya.blogspot.com/>

EVENING OF KENYAN TEA

Please join Blair Moorhead and Jenna Barenthsen on August 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall for an evening of Kenyan tea, snacks, and a presentation on Blair's PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer year in Kenya. Please come if you have ever wondered about Christianity in Africa, experiences living on a new continent for a year, or the Kenyan equivalent of doughnuts. Donations towards Blair's fundraising efforts for her return to Kenya to complete the project she has been working on for the past year will be greatly appreciated, but definitely not mandatory.



JUNE CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on June 19th at the church.

Cheryl Montgomery reported that the response to the Adopt-An-Expense Project has been very successful, and we are still receiving contributions. \$6,765.96 has been contributed.

Cheryl made a suggestion to include self addressed envelopes with the contribution reports in July so that it would be easier to send in contributions. These envelopes would not be sent to those persons who have the money withdrawn from their bank accounts. Summer is always a period when contributions are low, and we need to borrow money to pay the bills. It seems that every summer, with many people taking vacations or going to the lake, the contributions are slow to come in.

Session approved using money from the Secretarial Office Fund, the LeRoy Horn Memorial Fund, and some funds generated by the Designated Memorial Fund to pay the bill for the new cabinets in the secretary's office. Everyone is invited to stop in the office and see what a change has been made.

Mary Holtey from First Presbyterian Church of Fargo and a member of the Committee on Ministry attended the meeting to gather material from our church to help presbytery serve congregations better. She asked for some history of the church, where we feel we are at now, where we hope to be in the future, and what the presbytery can do to help us.

A request from Life Line Screening to use the fellowship hall on September 22 was denied as it would conflict with the pre-school there.

Bonnie Thompson volunteered to serve

as flower person for the church because Donna Gertz is unable to continue that work. Bonnie asked that she be able to purchase artificial flowers and some vases to use on a rotating basis according to the season of the year. Permission was given. She is to work with the Worship Committee to accomplish this. Donna Gertz will assist her. Those who wish to donate fresh flowers should contact Bonnie Thompson.

The audit report by Yvonne Hummel and Kathy Potter was accepted. They stated that the church's finances have been handled properly.

Two requests for baptism were approved: Zachary Scott Hansen, son of Scott and Melanie Hansen, on July 13 and Gabriel Steele, son of Andrew and Janine Steele, on July 20. Carrie Leopold's request to hold a baby shower for Zachary Hansen on July 17 at 6:30 p.m. was approved. No showers were given at the time of the births of Scott and Melanie Hansen's daughters.

The Mission Committee was given permission to hold a Christian Book Fair in the narthex on the Saturday and Sunday during West Fest. Vicky Whitcomb reported that money contributed to the Clearwater Bible Camp for a kayak was only enough to purchase 3/5 of a kayak.

The candidate for the Youth Leader Position has accepted a position with another institution. The Christian Education Committee is considering have co-leaders and asking parents of the youth to help with the events. The Personnel Committee will continue to advertise for a Youth Leader at the colleges and universities in the area. Any one interested is asked to contact Boots Misheski, Gayle Thostenson, or Toni Stith to find out more about the position.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

The Stewardship Committee reported that pledges for the POD II campaign have been very slow at coming in. They urge those who have not pledged to send in their pledges.

The clerk reported that 78 persons were served Communion on June 8.

Delores Horn
Clerk of Session

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT



BUDGETED 2008 GIVING:
\$153,280.00 / 52 WEEKS
\$2948/WK

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>NEEDED GIVING TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE</u>
7/17/08	\$82,544	\$75,651

As of July 21, 2008, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$75,651 compared to the \$82,544 needed for the same time period.

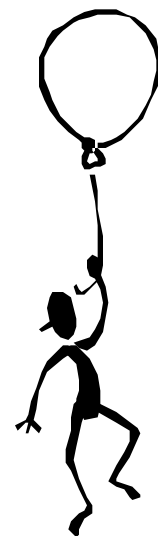
These figures do not include the mortgage payments which are funded from the building fund money market (Project Open Door giving).

We have added \$5,000 to our note this summer with a balance of \$7,900.00. We are looking to "break the cycle" of summer borrowing, and at the least would like to curb it!

We are seeing a trend of less borrowing this year than in the previous four years, but \$5,000 is still significant and we'd like to hold it there. Please consider using the self addressed envelopes included with your contribution reports to mail in your pledge if you cannot be with us this summer. This is another tool to "break the cycle".

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER**BIRTHDAYS**

- 8-1 Gayle Thostenson
- 8-3 Goodie Paulsen
- 8-4 LeRoy Bowman
- 8-6 Christian Steffen
- 8-7 Brandon Witt
- 8-8 McKenna Ohm
Branden Smith
- 8-9 Donna Jenner
- 8-11 David Hemm
Judy McLeod
- 8-12 Paige Pederson
- 8-13 Branden Smith
- 8-15 Carol Sterup
Chuck Thompson
- 8-18 Dixie Smith
Mayim Stith
- 8-23 Arlyn Meyer
Paula Sebelius
- 8-24 Tara Sheeley
- 8-25 Brett Colliton
Greta Rehling
- 8-28 Stephani Steffen
- 8-30 Erica Bahls
Marlys Martin
- 8-31 Esther Bowman
Nancy Kassman
Lisa Steffen

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 8-2-68 – Gordy and Judy Pederson
- 8-7-50 – LeRoy and Esther Bowman
- 8-9-59 – Dean and Joan Hall
- 8-14-81 – Roger and Melissa Barenthsen
- 8-11-62 – Anneus and Marj Meester
- 8-15-00 – Allen and Arlyn Meyer
- 8-18-73 – Bob and Susan Gross
- 8-18-90 – Steve and Sue Hanna
- 8-19-06 – Curt and Kadra Brophy
- 8-20-66 – Rae and Edsel Kercher
- 8-21-60 – Jim and Brenda Bjorklund



JULY CLERK'S CORNER

Session met at 7:00 p.m. on June 17, 2008 in the conference room.

Because Pastor Stith will be in Kenya the first three Sundays in August and the pulpit will be supplied by members of the church, Session voted NOT to have communion in August. The next communion will be September 7th.

Carrie Leopold and Dawn Larson's request to hold the Annual Brat Sale in the front parking lot was approved. The proceeds will help fund the music program of the church. Members are urged to bring bars and other goodies to be sold also.

Session voted to deny a request from VBS to decorate the front windows with colored markers to promote attendance. This was denied because a similar request was denied last year, and the motion to deny included the provision that no requests to decorate the front windows with writings or drawings will be approved in the future.

The Quilters Group's request to hold their annual Christmas Quilt Raffle this fall beginning at the Fall Bazaar the end of September was approved provided that permission is received from the city.

Curt Brophy will be commissioned this Sunday, July 20 before he goes to Seminary this fall. The Brophys will be moving at the end of July. Past and present elders are urged to attend for the laying on of hands during the commissioning. A gift will be presented to Curt at this time.

The Worship Committee reported that they will institute a trial period of having an "announcer" to make announcements

during the Worship Service each Sunday. The members are asked to write out the announcements and give them to the "announcer" before the service begins. They will also provide a written reminder sheet of any routine announcements that are given to the church office by Thursday each week. These "reminder sheets" will be handed out by the ushers following the service. This is being done to shorten the time used for announcements before the worship service begins and to keep bulletins from being so bulky.

The Christmas Cantata will be part of a regular worship service (30-35 minutes) so that more members may enjoy it. Included in this worship service would be prayers, confession of faith, declaration of pardon, and one congregational hymn. It was felt that this may increase the attendance to the cantata. The date for the cantata has not been determined at this time.

A Kenyan Tea Party by Blair Moorhead and Jenna Barentsen will be held on August 27th. The August Mission project will be Presbytery Disaster Assistance. The Christian Book Fair plans are moving ahead to be held during West Fest.

The Trustees are working on getting brighter lights in the sanctuary in response to complaints from members about it being rather dark in the sanctuary.

The Deacons reported that they now have a list of persons who are willing to provide food the church members who have need of it. They also reported that Peggy Rosenkranz is back at Villa Maria but is not doing well; Esther Nitschke is now living at Manor Care. Karen Steele is fielding all calls for assistance for the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)
deacons.

At the close of services on the 20th of July Pastor Stith will ask members to move to the front of the sanctuary so that a group picture can be taken to use on the Kenya Trip to show Kenyans the people of our congregation. The group going from our presbytery is asking people to pick up a strip of colored construction from the back of the sanctuary and take them home to write a praise or Bible verse on them. They will be used with strips from other churches to make a Praise Chain. Do NOT paste the strips together as that would make them too bulky to take to Kenya.

Communion was served to 68 persons on June 13. Zachary Scott Hansen was baptized on July 13th, 2008. The Clerk announced that the Service and Fellowship Group is having a cake on July 20th to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of Matt Stith becoming our pastor.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

THANKS FROM CURTIS BROPHY

As you all probably know now Kadra and I will be heading to Dubuque University so that I might pursue a Master of Divinity. What you may not know is that being a part of Community Presbyterian has been a vital piece of the puzzle God has used to call me to ordained ministry. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the support you have given me over the past two years and would like you all to know that I appreciate you greatly. This congregation has a strong core and has been a very good place for a person like me to get a lot of experience which will continue to help me wherever I go.

What you also may not know is that I have come under the care of our church

and our Presbytery. This means I will be in contact with both the church and our Presbytery over the coming three years. This also means that this area will keep me accountable and help me prepare for ministry while I have the support of a greater congregation. So, even though I am moving on, I am by no means gone.

I would also like to thank everyone who took the time and money to help the youth group. We have a lot of left over coffee from the Coffee Shop times and I have placed them in the cabinets for the church to use. For the two of you that donated the cappuccino machines, feel free to pick them up from the cabinet of the youth room. Otherwise I will tell Christian Ed and the church that they can continue to use them.

Finally, I would like to thank the kids. You, the middle and high school youth groups, made our group worth the time spent. Each one of you have gifts that will take you on journeys beyond any of our expectations. I appreciate your willingness to interact on a weekly basis. I must say, I will miss each of you, and if you ever need anything I am only a phone call or e-mail away.

Here is our new address at Dubuque:
73 Collins St Unit B
Dubuque, IA 52001

Our phone numbers and e-mails will stay the same:

701-219-9486
brocur@yahoo.com

FAVORITE SONGS

Do you have a favorite hymn? If so, remember to fill out a hymn request found in the church pew and place it in the offering plate.



INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: STEVE HANNA

Personal Information

Birth date - May 6, 1961
 Birth place - Hutchinson, Kansas
 High school - graduated from Central High in Aberdeen, SD
 Occupation - Taco Bell area manager
 Married - Sue in Hebron, ND on August 18, 1990
 Joined Community Presbyterian Church - 2004

Favorites

Hymn - "Lord of the Dance"
 Animal/Pet - dog
 Movies - Rudy, Tombstone, Monty Python, Harry Potter movies
 Music - rock
 Restaurants - Mexican, barbeque

Would You Rather

How well do you know Steve? Try to guess which answer he chose for each of the following questions. His answers will be at the end of the interview.

- ... be able to stop time while you sleep or never need to do the laundry?
- ... read minds or be invisible?
- ... be happy but poor or be miserable but rich?
- ... have a pet monkey or a pet seal?
- ... become healthy by maintaining a healthy diet or by "working out" regularly?

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Before I start, I must say that this is not Steve's life story. You will not learn his innermost secrets. You will not become an expert on Steve and eventually become a historian. However, I promise that you will learn many tales of him. By the end, you will learn a valuable lesson in life. Thank you, and I will now begin. To start off quickly, I will point out the fact that Steve had a blanket as a child.



Yes, a green blanket that he liked very much. So much in fact, that when his mom threw the blanket away, he went dumpster-diving for it. He insisted that his mother keep it. Too bad she finally got away with it. A small tidbit on toys: one of Steve's favorites was a car track that he won off of a game show.

Moving on to early adulthood now! (Big break, huh?) Steve was living in California, going along with the school system. Unfortunately, it was not to last. Poor Steve had to move from California to South Dakota. It would have been quite a long drive. Once in SD, Steve transferred into a high school that would change his life. Not. With no friends in the unfamiliar high school, Steve said in his own words: "It stank."

Job Tidbit: before his current job, Steve worked in an auto-body repair shop.

"A Dream Home for Steve" is not a best seller nor a book. Steve, however, does have some places other than West Fargo, ND where he would like to live: Alaska and Colorado. Both are mountainous. Both are big in game. These are just a few of the reasons why he wants to live there or there.

Another Tidbit: Untruthful people really tick Steve off for obvious reasons.

**(Continued on page 9)**

**(Continued from page 8)**

Pay Close Attention. You will be Quizzed!

Steve has firsthand experience for this one. If you ever visit Cancun, Mexico and enter a pay-at-the-entrance restaurant, DO NOT ORDER THE SEAFOOD PIZZA!!!! If you imagine it as a pizza covered with crab meat and shrimp, think again. In reality, it is a normal pizza, except it is covered with some sort of a cephalopod (that's a squid, kids) or octopus, anchovies (at least, I'm sure), and an array of other whole fish. Steve, of course, since he had ordered it, reluctantly tried it. The first bite was just plain old crust, sauce, and cheese, so he had to take another bite. Unfortunately, he got the tentacle of something. (Gross, I know.)

The final tidbit!! Having trouble with the hiccups? Drink water Upside-down. Common side effects include wet shirt, water up the nose, and an untimely water spill. Results may vary. Cure taken at user's own risk.

I hope that you learned a lot. Now, get to work. (Answers on bottom of page)

**What don't you want to do in Cancun?**

**A.) Jump in a Lake**

**B.) Go Sky Diving Without a parachute**

**C.) Do the Disco**

**D.) Order the Seafood pizza**

Interviewed by:  
Evan Thostenson  
8th grade  
April 20, 2008

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"Would You Rather" answers:
(Would You Rather answers: laundry, invisible, poor, monkey, healthy diet)

WHAT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN DO

- Bought replacement coffee pots, serving coffee pots, pitchers for cold drinks, tablecloths, silverware, glasses
- Gave money for Jenna Barenthsen to go to Kenya



- Gave money for the youth to attend the Jamestown Retreat (two years)
- Gave money for two youths to attend

- the Presbyterian Youth Triennium
- Gave money to Adopt-An-Expense project
- Gave money to Blair Moorhead to go to Kenya
- Gave Youth Scholarships to go to Summer Bible Camps or other church related camps
- Gave gift Cards for the needy
- Hosted the Fall Cluster Women's event
- Hosted the January 2007 Presbytery of the Northern Plains Meeting
- Hosted the lunch and coffee for the video conference for the Presbytery
- Provided lunch for a funeral for a family that didn't have the necessary funds
- Provided refreshments for the group that reviews the minutes and records books of the churches in the Presbytery of the Northern Plains
- Published a cookbook with proceeds going to POD

ANSWERS TO STEVE HANNA QUIZ:



If you put down A, you got a C-
 If you put down B, you got a B+
 If you put down C, you are just plain clueless
 If you put down D, you got an A+
 Lets grade:

FOCUS ON MISSION



A big "Thank You" to all who contributed to the May Mission focus of Clearwater Forest. Our goal was to collect \$500 toward the purchase of a kayak. We were able to send a check for \$304.

Once again, we were able to contribute a good amount to the United Way School Supply Drive. We filled several backpacks as a result of the June/July "Adopt-a-Backpack" project. Thank you!

Our focus for the month of August is to contribute to the efforts of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) regarding the terrible flooding experienced by the Midwest over the past few months. A \$50 donation to the PDA will purchase a "Clean-up Bucket" to send to the flooded areas. (See below.)

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

- ❖ Focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities
- ❖ Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods
- ❖ Works collaboratively with church



CLEAN-UP BUCKETS NEEDED

Continuing storms and flooding throughout the United States have drastically raised the need for Clean-up Buckets.

PDA has responded to 28 presbyteries affected by disasters so far this year — more than half of which were affected by flooding or tornadoes.

The Midwest has been especially hard-hit this spring by record breaking storms and flooding. As floodwaters recede, families face the daunting task of clean up and debris removal from the muddy waters.

In response to flooding in the early spring, PDA provided \$10,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds to purchase supplies for 336 Clean-up Buckets. Volunteers at the Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center helped assemble the buckets. Ferncliff is a Church World Service warehouse and distribution center.

partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith-based responders

- ❖ Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others

- ❖ Manages a number of specialized volunteer teams to work nationally and internationally providing consultation, program design and training

- ❖ Cooperates with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services in providing service structure for asylum seekers in the United States

- ❖ Cooperates with Church World Service in the resettlement of refugees to the United States