

THE MICAH 6 AUSTIN MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
2203 SAN ANTONIO ST./ AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

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ANNUAL COMBINED WORSHIP ON JANUARY 17, 2010

Our annual Combined Micah 6 Worship service will take place at...

University Avenue Church of Christ

1903 University Avenue
Sunday, January 17, 2010
1:30 p.m.



The church has free parking on Sundays from 8 am to 10 pm in the AT&T Executive and Education Conference Center just west of the church building. Go to <http://www.uachurch.org/parking-directions.html> for information.

The service will be a Taize service focused on God's love for the poor. Elements of a Taize service include meditative silence and singing (often a repetition of simple lines of praise from the psalms), scripture reading, and prayers of petition or acclamation.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend this special event.

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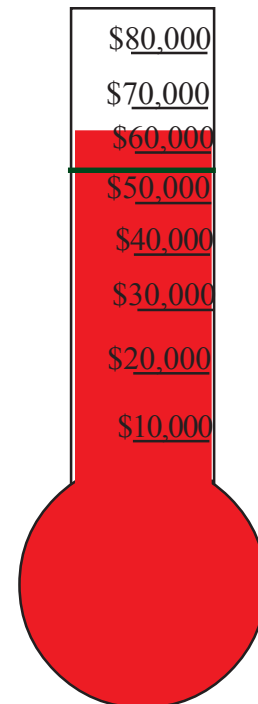
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THANKS FOR YOUR HELP WITH FUNDRAISING FOR MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN!

Thanks to all of you for your help! We surpassed our goal of raising \$52,000 for food for this year, and we are on track to finish the year ahead of our budget of \$88,772. Thanks to the many community donors, congregational contributions, and individual supporters who made this possible!

The following special events contributed to the fundraising: On November 8, **Schlotzsky's** donated 15% of receipts from anyone presenting a Micah 6 coupon. We raised \$256 from that event. On November 20 and 21, the **Austin Singers** Concerts raised \$5,871 in freewill offerings at their two concerts. And on December 5, a House Concert by **A Gracious Plenty** and guest performers at the home of **Beth and Michael Vivio** raised \$3,655.

Our thanks to Austin Singers, A Gracious Plenty, the Vivios and everyone who helped us raise funds for Micah 6 of Austin!



TURNING VOLUNTEERS INTO ORGANIZERS – *By Jim Harrington*

We are often blessed at the pantry with students, who come individually or in a group to help out. This is a great opportunity for us in different ways.

First, of course, more volunteers means we can serve the shoppers more efficiently.

Just as important, it's an opportunity for us to work with the students so that this Gospel service is something they see as important when they are in school and important to continue when they get out of school and settle down somewhere else in their respective communities.

Mother Jones, Dorothy Day, and Cesar Chavez were always found of saying, “organize, organize, organize . . .” And certainly that was why Paul was so successful with the early Christian communities.

It's important for us “veterans” to see our time at the pantry as an opportunity to work with the students and encourage their Gospel work, now and especially in the future. We should see every student as a potential Micah 6 organizer. We can do this by building friendships with them and by talking with them about doing this work – or something equally important – when they are out of school.

Likewise, when we have students show up and they augment the number of volunteers, it's a great opportunity to suggest to a few that they go out and sit with the shoppers and just talk with them. Sometimes, we get so wrapped up in having the pantry running smoothly that we overlook the dynamic of approaching each shopper as an individual. It's easy to understand they are in need, but why they are in need can be an eye-opener. And sometimes just talking with them is as important to their lives as the food they will take with them.

The shoppers come for all sorts of reasons, each one moved by necessity. Some come because they live on the streets. Some, because their undocumented status disqualifies them from government assistance. Some, because they are suddenly out of a job. Some, because they can't hold a job.

When the students understand these issues better from talking with the shoppers, it may encourage them to be more active now and in the future to work on a social or political level to remedy some of the systemic causes that bring so many people to Micah 6. Serving people is good, but organizing them is better. And turning volunteers into organizers is the best of all.

*We make a living from what we get.
We make a life from what we give.
What we have done for ourselves dies with us.
What we have done for others and for the world is immortal.*
— *George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)*



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DAILY TEXAN ARTICLE ABOUT MICAH 6 OF AUSTIN

On October 26, UT's paper *The Daily Texan*, printed an article by **Maddie Crum** about Micah 6 of Austin. The article described Micah 6 of Austin and our operations and touched on the experiences of volunteer **Greg Sells**, the group of volunteers from **UT's Honors Business Association**, and shopper **Ruby Jaime**. We are very appreciative of this article that helps share information about our work and services.



MICAH 6 PANTRY WISH LIST

Please consider donating one or more of the following items:

-  toner cartridges—TN-110BK for Brother copier
-  reams of white paper
-  black ink pens
-  canvas bags-new or used; plastic bags

Your gifts of these items help Micah 6 keep operating costs to a minimum and are very much appreciated!

We welcome new Board member **April Kwon** from **Hyde Park Presbyterian**; she will be replacing **Michelle Bourianoff**. Our thanks to Michelle for her work with Micah 6.

IN THE CITY FOR THE CITY

Micah 6 hosted a table at the In the City For the City community awareness event on November 15 at the Bob Bullock Museum. The event was hosted by **ABBA** (Austin Bridge Builders Alliance), a non-profit organization whose mission is “to connect the greater Austin Church community, and its resources, to the needs of the city and region.” On that day, which the Governor of Texas declared to be “In The City For The City day,” there were 148 exhibitors, and participants included over 150 churches, 150 volunteers, and 4000 to 5000 people attending.

FALL PANTRY NUMBERS

	Shopping Visits	Persons Fed	New Client Households
Oct	2,035	6,064	443
Nov	1,484	4,835	363

Member Churches

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Central Christian Church
Congregational Church of Austin
First English Lutheran Church
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church
St. Austin Catholic Parish
University Avenue Church of Christ
University Baptist Church
University Christian Church
University United Methodist Church
University Presbyterian Church

The mission of Micah 6 of Austin is to work together to identify and meet the needs of the homeless and the impoverished in the University of Texas campus area.

Micah 6 Messenger

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Website micah6austin.org

The Micah 6 Food Pantry location:
University Presbyterian Church
2203 San Antonio St.
Thurs 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. &
Sat 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What does the Lord require of you?