

NEW ENGLAND CHAPEL: RESTORATION

SHOWING COMPASSION, MENDING INJUSTICE

June 2014

Serving with Purpose

by Amy Cornwell

The lady said it would be easy. “It’s two rooms and I don’t have very much. There isn’t a lot of big furniture and my son-in-law is going to help but I don’t have anyone else. Could you and people from your church help me load a moving truck?” A few NECers answered the call to help and met with our family out at a little apartment this May, and we spent a morning working with volunteers to load that truck.

There were a few questions that came up with this request, repeat questions that accompany any call for help, service or other, in our church: “Does she/he/they even come regularly to our church?” or “Why can’t she/he/they ask some of her friends to help her out?” or “Haven’t we already helped out enough people?” and “Why is this my responsibility?” These were questions my kids asked on the car ride that morning, questions I have asked myself – especially when I feel inconvenienced! The simplest answer I have come across is: purpose. Pastor Rick Warren writes, “You weren’t created just to consume resources — to eat, breath, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life. You were created to add to life on Earth, not just take from it. God wants you

to give something back.” Ephesians 2:10 LB supports this: “It is God himself who has given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives serving others.” And then Christ tells us that the way we care for our neighbors who have needs, the way we respond to requests for help, is the test by which we show we know Him (Matthew 25:35-45). Our purpose as lovers of God and believers in Christ, a purpose found in the mission of NEC, is to put feet to our faith in service to and love for those God place us in community with.

(And yes, it was pretty hard to convince my 14 year old son he was fulfilling any sort of larger purpose on his Saturday morning by carrying boxes of stuff from a tiny apartment to a Penske truck – especially as the volunteer donuts box was completely empty when he looked!)

The lady, when she knew she would have help, wrote: “God is great! I am down to the wire and just needed to have good news so I could relax. Thank you so much.”

Who can you care for and serve (individually or in a group) – a family, a neighbor on your street, someone at work or in church – so they can see your love for God lived out?

“Equipping the people of NEC to show compassion, mend injustice and deepen partnerships as God guides our part in restoring his world.” - Restoration Mission



Mend, Repair, Restore

In This Issue

@NEC & Local ~ pg 2

Help a Neighbor: Local Home Repair, KidsZone Hike on SNET trail

Local & Regional- pg 3

Franklin Community Gardens, Walking in Light Summer Camp

Global ~ pg 4

Medical Trip to Dominican Republic, It's All In the Name: Cross-Cultural Trips

Restoration: @NEC & Local



Could you help with home repair for an NEC family?

We have an immediate need for help with a few house repair projects for a home in Milford:

- 1) Foundation repair -a little digging, mixing cement, pour down the hole, top it off with stones and sand.
- 2) Reframing windows, replacing sills
- 3) Replace soffits, facer board on back of garage
- 4) Install a new front door jam and rehang the door
- 5) Tear out a ceiling in the breezeway
- 6) Continue scraping exterior of house, painting, and prime new wood.

If you are available to help this Saturday, please contact De-na Gauthier at denadg@yahoo.com.



Choosing your Path: A scripture-filled Family Hike

By Bryan Wiegers

End Zoners and their families explored the winding, serene and bountiful SNETT trails just up the street from NEC on a recent Sunday after church. NEC has been part of the SNETT trail's development through its partnership with the Healthy Futures Franklin coalition. On this inaugural hike meant to create connections between 4th & 5th graders readying for our youth programs, Family Ministries Pastor Bryan Weigers used trail intersections to highlight the many crossroads of life regarding faith and choosing the right path.

And there was candy. One 5th grader volunteered to play the part of Saul when he was blinded – peppermint patties were used as props over his eyes and were gobbled up when Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and saw again.

As one parents said; "We loved it and I was so blessed by Pastor Bryan incorporating Christ into the hike. It was awesome and we appreciated his authenticity."

Be on the look out for more family adventures this Fall. Healthy Futures and NEC hope you and your family take advantage of the numerous great outdoor spaces in Franklin and surrounding towns this summer. Check out this helpful guide to get you started: [http://www.hockymca.org/images/Hockomock Area YMCA HF Community Guide.pdf](http://www.hockymca.org/images/Hockomock%20Area%20YMCA%20HF%20Community%20Guide.pdf)



Restoration: Local & Regional

NEC and Community Gardens!

By Robin Cowper

NEC is once again joining the Community Garden community to grow produce for the Franklin Food Pantry. Several years ago, NEC helped in the early stages of community gardening by helping to build 4 X 8 foot raised beds that were placed around the town, including the Charter School, Senior Center, and NEC parking lot. Students, families, and church members maintained these mini gardens. Since that time, the raised garden boxes have been relocated to the King Street Memorial playground area. There are over 30 raised beds, available by lottery for a small fee to residents of Franklin. Kale, peas, and greens are already coming up, but there's more than greens growing there. Strangers become friends, sharing stories, advice or the setting sunset.

This is a great opportunity for families, circle groups, and those who love to garden to promote healthy eating, and maybe get your hands dirty along the way! For more information or to volunteer, contact Robin Cowper (RLCowper@gmail.com, 508-520-3175).



Summer Camp for Kids

By Dawn Foley

This year New England Chapel once again has the opportunity to partner with Walking In Light to offer a summer camp experience to youth from Great Brook Valley and other urban housing projects in Worcester. The camp is held at Fairwoods in Uxbridge, MA from July 28 -31. The camp has been a highlight in many young adults' lives. This camp is all about connecting - youth with God, with each other and with our community. We are looking for you to connect in the following ways:

- Host family - Open up your home to teens for 3 evenings and overnights.
- Volunteer at Camp - there are a variety opportunities from set up, cooking, clean up, teaching, etc.
- Scholarship - The cost of the camp is approximately \$125.00 per teen. Offer to pay for part or full scholarship.

Families and teens have shared fun experiences and it often leads to long-term friendships. One family connected with two teenage girls over a "spa" night and bonds were created over simply doing nails, fun meals and swims at the pool. Another family hosted two boys for three years in a row and got to know the rest of his family.

If you are interested in volunteering, hosting or offering scholarships, please contact Dawn Foley, dawn-foley@comcast.net.



Restoration: Global

NEC in the Dominican Republic

By Robbie Lottero

Once again the medical team is headed for the Dominican Republic on June 15th. This year we will be spending out entire week in the mountains and not partially in Puerto Plata as previous trips. Last trip, in 2012, we realized the greatest need for medical care is in the country as there are no medical teams that go there. We are able to provide adult and pediatric medical services, as well as physical and respiratory therapy care, and our own pharmacy. Our generously donated supplies have been shipped and received in the Dominican Republic.

There are approximately 30 people, forming 4 medical teams. God has also blessed us with a group of Dominicans who are integral to our mission. These wonderful people help us by organizing transportation and translators, so we can step right in and start working right away. We are planning on branching out more into the mountains and setting up two additional clinic sites this year. The people who come to our clinics are so kind and caring, sometimes stepping aside to let another be seen first. Many walk half a day just to get to the clinic, some arriving on burros.

We have seen many heart breaking as well as many heartwarming things. One malnourished woman arrives, weighing 55 pounds and a young boy receives a sweet treat, putting it aside to share with his grandmother. These warm, generous, loving people often ask with a smile "When are you coming back?"

We thank all of you for your most generous support and ask for your continued prayers. Please pray for safety as we travel from our accommodations in big open safari trucks up some very steep dirt roads – sometimes we have to get out and walk to reduce weight in the truck. Most importantly, please pray that all the people we serve will see God's love, mercy, and grace whenever they are with us and that we will be His humble servants.

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Live it out...

PRAY: For the
NEC medical team
as they head to the
Dominican Republic
the week of 6/15

GIVE: A Saturday
to help a neighbor
with a construc-
tion project (see
pg. 2)

ACT: Host a young
adult for the sum-
mer Walking in
Light camp or pro-
vide a camp schol-
arship

It's All In The Name: Cross-Cultural Trips

By Jodi Koeman

New England Chapel has been involved in "missions" trips throughout North America and various countries around the world for the past 15 years. These trips have been an incredible way to deepen our relationships with God and others while serving. This past spring the Restoration Global team discussed the name of the trips and decided to choose a new name that more accurately teaches New England Chapel about what it means to engage in our world with our eyes wide open to what God has to show and teach us.

Starting this year we are using CROSS CULTURAL TRIPS: Serving, Learning and Connecting. The name, Cross Cultural trips, might take a while to get used to, but it provides a vision for what we hope happens on these trips. No matter what new situation or environment we enter, we will be faced with a culture that is different than the one we are used to. We need to be prepared to enter these trips with the eyes of a student and the heart of Christ. These trips will focus on serving others, learning about God, ourselves and others, and connecting with the people we meet. We want to focus more on building relationships than doing tasks, more on people than on projects.

We hope you are excited to learn more about what trips are in store for the future and how we can all be cross cultural learners and servers.