

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DETROIT

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First in Focus
March 2010

Dear Friends,

As we survey our community, we see countless people in need of Jesus' love and healing touch. You may ponder, as we do, how you can reach out and make a difference in so many lives. It's a difficult challenge to take on as an individual, but we are convinced that as American Baptists working together, we can make a difference by supporting the America For Christ Offering 2010.

This year's theme—"With Willing Hands: Connect. Care. Celebrate"—is a powerful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. Through the work of the National Ministries, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in connecting, caring, and celebrating the power of the Gospel:

- as people come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ;
- as children in poverty are reached through the Penny Project;
- as youth, children, and adults grow in discipleship;
- as communities are changed through Christian centers;
- as we increase church vitality through the Church in Mission trainings, and
- as we help to support and relocate refugees into churches and communities.

The America for Christ Offering 2010 strengthens our churches by providing support to our pastoral counselors and chaplains, designing leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press, and providing opportunities for churches, individuals, and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

We are encouraged by this year's theme to come alongside people "with willing hands" to connect, care, and celebrate. How do we see Jesus at work in our community and country? How can we help Jesus with this important work?

Please join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering 2010 and help us to reach our goal. Together we can touch and change lives for the cause of Christ. Together we can make a difference. *"For the love of Christ urges us on...."* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Sincerely in Christ,

THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE