

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP

Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands MARK 10:46-52

America for Christ Offering 2012

Warming Centers: An Engaging Connection

The theme of the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2012 is “Engaging Discipleship: Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands.” It’s fitting, therefore, that AFC supports the Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) because MCLE helps churches to open their eyes, hearts and hands to the needs of the communities beyond their own walls.

One church that did just that was Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Farmington, Maine. After participating in the MCLE, the church opened a



warming center for senior citizens and disabled folks in the community who struggle to pay heating bills and are at risk of freezing in their homes during winter.

Despite its own financial difficulties, Henderson Memorial rose to the challenge by enlisting the help of two other churches that rotate with it in hosting the center. Approximately 40 lunches

are served daily and are provided by Seniors Plus, part of the Area Agency on Aging that serves western Maine.

“People enjoy gathering for conversation before lunch and like to stay to work on puzzles or crafts,” says the Rev. Dr. Susan Crane, pastor at Henderson Memorial. “But, the thing they’re all abuzz about is that we can pray! And we do pray before the meal; we also read inspirational stories, which often spark pastoral concerns and encourage people to minister to each other.”

For more information about the MCLE, visit www.abhms.org > Ministries & Programs > Missional Church Transformation > Missional Church Learning Experience Home or contact the Rev. Glynis LaBarre, ABHMS transformation strategist, at glynis.labarre@abhms.org or 1-800-222-3872, x2412.

AFC'12

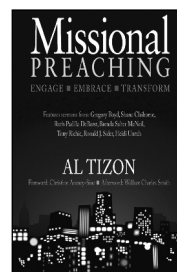
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