

# News for NOMADS

Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service

September 2003



*For your information:*

**NOMADS DUES (\$20 per person) are to be paid YEARLY by JULY 1.** Send to: **NOMADS, PO Box 26040, Trotwood, OH 45426.** If you have not paid your dues, you must do so as soon as possible, or your name will be removed from the membership list and you will not be able to sign-up for winter projects. Check your mailing label top line for the year last paid the first two numbers should say "23" (for 2003) if it says 22 or lower, you owe dues!!

Check out our Web site

[www.nomadsumc.org](http://www.nomadsumc.org)

Lots of new and updated information, previous newsletters, pictures of reunion, drop-in projects, order forms for promotional items, new member forms, Host Agency Info and applications, camping guide and MORE! Did you know that almost 5,000 people have visited our site since April, 2003?

Please sign-up...

## Winter/Spring Projects 2004 are here!

Enclosed is the Project List for Winter/Spring 2003. There are a wide variety of excellent projects that **NEED YOU!!** Many of these churches, agencies and camps depend greatly on the service and talents that NOMADS provide so choose to work on as many projects as you can.

If you are a team leader, and have not signed up as a leader, please call the NOMADS office and let us know right away, we would be happy to have you fill in team leader openings still left.

Just some directions on signing up . . . First of all please *prayerfully* consider where you will serve, indicating a second and third choice where possible.

**PLEASE NOTE: Our sign-up policy has changed - All sign-up methods (e-mail, fax, US Postal Mail) will not be accepted until September 15 at NOON, Eastern Standard Time.** So if you are e-mailing or faxing, please do not send them in any earlier than that date and time. We are strongly urging everyone to either e-mail or fax.

E-mailing can be done from a friend or family member's computer if you do not have your own. Faxing is available at many businesses (Including

copy and office supply stores, through mailing services.) and even local churches. Our Board of Directors is encouraging this because it helps to speed up the process and gives a more equal opportunity for all, as e-mails and faxes are date and time stamped as they come through. Plus if you e-mail, you will receive an immediate confirmation by return e-mail that it has been *received* in the office. **If you chose to send through the U.S. Mail, the postmark must not be before Sept 15.**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> (to allow time for postal mail) we will begin assigning people to projects, whose forms were dated/postmarked the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we will assign those dated/postmarked on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and so forth. **Any sign-ups sent early (before the 15<sup>th</sup> postmark or before NOON est on the 15<sup>th</sup> for fax and e-mail), will have a three-day hold and not be processed until the 21<sup>st</sup>.** You will be notified by e-mail or postcard once your assignment is confirmed.

Once the majority of the assignments are finalized a complete participant project list will be mailed out showing where all NOMADS are assigned to work. Later this year, an up-dated *NOMADS Directory* will also be sent to all members. We appreciate your cooperation!

## Plans for 2004 Reunion at York PA are shaping up

**D**uring the 2003 NOMADS gathering, host Cliff Johnson introduced Dorothy Emblidge, coordinator for the 2004 Reunion. She invited volunteers to assist with the event, which is scheduled June 29-July 1 at the York, Pennsylvania fairgrounds. Those wishing to help may email Emblidge at <doremb@tccenet.net>, call her at 315-387-5820 or write to her at 191 Button Road, Lacona NY 13083. For those wanting to camp early or staying in the area after the reunion there are

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Greetings, prayer requests from Sunshine Committee

by Dorothy BonDurant

I am honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as your new Sunshine Committee chairperson. Carolyn Morris did an outstanding job in getting the committee's work organized, as well as setting a wonderful example of prayerful concern. We all say a heartfelt *Thank You* to Carolyn for her two years of service as chairperson. I am very happy that Tom Hager and John Moore are continuing their work on the computer part of this ministry. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of Karen Eslinger, keeping in touch with persons without e-mail, and of Marie Peterson, sending cards to those on the prayer list. These "behind the scenes people" really make this prayer ministry and the sharing of our joys and concerns possible. Thanks to all of them and to the other committee members. We have the assurance that God hears and answers our prayers. These are our continuing prayer requests and praise:

1. Pray for Amy Campbell and her family. Marvin died Saturday, Aug. 16,

after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. After he went into hospice care in Iowa Falls IA recently, Amy wrote: "We expect to have him with us a few more days before he meets Jesus."

2. Continue to pray for Marion Privett. Her leg is continuing to swell and doctors are trying to get the blood thinner dosage correct. She is still confined to not traveling more than 15 minutes from home. It will be about 3 months until the danger of the clot breaking off and causing damage has passed.

3. Helen and Neal George's daughter, Marie, had her tumor removed. Continue to pray for her as she has chemo therapy treatments.

4. Karen Becker had successful surgery. Thank God for this and continue to pray that she will be able to go home from the hospital soon and have a complete recovery.

5. Continue to pray for Diana Rose. She is having chemo treatments but is doing well and working every day. She will

have another CT scan in a couple of months to see if the treatments are helping.

6. Continue to pray for Dean Ellsworth. He is due to be released from rehab on August 12. He will still go a couple of days a week for outpatient therapy. He is walking with a walker and can do about everything he did before, just more slowly. Marge feels "he is a miracle" and is grateful for all the prayers.

7. Pray for Joe Gorman, Kathie Johnson's son. He needs a kidney transplant. He is currently doing dialysis and will continue 3 times a week until a donor can be found. He is 33 years old and otherwise healthy. Please pray for his healing and for the family as they test for donors.

Thank you for your prayers for those from whom we have received requests in the past. Please continue to share your concerns and answers to prayer with us through the Sunshine web site:

[nomadsunshine@yahoo.com](mailto:nomadsunshine@yahoo.com)

## Appreciation -- a luscious incentive !

**A** touching memory, for NOMADS Becky and Ron Hoblit, involves doing community home repairs in Dulac, Louisiana. They wrote:

The lady was in her 80s, still very active and mobile. She loved to cook and did so for her family, extended family and friends. Her home had been through Hurricane Andrew several years before. Although some repair work had been done immediately after the hurricane, more was needed now. So in we came. We caulked the holes in the exterior siding (some needed a lot!). We made a closet for the water heater, which was outside, where the wind kept blowing out the pilot. We boarded up some broken windows. But the part

that she appreciated most was her new dining room floor. Her chair leg had gone through the old flooring! So we repaired the rotten area, installed new underlayment and then laid vinyl tile. All the while she watched us working, she was working too--cooking. Her family and friends would come over; she would proudly tell them all about us; and they would watch us work. She wanted to do something for us. Come lunch time, she wouldn't take no for an answer, and served us a delicious authentic Cajun meal. When we were finished with the floor, she pulled her chair into the room and sat proudly by the window, beaming! That makes it all worth while!

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(Continued from page 1)  
■ many campgrounds, Emblidge said.  
■ Many of them are listed in the York  
■ County brochure that she provided  
■ at the reunion. Since the gathering  
■ is so close to July 4, she advised  
■ making reservations. The reunion  
■ committee meets September 15,  
■ and more decisions may be  
■ reached by then. Reunion business  
■ also included recognition of Wayne  
■ and Dorothy BonDurant, 2002  
■ hosts, who assisted Cliff and Kathy  
■ Johnson and their team with 2003  
■ planning. Appreciation was also ex-  
■ tended to the 2003 host team. The  
■ 2005 NOMADS reunion is slated to  
■ be in the South Central Jurisdiction.  
■ --submitted by Barbara Unangst  
■ .....

## Highlights of the June 2003 Board meeting

**Director's Report: (Marcia Florkey)** \*New brochures for donors and agencies are available. \*Revised statement and guidelines for NOMADS. \*Local churches will be approached for the *NOMADS ABuilding Challenge* to get 50 NEW churches to each give \$100 to NOMADS. \*There were 386 projects (2002/2003); 3,800 workers; and 63 project sites. \*Merlin Outcalt will replace Bob Babcock, representing the North Central Jurisdiction. \*Beverly Nolte is retiring Sept. 1. Lorna Jost is her replacement. \*350 were registered for the reunion; 174 rigs.

**Treasurer's Report: (Bill Conaway)** \*Difference between this year's and last year's expenses were board expenses. Members were requested to report their expenses so that a true amount may be known. \*\$1,000 given for Global Gathering will go into the general fund as per donor's agreement. \*With more competition for the materials funds, the selection process needs to be followed more closely.

**Promotions Committee (Lynn Powers):** \*Will make decisions on budget, the endowment fund and challenge fund. There was a contest to name the challenge fund. *NOMADS ABuilding* was the winning name.

**Sunshine Committee (Carolyn Morris):** \*Carolyn asked to be replaced as committee chair, as she is spending her time doing prayer cloths. (Replacement is Dorothy BonDurant) \*Robert and Betsy Swepson were in an accident on their way to the NOMADS reunion. Their trailer was rear ended and destroyed. Both of them are fine.

**Agency Selection (Don Levans):** \*Areas of concern are Florida and the West--too many projects in some places and not enough in others. \*Working on becoming more specific about projects so people may make informed decisions about where to work.

**Executive Committee (Bob McCune):** \*Results of elections to the Board: 757 ballots cast, 446 for Vicki Aldridge. \*By-laws revisions received 735 yes votes and 13 no. \*Visioning is now with the Executive Committee. \*Marcia's contract: No concerns about the changes made; a re-write has been made of primary duties.

**Sign-up Procedures (Howard Haas):** \*Project sign-up list to be mailed out approximately Sept. 1. Sign-ups will be accepted 15 days after being sent out (by fax, e-mail and snail mail). Those trying to sign-up early will have additional wait time.

**Other Business** \*The person appointed to serve on the board from the Western Jurisdiction has declined. Mary Louise Hager will act until someone else can be appointed. \*Don Levans submitted new job descriptions, which were accepted. \*A sub-committee was appointed to deal with problems of letters, leaders, removal, agencies and the infirm. Barbara Hinegardner will head it. Others appointed were Jim Traviss, Chuck Clinard, Marcia Florkey, Bob McCune and Howard Haas. \*Vicki Aldridge was appointed to head the liability committee. Others on the committee are Marcia Florkey, Bill Conaway and Butch Halstad. \*Safety workshops will be held each year at reunion \*Howard Haas, Bob Babcock and Mary Louise Hager were thanked for their service on the board. \*Bob McCune was elected chairperson; Don Levans vice chair; Bill Conaway treasurer; and Vicki Aldridge secretary. Butch Halstad is a member-at-large on the executive board. It was noted that NOMADS membership want minutes, articles from board members to appear in the newsletter.

**Committee heads:** *Agency Selection*, Don Levans; *Newsletter*, Virginia Lee; *Promotions*, Lynn Powers; *Finance*, Merlin Outcalt; *Sunshine*, Dorothy BonDurant; *Reunion*, Cliff and Kathie Johnson; *General Concerns*, Barbara Hinegardner; and *Nominations*, Chuck Clinard.

-- submitted by Vicki Aldridge, board secretary

### Fulltimers' Roster Tops 100

Some 50 people--Fulltimers and "want-to-be's"--attended the Fulltimers' workshop during the June reunion in Kentucky, according to convener Kitty Hahn. The Fulltimers' roster, at that time, included 55 couples and one single. Workshop topics included cell-phone use; GPS-use; overnight stays in WalMart lots and other areas; working for pay; boondocking; and visiting or working at the NOMADS office in Trotwood, OH. There was also a question about how fulltimers would be able to get a security check, specifically to work at children's homes, if one is needed. "Hope to see the rest of you on down the road," Hahn says. "Safe travels to you all."

(If you are a full-timer and want to connect with other NOMADS full-timers contact Dian Greeno at [dgreeno@qconline.com](mailto:dgreeno@qconline.com) to get connected!)

### HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

Two projects could use drop-in help this fall—if you can help call them directly and volunteer for as much time as you can.

**GORE, OKLAHOMA—BOY'S RANCH** Anytime Oct. 1-20, Help needed for preparing for annual Rodeo on Oct. 18, plus maintenance work, replacing windows, insulating cottages and MORE! Call George Whitekiller at (918) 487-5281

### BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI -MOORE COMMUNITY HOUSE

Moore Community House has need of 4-6 NOMADS with carpentry skills to re-furbish just acquired property into pre-school classrooms before the end of the fall. Call Margie Bennett at (228) 436-3741 or (228) 217-3958 (cell) Parking is at Seashore Assembly nearby.



**NOMADS**  
 The United Methodist Church  
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 Trotwood, OH 45426  
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 Fax: 937-837-7209  
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***Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service***

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A Devotional Thought for NOMADS . . .

Submitted by Carolyn Morris

### The Banquet is Coming!

It is time for the winter/spring projects list to come to us! It is our invitation to the banquet of opportunities to serve our Lord by serving others.

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet as found in Matthew 22:1-14 lead me to verses 11-13, "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend', he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

According to the footnotes in my Bible, the custom for street people brought in for the banquet, was to have wedding clothes provided and this guest chose not to wear them. These verses deal with the responsibility of the individual. God is the host inviting all to come. Once we decide to come then we have the responsibility to be respectful of the host.

With the new project list comes a new registration policy set to use for the first time! We owe it to those on the Board and in the office who developed the procedure to try it and follow the instructions as responsible individuals. If the policy has flaws, they will appear! All in the office really are interested in

being as fair and equitable as possible.

Once we get our schedules, we become the invited guests of our hosts at the projects. Again we have the responsibility to be gracious guests. Now, I know of no NOMADS who were tied hand and foot, then thrown out into the darkness! But we each need to consider the grief we might cause ourselves and others when we fail to read instructions, when we fail to think the rules apply to us, when we refuse to listen to others as well as not appreciate their work or ideas. May God grant us a spirit of unity through this process and at our projects.

*(Carolyn writes a weekly devotional sent out by email. If you would like to receive these messages, please contact her at motoringmorris@att.net.)*

### Tucson agency dubs NOMADS "Angels on Wheels"

For the past several years, Travelers Aid has been fortunate enough to receive help beyond measure from a group of volunteers who call themselves the NOMADS. These individuals work through the United Methodist Church's ministry. Since our offices are situated within St. John's United Methodist Church buildings, we have collaborated with the pastor and board members for NOMADS assistance. On October 28, 2002, these intelligent, enthusiastic and motivated "Angels on Wheels" rolled into our area in their RVs and immediately took off on three weeks of whirlwind activity. This year our list of tasks was LONG and detailed. A lesser group may have been panic stricken. But these nine good-natured NOMADS organized their minds and talent and began the extensive work. By the end of three weeks, they had accomplished a multitude of tasks. Last, but certainly not least, the NOMADS removed kitchen cabinets and a sink in our storage shed; built and painted shelving for administrative records, forms, etc.; and revamped a large area for donated clothing, shoes, back-to-school items, etc., which we give to clients. Having experienced severe cuts in funding, we are especially grateful for the NOMADS and their gifts of time and talent. We did not have the funds to accomplish the tasks they so diligently completed. And there is more...two NOMADS couples, plus another drop-in couple, stayed past the three weeks to help with numerous tasks and holiday activities. And...we still have a special NOMADS member who comes in each week to volunteer her services wherever needed. We're looking forward to November 2003, when our friends, the "Angels on Wheels," will return - not just because they accomplish miracles, but also because they are an inspiration to each and every one they meet.

--Excerpts from a story written by Jan Stonebraker, published in the spring 2003 *Milestone*, newsletter of the Travelers Aid Society of Tucson