



The Daily Thanks

United Thank Offering Newsletter for Diocesan Coordinators and Friends of UTO

Spring 2006

Visit our UTO Exhibit Hall Booth #145 where we will be giving away *Prayers, Volume II*, our new UTO History Brochure, UTO pens and bumper stickers, and lots of other good UTO materials. We also invite you to visit our Office in C123, where you will find UTO photos and memorabilia from around the world, and where you can pick up your tickets to the UTO Sharing Dinner. If you still need to buy your ticket, contact Dottie Leland at dottieuto8@comcast.net. You can register for the workshops listed below through ECW by contacting Betty Paterson at booperbp@execpc.com. Note that if you are planning to attend Face to Face, you need to attend all sessions, both days.

See UTO Triennial Schedule on page 2.

UTO COMMITTEE VISITS HONDURAS IN PROV. IX

During each triennium the UTO Committee attempts to meet in each of ECUSA's nine provinces. We seldom get to Province IX, so it was a special treat to spend eight days in Honduras for our January meeting.

This was a whirlwind visit, because in addition to our regular business, we visited many UTO grant sites in Honduras. Pictured below is the Technical School near Tegueigalpa that the UTO grant helped build. Teenage boys get vocational training here. All the furniture at the school has been built by the students. Under construction is a three storied building that will include classrooms and dormitories.

We also visited Puerto Cortez, the home of Connie Segura, IX representative. It was a special treat to see Connie's bakery meet her family. We traveled to San Pedro where we visited Buen Pas-



Shepherd) Cathedral and School. The students gave us an excellent talent show. We also saw the Diocesan seminary and the dormitory which received a UTO grant. We visited the diocesan offices. One highlight of the visit to Honduras was the

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HELP WANTED

In the UTO Booth. If you would like to volunteer to help man the booth for an hour or so during your free time, please contact Joyhtway@alaweb.com. We could use your help and you will enjoy it.

Did you Know?

Our new history brochure is here. Be sure to look for it when you visit the booth.

UTO Sharing Dinner June 15, Hyatt Regency Hotel

Pick up your ticket at the UTO Office.

You may still sign up for Face to Face

Message From the President

At the close of the ECW Triennial Meeting and General Convention, I will be rotating off the UTO Committee and it is with sadness that I will not be working with such good friends that have been a part of my life for the last six years. However, I am happy that it is time to move on to something else that God will call me to do-hopefully it will be to stay at home and work at my home parish, St. Mary's in Andalusia, Alabama! This has been a blessed six years and I cannot thank all of you enough for your prayers and support. Serving on the Committee was a dream come true for me and as I count the offerings of Thanksgivings in my Blue Box I realize I had more to be thankful for than ever. Thank you again for your love and support.

Yours in Thanksgiving,

Joy Tway, President of UTO Committee



(Honduras continued from page 1)

trip to Tela, Meeting. The much alive and creation of the that marched church. Here



knowledging the first acts upon becoming bishop was to have plaques such as this put on all the sites to which UTO has contributed over the years. There were two plaques on this church, one in English, the other (pictured) in Spanish. Bishop Allen then knocked on the door and we all went in. A UTO grant of \$120,000 dollars and funding from St. Alban's in Washington, D.C. allowed the church to be rebuilt. Beth and Jim Knorr, representing St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis, MD. Presented altar linens. A large number of people were confirmed or received as new members. The spirit in that congregation was so impressive that we wished everyone at home could witness it with us. The Diocese of Honduras is one of the, if not the, fastest growing dioceses in ECUSA. There are over a hundred parishes and missions. Many of them are small and depend on diocesan funds to stay open, but there is a faithful and growing enrollment. Education, health and a sense of self respect are burning issues in this diocese and the UTO is proud of the help that all of us are able to offer.

Submitted by, Claudia Pistek,
Member -at-Large



Women at ECW Annual Meeting

where we were guests of the National Honduras ECW Annual enthusiasm and joy of these women was inspiring! ECW is very active in Honduras. We participated in the Dedication and Conse-Espiritu Santo Church on Sunday. We were part of the Procession around the property and down the main street to the front of the Joy Tway, UTO Committee President, unveiled the plaque ac-

UTO gift toward the building of the church. One of Bishop Allen's first acts upon becoming bishop was to have plaques such as this put on all the sites to which UTO has contributed over the years. There were two plaques on this church, one in English, the other (pictured) in Spanish. Bishop Allen then knocked on the door and we all went in. A UTO grant of \$120,000 dollars and funding from St. Alban's in Washington, D.C. allowed the church to be rebuilt. Beth and Jim Knorr, representing St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis, MD. Presented altar linens. A large number of people were confirmed or received as new members. The spirit in that congregation was so impressive that we wished everyone at home could witness it with us. The Diocese of Honduras is one of the, if not the, fastest growing dioceses in ECUSA. There are over a hundred parishes and missions. Many of them are small and depend on diocesan funds to stay open, but there is a faithful and growing enrollment. Education, health and a sense of self respect are burning issues in this diocese and the UTO is proud of the help that all of us are able to offer.



UTO Committee with Bishop Allen

UTO SCHEDULE FOR THE ECW TRIENNIAL MEETING

Thursday, June 15

7:30 am- UTO Grants Hearing (your chance for input)

2:30-5:00 pm- UTO grant voting and “Why UTO
presentation at ECW Plenary III

5:30– Social Hour, 6:30 pm Dinner UTO Sharing Dinner

Hyatt Regency Ballroom., Hyatt Regency Hotel

Pick up tickets at UTO Office

Friday, June 16

5:00-6:00 pm Rehearsal for Eucharist and UTO Ingathering

ALL UTO COORDINATORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE THERE!

Saturday, June 17

8:30 am Line up for Eucharist Procession

10:00 am Eucharist and UTO Ingathering

Sunday, June 18

11:00-12:30 and 2:00 – 5:00 pm Face to Face Workshop, Day 1

Monday, June 19

11:00 -12:30 and 2:00-5:00 pm Face to Face workshop, Day 2

5:00 pm UTO Diocesan Coordinators Reunion and sharing

Tuesday, June 20

1:30-3:00 pm UTO Spirituality Workshop (English)

3:30-5:00 pm UTO Spirituality Workshop (Spanish)

Please Remember the UTO Memorial and Gift Trust Fund in Your Will

Granting Meeting Held in South Carolina

The proposed grants list has been mailed to the delegates to the Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women. The vote on the grants will take place during the plenary session of the Triennial Meeting on Friday, June 16th. Before that happens, there will be a grants hearing on the 15th at 7:30 am. This will be your chance for input, should you desire it.

In April the United Thank Offering Committee met at St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center near Charleston, SC. to consider all the grant applications. The proposed grants brought to the Triennial Meeting have been carefully researched and considered on a case by case basis. The granting meetings consist of long days of work and prayer before the final proposals are selected. The St. Christopher Center is a wonderful peaceful place for this work. The setting is beautiful and the food delicious. Our bodies as well as our souls were well nourished as we worked. We had the opportunity to join EPGM for their closing Eucharist and the signing of the EPGM Covenant.

Sunday we worshipped at St. John's Episcopal Church on Johns Island. We were transported there in the van that was a UTO grant in 2000.

The UTO Committee thanks each and every one of you who supports this exciting ministry with daily

prayers and thanksgiving offerings. Just think

what we could do if everyone in the Church did this ! Let's keep working and praying to expand the circle of thankful people.

Mary Brennan, All Saints, Atlanta, was recently hired as Mission Interpretation and Networks Officer in the Office of Anglican and Global Relations at the Episcopal Church Center. While we were at St. Christopher, Mary spoke to us about reintroducing UTO to her parish starting in 2005. The Committee then discussed how we could follow through with making it easy for people to reintroduce UTO, and easier to send in the money. Your Province Representative will be happy to share some of these ideas with you and you will hear some of them during the Face to Face workshop.



Our thanks to Alice Emery

By JoAnne Chapman, UTO Coordinator

The United Thank Offering is forever grateful to Alice Phelps Emery, who died December 1 2005, in St. Paul, Minnesota at the age of 87. Alice was the United Thank Offering Coordinator at the Episcopal Church Center from 1970 to 1977. This was a very challenging time for UTO, which had just been made a separate Committee by Executive Council. Right after Alice took the position the entire staff at 815 was cut in half, so times were tense. In 1977 Alice went on to another position at the Church Center, as the Executive for National Mission and Church in Society, which included the Coalition for Human Needs and the ethnic desks. She served until 1983, so she was employed at the Church Center for a total of 13 years.

Alice continued to be interested in UTO to the end. She attended our Sharing Dinner at the 2003 Convention in Minneapolis. She contacted me by letter in the summer of 2005 offering to share some UTO history. This resulted in a 90 minute phone conversation in which she explained the turbulent times of her tenure with UTO. Upon her death her estate left a very generous gift to the Memorial and Gift Trust Fund, which will help support the work of the UTO Committee for years to come.

After retiring Alice was a devoted member of St. Paul's Church. She was the widow of the Rt. Rev. Richard Emery, Bishop of North Dakota 1951-64. She is survived by two children, John Emery of Minnesota, and Margie Shaw of Indiana. She is also survived by all of us who share her love for the Episcopal Church and the United Thank Offering. We continue to benefit from her contributions as staff and her generous gift to the Memorial and Gift Trust Fund.

The Twenty Third Psalm and the United Thank Offering, Poetry of the Heart

By Elaine d'Lys McClurkan, Diocese of Texas

The Psalms are often given little time and less thought. Yet, they provide an intimate look at the relationship between God and humankind, expressing the full range of human emotion. Composed by human beings just like us, they clearly reflect our heart's deepest longing for intimacy and relationship with God, our spiritual partner.

As the psalmist, we learn wisdom through experience of life and of God in our life, even when that experience is gained through pain, grief, and the darkest despair. This human experience transcends all ages and cultures. It is this commonality of our human experience which binds us to each other and to God. "Pure poetry of the heart", the psalms are a faith journey towards God. In praying the psalms we realize our own human experience is often our deepest form of learning about God.

The psalms show us in the midst of transformation – projecting our selves upon God; then being transformed as he subtly changes our perceptions and deepens our relationship. An ancient proverb says "*When the student is ready, the master will appear*". God's commitment to his relationship with us is described in the psalms as a master-student relationship, in which both parties are deeply committed. The psalmist is the student, committed to the transformational process of learning, and of accepting the task of obeying from the heart. When we are ready at each of our different faith stages to learn and to be lead, no matter how childish, the psalms assure us God, our Lord and teacher, is always present to us.

Psalm 23 . . The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23 is a song of 'ascent', with identifiable stages of growth in relationship to God, the shepherd. In just a few lines, 15-18 depending on translation, it conveys the distilled wisdom of generations of human experience. It shows us how to recognize the presence of God when we think He is absent, or when distracted by our own selfish concerns.

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Psalm 23 doesn't ask if the universe supports our physical existence, but confirms support of our spiritual life. *"He restores my soul."* The world may not be perfect (in our opinion), but it is God's world. When we are worn down by chaos, we are guided to calm.

"He leads me beside the still waters." God, of course, is the power that imposes order on chaos so that our world is livable. He provides the physical laws that bring order to randomness, control and calm to chaos. God, then, is the power that controls all the surging emotions (chaos) within us as our human nature experiences life in our physical world (cosmos). Our human nature can lead us to actions that affect our lives, as if swept away in the path of raging flood waters. "He leads me beside still waters" is not just our thanks for life-sustaining water, but for keeping the raging waters of our selves and our world still, manageable, less threatening. God is our stability and our centeredness in the cosmos.

"The valley of the shadow of death" Psalm 23 uses death as a metaphor for evil, or for whatever causes us fear. Our fears deprive us of the life, health, and joy that God gives us, and for which we can learn to be thankful. God assures us of safety with Him, the good shepherd. Psalm 23 reminds us the miracle is that life is worth living; that we will survive that which we fear, even death. *"My cup runneth over."* Because God is with us, we can choose to overcome our fears and act differently, choose to be grateful for all that we are and that we have. Simply, psalm 23 is "love" and "gratitude". God's love and care for us; our gratitude to Him for that love.

Why the United Thank Offering?

Like the psalms, Thankful Prayer is "pure poetry of the heart". Each of us is in intimate and individual relationship with our God. With their imagery and emotion unique to the individual psalmist, the psalms give us permission to do the same in our thankful prayers – the passion of both grief and gratitude can be poured out into our 'little blue box'. The United Thank Offering provides a doorway to personal and intimate prayer because gratitude and thanksgiving are expressed personally and directly to the giver. The United Thank Offering helps feed our passion to know God, to build a passionate relationship with our spiritual partner.

ge The practice of thankfulness and gratitude, using the UTO 'little blue box' as a prayer tool, can provide insights for a new understanding of God. Thankful prayer can help us recognize God's love and care for us. We can learn acceptance of our gratitude to Him for that love. Thankful prayer, like the psalms, is transformative prayer.

"God's heart was the first to break." God's promise in the psalms is not that life is always safe, but that we will never be alone to face life – God, the good shepherd, shares our pain and anguish. With God we can be without fear of destruction by the fearful things that do happen. Thankful prayer must be prayed from the heart if intimacy between the giver (God) and the receiver (us) is to be achieved. Using the United Thank Offering through our little blue box can help us gain intimacy in our relationship with God as we remember his constant care of us. Like the psalms, thankful prayer is an expression of the meeting point between the human heart and the divine. It is transformative prayer.

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."

The move from chaos to calm – the still waters – requires intentional action on our part. We must recognize God at work in our lives, giving thanks to Him for all things. Eucharistic Prayer C reminds us that *"at your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home."* Our "island" home reminds us God created our cosmos from the waters of chaos.

"We have come together in the presence of God, our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits received at his hands". In Morning Prayer even the opening lines in the prelude to confession start not with our penitence or inadequacy, but with our thanks. Over and over our liturgy confirms that giving thanks is an intentional act, and one at the center of relationship and intimacy between ourselves and God, our spiritual partner.

With the United Thank Offering we give thanks for and to God for sharing his strength with us; to help us do something we can't do by or for ourselves. For it is God who gives us rest, providing respite from the chaos of our restless selves, and in doing so "restores our souls". It is the good shepherd, giving us the strength of soul we need to be human in this world.

The United Thank Offering is not about the money or the grants. They are simply a wonderful result, helping provide answered prayer to others. The United Thank Offering, the practice of daily thankful prayer, is an expression of our human experience and thankfulness, which binds us to each other and to God in an ever deepening relationship and intimacy. The United Thank Offering, like the

With special thanks for the insights provided by *Ancient Songs, Sung Anew*, translations of the psalms, by Lynn Bauman, and *The Lord is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*, by Harold S Kushner.

Out with the old

Seven members will be leaving the UTO Committee at the close of General Convention. We have term limits on the Committee and two terms of three years is the longest one can serve on the Committee, except in rare cases. It is a bitter sweet time for us. We will miss seeing our fellow committee members who have become like family to us. We will miss having such an active part in the work of the United Thank Offering. We will miss hearing from all of you Coordinators on a regular basis. We have learned a lot and this ministry

has changed our lives. At the same time, there are many things waiting for our attention at home and in our own dioceses and parishes. We have worked hard, prayed fervently, and yes, we have played also. Now there are new folks coming who will be an inspiration to us all. The next Committee will be better than ever, (although we all hate to admit it)

Those leaving are pictured left to right, Claudia Pistek, Nilah (Ro) Tripp, Thelma Hutton, Joy Tway, Dottie Leland,

Muriel Sobers, Peggy Ann Wilds. Thank you all for a wonderful six years.



In with the new

Five new members will join the UTO Committee at the close of the Triennial Meeting. They, along with three returning members-at-large, will form the United Thank Offering Committee for the next triennium. These women have been selected by their provinces for a three year term. We don't have a picture of them to publish, but

you will meet them at the Triennial Meeting. They are: Dorothy Smith, Prov. I, Pam Stewart, Province II, Zona Tounsley, Prov. IV, Jan Goossens, Prov. V, Mari-Lou Triebenbach, Prov. VI, Elaine d'Lys McClurkan, Prov. VII, and Lynn Headley, Prov. VIII.

Some will stay

Five members of the Committee will stay on for another three years. Three of them have been elected by the present UTO Committee as members-at-large. Two others have been re-elected by their provinces for a three year term. Those remaining are, Regina Ratterree, Gurtie Berkner, and



If you are a Diocesan UTO Coordinator who has not yet attended Face to Face, be sure to sign up for the sessions at this Triennial Meeting. This is the only Face to Face that will be offered this year. You will find it to be a most valuable resource.

.Don't forget the UTO Spirituality workshop to be offered in both English and Spanish on Tuesday, June 19

Patty Tourangeau, MaLs. The returning Province representatives are Wilma Johnson, Prov. III, and Connie Segura, Prov. IX.

And of course, JoAnne Chapman And her Administrative Assistant, Steven Bailey, will continue at the Church Center to help everything run smoothly. What would we do without them!

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

Newsletter for Diocesan Coordinators and Friends of UTO
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017



Expand the Circle of Thankful People

We're on the web
www.episcopalchurch.org/uto

*The
Rt. Reverend
Lloyd E. Allen
Bishop
Of
Honduras*

