

## Work Camp 2007

*Our 2007 summer mission trip to Washington D.C. was a complete success! From the commissioning dinner on Friday evening to the recognition of the team Sunday morning upon our return, everything went smoothly.*

*The sermon at St. Alban's Episcopal Church where we stayed was based on the parable of the Good Samaritan and the question of "who is our neighbor?" We traveled 600 miles to help our neighbors.*

*We split into 3 teams and worked at 3 different shelters operated by the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place. One was at St. Alban's church, located in the office basement. We painted the apartment, added an electrical outlet, repaired a section of drywall and cleared out 20 feet of lint packed in a dryer vent. The second location was a group home for women. There the team built a retaining wall where the property meets the sidewalk. It was constructed of treated 4x4s and was 32" tall and about 30 feet long. The third site was a group home for men. There were three projects here and all of us spent some time at this site. A canvas awning was replaced with a wood roof, large storage shelves were added to the garage and a 30 foot privacy fence was erected at the back of the property. Everything was completed by Wednesday afternoon. If we had to run out of work, Washington D.C. was the place to be. It gave us an extra day of sightseeing.*

*Sightseeing actually began after church on Sunday. St. Alban's adjoins the grounds of the National Cathedral. We had a very informative tour of the cathedral. That evening we visited the Vietnam Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the Nurses Memorial, and the World War II Memorial.*

*Thursday we were able to go to four sites. First we visited Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and president John F. Kennedy's grave. We then went to the U.S. Marine Memorial. This is the sculpture of the flag raising at Iwo Jima. We all thought of Dick Alexander who served there. From there (after getting lost and visiting McLean, Virginia by mistake) we went to the Jefferson Memorial and the new FDR Memorial.*

*Friday we had a tour of the capitol arranged by Senator Lugar's office. From there we had a couple hours to choose one of the Smithsonian museums to visit. Some went to the Museum of Natural History and others went to the Air and Space Museum. We met up at the Washington Monument where we had tickets to view the city from the top! Then it was on to the Holocaust Museum. Very moving!*

*Each evening we had a team meeting to talk about our day and prepare for the next. The devotions were led by Kaye Smith and were based on the faith of our founding fathers. Every one was thought provoking!*

*This trip would not have been possible without a lot of help from a lot of people. Thank you to Edna Fisher and her crew for the wonderful commissioning dinner. Thanks to Kaye Smith for her devotions. Thanks to Bob and Carrie Lang for driving and being a team leader. Thanks to Chris Miller and the "girl scout moms" for driving, and to Chris for heading up the girl scout group. Thanks to Michelle Grant and Steve Smith. They began going on these trips as teenagers and now go as adults to help teach and lead. Thanks to Joe Click, our first youth to be a construction site team leader. Thanks to Kim Grant who is the real planner and organizer. Thanks to the whole Wesley congregation for your monetary support and for your prayers. And above all, thanks to God for the opportunity and the ability to help our neighbors, wherever they may be.*

*-Bill Grant*