

Mission Spotlight

Presbytery of Cincinnati

January 2012

“Arise, Shine...”

Lakeside Presbyterian Church Youth Take Service Across The River

“Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

(Isaiah 60:1)

Ten years ago a group of youth and adult advisors ventured across the Ohio River and across denominational lines to assist in food distribution for people in need. They have been returning every month since.

It all started in 2002 when Liz Gardiner, a member of Lakeside Presbyterian Church, became aware of the growing need in the neighborhood surrounding the church she had grown up in, The Episcopal Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills. She witnessed the changes in her old neighborhood—the needs were increasing, the resources were shrinking. She knew she had to make a difference.

Gardiner, a youth group advisor at the time, initiated a mission relationship between The Church of the Advent’s Open Door Ministry outreach and the youth of Lakeside Church. On the fourth Saturday of each month, the youth traveled north to assist with

food distribution, clothing hand-outs and even provided a Christmas party for the families served by the Open Door ministry.

They have been returning every month since, hosting their 10th Christmas party this past December, and creating a light that shines brightly in that corner of the world.

“The enthusiasm of the youth for this ministry has built awareness in all age groups of our congregation,” commented Nancy Faulconer, co-chair of Lakeside Church’s Mission Committee. “Their involvement has touched a great many lives in both Walnut Hills and in our own congregation. People of all ages—younger chil-

dren, parents, empty nesters, retirees—have all joined with the youth to cross over the Ohio River and serve the people of Walnut Hills.”

“The youth have opened our hearts to our neighbors in Cincinnati,” continued Faluconer. “Each month

the people who come to Open Door greet us with joyful faces and warm words, reminding us that we are all neighbors together.”

Arise, shine, for your light has come....where will you shine the light of Christ in the year to come?



A youth member shares a Christmas story with children during the annual Christmas Party



Youth from Lakeside Church host their 10th Christmas party for children in the Walnut Hills neighborhood



Youth assist in a monthly food distribution at Open Door Ministry