

## Operation Iraqi Children

*During Vacation Bible School last summer, the children collected school supplies for Operation Iraqi Children. Marilee Neff, Coordinator of Children's Ministry, received this letter describing the impact the supplies are having on children in Iraq and thanking us.*

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The Caller

News From Christian Community Presbyterian Church

"Hello I am LTC Linda J. M. Holloway. In 2007-2008 I was deployed to Iraq in support of the Global War On Terror as a Civil Affairs Officer. I was not sure exactly what I would be doing; however, I had the honor of serving on the first Ten (10) ePRT which stands for Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team. I was afforded the opportunity to serve my time in Iraq in the Western Anbar Province. This part of the country is extremely poverty stricken, rural and isolated. The thing that struck me the most when I would go out on missions would be the dire needs of the women and children in this area. I immediately discussed with my team leader and others involved the idea of establishing two projects to assist the War Widows, Orphans and children. The two projects I was able to create were (1) Weeping Widows and (2) Operation Back Pack.

The Weeping Widows Project provides as many widows as possible with basic life support items such as blankets, sheets, towels, clothes, shoes, and personal hygiene items. 'Operation Back Pack,' on the other hand, was designed to provide school age children with back packs filled with school supplies. I was extremely pleased to find out that 'OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN' has been sending supplies to Iraq since the war has started. I was even more incredibly impressed with the quality of the supplies, as well as the quantity of supplies that Operation Iraqi Children had on hand that I could immediately get the project off the ground and rolling. I found Operation Iraqi Children to be unlimited in its support in the products that were provided to me. The times when I went out to schools to deliver the supplies the things that stood out most to me was the smiles on the children's faces, as well as teachers who were so excited to be getting the supplies. You could tell their hearts were so filled with joy and happiness that in return, as a soldier of the United States Army I was proud to be able to share that moment but even more so to know that there were people back home in the states willing to make the sacrifice so that the children here in Iraq could obtain school supplies.

I really wish the donors of Operation Iraqi Children could witness first hand how the supplies you provided are making a tremendous impact in the lives of the children here in Iraq. Never for one moment think your time, money, and effort is going to waste because that is indeed far from the truth.

I can honestly say from the depth of my heart that Operation Iraqi Children has been a huge part of the success of my program and I want to commend you for such a well done job and to challenge you to continue to pour your heart of passion into what you are doing to support the American Service Members all around the world because we could not touch the hearts and minds of the people of Iraq if not for the everyday American people stepping up to the plate saying 'I want to help.' You may not wear the uniform or perhaps you have or you know some one who does, but whatever your motivation for supporting Operation Iraqi Children, please know it is not in vain and we the American service members have a great deal of respect for your courage and willingness to sacrifice your time, money and effort to this worthwhile cause. I believe in my heart that it takes a village to raise a child and want you to know you are indeed that village that is preparing the next generation of Iraqi children to have school supplies to attend school. Not only have I gotten school supplies from your organization but I was able to obtain additional items such as personal hygiene kits, toothbrushes, and toys which were distributed very generously and gracefully to among the widows and their children who surely needed them the most since they receive very limited, if any, support from their government. Please continue to support the American service men and women who are so far away from home risking their lives daily, going out into the remote villages to provide the women and children with basic life support supplies.

I am happy to say I am deploying again this time to Bagdad, Iraq and my main focus will be that of War Widows and Orphans and I am looking forward to having another rewarding experience to impact the lives of the widows and orphans. Thus, I am more elated to know that Operation Iraqi Children is still going strong and still provided first class support to the service members.

Once again, thanks for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of some people you might never meet personally but you have met them through the unlimited gifts you give to Operation Iraqi Children. It is my prayers through the many pictures you get to see and that your heart is filled with joy knowing that the gifts you provide to Operation Iraqi Children is being put to extraordinary use. Whatever you do please continue to give because not only are you helping women and children of Iraq but you are creating a peaceful atmosphere for the service members to conduct their jobs in safe and wholesome environments and to be able to return home safely to their loved ones. Even on a larger scale than that, you are creating WORLD PEACE; so whatever you do keep on giving to Operation Iraqi Children.

Thanks a million from the depth of my heart. Respectfully, LTC Linda J. M. Holloway "Always Willing To Serve."

## Blood Drive



CCPC is hosting a blood drive on May 9. There is an **URGENT REQUEST** for blood Donors to sign up for CCPC's blood drive on Saturday from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in Dodds Hall. There is no upper limit on the age for donating blood. Youth can donate at age 17, and at age 16 with parental consent. Because of recent changes in qualifications for donors, fewer than *5% of people* in the United States who are eligible *donate blood on a regular basis*. When will you or someone you love need blood? Sign up in the atrium.

## Worship Notes

### Worship on May 10, 2009

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
(9:30 & 11 AM)

The gospel of John ends with the restoration of Peter by Jesus who told Peter to "Feed my sheep" and then the following statement (John 21:25): "There are many other things that Jesus did, and if they were written one by one, I think that not even the world itself would be big enough to hold the written volumes." Many families will gather on Mother's Day. Favorite family stories will be told. Why do we recall some events and treasure them and fail to notice or mention others? I think it has something to do with our failure to cherish the everyday opportunities to enjoy life. The sermon is titled, "Savoring the Day."

### Elders and Deacons were elected at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Congregational Meeting.

Elders elected were:

Priscilla Bouic, Peter Farney, Allison Harriman, Bob Hiller and Anita Pesses.

Deacons elected were:

Jo Bolig, Lisa Botluk, Sandy Dorsey, Shirley Doyle and Bob Schrott.

## Contact Us

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## Events at CCPC ...

### **CCPC Photo Directory—Pictures will be taken on Sunday, May 17 (not on Mother's Day, May 10.)**

On **May 17** move to our summer schedule with one service on Music Sunday. Photographers will be available before and after the service.

If you are not available during this date and time, please let Margaret Hallau know ahead of time so a "make up" date can be identified. ([ccpcpa@verizon.net](mailto:ccpcpa@verizon.net) or call 301-262-6008).

**There will be no Munchin Lunchin in May due to BHS AP testing in Dodds.** We'll see you the THIRD Monday of June!

### **HOME AND GARDEN OPEN HOUSE—May 10-24**

You're invited! Please join us (Hal and Sharon Mabe) anytime during the above listed dates to enjoy the iris blooms and metal garden art in our gardens and in our home for the stained glass art work. Call us at home to let us know when you would like to come and to get directions. Please feel free to fill your car with friends. We love to share our home and gardens.



**CCPC Softball Team vs. Church of Redeemer (8:30 PM) Allen Pond, field #2.**

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### **Swine Influenza and You: Avoiding A Problem**

**Preventing swine flu:** Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw away the tissue. Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based cleaners are also effective. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth because this is how germs are spread. Avoid close contact with sick people. If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school to avoid infecting others.

**Emergency warning signs for children:** Fast breathing or trouble breathing, bluish skin color, not drinking enough fluids, not waking up or not interacting. Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held. Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough. Fever with a rash.

**Emergency warning signs for adults:** Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen. Sudden dizziness, confusion, severe or persistent vomiting.

—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm)

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**\* Next Caller Distribution: 5/12/09 \***

**Articles are due by Thursday, 5/7.**

CCPC, the first Protestant church in Levitt Bowie, was born from a passion for Christian mission in the local community, and this focus continues. *Our Mission: To worship God, to grow in faith and community, and to place our gifts in the service of Jesus Christ.*