



“A grateful life is one in which we receive our gifts from God and then lift them up, trusting that they will multiply.”

Henri Nouwen “From Fear to Love”

Dear West Siders,

Through the lean times as well as the prosperous times it always amazes me how our congregation looks beyond their individual situations and still finds a way to help those less fortunate. As we celebrate Easter 2010, let us continue to put each of our individual gifts together and see what a profound impact they can have on the lives of others.

This year we have seen some unparalleled tragedies affect our international community and we therefore are dedicating our Easter offering to continue our assistance in this area. The following organizations will greatly appreciate your gifts and put them to good use.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - Three quarters of our donations collected will go to support this professional disaster relief agency with years of experience in responding to humanitarian emergencies world-wide. Current efforts are being seen in Port-au-Prince, Haiti as well as Chile as a result of earthquakes in both of these regions. More information can be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/>

Hope House in Haiti - One quarter of our collection will support this orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti where they are feeling the ripple effect of the earthquake in Port-au-Prince. They have been asked to take in an additional 100 or so children that have recently been orphaned by that disaster. Prior to this tragedy they were already busting at the seams with over 600 children that needed to be housed, fed, and educated. Updates on this situation can be found at <http://www.freethekids.org/>

One Great Hour of Sharing – Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians by holding a separate collection at Easter time to help with alleviating hunger, refugee assistance and resettlement, and disaster relief. To learn more you can go to <http://www.pcusa.org/oghs/>

Thank you for your consideration of an Easter offering this year. All gifts, no matter how large or small, do make a difference.

With gratitude for our blessings at West Side,

Mary Stuart Gephart
Chair, Missions and Social Concerns Council