



# The Oakleaf

Volume I, Issue II

April 2005

### Special points of interest:

- Without St. George's Episcopal Church and their dedication to the homeless in our community certain critical services would be greatly diminished for women, women with children, and women experiencing domestic violence
- HOPE reigns supreme: Area Churches care deeply for the poor and homeless
- On average there are over 300 homeless in St. Mary's County daily.
- The bicycle is the most civilized conveyance known to man. Other forms of transport grow daily more nightmarish. Only the bicycle remains pure in heart ~ Iris Murdock

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## St. George's Episcopal: How a Little Church Makes a Big Difference

This story can fit 175-225 words.

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of

the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists.



What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God. ~Eleanor Powell

You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a company.

If you explore the Publisher catalog, you will find many publications

## What HOPE Means to the Poor and the Homeless

HOPE is a Hotline that has been serving the poor in Lexington Park since 1988. It was developed by 22 churches, DSS, and the County Commissioners to address the poor's needs for emergency shelter, fuel, food, rent and assistance. The telephone hotline was organized by Fr. Mike Wil-

son, Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Rev. Rona R. Harding, the Church of the Ascension, and Tim Frink of Patuxent Assembly of God. Its goals were to serve the poor better by giving them only one phone call to make to get assistance and advice. Lynn Major was the first volunteer coordinator.

The program seeks ways to link the poor with social workers and teaches those interested in budgeting and seeking solutions for housing problems. The present director is Debbie Cooper who reports that HOPE is supported now by twelve churches and the United Way.

# Trinity Churchmen Recycle Bikes Bicycle Program Aids Homeless Adults and Children

About 10 years ago, Jim Otto, a member of St. Mary's Parish in St. Mary's City began recovering old bicycles, taking them to his garage, repairing them from stem to stern, and then giving them away to the needy — particularly children. After a time his work grew larger and his garage didn't so he moved his operation to Dan Capper's horse barn in Dameron. There Jim and other fine men from his parish, Lane Kispert, Chris Wagoner and others have continued this fantastic work.



Biking can get you to school and

## The Center's Wish List

- Blankets
- Sheets and Pillow Cases (Twin Bedding)
- Kitchen Appliances—Especially Stoves
- Canned/Dry Boxed Foods
- Toiletries
- Kitchen Supplies—Especially Cutlery and Flatware

### Please Note!

July 14th is the date of our *Three Oaks Center 10th Annual Golf Tournament*. If you would like to play give us a call and we will add you to one of the teams. If there are four (4) of you reserve your place on the list of 25 teams. This has always been a great event full of fun for friends and supporters of Three Oaks. Come join us and be a part of a great day. We look forward to being your host.



### *Three Oaks Center*

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## We need Weekend Monitors....

The Center has been blessed these many years with a group of men who have been willing to give 4 hours, four to six times a year, out of their weekend to serve as monitors at the men's shelter. If you or someone you know would like to do this kind of volunteering please let us know. This work is meaningful. It greatly benefits the men living in the shelter; seeing new faces, role models, who can encourage them and at times advocate for them. We would like to add about 10 more men to our current line-up of great guys.



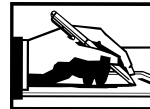
The Oakleaf

# Area Faithful in Large Part Are Key to Success of Programs for Homeless in St. Mary's County

From the moment of its conception, local faith-based congregations have made the critical difference in the success of the core programs at Three Oaks Center. It is fair to say that there would be no Center were it not for the inspired congregants and determined clergy that strove to put in place the initial framework that allowed Three Oaks Center to grow into what it is today. Men and women of all faiths coming together with one thing in mind. To bring dignity and opportunity to the homeless.



## From the Presidents Pen



This story can fit 100-150 words. The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field. You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated

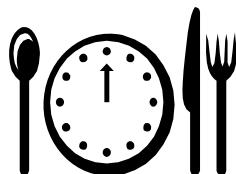
every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

*Quote: Best quote from Capper*

Sincerely,  
Dan Capper, Pres.

## Meals: 24/7/365

For a number of years, Three Oaks Center has depended on community support to supply dinners daily. Church groups, Scouts, individuals, members of St. Mary's College of Maryland, and other organizations have faithfully provided these meals, generally for about twenty residents at a time. Three Oaks wants all of



Food services are of critical importance at Three Oaks

our meal volunteers to know how important you are to us and how grateful we are for your long-standing dedicated commitment. At present, a course in food preparation and kitchen management is being planned at the Center in conjunction with the College of Southern

Maryland, This program will equip students with job-appropriate skills. Eventually (in the not too distant future) these students will be able to prepare dinners for those living at the Center. At that time, community involvement will still be needed and necessary to keep the Food Services Program viable. We will keep you informed.

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*People don't care how much we know  
until they know how much we care.*

# Essex House: Thanks to Blessings from Ascension Church in Lexington Park

The Church of the Ascension in Lexington Park was blessed with a gift of a house to be used for Social Ministries by an anonymous member. After much study, the church decided to make the building available to Three Oaks Center for their expanded ministry of working with homeless women and children. This meant that the house had to be completely gutted and remolded to make it habitable for its new residents. This work was contracted out to Essex South Builders who did a wonderful job in restoring the building for \$80,000.

The next step was more difficult. Once we had the building in shape, it still needed to be painted, which the Three Oak Men volunteer to paint the insides with



Ascension Church cares deeply for our children's needs

paint given by Dyson Lumber. New floors and windows were put in and then we were ready to move in. The women of the church sponsored showers with tags of things needed for the various rooms all through Lent, one day for the bathrooms, another for bedrooms, another for the kitchens, another for the sitting rooms, etc.

Other churches joined into the work as well. Good Samaritan Lutheran Church collected children's items for the new shelter. Trinity Church in St. Mary's City made quilts for the beds. Christ Church, Chaptico, St. Andrews Episcopal Church all supplied much needed items.

The Church then turned over the whole building to Three Oaks to Manage and Lease. Presently two are three families and two single women living in the house.