

Lent is coming! it will soon be time for our school aged children to pick up their brightly decorated plastic jugs in which to deposit Lenten "spare change" (kids, look on the car floor, under cushions, share your allowance...) and for the rest of us to think about giving up something, (that Starbucks coffee? afternoon candy bar?) for a Lenten sacrifice and donate the money saved for our Lenten Mission. The Lenten Mission of Christ Church is to raise money to purchase vitamins for ALL of the children attending the St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince, Haiti to help keep them healthy. Unlike in our own families, usually only the sick children receive vitamins. The entire congregation has always responded generously to this Mission.

I hope you all read the letter in the last BellRinger from Hope Lennertz, the Volunteer Executive Director of the Friends of St. Vincent's Center. There is a lot of good news since last January but there is still a long way to go in reestablishing all of the programs that were in place before the earthquake. One positive aspect that has come out of the quake is ironically due to all the damaged limbs of those people unfortunately hit and/or buried by the rubble. Hope tells us that the prior prejudice against children without limbs is receding and the older students are being allowed to attend school with non-disabled children for the first time.

Please place your Lenten sacrifice in the plastic jug, which we collect at the end of Lent or place it in an envelope marked **Missions** in the collection plate. You may also write a check made out to **Christ Church** (with **St. Vincent** in memo line) and mail it in or put in the plate. We will be handing out the jugs beginning after February school vacation and will be collecting them from April 17-25. THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!

Although our Mission Project involves sending the necessary funds to purchase as many bottles of vitamins as possible, there are also other needs to be filled. As Hope said in her letter, there is a need for musical instruments and manual typewriters so please contact her if you have these to donate.

Our next Missions meeting will be March 8 at 6 at the home of Donna Long. As always, we would welcome your help in this important work of Christ Church.

Questions: contact Clive Tucceri (ctucceri@aol.com or 267-7813) or Mary Boretz (boretzmar@Reg8.k12.ct.us or 267-0365) or Donna Long (longdjj1@sbcglobal.net or 467-6278).

On a very personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and good wishes as I move along this journey to defeat breast cancer. My surgery has healed well and I begin my chemo on Feb. 17 and will finish in May in plenty of time for my wedding in July (minus hair but it will make for an interesting wig adventure!). Following up with a 5 yr daily pill regime to starve my cancer of estrogen and I should be good to go for a long time! Thanks, Clive
Clive