



IMMANUEL NEWS

Immanuel United Church of Christ
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Ferguson, MO 63135

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January 2023 Newsletter



Staff:

Pastor Deon McKenzie, Transitional Pastor

Debbie Bahr, Property Manager

Jennifer Jansen, Financial Manager

Carolyn Rock, Music Coordinator

Linda Stoecklin, Parish Nurse

Derick Winterberg, Technology

From our 2022 Church Council President

Dear Immanuel Family,

As most of you know, we are considering calling Pastor Deon McKenzie as Immanuel's settled pastor. We recently completed a comment period where you were invited to send in your thoughts and feelings about Pastor Deon. We sent out 175 letters and received 51 responses.

Some of you basically just said yes, let's call him, while the majority of you wrote paragraphs about the qualities that you like and about his deeply spiritual approach to worship. I can't include all of the comments here, but a sample of them are: "*made a difference for me*," "*respect for what we are familiar with*," "*wonderful sermon, resume is amazing*," "*lucky to have him*," "*checks all the boxes (and then some) for what I am looking for*," "*very gentle and reassuring on shut-in visit / excellent prayer upon leaving*," and "*professional interaction*."

There was also some constructive criticism about things that Deon could do better along with some very nice words about his wife, Kimberly and her contributions. It was an impressive display on how Pastor Deon and Kimberly have endeared themselves to us already.

The Church Council has reviewed the comments and qualifications in more detail and, given the overwhelming positive response, has decided that it is time for you, the congregation of Immanuel, to have a chance to call Pastor Deon as our Settled Pastor.

From our 2022 Church Council President

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, we will ask Pastor Deon to give us his best “Candidate Sermon” during the worship service and then we will have a vote afterward. A two-thirds majority of the members of the congregation present is required for election.

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend this service. It’s more than just a vote; it’s a sacred call to invite Pastor Deon to be our spiritual leader. A full church will show our support and encouragement as he takes on the challenges of Immanuel’s future.

If weather becomes a factor in limiting church attendance, we will reschedule the vote.

Many thanks for those of you who participated in the comment period. It’s because of your efforts that we can move forward with the vote.

Sincerely,

Charles Wolfersberger
Church Council President

January 8

Church Council

Immanuel UCC Minutes of December 13, 2022 Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Paula Hildebrand shared a devotion. Council went into Executive Session and resumed regular business at 7:10 p.m.

New Business:

Doug Daniels presented the Budget proposed for 2023. After discussion and clarification, it was moved by Don Morice and Seconded by Nancy Remmert to accept the budget as presented. The Budget will be presented to the Congregation following Worship on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

The following benevolences were selected to receive budgeted funds this year: Interfaith Partnership, \$500; Summons of Joy, \$1,000; St. Steven's Episcopal Food Pantry, \$1,000; All Among Us, \$250; Ferguson Youth Initiative, \$250.

It was reported that UP has received a grant for a 2023 STEM program. UP has requested to increase the number of rooms they will use to accommodate this program. A new contract will be drafted and presented to our Insurance Company and the MO Conference Legal Service for their review. The contract will reflect cost for the space, designate rooms that will be used exclusively by UP and designating shared space which will be available for Immanuel and UP. Scheduling use will be maintained on the Church Office Calendar.

The current list of Church Facility Rental Rates will be forwarded to the Policy and Personnel Committee for review and recommendations.

The election of Council Officers resulted in the following: President Charlie Miller (a one-year completion of term); Vice-President, Don Morice; Treasurer, Doug Daniels; Financial Secretary, Karl Klasing; Secretary, Nancy Remmert.

Pastor Deon recommended that all committees should meet at least once during the first quarter of the new year to reorganize and plan meeting schedules. Committee membership and leadership would then be up-to-date.

Church Council Cont'd

Pastor Deon's Report

Pastor Deon reported that he has been encouraged by the increase in attendance and the positive response from visitors. When Reverend Tracey Blackman visited, she shared that she could feel the Spirit moving in our midst. Two new members have been welcomed recently.

Pastor Deon attended an Interfaith Partnership Community Ministers' gathering. We are reaching out to the community through P.R.O.U.D. (People Reaching Out for Unity and Diversity). Pastor will be reviewing our insurance policy since we are sharing our service on Facebook to be sure we are properly covered for any liability

He reported that there will be a wedding in May and he was surprised to find out he is Immanuel's Wedding Coordinator. (Secretary's note: This might be a new volunteer opportunity for an interested member of the congregation.)

Minutes of the November 8, 2022 were approved.

Financial Reports - presented by Paula Hildebrand /Doug Daniels.

Committee Reports—were received and reviewed.

Council members were designated as representative to each committee as follows:

Property and Grounds, Don Morice
Board of Christian Education, John Bogdajewicz
Stewardship, Karl Klasing
Christians in Action (CIA), Nancy Remmert
Mission Possible, Julie Guethler
Budget and Finance, Doug Daniels
Technology, Walter Martinez
Investments, Karl Klasing

Additional business was tabled to next meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Remmert, Secretary

Board of Christian Education

Minutes -- Board of Christian Education Meeting 12.6.22

All Members in attendance. Call to order 7:10 p.m.

Devotion: (John) "A Prayer to Put Jesus First This Christmas Season" based on Luke 2:7

We enjoyed delicious Holiday Snacks during our meeting tonight.

Reports

Secretary's Report (Kathi) - Minutes from 11.1.22 approved.

First/George Second/Jennifer All

Treasurer's Report (George) – November Treasurer's Report approved. First/John Second/Jennifer All

Staff/Council Report (Paula & Pastor Deon) – Continue to work on filling positions for Admin Assistant, Musical Director, Parish Nurse, and BCE Director. Collecting information about Pastor to help facilitate future options. New Council Members announced. Budget being reviewed at Congregational Meeting Sunday, Dec. 18. Two new members have joined the church. Working with Unleashing Potential (UP) to reorganize for new STEM sessions.

Old Business

Advent Devotionals – Pass out the Advent calendars for school age kids during worship service.

Advent Festival – It was well-attended, and we received many compliments about the crafts. At this time receipts total \$481.

Sarah is keeping in contact with our college age members.

Job description for Director of Christian Education/ Youth

Coordinator – George will collect our input concerning a Youth Coordinator/Director of Christian Education. Redefining the role.

Board of Christian Education Cont'd

New Business

Our Devotional schedule for meetings will remain the same as last year.

Set Officers for 2023 – Chair/John, Vice Chair/Karin, Treasurer/George, Secretary/Laura

Lenten Devotional – Bring samples and put on agenda for January.

Consider making new bags for kids to use during worship service (Karin). Set up table and ushers can help distribute bags. Looking into word search and other activities.

Sunday School Plan

Adults – Adult Faith Exploration and Donuts with Deon meet after service each Sunday.

Kids /Activities – Karin is putting together a letter to invite K-High School students and to explain the schedule for January and February. Begins with January 8th when we undecorate the church and meet to get input about future activities.

Contacting Families – Laura will make phone calls to invite K-High School students.

Promotion/Postcards – Use Constant Contact and put in newsletter.

Teacher List and schedule – Discussing who will lead each week. Jan. 8th /Hildebrands. Jan. 15th /Pastor Deon. Jan 22nd / _____. Jan. 29th /John.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Next meeting January 3, 2023 devotion by Laura



Parents of Children/Youth,

BCE is interested in your feedback about Sunday School and is inviting you to share your ideas and give input for the future. Please attend a discussion on Jan. 8 after worship with Pastor Deon and BCE members.





Immanuel welcomes our new members!

Dryver Henderson— I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina. I'm a retired business man, with active life interests. I grew up in nearby Normandy School District area (Northwoods and Pine Lawn). I have college and MBA degrees, from University of Pennsylvania. Three years US Navy, officer. Most of my prior adult life was in Philadelphia, PA area. I am most proud of three children, seven grand children, and one great grandchild (so far). Name Dryver is an adaption of mother's maiden family name, Dutch-Netherlands, Drijver. I am thankful and indebted to Nancy and Sam Valenti for inviting me to also attend their "wonderful Ferguson UCC church".

8131 Glen Echo Dr.
Bel-Nor, MO 63121
314-260-9831
dryver1@aol.com

Judy Sherman—I was born in Buffalo, NY. I lived in St. Louis for 20 years as a young woman and moved back here two years ago. I raised four children, have eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. I worked in a number of different jobs in my long work history but the most recent job was as Associate Pastor of St. John's UCC in Burton Texas. I enjoy painting and rug hooking.

305 Derhake Rd.
Florissant, MO 63031
512-585-1272
jsherman1940@gmail.com

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP.....

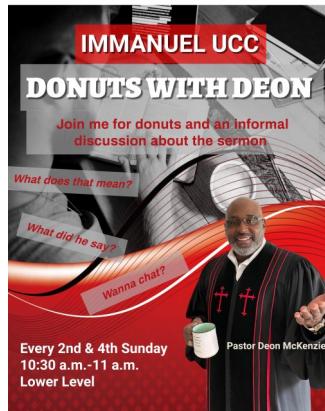
ADULT FAITH EXPLORATION

The Adult Faith Exploration group meets on the first and third Sundays in the Reception Room immediately following worship.

As you know, Donuts with Deon is held at the same time on the Second and Fourth Sundays.

DONUTS WITH PASTOR DEON

Donuts with Pastor Deon is every second and forth Sunday of the month for an informal chat. If you have comments, questions, or would like clarity following the sermon, come down-stairs to grab a donut, coffee, and a seat to chat with Pastor Deon.



news

UNDECORATE THE CHURCH

We are taking down the Christmas decorations on Jan.8 following the congregation meeting. All help is appreciated.

IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The IMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP meetings for January and February are on standby mode. We are dependent on the weather. If the weather is nasty, we will cancel. But if we luck out and the weather is good, we will meet. You are invited to bring your own lunch and we will provide dessert and drinks. The meeting will be informal...but we will have plenty of time for fellowship...and perhaps a game or two.

Our meeting is on the First Thursday of each month beginning at 11 a.m. in the Reception Room on the lower level of the Sanctuary Building.

Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year! WOW! 2023! My prayer is that it is filled with good things for all of us!

Blessings, Nancy Remmert, President

PRAYER AND SHARE

The next meeting will be January 11, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the Library of the Education Building. Prayer and Share meets on the **Second and Fourth Wednesday** of each month in the library at **10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Our group is small but we would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

**WE ARE HERE
TO HELP**



CHRISTIANS IN ACTION (CIA)

CIA continues to maintain the Blessing Box and recently filled Blessing Bags for church members to carry in their cars and give to persons they see on the street in need of help. As the group enters the New Year, we anticipate planning some congregational fun and fellowship activities. Come join us and bring your ideas with you.

CIA meets on the third Tuesday every other month. The next meeting will be January 17, 2023 at 7 p.m. in Room 202 of the Education Building.

NORTH COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS

Many Immanuel members were faithful volunteer drivers for the North County Meals on Wheels program. Jeannie Boettcher, President of the program, reported that Meals on Wheels is in full operation after the COVID pandemic.

Volunteers are needed for drivers and also people willing to help in the MOW office. Volunteers who deliver meals have a partner so find a friend and volunteer together. If you are interested in learning more, you can reach Jeannie at 314-524-8284.

She will be happy to find an assignment for you that fits your schedule and availability. She will explain the process if you are new to this. It takes about 2 hours to pick-up the meals from Christian North West Hospital, take them to recipients and return to the office with used trays. If you have been a volunteer previously, she would happily welcome you back.

NORTH COUNTY CHURCHES UNITED (NCCU)

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Contest was held during the first school semester in 2022. Children from elementary to high school submitted written essays on the theme: ***"It Starts with Me: Cultivating the Beloved Community"***. Members of the NCCU Board served as judges. Finalists were required to give an oral presentation by ZOOM for the judges. Winners in the categories of Elementary, Middle School and High School were announced following the ZOOM presentation. Winners are asked to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Florissant Valley Community College on January 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and present their winning essay. Winners in each category will receive a cash award and gifts from supporting organizations.

Winter season is upon us....

If inclement weather causes us to cancel a Sunday worship service, please check the local TV stations (Fox, CBS, NBC) for any updates. Our organization should be displayed as "Immanuel UCC - Ferguson". We are not always able to send out an email so watching the TV station is important for updates.



MISSION POSSIBLE

Thank you everyone who contributed in any way to the making of a food box or boxes. As of Dec. 11, Immanuel completed 49 food totes to be distributed to the Children's home before Christmas this year. The families will have plenty of food to eat in this holiday season.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

As we begin a new year, please make sure to use the 2023 offering envelopes. Envelopes can be picked up in the narthex for the next few weeks. If you would like envelopes mailed to your home, please contact the Church Office.

There are two types of envelopes—one for pledge contributions and one for special offerings (marked with a “red” border on the envelope).

The “red” envelopes are designated for Immanuel’s special mission offerings and do NOT go toward your pledge, but go toward the specific offering noted on the envelope.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.



We plan to highlight a few of Immanuel's college students in the newsletter every month. We hope you learn a little more about them - some fun facts! We asked them to answer a few questions about what they like to do, eat, watch, read, etc....

Phillip Martinez

Attends Meramec Community College



Favorite holiday movie - National Lampoons Christmas Vacation

What are you looking forward to this holiday season? Great quality time with family and holiday cheer

Best place to get ice cream - Andy's

Volunteer work you have done - Helped my Boy Scout Troop with several fundraisers this year

Great late night snack - Hotpockets

Good book to recommend - Percy Jackson

Best place to study - Starbucks or my room

Allison Jansen

Attends Colorado School of Mines



Favorite holiday movie - It's a Wonderful Life

What are you looking forward to this holiday season—Seeing family and friends

Best place to study - Brown Hall or the Library

A good quote - "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take"

Great late night snack - Wheat Thins

Good book to recommend - Divergent

Something at school that reminds you of home - Cardinal/Blues t-shirts

JANUARY

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>1 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Faith Exp 10:30</p>  | <p>2 Church Office Closed</p> | <p>3 BCE Meeting 7:00pm Library</p> | <p>4 Quilters 9</p> |
| <p>8 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 * Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour 10:30 * Undecorate the church * Youth SS Discussion</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10 Church Council 7pm Room 202</p> | <p>11 Quilters 9 Prayer &</p> |
| <p>15 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Faith Exp 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30 Interfaith Dialogue 2-4pm</p> | <p>16 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday</p> | <p>17 Christians in Action 7pm Room 202</p> | <p>18 Quilters 9</p> |
| <p>22 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Donuts w/ Deon 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 Quilters 9 Prayer &</p> |
| <p>29 Coffee Hour 9-9:30 Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Youth Sunday School 10:30</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | |

2023

| | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------|--|---------------|-----|
| 9am Share 10am | 5 Immanuel Fellowship 11am Reception Room | 6 Epiphany | 7 |
| 9am Share 10am | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9am Share 10am | 19 Immanuel Fellowship Exec Meeting, 10am Library | 20 | 21 |
| | Newsletter Deadline | | |
| 9am Share 10am | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | |

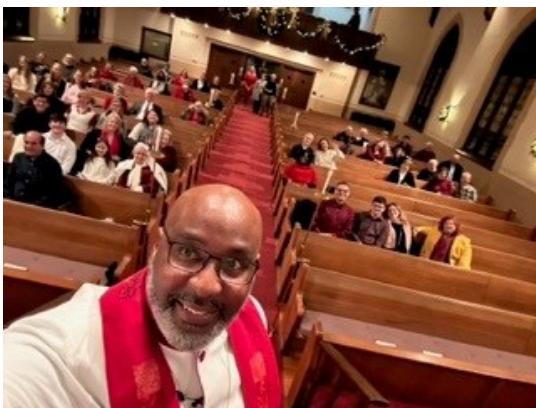
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Thank you to the Immanuel Choir, Krescene Schneider-Beck, Cathy Crooms and Carolyn Rock for bringing us the message of Christ's birth through "Morning Star".





CHRISTMAS EVE



Dear Friends of Immanuel,

Thank you so very much for the lovely card. I received it when I got home from my sister-in-law's funeral and I needed a spiritual hug. Thank you all for your prayers. 2022 has been a very trying year for our family but with support like yours 2023 will be better. Have a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

God Bless you every one,

Sheila Wedemeyer

Special thanks to our Immanuel family for all of your kind and comforting support shown to us during the passing of our family matriarch, Norma Thies. Your prayers for comfort, cards, loving words, and hugs all meant a great deal to us during this difficult time.

In gratitude,

The Thies, Cross and Martinez Families

Dear Immanuel Scholarship Committee,

I greatly appreciate receiving the Glenn Fox and Brauch Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship fund will be a great help when paying for my college education. Knowing that the community of Immanuel will support me in my career plans to be a Civil Engineer is reassuring and heartening. Thank you for assisting me in this opportunity.

Many Thanks,

Allison Jansen



Hello Immanuel Family,

I wanted to give my sincere thanks for the cookies, brownies, and candy that was sent to me a few weeks ago. I enjoyed all of it. Thank you!

Phillip Martinez

Dear Friends,

Your gift of \$1300 will make a immediate different in the lives of the abused women and children we serve at Lydia's House.

Many of our women come to Lydia's House full of fear and uncertainty. We give women and children the time and resources to rebuild their lives in the wake of domestic violence. Your gift will make a direct difference for these women, helping to provide housing for up to two years in a safe and stable environment while the women begin the healing process.

One of the strengths of Lydia's House is our investment in the spiritual growth and healing of the women and children. Our goal is to help women get in touch with their own unique spiritual self and to offer resources and practices that can help them to nurture and care for that spiritual self. Our open and inclusive atmosphere honors women wherever they are on their spiritual journey and ultimately supports their independence.

Lydia's House will continue to work in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. With the help of donations from supporters like you we will continue to be a bridge to freedom for the women and children who seek to escape violent homes.

Gratefully,

Karen T. Kirk, President & CEO



Dear Pastor McKenzie,

Thank you for supporting Every Child's Hope this Christmas season with your donation of \$1700.

The holiday season can be a difficult time of the year for the young people in our care, as well as for their families. It is through your support, though, that ECH is able to help these children experience joy, love, and support during the season. Together, we are able to help them discover the hope and strength needed to build a better life for themselves.

So, thank you for being a part of the healing process for all the young people we work with. Your donation is truly appreciated.

Michael P. Brennan, CEO



Hello Emmaus Friends,

Emmaus Homes has always turned to our faith community for help, and today is no exception. I want to sincerely thank you for your gift of \$500.

Emmaus is proud to be a leader in providing services to people with developmental disabilities, and our standard of care could not be possible without your gift. Your support provides the means for Emmaus clients to live the best life possible in their own homes and community.

Emmaus depends on the continued support of donors like you, especially our faith-filled friends. We truly hope that the congregation at Immanuel United Church of Christ is thriving. Thank you again for sharing your blessings with the people of Emmaus.

Thank you,

Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer



Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory - Norma Thies

To: Immanuel General Fund

Given By: Glenn & Shirley Cordes, Barb Krewson,
Russ & Virginia Viehmann, David Adam,
Barbara Heinzen, John & Loretta Panhorst,
Richard & Kaye Schmidt

To: Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarhip

Given By: Richard & Janet Viehmann

In Loving Memory - Kevin Viehmann

To: Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarhip

Given By: Richard & Janet Viehmann





Memorials and Honorariums

In Loving Memory - Carl Schneider & Brad Beck

To: Every Child's Hope

Given By: Joanne Schneider

To: The Friends Foundation

Given By: Joanne Schneider

In Loving Memory - William H. Becker Jr.

To: General Fund

Given By: Jerry Becker

We remember:

Michael Lanfer





Happy New Year !

From the staff of Immanuel United Church of Christ

*May God's blessings shower upon you and give you
a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.*

Pastor Deon

Debbie Bahr

Jennifer Jansen

Carolyn Rock

Linda Stoecklin

Derick Winterberg



Charlie & Debbie Wolfersberger
1593 Westport Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146



If you can't join us for in-person worship, please visit Immanuel's Facebook page for live on-line streaming of our church services.

Immanuel also offers the option to listen to the latest church service by calling 314.255.1873

Church Office

We are open Monday thru Thursday
from **9 am to 1 pm.**

Please leave a message if we don't answer and we will return your call.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

The deadline for the January newsletter is
Wednesday, January 19, 2023
Thank you!



January Birthdays!

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Birth Date</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lois Schuette | 1/1 |
| Merry Geisler | 1/2 |
| Kathy Morice | 1/5 |
| Belinda Lanfer | 1/6 |
| Sandy Hussey | 1/7 |
| Karl Klasing | 1/7 |
| Phillip Martinez | 1/8 |
| Lynn Wogtech | 1/9 |
| Claudette Flesch | 1/11 |
| James Payer | 1/14 |
| Alfred Conrad Jr. | 1/15 |
| Kolene Thies | 1/15 |
| Bonnie White | 1/15 |
| Maddie Bogdajewicz | 1/17 |
| Charles Miller | 1/19 |
| Glenn Cordes | 1/22 |
| Natalie Haynes | 1/23 |
| Kara Kiley | 1/24 |
| Kristy Wogtech | 1/24 |
| Christine Struble | 1/30 |

Flowers for January

Jan 1 -
Jan 8 -
Jan 15 -
Jan 22 -
Jan 29 -



***If you are ordering flowers or if you would like to
read scripture, please call the Church Office.***

LAY READERS FOR JANUARY

Jan 1—Paula Hildebrand
Jan 8—Judy Sherman
Jan 15 -
Jan 22—Sarah Klasing
Jan 29 —Nancy Remmert



IMMANUEL UCC - MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFT FORM

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

To: _____

_____ Immanuel General Fund

_____ Every Child's Hope "ECH" OPERATING FUND

_____ Emmaus Homes-OPERATING FUND

_____ Emmaus Homes-PASTORAL CARE FUND

_____ Emmaus Homes-ENDOWMENT FUND

_____ The Friends Foundation (formerly "Friends of Emmaus")

_____ Immanuel Building and Capital Improvement Fund

_____ Immanuel Endowment Fund

_____ Immanuel Good Samaritan Fund

_____ Immanuel Brothers' In Christ Fund

_____ Glenn Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund

_____ Brauch Scholarship Fund

_____ Mary Thompson Scholarship Fund

_____ Music Enhancement Fund

_____ Eden Theological Seminary

_____ Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses)

_____ Parish Nurse Fund

_____ Camp Scholarship Fund

_____ Bell Choir Fund *CK # _____

_____ Organ Fund

_____ Heritage Fund *AMT \$ _____

_____ Accessibility Fund

_____ Habitat for Humanity *ENV # _____

_____ Discretionary Assistance Fund

_____ Other

FROM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ACKNOWLEDGE:

ADDRESS: _____ **ZIP** _____

Put in Newsletter **Do NOT put in Newsletter**

*Office Use