

## Deacon's Musings

By Steve Owen

Networking in our neighborhood goes something like this: After the youth's rummage sale, Katy and Joey Carpenter (our sexton), needed to find a place to take leftover items that didn't sell. After calling several charity resale shops, we quickly found out most didn't want to bother inventorying the stuff we wanted to give away.

To the rescue came Joey. He mentioned the Burtons, our church neighbors who live directly across the street. Right under our noses sat the solution to how to put our donated items to good use. For me it was one more "duh moment" that told me the more we get to know our neighbors, the more we discover people we can work with to do effective outreach in our community.

The Burtons run what most of us know as the former Victory Outreach Resale Store on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Its new name is the Mustard Tree Bargain Center. A trip across the street and a knock on the Burton's door quickly got the response we needed. Rick and Lowkey Burton told us the Mustard Seed would be more than happy to take our items. They resell good-condition clothing and even bundle raggedy clothes for recycling. In addition, they are wonderful stewards of our earth. They recycle cardboard and sell it to Atlas Roofing Company. Although our Mediator youth recycles aluminum cans for camp scholarships, Rick says they collect tin cans (the type used to store vegetables and pet food).

After interviewing Rick Burton, I discovered Mustard Tree Missions runs an active food pantry. Each month they obtain food from the Mississippi Food Network and add it to donated food from people in our community.

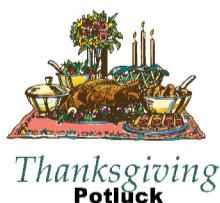
I recently asked Rick how we can help his cause. Besides our recyclables, he says he is in bad need of volunteers for sorting and distributing food. Sorting and boxing starts on Thursday and Friday before distribution on the third Saturday of each month. Mustard Tree is located at 3918-8<sup>th</sup> Street. If you are interested in volunteering at the Mustard Tree, call [601-934-2575](tel:601-934-2575). After all, it's the neighborly thing to do.

### Care Lodge Toy Tree

We will once again collect Christmas toys for the children at Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter. For two Sundays in December (December 4 and December 11) there will be a tree in the narthex with gift tags with information about the toy to be purchased. Please take one or more gift tags, buy the toy indicated and place it wrapped under the tree with the gift tag displayed on the outside of the package. All gifts should be returned to the tree by December 13 so they can be delivered to Care Lodge on that date. If you have any questions, please call Katy at the church office. This is in addition to the Pajama Tree.



Toys for Care Lodge



Thanksgiving  
Potluck

Mediator will be hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck on Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 noon. Please call the church office if you will be attending. The Turkey will be provided.

### Mediator Aluminum Recycling

Many of you have been great about leaving aluminum cans at the Youth House. Last summer Sarah Owen, as part of her Girl Scout Gold Project, raised funds for a Whirlpool Gladiator trash compactor that she has given to the Mediator. This compactor will be used to crush cans so more can be stored in the Youth House's storage room. Katy Watkins uses funds raised from the recycled aluminum cans to pay for camp scholarships. So thanks and keep the cans coming!