Olive oil for peace and justice

The Michigan Peace Team, based in Lansing, Michigan, has expressed great appreciation for the check sent to them recently from the Diocese of Northern Michigan in support of their work with the Palestinian olive growers. They will use this money to purchase olive oil made from olives grown by Palestinian farmers as they have done for several years now. The Michigan Peace Team (MPT) is an organization that helps to empower people nationally and internationally to a non-violent way of life through presentations, non-violence training to teach skills needed in crisis situations, and by accompanying those whose lives are threatened in any way.

Olive oil sales are the only annual source of income for many Palestinians, but they struggle to harvest and sell their products. The olives are hand-picked alongside farmers who have harvested these trees for generations and alongside Israelis and international people who support human rights and economic justice. Among those who accompany the harvesters are members of MPT, now joined by a growing number of Israelis who recognize the injustice of the current situation. Among these Israelis is the group “Rabbis for Human Rights”. Some of the olive trees are over 2000 years old! And, sadly, many of the olives groves in which they grow have been uprooted and plowed under by the Israeli government forces, destroying not only the trees but also the means of support for the farmers and their families and doing away with what these people have received from their ancestors and which they have treasured. Even those whose groves are still intact face harassment and violence as they tend to their trees and harvest their olives.

MPT buys the olive oil from the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee which then pays a fair price to the farmers’ cooperatives and gives a portion of the proceeds to children’s programs in the Palestinian communities that produce the oil. MPT tries to find a market for the olive oil here in the United States, an especially needed help to them since neither Israel nor Jordan will accept the

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What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals agreed to in 2000 by 189 heads of state and government -- including the United States -- from around the world that address the deepest material brokenness in the world today. Poverty the likes of which we just don’t see within the United States.

Poverty like:

* Almost half the world — over 3 billion people — live on less than $2.50 a day.
* The GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (567 million people) is less than the wealth of the world’s 7 richest people combined.
* Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
* Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn’t happen.
* 1 billion children live in poverty (1 in 2 children in the world). 640 million live without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to safe water, 270 million have

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Every bit counts!

2012 Justice Grants

Rise Thew Forrester

If you listen to or watch a fund-raising drive on radio or TV, you’ll notice that the hosts repeat a mantra: every little bit counts. Your small donation, added to many others, makes a difference. That certainly proves true in mission and ministry, as well.

In January, the Justice and Peace committee of the Diocese of Northern Michigan made grants to seven organizations for their continued work for the well-being of people here and around the world. Our donations help to provide housing for homeless people, medical necessities, summer camp for children of incarcerated parents, mosquito nets to prevent the spread of malaria, dental care, a living wage for workers, and a gracious end of life for terminally ill people.

Grant money came from the line item for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the diocesan budget, as well as the offering from the celebration of baptismal ministry and bishop ordination last May. This issue contains articles about the MDGs, as well as the organizations that received grants.

Two Palestinian women pick olives with a volunteer from Michigan Peace Team at the fall olive harvest in 2007, while doing protective accompaniment by the volunteer’s presence. This was in the West Bank, on a farm near the city of Tulkarem. Photo courtesy MPT

Page 4B  Nets for life, Room at the Inn, Medical loan closet, Summer Camp

Page 3C  Calendar, Around the diocese, Camp New Day UP, Free dental clinic

Page 2B  MDGs, Hospice House, Stewardship and planning workshops
no access to health services. 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (or roughly 29,000 children per day).

What are the 8 MDGs?
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Create a global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade and debt relief.

What’s so special about the MDGs?
*They are specific - Each goal has specific targets and indicators of success. There are precise monitoring mechanisms in place to assess progress and report cards issued.
*They are time-bound – We’re not going to achieve the MDGs “someday” … we are going to achieve these goals by 2015. The clock is ticking.
*They are achievable – The MDGs will not end extreme poverty. For example, the first goal will only cut in half the number of people living on less than $1 a day – leaving much work left to do. The MDGs are an achievable first step (and there will be more after the MDGs are achieved).

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church rounded up the 0.7% line item to $1 million and established the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund, to which “individuals, congregations and dioceses be encouraged to contribute an additional $2 million.” $2 million of the funding will be allocated to NetsForLife – an Anglican partnership for malaria prevention in Africa. The remaining $1 million will be allocated to “initiatives in the Caribbean and Latin America focusing on public health issues.”

Deadline for the March issue of the Church in Hiawathaland is March 6, 2012

Development Goals, continued…

Grant supports Hospice House

One of the grants provided by the baptismal celebration/bishop ordination offering was toward the completion of the Hospice House project in Sault Ste. Marie. Construction began last fall after years of work and planning to see this dream of a facility for free hospice become a reality.

The Hospice House project has drawn support from throughout the EUP. It will take eight months to build the house on the corner of West 12th and Ryan. The 8,200 square-foot hospice facility will have five patient beds, and will utilize volunteers in many areas, including assistance with cooking, cleaning, gardening, reception and office work, and patient care. For more information about Hospice House, programs, or to volunteer with Hospice, call 906-253-3151.

Chuk Kleber, member of of Trinity, Mackinac Island will be leading the workshops.

Whaddya know…

about stewardship
strategic Planning
strengthening the local church
enriching your ministries
growing our mission?

Come and share in workshops around the diocese:
March 31 Escanaba 10am – 3pm
April 14 Houghton 10am – 3pm
May 5 Sault Ste Marie 10am – 3pm
And one more, yet to be determined

Chuk is a former advertising executive who left that business to become a sought-after consultant to non-profits organizations in all fields throughout the U.S., helping them strengthen their governance, strategic planning, marketing, program development and evaluation, endowment programs, funding campaigns, volunteer involvement and their use of surveys, research and the seven basic methods of fund development.
Meetings and Events

All times Eastern

MARCH
1 Epis Min Support Team 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
10 Diocesan Council 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
14-21 House of Bishops Camp Allen, TX
17 Commission on Ministry 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
24 Hiawatha Dist Meeting 10:00 am St. Stephen’s, Escanaba
31 Stewardship Workshop 10:00 am St. Stephen’s, Escanaba

APRIL
1 Palm Sunday
8 Easter Day
13 Epis Min Support Team 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
14 Stewardship Workshop 10:00 am Trinity, Houghton
14 Diocesan Council 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
21 Commission on Ministry 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
21 Liturgy Confr: Palm Sunday tba
23 Holocaust Mem Service 6:30 pm St. Paul’s, Marquette
23 Prov V Bishops Meeting Chicago, IL
24-25 Prov V Synod Chicago, IL
27 Trust Association 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
27-29 Visitors Weekend various locations in diocese
30- May1 LifCycles Companion Training Marquette

MAY
5 Epis Min Support Team 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
5 Stewardship Workshop 10:00 am St. James, Sault Ste. Marie
11 Hiawatha Dist Meeting 6:00 pm St. Stephen’s, Escanaba
12 Diocesan Council 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
19 Commission on Ministry 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
21-25 College for Bishops Lake Logan, NC

JUNE
8 Epis Min Support Team 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette
9 Ordination of Cathy Clark tba St. Paul’s, Marquette
16 Diocesan Council 10:00 am Diocesan Office, Marquette

To have meetings included, call 1-800-236-0087 or email jane@upepiscopal.org

Camp New Day returns for 12th year

When your parent or other close loved one is a prison inmate, challenges are abundant. For the past 11 years, Camp New Day UP has provided a free summer camp experience for these children. The Justice and Peace committee included this program in the grants for Justice and Peace organizations. In Camp New Day U. P. children live together in cabins supervised by trained counselors and participate in activities, like swimming, crafts, games, hiking, ecumenical bible study and worship, campfires, singing, and cookouts. The goal is to surround children, who might never otherwise be able to go to camp, with a secure atmosphere where they can experience unconditional love and acceptance. Camp focuses on the child and creates an atmosphere of positive reinforcement and fun.

It does not focus on the incarceration of a loved one or anyone's religious beliefs. If needed, the children are supplied with necessities such as sleeping bags and toiletries, and transportation is provided when needed. This year’s camp will be held at Clear Lake Center near Manistique.

Support for free dental help

A smile is a beautiful thing to share… but many people find it hard to smile with teeth in urgent need of dental care and no insurance. Because dental care is an important piece of general health and health care, the Justice and Peace committee of the diocese provided a grant to the Delta County free dental clinic. With support and space provided by St. Vincent de Paul, the clinic has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars of free dentistry in the area since 2008. It is operated by area dentists and support staff who volunteer their time.

Around the diocese...

Jim Martindale and Glenn Binioni share their knowledge and gift of wood carving during a February gathering of the “Crafty Crew” at St. John’s, Negaunee.

An idea that grew as a way of getting together and working on a favorite project has proven to be wildly popular. The “Crafty Crew” meets twice a month in the Guild Hall of St. John’s, Negaunee. People are encouraged to drop in for an hour or as long as they would like. The crafts cover a wide range from crocheting and knitting to beading, quilting and sewing, to drawing, carving and working on homework. We also highly recommend just visiting and sharing stories, anecdotes and jokes. The group has grown from an average of about 10 people to 23 at our last gathering. Call 225-1078 for the dates we will gather in March.

And speaking of outreach, Holy Trinity, Iron Mountain has donated $340 each form its Christmas offering to the Dickinson County Hospital System Prescription Assistance Program, and the Salvation Army Food Pantry from its Christmas offering.

What you might take note of is that they did a little “awareness evangelism” while they were at it, taking pictures of the donation, and sending the photo and story to the local paper, who printed it prominently.

Does your community know the ways you support the people around you? It just takes a little time to get a photo, write up the particulars, and submit it to your local newspapers, radio and TV. A number of our congregations are finding that the media outlets can be our partners in the community.

A coffee hour conversation, a magazine “Gifts for Life” from Episcopal Relief and Development, and a desire to do something were the key ingredients to “Feed the Pig”, a mission project that took place at St. John’s, Negaunee. A member just happened to have the perfect “piggy bank” for our donations: a cast iron, winged pig. At the end of Advent there was enough money collected to purchase a community garden, a goat, a flock of chickens and mosquito netting! Kathy Lenten says, “It’s gotten to be an obsession, and people are secretly slipping in dimes, quarters, and an occasional greenback or two.” Donations from the regional Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be put toward our next “Feed the Pig” campaign. Kathy says, “Maybe this time we’ll aim for a llama (or a pig, or a water buffalo, or ??)!”

Arts abound around the diocese: the lovely needlepoint cushion pictured here was done by Kay Smith of Austin, Texas and Mackinac Island for the presider’s chair in Trinity Church.

This sun design echoes the stained glass window at the back of the church, and is part of Alex Bettie’s creation series. It is titled “Let there be light.”

You can (and should!) see it in color on the diocesan website at www.upepiscopal.org
Olive oil for justice, continued

Palestinian olive oil to sell in those countries. Proceeds from the sale of the olive oil which MPT sells here in Michigan also benefits MPT in their work to support the nonviolent campaign led by Palestinians to achieve liberation and restoration.

The olive oil comes from the northern West Bank region which is one of the most severely impacted by conditions on the ground, including the construction of the separation wall that prevents Palestinians free movement in their own and adjoining countries. Holy Land Olive Oil buys the oil from farmer co-ops directly or through partner organizations such as PARC (cited above) which is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to helping farmers.

MPT feels it is important to support farmer co-ops in these difficult times. Paying more for the oil from the co-ops lets them get higher quality oil, better quality control measures by buying directly at the press and to pay fair wages to the farmers at a time when market prices are depressed because of the situation on the ground there. This olive oil is organically grown. Palestinian farmers do not, in general, use pesticides—and never have! The Organic Cooperative of Keereh in the Salfit area will be getting its organic certification with this year’s harvest, however. The Diocese of Northern Michigan can be justly proud of the support offered to this project.

Jean Mather, a member of our diocesan Justice and Peace Committee, tells us that not only is this a worthy cause to support, but, as a purchaser and user of this olive oil, she can testify to its superior taste as well!

There is Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn, one the Justice and Peace grant recipients, is an emergency night shelter for adults. Room at the Inn is run by an interfaith coalition of churches sharing the mission to provide support and shelter for the homeless in the Marquette area. Room at the Inn is a rotating shelter, moving weekly to one of the thirteen different hosting churches. The shelter is run and staffed by volunteers and funded by contributions from the community; St. Paul’s, Marquette takes its turn usually twice yearly as a host site, with help from St. John’s, Negancee, St. James the Less, Harvey, and in partnership with the Marquette Unitarian Universalist congregation.

The underlying goal of Room at the Inn is to provide an opportunity for guests to focus on life transitions without the worry of finding food and shelter. Room at the Inn serves Marquette area residents but does consider referrals from neighboring social service agencies on a case to case basis. Related to Room at the Inn, the The Agape Café Warming Center provides a warm and friendly location for shelter guests and is a place to gather before heading out for the day. The host churches have the use of the Warming Center to serve as a morning shelter location from 6am-8am each day. Guests can also use the shower facility located in the Warming Center during this time. The Warming Center is open to the community at 8am for fellowship. The Warming Center is a place to congregate and socialize and the shelter guests are welcome to stay at the Warming Center at Faith In Christ Fellowship Church.

Grant goes to Nets for Life

Every 45 seconds in sub-Saharan Africa, a child dies from malaria, a deadly infectious disease transmitted by a mosquito bite. Just one life-saving, long lasting insecticide-treated net can save two lives from suffering and death. Episcopal Relief and Development created an MDG Inspiration Fund in 2006 to focus on the issue of malaria in sub-Saharan countries. The Justice and Peace committee made a 2012 grant from the MDG line item working with NetsforLife. Since 2008, NetsforLife® has delivered over 4.8 million nets across 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa resulting in less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities. By partnering with churches and faith-based groups in remote communities, NetsforLife® combats malaria by training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, educating community members about proper net use and maintenance, and providing on-going monitoring and evaluation of net use. Working at the grassroots level within the Episcopal community, the Inspiration Fund will help NetsforLife® deliver upon its promise to distribute 7 million nets over the next three years. Combined with education and training, this work will better than 37 million lives in 30,000 communities across the continent.

Medical Loan Closet in Escanaba receives grant

One of the Justice and Peace grants for 2012 is going to the Delta County Medical Equipment Loan Closet at St. Stephen’s, Escanaba. This ministry began serving the needs of any person who lives in Delta County in 2007. St. Stephen’s first opened the Loan Closet with some initial start up equipment from Easter Seals.

St. Stephen’s made a commitment to find a way to purchase enough equipment to begin to meet requests. The church applied for and received a $3,000.00 grant from the Episcopal Church United Thank Offering to purchase start up equipment.

The medical equipment that is available includes those items not covered by insurance or various community funding sources such as elevated toilet seats, commodes, tub transfer benches, and other similar items.

Summer Camp 2012 is coming! + Return of the purple tribe +

When: June 17 - 23 (an extra day!)
Where: Clear Lake Education Center
What: Fellowship, games, canoeing, swimming, singing and much more...
What, you want more info?
http://youth.dioup.org/