

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIII No. 8
September 2008

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community
and the world through discipleship and service.**

MY WALK IN FAITH

(Read on confirmation Sunday, April 27)

Today is a very special day, our confirmation service. As most of you know, last year my class had the special privilege of sharing their Walks in Faith with the congregation. And, this year we will be doing the same. My class has worked very hard at preparing their Walks in Faith and I am so proud of each and every one of them. However, this year we are going to add one more Walk in Faith to the service. During one of my classes a while back, the kids in my class asked if I would also share my Walk in Faith with the congregation. At first, I thought that was silly and that I shouldn't take up the special time allotted for my class. However, it struck me that I had never done this before and what a great opportunity it would be for me to teach my class how important it is to be proud of our Walk in Faith and that we should share it with everyone we know. So, today I am here to share this very important part of my life with you.

When I think about my faith, a specific verse

comes to mind: *Now faith is the assurance of things hope for, the conviction of things not seen - Hebrews 11:1.* I am always hoping, watching and praying that the young men and women I teach will grow up to love the Lord Jesus and keep growing in their own faith as I am still doing even today.

I was born and raised in Holgate, Ohio, one of five children. I was baptized, confirmed and married to Leo Clausen in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, also in Holgate. My ministry began here at Emanuel with teaching third grade Sunday School, while my very good friend, Sue, taught fourth grade Sunday School. After several years, I was privileged to be able to add the teaching of catechism classes to my resume. Of course, I give my son, Dennis, all the credit for getting me involved in catechism - after Pastor Ritterling's desperate phone call to me early one evening asking if I could please accompany Dennis to his catechism class for the rest of the year. So for the last 28 years, I have had the privilege and enjoyment of teaching your children, my

grandchildren, your grandchildren and watching them all grow in their faith. It has been very rewarding and a special gift to me in my Walk in Faith.

I have also been deeply involved in the banner-making ministry with both Sandi and Sue. We have learned that the banners you see here and those that we have made over the years are wonderful representations of statements of faith when they are used for special occasions like confirmations, baptisms, weddings and also funerals, or even when they are used to support one of Pastor's sermons. Banner-making has been another ministry for me that has been a true blessing to me, as well as the congregation. How

wonderful it has been to share in fellowship with true God-fearing women like Sandi and Sue in preparation of these banners.

During my many years of ministry, I have never stopped growing my faith under the teachings of Pastor Ritterling, Pastor Jim, Pastor Joy, Pastor Linda, and of course, Pastor Castello. However, nothing can compare to the lessons I have learned from the children. I truly believe that the children have taught me as much and have led me deeper into my faith as I have hopefully helped them. As you know, we learn much through the eyes of our children.

Thank you for letting me share my Walk in Faith with you all.

Jarita Clausen

Discussion on Early Communion

You are invited to a discussion on the possibility of early communion for our congregational members. If we would go that route, we would most likely begin to commune children in the fifth grade and older.

We will discuss your interests and concerns on September 29 at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in the discussion, not just those with children of that age.

Volunteer needed

A volunteer is needed to help coordinate the VIDEOTAPING of the services. These tapes are given to shut-ins or anyone interested in viewing them.

Also, if you know of anyone who would appreciate having either audio or video tapes of the services every week, please let Pastor know.

Thursday night services

Once again, we are making plans to continue the Thursday evening services beyond the summer. The last summer service was held on August 14.

We have returned to the Bible Study/Dialog sermon format for the remainder of the year. These services are informal and enjoyable.

The one thing we do need is volunteers. We had many wonderful people come forward March through June to assist with the music portion of the service. It can be as simple as leading us in song - a capella, playing an instrument of your choosing, or any way that you can lead us in praise and worship. Come share your talent with us.!

Call Susan Landversicht 419-592-0137 or
Tom Jenny 419-592-7588.

**** Good News Preschool is enrolling 3 and 4 year olds for fall classes.
Call Judy Demmel at 599-8926 or 592-2616. ****

**** We would like to keep a file of e-mail addresses in the office.
If you would like your address included in our file, please
give it to Pastor Castello or leave it in the church office. ****

**** College students, we would appreciate receiving your college address and e-mail
so that we can keep in touch with you. Please leave your address in the church office
or e-mail it to emanuel@bright.net. ****

**** *Parents, if your little ones play in the nursery, please help them to put the toys back
where they belong when they are finished playing with them. Thank you! *****

WELCA News

Nancy Schink

Summer will soon be on its way out, but we have much to look forward to. (I know, a preposition is something you should never end a sentence with.)

Do not forget the September 4 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. We have a great slate of officers for the election.

Many, many thanks and appreciation to Ramona Koppenhofer and her committee for their tireless efforts. It is not an easy task to be on a nominating committee!

Many thanks to those who agreed to serve! God loves you and so do we.

We are fortunate to once again have Pastor Castello with us for the Bible Study. How great is that! So we saved the best for last.

Come and bring a friend.

P.S. And a bar of soap for LWR

WOMEN ONLY

Grandmothers, moms and daughters of all ages: I'll come clean with you.

Lutheran World Relief needs your help. We take it for granted we will have soap to bathe. Not so for many.

We are asking, if you are able, that you donate one bar of soap in its original wrapper for LWR. All sizes are accepted, but 4-5 oz. is preferred.

A bar of soap goes a long way to contribute to the dignity and cleanliness of the recipients.

Bring your donation anytime this month of September, it will be deeply appreciated by those less fortunate.

Look for containers labeled September Soap. Thank you.

Club Christ High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

What an exciting first National Youth Gathering planning meeting! We have 6 kids who are (almost) committed to spending a week in New Orleans next July!! We had a successful meeting, planning fund raisers and making plans for the next year. There are lots of things planned, so keep your eyes and ears open!! A special thank you to all of the kids and parents who were so excited and committed to helping that you jump started the project with little help from me!

Club Christ is currently planning a Frisbee Golf outing on September 7, 2008. On this date we will need to have commitment money from those who are planning to attend as registration begins shortly thereafter and we will want to register as soon as humanly possible! We will meet after late church on the 7th and head to BG to golf. We will stop for a fast food lunch, so please bring money to eat. Golfing is free!

We also have plans for much of the fall! We will be serving and cleaning up after the Soup Dinner

on October 19, so those of you able to attend, please come and enjoy some dinner before the annual Emanuel fall concert!! We will be raking leaves on November 8 and continuing the annual tradition of the OSU vs MI sub sale on November 22. On December 13 we will be setting up, serving and tearing down for a private party being held at the church. In addition, there was much discussion about having a homemade pie sale, probably around Christmas for those of you who simply don't have the time to bake a pie!

Attending the National Youth Gathering is not just an experience and opportunity for the youth going to New Orleans, it's an opportunity for the congregation as a whole! We hope that you will continue supporting our youth in their endeavors to further their faithful journeys.

I'll be doing my best to keep all of you, Club Christ and congregation alike, informed on plans and fund raisers! If any of you have additional ideas, please don't hesitate to let me know!

Mercy Me in Concert!

There will be a Mercy Me concert on the campus of the University of Findlay on September 27, 2008. Mercy Me is a contemporary Christian band whose music is thought-provoking, uplifting and worshipful! Their hits include "I Can Only Imagine", "Word of God, Speak", and "Homesick". There is a group of us who will be attending the concert, and we would like to invite ANYONE in the congregation who might like to attend! Tickets are \$20 per person, but the price lowers to \$15 in groups of 10 or more. (There are currently 6 people committed to attending!) Please let Julie Mt.Castle or me know if you would like to join us!

Notes from Angela

Adult Choir

Adult choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will sing our favorite number on September 7 and 14. New faces are always welcome (no audition necessary!). We have some exciting things planned for fall, so if you've been thinking about joining us, now is an excellent time. Plus, we are a really fun group to hang with for an hour on Wednesdays!

Holy Cross Day

Holy Cross Day is celebrated each year on September 14. This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. We lift high the cross as a sign of our health and salvation. On this Sunday, we encourage our members to wear their cross jewelry (or neckties?). We will have cross banners on display and all hymns will have the word "cross" in them.

October Concert

Our annual fall concert is being planned for October 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our bell choir and adult choir will be featured along with our other talented members. Please invite your family and friends for what is always an amazing hour of inspirational music. There will be more information in the October newsletter (including the special plans for lunch!), so mark your calendars now!

Order of Worship

We will return to our regular order of worship on Sunday, September 7 after enjoying a shortened version this summer. We hope to introduce some new hymns and different music for the liturgy.

In honor of Labor Day:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is then the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Thank you!

- ❑ I thank you for your many kindnesses, prayers, and expressions of care and concern shown to myself and the family. They neither go unnoticed nor unappreciated. It is a joy to be here with you. Much love and peace to you all. -Pastor Jim Castello

- ❑ Thank you to Pastor and to all those who remembered us at the death of our mother, Hazel Riggs. We greatly appreciated the cards, memorials and expressions of sympathy. -George & Rita Kryder

- ❑ Thank you very much to the Christmas-in-July carolers. I was very surprised and very pleased! I love you all! -Virginia Dillon

- ❑ On behalf of the Henry County Fair Board, the Tomato Festival Committee, and especially myself, I would like to extend to you a very warm and heartfelt “Thank You” for allowing the use of your facilities again this year. The parking lot space and the special considerations given to the Hope Services and the Filling Home folks was a major factor in the wonderful experience had by everyone participating in the 2008 Tomato Parade. All in all, things have gone very well launching from this area of town and with the continued support of your congregation and your neighbors, we hope to build on this years experience and look forward to working with you again next year. I would like to hear your thoughts, suggestions, or complaints about how the parade day went. Please feel free to call me at German Mutual 419-599-3993 or by cell phone at 419-966-0013. -God bless you, Neil Giffey, Parade Director tomatofestivalparade@yahoo.com

- ❑ ***Shining Thanks ...***
...to everyone who helped us “Reach for the STARS” with our 2nd place award-winning float for the Tomato Festival Parade! From the kids who traveled to Bethlehem: Alexandria and Blake Biederstedt, Hannah Jordan, Alyssa and Ryan Kruse, Maddie ad Morgan Ashbaugh, Carl and Sarah Yaney; to the builder of the stable: Art Lange; to the float designers, decorators, and/or candy passer-outers: Gayla, Mike and Laura Yaney, Carol Castello, Ryan and Andrea Hoffman, Ed and Tiffany Biederstedt, Emily Jordan, Laura Ellis-Kruse, Shelly Storch; to the driver(s): Alan and Neil Storch; to all of you who cheered for us along the route (and on the radio!) – it was a fun way to spread God’s love to Henry County (and we heard LOTS of positive comments!). A special “STAR” in her crown to Laura Ellis-Kruse for providing lunch and “entertainment” for us all in our down-time between the judging and the parade!

Thanks to our friends at Hope Services who assemble our newsletters each month!

REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS.

Lutheran Home (1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)

Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse
Alfred "Petey" Ruetz
Florian Sauer

Alpine Village Assisted Living (1032 S. Perry, Napoleon)

Carl Bockelman (#319)
Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

Otterbein Portage Valley (Avalon by Otterbein, 3533 Rivers Edge Dr Rm 106, Perrysburg OH 43551)

Hildegarde Reiser

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net
www.emanuelnapoleon.org
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Ted Rohrs
Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Schink
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@embarqmail.com)
Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
Asst. Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle
Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
Sunday School Superintendent -
Altar Guild Chairman - Andrea Hoffman
Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel
Custodian - Jack Robbins

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

Good News Pre-School Annual Report

Good News Pre-School had 33 students enrolled for the 2007-2008 school year.

Annual School Report July 2007 - June 2008

Beginning Balance	4,449.50
Actual Pre-School Expenses	
Sub/Assistant	4,466.43
Director's Salary	10,345.84
Taxes ¹	3,759.22
Retirement	1,812.50
Advertising	386.20
Telephone	707.54
Supplies	610.48
License	<u>50.00</u>
Total Actual Expenses	22,138.21
Fund Raiser Expenses	<u>5,309.66</u>
Total Outflow	27,447.87
Income from Tuition	15,950.50
Fund Raiser Income	<u>8,358.25</u>
Total Inflow	24,308.75
Ending Balance	<u><u>1,310.38</u></u>

¹ Taxes include both employee withholding and employer taxes.

Church Council Highlights - August 18, 2008

- Emanuel will return to the regular liturgy, starting the first Sunday in September.
- Starting this year, the Worship and Doctrine Board will create a book to keep a record of memorials given by families, as well as try to generate a record of past memorial gifts.
- Organizations benefitting from Emanuel's Giving Donation Center in the coming months are the following: September - Henry County Humane Society; October - Lutheran Home; November - Christmas Cheer; and December - "Project: We Care" to assist "adopted" families for Christmas.
- "Soul Food" suppers will resume on September 10. Public Relations efforts will attempt to reach community members in need to invite them to Soul Food.
- Emanuel's "Reach for the Stars" nativity theme float took second place among church floats entered in the Fair/Tomato Festival Parade.
- The "Good Word for Today" radio spots are scheduled to run in September and October with various members reading the spots.
- Emanuel will again be participating in the Crop Walk to be held on Sunday, October 5.
- Vacation Bible School (July 28 to August 1) went well with 40 students enrolled.
- The theme for Rally Day held Sunday, August 24, was Emanuel's Olympics. Regular Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 7.
- After School Club will begin in October.
- The Nominating Committee is working on securing a slate of candidates to run for various Church Council positions.
- Sealing of the parking lot has been completed, as well as the roof leak located. After the leak is fixed, the window area (window near choir loft) will be re-plastered.

from the Congregational Life Board

GIVING/DONATION CORNER

→ Thank you to everyone who has contributed throughout the summer. Your contributions are much needed and appreciated. We will still be accepting school supplies throughout the rest of August.

→ We must not forget about God’s four legged creatures. We will be collecting for the Henry County Humane Society in September so the lost dogs and kittens can have a comfortable stay while waiting for new owners. They are in need of:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Paper towels | Latex rubber gloves | Laundry detergent |
| Bleach | Liquid dish soap | Cat litter |
| Industrial size trash bags | Liquid hand soap | Tissues |
| Dry kitten food | | |

→ Emanuel’s *Good Word for the Day* radio spots will be airing on WNDH radio September 1 through October 24 between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Make sure to listen for them and start your day off with a good word.

**Mark your calendars and get your walkin’ shoes on for
the 4th annual Napoleon/Henry County CROP Walk for Hunger
on Sunday, October 5!!!**

September Bloodmobile Schedule

- Tuesday, September 2, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Napoleon VFW
- Wednesday, September 3, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Napoleon Curves
- Monday, September 15, 7a.m. - 1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital
- Thursday, September 25, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Henry County Red Cross
Chapterhouse - Double Red Drive

Back to School means Back to “Soul Food”!

With the start of another school year, it’s time to start our weekly Wednesday “Soul Food” suppers, too, the first of which will be on Wednesday, September 10, with serving from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We’re simplifying things this year and won’t be using sign-up sheets. This serves as your open and ongoing invitation to come and enjoy! We are STILL and always in need of help with this weekly gathering. We will need salads and desserts each week to “fill out” the menus (and fill up hungry stomachs!), and we will need help weekly with shopping or cooking or clean-up.

We are reaching out more to the community this year to welcome all who are in need of the food and fellowship for body and soul that we at Emanuel offer with this weekly meal. If you see someone you don’t know, please greet them and welcome them. Offer to help them through the line and with the “routine” of the meal.

The weekly menus will be published in the monthly newsletter and on the bulletin board by the church office, but are, as always, subject to change (sometimes things just don’t work out, and plans have to be changed!).

The tantalizing taste treats for September are:

September 10 - Sloppy Joes, Chili Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Melon

September 17 - Chicken and Rice Casseroles

September 24 - Roast Beef with Potatoes, Carrots, and Onions

October 1 - Baked Sandwiches: Reubens and Subs, Potato Salad, Chips

A thought for Labor Day

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long, and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

GREAT FOOD FOR ALL

GREAT FOOD FOR ALL is an organization that is partnering with local churches in a very real and practical way to offer nutritional and financial benefits to every household, regardless of economic status. If you have heard of Angel Food Ministries, it is a very similar program, but also gives back to the sponsoring churches. The “basic food box” anchors the program and is loaded with enough food to assist feeding a family of four for a week or a single person for almost a month ... for only \$30. GREAT FOOD FOR ALL also makes available nutritionally enhanced senior citizen meals, specialty comb boxes that may be loaded with a variety of meats, and kid-friendly meal boxes.

No membership fee, no paperwork, no hassles, no purchase limits are required. And there is no end to savings ... just a great deal and ... GREAT FOOD FOR ALL. If you eat, you qualify!

How it works: food orders are taken by local sponsor sites early in the month. On a predetermined date toward the end of the month, the sponsor site receives the orders from Great Food. Each “basic food box” comes in ready for delivery. Presently, St. Paul’s on Glenwood is serving as a local sponsor in our area. See the enclosed brochure.

Membership News

Weddings Congratulations and God’s blessings to ...
Chris & Jennifer (Ferner) Jenny who were married here on August 9.
Eric & Jamie (Crnkovic) Fletcher who were married in Mentor, Ohio on July 12.
Matt & Jill (Toon) Schwab who were married in Cincinnati on August 23.

New members Welcome new members, Susan DeMichiei-Mabee and Bonnie Palamara!

Susan DeMichiei-Mabee
133 Oak Dr
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-3364

Bonnie Palamara
1378 Richmar Ln
Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-0626

Funeral Pastor Castello recently officiated at the funeral of Martha E. Ritter at the Forest Hill Cemetery Mausoleum.

WE APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY NEWS (BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, ETC.).

If it is agreeable to you, we would like to include your family’s birthdays in our birthday prayers on Sundays, in which case we would need those names and dates. We would also like to know the names of all those family members serving in the military.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Divorce Care Seminar/Support Group and DC4K program for Children of Families Experiencing Divorce and Separation

Divorce Care is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. DC4K is designed to give children the tools to develop healthier relationships within their own families and to give each child of divorce hope for the future. Childcare is provided for children four and under. The next series runs September 9 through December 2 here at Emanuel. Please see Jack Robbins for more information.

Family Fun Day

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, is planning a Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 13 from 2 - 8 p.m. Proceeds will help pay for new doors to the Parish Hall building. They will have fun games for children and some games for the adults.

Mission Festival

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners invites you to its annual Mission Festival on Sunday, September 14. The worship service will begin at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Marcus Lohrmann will be the guest speaker. The theme will be about the mission field in our own towns and our own backyards. A Soup & Pie Dinner will follow the service in the church basement.

Camp Mowana Fall Festival and Benefit Auction

Sunday, October 5 is your opportunity to bring the entire family to Camp Mowana to enjoy autumn at its festive best! Enjoy live music, great food, hayrides, crafts and more. The Benefit Auction will feature handmade quilts, fine handcrafts, theme baskets and many other unique items. There will also be pony rides, a petting zoo, face-painting and pumpkin-carving for the kids. All proceeds will benefit summer camperships for deserving youth. Come out and enjoy the fun! Hours are from 12:30 -5:30 p.m., with the Benefit Auction starting at 3:30 p.m. Mowana is located just north of Mansfield off US 42 on Fleming Falls Rd. Call Mowana at 419-589-7406 for more information.

Celebrating Christmas at the Filling Fall Fling

Mark you calendars for the annual Filling Fall Fling which will be held from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2008 in the Filling Home Activity Center. Workers are needed as well as donations of baked goods. Call Nancy Busby (419-592-6539) or Ellen Lange (419-592-6716) if you are willing to help.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
July 24 (7:30 p.m.)	46		
July 27	118 + 85 (203)		\$ 4605.00 Bldg Fd - \$135 Good Sam Fd - \$125 World Hunger - \$5
July 31 (7:30)	50		
August 3	121 + 115 (236)	112	\$ 6040.01 Bldg Fd - \$590 *Bldg Fd mem - \$10 World Hunger - \$10 Good Sam Fd - \$50
August 7 (7:30)	47		
August 10	89 + 110 (199)	95	\$ 5007.51 Bldg Fd - \$250 *Mem - \$200 World Hunger - \$16 Good Sam Fd - \$80
August 14 (7:30)	41		
August 17	118 + 92 (210)		\$ 5757.25 Bldg Fd - \$370 Bldg Fd mem - \$50 World Hunger - \$10

*** Memorials:**

8/3 \$10 Bldg Fd - Hazel Riggs

8/10 \$100 Bell Choir, \$100 Rainbow Ringers - Logenia Doda

8/17 \$50 Bldg Fd in honor of Greg & Kim Ritchey

A Sunday school teacher was explaining how God created Eve out of Adam's rib. Suddenly, a student who enjoyed showing off started groaning and grabbing his side.

When the teacher asked what the boy's problem was, he said with a smile, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Worship participants in September

Acolytes

8:00 Blake Biederstedt & Henry Elling

10:30 David Yunker & Tyler Nation

Lay Assistants

8:00 Nanette Schwab

10:30 Karri Ashbaugh

Ushers

8:00 Art Lange, Helen Lange,

Ted Rohrs, Jim Hershberger

10:30 Marv Mt.Castle, Ben Michaelis,

Lavern Lanzer, Mark Tonjes

Altar Guild

Jeanette Damman & Donna Meyers

Altar Flowers

September 7 - Gary & Jamie Bostelman in honor of their 33rd wedding anniversary

September 14 - Jim & Arlene Hershberger in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary

September 21 - Terry & Ruth Hershberger in honor of their 11th wedding anniversary

September 28 - Sheila Sosebee and family in loving memory of Jim

Altar flowers cost \$20. This amount should be placed in the offering plate and designated for altar flowers. Flowers are automatically ordered from Cattails. If you have a special flower, color or container request, Cattails can customize your arrangement. Price of the arrangement can be increased also. If you wish to make your own arrangements, you should notify the church office a couple weeks ahead of the designated Sunday.

The Sunday school teacher asked each of her children to write a short note to a missionary to tell him they were praying for him. 'The missionary,' the teacher said, 'is a very busy man, so tell him that he is not expected to answer the class.'

When they were finished, the teacher went over the letters to see what the children had written. One little girl had written, "Dear Rev. Brown, we're praying for you. We don't expect an answer."