



FOCUS ON: Community Service

St. Thomas UCC in Reading has a long tradition of serving its neighbors by opening its building for the use of community service organizations such as the Reading Area Community College (RACC) and Family Promise of Berks County. That tradition took a new form on August 15th when St. Thomas held its first Open House and Safety Awareness Day.

The event enabled residents of the church's neighborhood to learn about a variety of organizations and programs dedicated to serving the people of Reading and Berks County. The Berks County Sheriff's Department brought their "I.D. Me"



child identification program, and the Miller-Keystone Blood Bank provided information on blood donation. Teachers from RACC's "Even Start Family Literacy" and "English as a Second Language" programs explained the classes they offer, and the Red Cross had an exhibit on safety and disaster response. A park ranger from Blue Marsh Lake provided literature in English and Spanish on water safety, and there was a display on food safety and gardening from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The Reading Police K-9 Unit put on a demonstration, and the Reading Fire Department's



Engine 9 paid a visit. Representatives from Grace (Alsace) UCC's Venture Crew youth program also participated. St. Thomas members provided tours of the building, there was a "bouncy house" for the children and, of course, food was available.

The Open House and Safety Awareness Day couldn't have happened without the hard work of many volunteers. And they're already planning to do it again—even bigger and better—next year!

Appeal for Aid to Philippines and South Pacific

The United Church of Christ and Church World Services are responding through local partners in the **Philippines** as tropical storm Ketsana leaves hundreds killed and thousands displaced from their homes. Churches and church-based organizations have opened their doors to survivors as evacuation and relief centers.

The United Church of Christ is sending One Great our of Sharing emergency grants to our partners throughout the **South Pacific** region to support their initial emergency response to the earthquake and tsunamis. As damage assessments are made and plans for relief, recovery and rehabilitation are adopted, additional OGHS funds will be shared.

You can help by praying for the people of the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, and Indonesia, and the people of the Samoan Islands and Tonga and their leaders and emergency and humanitarian aid workers. To assist the impacted families, you may send gifts through your local congregation to PSEC marked for "OGHS-International Emergency Fund/Typhoon Ketsana" or "OGHS-South Pacific Tsunamis." All monies will be forwarded to Wider Church Ministries.

FALL EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For brochures, flyers, on-line registration and a full list of meetings and events visit www.psec.org

Musical Extravaganza - Today, Sun., Oct., 11 at 3 pm, there will be a two-hour concert at Old First Reformed Church, Phila., as they join with hundreds of others to help the homeless in Philadelphia. For more information, call 302-690-8537.

Theology with a Twist - Tues., Oct. 13 at 7 pm; Kutztown Tavern

Tavern Talks - Thurs., Oct. 15 at 7 pm; Trappe Tavern

Walking with God - Fri, Oct 16 -Sun, Oct. 18; Mensch Mill

Cooperative Ministry - Cooperative Ministry for Small Churches

Sat., Oct. 17 at 8:30 am; Church House, Colleagueville

Peace Service - Sun., Oct. 18 at 7 pm; Taize-style worship at

Shenkel UCC, Pottstown. For more info, call 610-326-3535.

Word and Sacrament - Tues., Oct. 20, at 9:30 am; Church House

Boundary Training - Sat., Oct. 24, 9 am to 12:30 pm (registration

at 8:30) at Living Water UCC, 2006 Germantown Ave., Phila-

delphia. Registration available on the Conference website.

Spirit on Tap - Tues., Oct. 27 at 7 pm; Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel



PRAYER PARTNERS - Your prayers are welcomed today for Schwarzwald (Jacksonwald) UCC, Reading, and Rev. John S. Dawson.