



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM

# *The Good News*

### **Record Attendance at Poor Man's Supper 2009**

First United Methodist Church located on Common Street in downtown Shreveport again graciously hosted our annual Poor Man's Supper event. Held at their Hunter Activities Building, the hour and fifteen-minute event coincided this year with the tenth anniversary of Sister Margaret's death.

Mrs. Cynthia Hightower-Jenkins and Mr. Tom Pace were the masters of ceremony. Brother Giovanni Reid, the program's Executive Director led the opening prayer.

The evening had many highlights. The presentation of the Sister Margaret McCaffrey Award was the centerpiece. This year's recipient is Dr. Robert Jackson and the Martin Luther King Health Center. Dr. Jackson accepted the award with his wife and the staff of the health center he founded at his side (photo at top right.)

Sister Sharon Rambin introduced the Christian Service Program's Board of Directors and staff. The event concluded on time with a closing prayer for continuing the work of assisting the hungry and homeless of the area.

### **Christian Service Telethon Aired On Comcast Cable Channel 6**

On December 6, the Christian Service Telethon was broadcast from noon until 6pm. You may have tuned in to Comcast Cable Channel 6 to see the Christian music and inspiring presentations. Each year Christian Service asks you to donate so that we can continue to provide necessary services to the hungry and homeless in Shreveport and Bossier City. Thanks to our donors and volunteers. Without you we could not be nearly as effective as we feed, clothe and teach those who ask us for help.



**Dr. Robert Jackson accepts McCaffrey award**

### **Volunteer "Celebrity Servers" Make Poor Man's Supper A First Class Event**

This year, our volunteer "Celebrity Servers" included Shreveport's Honorable Mayor Cedric Glover, the Reverend Bishop Michael Duca, and other members of the clergy. Caring entrepreneurs also donned aprons. The leaders served the audience soup and bread. A youth group danced, poetry was recited and speeches were made. The volunteer spirit is what makes this fantastic annual event successful.



**Local youth perform dance recital**

## Sister Margaret Memorial Ceremony

At Oakland Cemetery near downtown Shreveport, on November 1, 2009, her closest friends and associates remembered the life of Sister Margaret McCaffrey. The afternoon brought clear and cool weather to All Saint's Day and the historic cemetery.

A group of about 60 people gathered at the Shehee family burial plot where the urn containing Sister Margaret's ashes was interred. All present at the memorial agreed that it was a fitting final resting place for her because it is so near the Christian Service Program buildings, which she founded in 1970.

Monsignor Murray Clayton and Father Andre McGraff conducted the memorial ceremony. Monsignor Clayton had been a close friend and associate of Sister Margaret from the time she first arrived in Shreveport. Father McGraff gave a very compassionate and gentle commentary, making the point that the members of the community that she served are still her spiritual sons and daughters. Both challenged us all to continue the difficult work that Sister Margaret had begun in Shreveport forty years ago.

Dr. Robert Jackson spoke about his involvement with Sister Margaret during the development of the Martin Luther King Health Center. Dr. Jackson spoke of Sister Margaret as a friend whose presence he has missed, and will continue to miss in his life. Dr. Jackson and the Martin Luther King Health Center received the Sister Margaret McCaffrey Award for 2009 for their commitment to improving access to health care for the poor in Shreveport and Bossier City.

Many other visitors, representing diverse interests, attended Sister Margaret's outdoor memorial. In her life, she knew exactly how to achieve things that few people thought possible at first. She asked that we all open our hearts to members of the community who lack basic necessities of life.

Sister Margaret dedicated her life to advocating for those whose needs are few, but essential to living. These things include food, clothes, adequate shelter and literacy. She recognized that the poor often lack the essential "voice" to ask for help with their basic needs. Her Christian Service Program legacy, continues to help provide essential services to those who are truly needy.



**Mrs. Virginia Shehee at the Memorial**



**Fr. Andre McGraff**



**Sister Margaret McCaffrey's urn**



**Monsignor Clayton and Fr. McGraff**



Cathy Knighton

### **Cathy Knighton Planned Lecture Series for Our Residents**

Our fulltime coordinator of the Mother Stewart House, Ms. Cathy Knighton, had recently begun a series of informational lectures for residents of the Christian Service Program. Cathy earned her Master's degree in psychology from Louisiana Tech University. She later earned a License for Substance Abuse Counseling. For many years, she selflessly treated adults with substance abuse and mental health problems.

### **Hospitality House Hosts Saturday Concerts by "Shreveport All-Stars"**

Very talented artists treated those who visited the Hospitality House at noon on a Saturday to live blues music recently. Located near the intersection of Pete Harris Drive and Travis Street, our soup kitchen may seem like an improbable venue for electric guitars and digital cameras. But Shreveport's Ledbetter Heights neighborhood has a distinct history of welcoming blues performers similar to "Shreveport All-Stars." Each Saturday at noon for a few more weeks, the live performances will begin as a small crowd lines up for cafeteria-style lunches. This blues concert series is open to the public and will continue into January 2010.

## **Martin Luther King Health Center to Relocate**

By the first week of February 2010, the Martin Luther King Health Center will have relocated to its new building at 827 Margaret Place, down the block from Schumpert Hospital. For the last 25 years, the Martin Luther King Health Center has been across the street from the Christian Service Program's buildings on Sprague Street. Janet Mentesane, the health center's Executive Director, says, "The new building will be three times as large."

Established by Dr. Robert Jackson, in 1986, in cooperation with Christian Service Program the Martin Luther King Health Center was the first licensed, free pharmacy and clinic in Louisiana. Eleven other similar pharmacies and clinics have been established now around the state.

The clinic's founder and medical director, Robert Jackson, M.D., observed a large number of heart attacks and strokes as a young doctor. He realized that treating the earlier stages of certain diseases might have prevented some of these cases.

High blood pressure and diabetes are chronic illnesses that can lead to even more serious problems if left untreated. Dr. Jackson sought a way to provide the necessary medical treatment to the needy with these conditions at an early stage. This strategy often averts major complications later, such as heart attacks and strokes. The Martin Luther King Health Clinic focuses on providing such treatment for high blood pressure and diabetes. They treat those who would receive no medical treatment otherwise.

Ms. Mentesane says they will be able to extend the hours of the Martin Luther King Health Center. They plan to serve the same needy population as before their move. Their new location is also accessible by bus for those who do not drive. Their new location will be better for their patients. Their pharmacy space and filing space will be increased. There will also be room for additional offices as their staff increases in number.



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