

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

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Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

Churches United - Serving Together

The Well – Autumn/Winter 2008

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry
702 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Non-Profit Organization
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Autumn/Winter 2008

“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

WCM CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WILKINSBURG

Since 1968 Wilkinsburg Community Ministry has been striving to address the needs of the citizens of the Wilkinsburg community. WCM has now become a pillar of stability for many residents in the Wilkinsburg area due to our dedication to improving people’s quality of life. We are proud to be known as an organization made up of “People Helping People Through Christ”, for it is through Him that we are able to achieve all that we do.

WCM began as a response to the changing social conditions that were occurring in Wilkinsburg in the mid to late 1960's. A number of clergy and lay leaders from ten congregations formed the Board of Directors for WCM in 1968. Over the ensuing years WCM has changed in response to new and emerging needs. Acting as the cooperative body of the member congregations, WCM develops programs geared to meet the physical, social, economic and spiritual needs of the people of Wilkinsburg. Today the ministry is supported by more than 25 congregations, three denominations, several foundations, community organizations and businesses, and a whole host of individuals. Through a large number of volunteers and a small but dedicated staff, WCM is recognized in the community as being at the forefront of meeting the needs of the residents of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

WCM is a very special organization – a non-profit, ecumenical organization born out of the commitment of Wilkinsburg churchgoers and their pastors who recognized a need for people of all races and cultures to understand each other better. Over the past forty years, many residents of Wilkinsburg have benefitted from the programs and services provided by WCM.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of my favorite verses from the Bible is Ecclesiastes 3:1 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. So I was pleasantly surprised to find that this text appears on the first page of every edition of “The Well”. I had pondered the idea of putting my resume in for the position of WCM Director last year when it first became available, but did not feel it was the right time for me to change. But now that I have been in the Director’s chair for three months, I feel I am in the right place at the right time. I have been busy every minute since I started, and I’m so grateful for the support of the Board of Directors, and the wonderful staff here: Anita McKeithen, Ray Tolbert, Bert Hopson, Sharon Walker, Ed Moore, Beverly McIlwain, and our newest staff member Jami Broom. Special thanks also goes out to all the wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time.

I have been in Wilkinsburg since 1998 when I took the position as Coordinator of the After-school Program “One Step” at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg. I have come to think fondly of the community and want to see it prosper and grow. If we all work as a team here we can accomplish anything.

I would like to thank Robyn Aguzzi, the previous Director, for building a strong foundation for me to work on. She has helped to strengthen and renew WCM’s relationship with local congregations and community organizations. With God’s help and guidance I can build on this to empower WCM to grow, change and strengthen our ministries.

“God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in time of trouble,
So we will not be afraid,
even if the earth is shaken
and the mountains fall into the ocean depths;
The Lord almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Psalm 46 v.1-3 & 11.

Blessings,

Ann

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

• One of our major goals for 2008 was met in June when WCM negotiated an expanded lease with its current landlord by taking over the storefront at 704 Wood Street. This gives WCM the storefront at 702 and 704 Wood Street in addition to the second floor office space known as 708 Wood Street. We are deeply grateful to our landlady, Mrs. Alice Sapienza Donnelly, for her cooperation and kindness. By leasing this space we hope to revive old services lost during the transition from our previous location. Those services include our furniture and clothing assistance programs and our food pantry.



• Mrs. Ann Greider, BSW joined WCM's staff as its Executive Director on June 24, 2008, succeeding Mrs. Robyn Aguzzi, who left for a full-time job in May. Ann obtained an Associate's Degree from Community College of Allegheny County and her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Carlow University. She has had many years of experience in social work and comes to us from Hosanna House where she worked most recently in fundraising and development. Mrs. Greider also worked at the Christian Church of Wilksburg coordinating after-school programs for 7th & 8th graders. Ann has been a volunteer since 1976. She came to the United States from England in 1993.

• Welcome also to Jami Broom who is working part-time in development and maintaining the new WCM website at www.wcm15221.org.



Ann Greider & Jack Peffer at Wilksburg Community Day assisted by Jami Broom & James Garner

SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS HELP MEET ON-GOING LOCAL NEEDS

Food Pantry Statistics from Raymond Tolbert

	May '08	June '08	July '08	August '08
Households served:	20	16	9	15
Individuals served:	37	37	21	20
Age of individuals:				
0-17	12	21	10	2
18-34	7	4	2	6
35-59	18	11	9	12
60+	0	1	0	2

Angel Food Ministries Program: So far this year, WCM has served a total of 248 families. The “menu” for October includes 14 items for the low cost of just \$30.00. A “Senior Box” is also available, which includes 10 perfectly seasoned, nutritionally balanced fully-cooked meals that are ready to heat and serve. The cost is only \$28.00 In addition there are 5 October specials ranging in price between \$18.00 and \$21.00. Orders are due by Tuesday, October 14. Distribution day is Saturday, October 25, 2008 at South Avenue United Methodist Church between 9:30 AM and 12:00 Noon. Participants must bring a large box to hold the food. Food stamps EBT are accepted. South Avenue United Methodist Church is located at 733 South Avenue. The latest menu is always available at www.wcm15221.org.

Holiday Food Assistance: WCM will again be distributing food at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sign-ups will begin this year on October 6.

Utility Assistance: LIHEAP and CRISIS will be opening as this issue goes to press. WCM will again be actively involved in assisting needy community residents in receiving winter energy assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ‘SERVICES FOR SENIORS’ PROGRAM

Volunteers delivered 1,244 Meals-on-Wheels in August 2008!

- Volunteers served over 5200 meals to Wilkinsburg residents in the past 4 months.
- About 70 meals were distributed each weekday.

Drivers are still desperately needed for Meals on Wheels Routes.

We are always looking for new volunteers. Our volunteers are incredibly dedicated to providing this service, which is a wonderful blessing to all of us, but we are always in need of additional help.

Please contact Anita McKeithen at 412-241-8072 to volunteer.

OCTOBER 2008 ANGEL FOOD MENU

REGULAR BOX

For fourteen years, Angel Food has provided balanced nutrition and variety through its regular box, with enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

- 1.5 lb. Ribeye Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)
- 4.5 lb. (Avg) Split Chicken Breast Family Tray Pack
- 26 oz. Heat and Serve Meatloaf and Brown Gravy
- 1 lb. Chicken Breast Fajita Strips
- 1 lb. Boneless Center-Cut Pork Chops (4 x 4 oz.)
- 1 lb. Fully Cooked Meatballs
- 1 lb. All Meat Hot Dogs
- 1 lb. Frozen Sliced Carrots
- 1 lb. California Blend Vegetables
- 1 lb. Pasta
- 28 oz. Marinara Sauce
- 48 oz. Hawaiian Punch
- 32 oz. Borden 2% Reduced Fat Shelf Stable Milk
- 12 ct. Corn Tortillas
- One Dozen Eggs
- One Dessert Item

\$30.00

SENIOR BOX

Ten perfectly seasoned, nutritionally balanced, fully-cooked meals -- just heat and serve. Each meal has been developed with dietary needs of senior citizens in mind, and contains 3 oz. of protein, a starch & two vegetables or fruit.

BBQ Chicken; Slow roasted chicken diced and served with Western Flavor BBQ Sauce. Served with southern-style Black Eyed Peas and Collard Greens and Cinnamon Apple sauce.

Meatloaf with Brown Herb Gravy; Traditional Meatloaf topped with Herb seasoned Brown Gravy, served with Sweet Potatoes with brown sugar & maple, green peas, mushrooms and green beans.

Sweet 'n Sour Chicken; Slow cooked chicken chunks served in a sweet 'n sour sauce over steamed Rice with Steamed Broccoli, Mushrooms and Wax Beans.

Meat Patties with Country Style Gravy and Onions; Lightly Floured and Seasoned and served with a rich Brown Gravy and Onion. Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli with a sprinkling of Cheese along accompanied by Diced Beets.

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce; Spaghetti Noodles served with a rich traditional Italian Meat Sauce. Seasoned Italian Green Beans, Diced Pears and an Oatmeal Cookie.

Salisbury Steak with Brown Mushroom Gravy; Traditional Salisbury Steak Patties with Brown Mushroom Gravy; Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots and diced Pineapple.

Thyme Baked Chicken; Slow cooked chicken chunks served in a savory Thyme Sauce with Parsley Potatoes, Three Bean Salad and Diced Peaches.

Creole Baked White Fish; Delicate White Fish baked with a Creole Sauce served with Red Beans and Rice, Creamed Spinach, and a Chocolate Chip Cookie.

Chicken Curry With Vegetables; Cooked tender chicken with Cut Green beans and Yellow Corn over Seasoned Onion Broth Rice with Broccoli Oriental Vegetables and Diced Pears.

Ground Beef Stroganoff; Tender Ground Beef in a rich Stroganoff Cream Sauce served over Parsley Egg Noodles, Green Beans and Onions, with Fruit Cocktail.

\$28.00

*** One or More Specials Available with the Purchase of Either the Regular or Senior Box Above ***

OCTOBER SPECIAL #1

- 7 lb. Grill Box **\$21.00****
- 2 lb. Top Sirloin Strips (4 x 8 oz.)
 - 2 lb. Baby Back Ribs
 - 1.5 lb. Hamburger Patties (4 x 6 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.)

OCTOBER SPECIAL #2

- 4.5 lb. Meat and Chicken Combo **\$21.00****
- 1.5 lb. Ribeye Steaks (2 x 12 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. New York Strip Steaks (2 x 12 oz.)
 - 1.5 lb. Bacon-Wrapped Chicken Filets (4 x 6 oz.)

OCTOBER SPECIAL #3

- 3.75 lb. T-Bone Special **\$21.00****
- 3.75 lb. T-Bone Steaks (5 x 12 oz.)

OCTOBER SPECIAL #4

- 10 lb. Chicken Tender Box **\$18.00****
- 10 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenders

OCTOBER SPECIAL #5

- Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box **\$21.00****
- 1 head New York State Green Cabbage
 - 1 head California Iceberg Lettuce (Cello wrapped)
 - 1 bunch California Broccoli
 - 2 lb. Medium-Large Idaho/E. Oregon Onions
 - 5 lb. New Crop Yukon Gold Potatoes
 - 3 lb. North Carolina New Crop Red Apples
 - 2 lb. Bag of California Fancy Lemons
 - 1 Super Sweet Gold Pineapple
 - 1 lb. Bag of California Peeled Baby Carrots

Celebrating 40 Years of Service (continued from page 1)

Currently, WCM offers a wide variety of programs that meet many needs of the people in the community, such as Meals on Wheels, Angel Food Ministries, a food pantry, food programs for at-risk children, clothing selection, energy assistance, emergency aid and others. Forty years is a real milestone for any ministry, and WCM is very proud of its many accomplishments.

You're Invited to the WCM 40th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, October 17, 2008

Dinner 6:00 PM

South Avenue United Methodist Church

733 South Avenue, Wilksburg, PA

Free Parking in Adjacent Lots

We invite all Wilksburg area residents to join in the celebration of our vital outreach programs. The evening will include dinner, entertainment, a salute to some of the many highlights of WCM's 40-year history, and a celebration of the tireless work done by WCM staff and volunteers throughout the years!

Tickets for the event will cost \$25.00 per person. To recognize their contribution to the ministry, tickets for WCM volunteers will be \$20.00 per person. Please call the WCM office at 412-241-8072 to make your reservation.

We look forward to seeing you on October 17!

PITTSBURGH EAST CROP HUNGER WALK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR WCM

COME AND WALK ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2008!



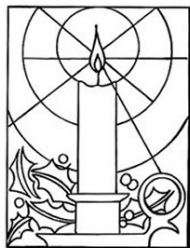
On Sunday afternoon October 12, 2008, walkers from many different churches and organizations will negotiate a 10K course through the East End of Pittsburgh to raise funds for Church World Service to fight hunger in our community and around the world. This will be the thirty-fourth annual walk for Wilksburg Community Ministry and East End Cooperative Ministry. In 2007, 120 walkers raised over \$14,000—almost the all-time record for Pittsburgh East. Someone from your church or organization should be contacting you soon. It's hoped that even more funds will be received as a result of a recent instrument—on-line pledging called "Walk on the Web"! If you are interested in supporting CROP and WCM in this way, sign in to www.cropwalk.org and specify Pittsburgh East Hunger Walk as the destination of your donation. Fifteen percent of the money raised will go to Wilksburg Community Ministry's hunger programs and ten percent will go to those of the East End Cooperative Ministry.

SAVE DECEMBER 7 FOR "WILKINSBURG SINGS AT CHRISTMAS"

St. James R.C. Church in Wilkinsburg will host the 36th celebration this year at 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 7. Come and join your fellow Christians in song to help celebrate Jesus' birth. Several local choirs are planning to participate separately, interspersing their anthems with everyone singing our favorite carols. The program will conclude with the combined choirs singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". Following the service, light refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken to aid the work of WCM. Sunday, December 14 has been set as the snow date. The church is located at 718 Franklin Avenue in Wilkinsburg.



WCM TO OFFER HOLIDAY LUMINARIA KITS IN DECEMBER



Share the
Wondrous
Light of
the Season

It's not too early to start planning for the holiday season! Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and beautify your curb and walks again with luminaria this year. You can make it easy by purchasing one of more luminaria kits from WCM. Each kit contains candles, bags and the sand needed to construct 8 luminaria. One kit provides light for up to a forty foot distance. Kits will again be available for a contribution of \$10 at many local churches and by calling the WCM office. Kits ordered through the office will be delivered in mid-December.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AGAIN THIS YEAR

Please consider making a new or additional contribution to WCM at this time. Please use the form below and send your tax-deductible contribution to WCM, 702 Wood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15221. WCM also participates in the Contributor Choice program of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. To designate WCM at work, simply fill in part D-1 of your pledge form. Our agency code is 242.

I/We want to join in your efforts to help others and give those who are less fortunate an opportunity to live with dignity, and will subscribe the following amount:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$ 100 \$200 Other \$ _____

Date: _____

Payable: Enclosed \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____

Name _____

No thank you is needed

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please consider this gift to be anonymous.

Email Address _____

Telephone _____