

# Bethlehem Presbyterian Church members participate in first 'Be the Church' day

By Rick Epstein

UNION TWP. — Members of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Union Township took part in their first "Be the Church" day on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Almost 100 people got involved. Some of them stayed at the church, making mosquito nets and cards of encouragement or baking ziti and brownies to be frozen and given to church members in times of stress.

But most of them went to help at various locations near and far — to the Hunterdon Humane Shelter in Mount Pleasant; for painting and gardening at Finn Road Park, where their efforts were augmented by Union Township Mayor Michelle McBride, Committeeman Frank Mazza and Boy Scouts from Annandale Troop 200; to pick string beans for America's Grow-a-Row at Peaceful Valley Orchards; to paint furniture at

Hunterdon Developmental Center; to Woodland Wildlife Refuge to sweep out a barn and pull the eyes out of stuffed animals to make them safe for real animals to play with; to sing at Rolling Hills and Hunterdon Care Center nursing homes; to help Women at Work; and to join in Bridges Outreach in urban areas.

After putting in several hours, the volunteers came back to the church for a feast of "signature hot dogs," 10 varieties named after the various projects, such as the "Grow-a-Row" served with steamed green beans, cucumber slices, shredded cabbage and ketchup.

Colleen Duerr, who was the chief organizer, said this is likely to become an annual event.

"It was spectacular," she said of the day. "I'm so proud to be a member of this church."

She praised its members for



One of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church's teams went to pick string beans for America's Grow-a-Row. The kids in the front row are (from left) Allison, Michael and Amy Lenert. Standing are Jesse and Scott Eichlin, Joan Hutchinson, Mike Lenert, Betsy Pyner, Al Tamilio, Aleta Lambert and June and Ferdie Paillex. (Photo by Louise Black)

their willingness to serve "and do whatever is needed." She also extends an invitation to anyone interested in joining the church.

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#### Basketball Tourney

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Faith can move mountains, but it can also pick string beans. This team came from the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Union Township to help harvest beans for America's Grow-a-Row on 'Be the Church' Day. See NJ.com for more photos. (Photo by Rick Epstein)