

# Shepherd's Heart

FELLOWSHIP

...to share the heart of Jesus our shepherd with the streets of Pittsburgh and to the ends of the earth.

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*From the desk of The Rev. Michael Wurschmidt*  
Spring 2011

Dear friends,

Jesus warned us that there would be troubling days. He said there would be wars and rumors of wars, and earthquakes and nations rising up and fighting other nations. This is so true in our day. But Jesus also said to keep our eyes fixed on HIM and not on the circumstances around us. **This is our task these days, more than ever, to stay rooted in Jesus, and in the Hope of the Gospel.**

As we begin the Easter season, we continue to feed the poor and homeless. We continue to preach, teach, and demonstrate the Gospel story of Jesus. We can not put our hope in earthly things. We need to focus on the Lord, and what He is calling us to do. It is truly humbling to bring the Lord's Love to the poor of our city. Jesus often went to those who were hungry, broken, and in great need. He continues to call us to do the same, to go after those who are lost, to comfort those who are grieving, and to offer Hope to those who are hopeless.

When we reach out with the Love of Jesus, we always see God at work. Here is but a glimpse of God's faithfulness:

- Recently, a young couple, who live on the streets, have been coming to our Sunday services as well as our Friday night worship times. God is powerfully touching their hearts. They are now meeting with one of our leaders, for discipleship, and they are talking about getting married.
- A former homeless veteran, who now lives in Shepherd's Heart Veteran's Home, has been out of prison for 12 months. He got a job at the VA hospital, and he is now looking to rent a place of his own. He has been seriously dating a woman, and a couple of Sundays ago, in front of the congregation, he surprised her asked her to marry him! She said, "yes!" In the past year, he has gone from being in prison and homeless; to being employed, engaged and now looking for a house to rent or maybe own! God is indeed good!
- One of the men who stayed in our building during the severe weather this winter wanted to be reconciled with his family who lived in another state. He is now home with his family!



Carrying the Cross on the streets of Pittsburgh on Good Friday

- This past winter Shepherd's Heart was again involved in the Emergency Cold Weather shelter program in partnership with Allegheny County. During the many cold nights, our homeless drop in center provided safe and warm shelter to the many women who had nowhere to sleep. They slept in our warm basement so they did not have to sleep outside when the temperature was below 25 degrees .
- The Emergency Cold Weather officially ended on March 15th. However, the cold weather did not. When it became cold again on March 24th, we decided to open our building again for both homeless men and women. We fed and housed the homeless; provided clean clothes, showers, and a laundry facility to many. The men slept in our basement, and the women slept in our 3rd floor sanctuary.
- It is amazing what God does when we are obedient to what He asks us to do! God always provides many gifts so we in turn can bless His precious people.

**But everything that we do has a cost:**

- To keep our building open and to keep it heated costs.
- To provide breakfast, coffee, showers, and laundry to 50 to 90 people every morning in our drop in center costs.
- Gas for our shuttle van that provides free transportation for the poor and homeless costs.

However, we will not stop doing what God has called us to do simply because of the cost! **Are you able to help us financially once again?**



I know many of you have given before and I deeply appreciate your generosity. I am asking you to once again, pray and ask God if He would have you help us again with a financial gift. Those who have nothing, in worldly goods, will see the love of Jesus, through your gift. When Jesus walked this earth, he called many of the poor "His friends." We simply follow the example of our Lord, when we do the same.

Please also keep us and this ministry in your prayers. We thank you and bless you for upholding us in prayer. Thank you for all that you do. Please know that all of you remain in our prayers. Together, as a body, we serve our Lord Jesus. To God be the glory!

In Jesus' love,

The Rev. Mike Wurschmidt