



WE LOST TWO FRIENDS THIS SPRING.
PICTURED ABOVE IS STAN SCOTT, A LONG-TIME SAMARITAN CLIENT.



THE INNOCENCE OF A CHILD
THIS WINTER WE TALKED TO SOME OF THE PRESCHOOLERS AT CENTRAL BAPTIST ABOUT JESUS AND HOW HE WANTED HIS PEOPLE TO CARE FOR THE SICK.



HOPE BUCKETS
IN DECEMBER WE AGAIN PARTNERED WITH THE HOPE CENTER TO PUT TOGETHER MORE THAN 100 HOLIDAY HOPE BUCKETS.



THANKSGIVING
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE 200 FRIENDS THAT CAME TO JOIN US FOR OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY



Thanksgiving Means Family

In November, Samaritan Ministry held its 20th Thanksgiving Banquet for the HIV community. This year we served the largest group ever, with more than 200 in attendance.

We hear, over and over, what a special time this is for the families we serve, and we had LOTS of big families, siblings, children, and grandchildren.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.

1 John 3:1

Blessings abound, such as the outpouring of support from 40 volunteers who came to bring food and to serve. We had great support from other church families as well, most notably, Clinton Chapel AME Zion and Central Baptist Church of Fountain City. Support for our banquet also comes from the West Knox Cooperative Food Pantry through a generous grant.

We enjoy serving our friends who make up the HIV community. We are all a part of the Family of God.

Annual HIV Infections Decline Substantially in the U.S.*

Overall, annual HIV infections declined 18 percent from 2008 to 2014, from an estimated 45,700 to 37,600. Declines were seen in a number of populations and geographic areas: incidence fell sharply among heterosexuals (36%) and people who inject drugs (56%), and several states and Washington, D.C. made substantial, statistically significant, progress in decreasing annual HIV infections. The declines are due in part to progress in diagnosing infections among people living with HIV and ensuring they have access to early, ongoing treatment.

Yet the data also show that tough challenges remain, particularly for communities in the South and among gay and bisexual men.

While Southern states represented 37 percent of the U.S. population in 2014, they accounted for 50 percent of new HIV infections. Annual infections remained stable among men who have sex with men (MSM), who accounted for 70 percent of new infections in 2014, though progress is mixed. Encouraging declines were seen among young MSM aged 13-24 and white MSM (18% in both groups), but increases occurred among MSM aged 25-34 (35%) and Hispanic/Latino MSM (20%). Annual HIV infections were estimated to be stable among black MSM, an important sign of progress in comparison to the increases that were previously reported for earlier time periods.

Read the full statement at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDCNPIN/bulletins/18743ca>

*Reported at CROI 2/14/17

GIVE TO SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Please consider a summertime gift to help support our ministry work. Your gift, however big or small makes it possible for us to provide:

- o Crisis support and counseling
- o A meeting for men and women
- o A hot meal; a grocery delivery
- o A \$3.00 medical co-pay for HIV medications
- o An HIV test for someone who is afraid
- o Panties and bra for an inmate
- o A new set of brakes on an old car
- o A ride to the doctor
- o A pair of glasses

We are so grateful that your great gifts do so many important small things!

Gifts should be made payable to Central Baptist Church of Bearden and marked for Samaritan Ministry.

Samaritan Ministry Sponsors National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS



Samaritan Ministry was a proud partner for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, held during the first full week of March every year.

The events this year included a prayer service at the Wesley Foundation, and a Prayer Breakfast for church leaders at Community Evangelistic Church. We helped to provide HIV testing at both events.

Samaritan Ministry and OraSure Test 140 at Local RAM Clinic in Knoxville

Samaritan Ministry teamed up with OraSure Technologies to provide HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) testing at a **Remote Area Medical Clinic** in Knoxville, Tennessee on a Saturday and Sunday in February. This testing effort is a collaboration between RAM, Samaritan Ministry, Helen Ross McNabb Center, and OraSure Technologies. OraSure produces the CLIA waived rapid tests for HIV and Hepatitis C antibodies, and is our partner in all of our community testing efforts.

Many people live in fear of sickness and injury because they have little or no access to basic medical care. RAM responds to this need by providing free dental, vision, and medical care to isolated, impoverished, or underserved communities. We are grateful to be able to be a part of this local clinic in Knoxville and are hoping to work toward a long-term partnership with Remote Area Medical. Learn more about this great organization at <http://www.ramusa.org>.

We tested about 14% of the 1000 that were served at the clinic over the two days; 68 were tested for HCV (several positive results) and 74 were tested for HIV (zero positive results). This is a great educational opportunity for all of those who step forward to be tested.

2016 FaithWalk a Big Success

Our 2016 FaithWalk and Al Ichiki 5K was another big success! Registration was up and the weather was tolerable! We even raised a little money to support the local Lions Club and the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

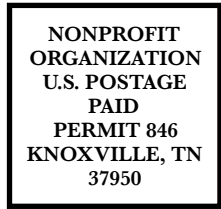
We were again delighted to have a group of family representing Dr. Al Ichiki to come and share with us (pictured bottom left). Dr Al was a friend and mentor

and helped to lay the foundation of our ministry in Knoxville. We are grateful to all our sponsors, and especially thankful for our partnership with **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**, which has served as our downtown host congregation since the beginning of FaithWalk in 2012.



Samaritan Ministry

Central Baptist Church of Bearden
6300 Deane Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919



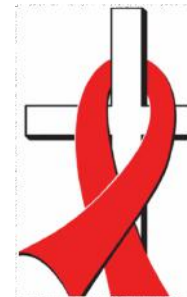
Return Service Requested

Backwards and Forwards

A look at the State of HIV through the eyes of Samaritan Ministry...

With the end of 2016, we are taking time to reflect on what we have seen in the course of a year in the HIV world, and as we are providing leadership and care for many of the most marginalized in our community. What have we seen in 2016? What does the view from Samaritan Ministry look like.

Check out our view of the past and a look ahead to 2017 on our website, www.samaritancentral.org/blog/.



“Our church should be a beacon of light and hope, by way of Christ, to anyone who suffers from or has family or friends who suffer from this disease.”