

# On a mission

Page 11

## On a mission to give a 'Week of Hope'

By MARK DANIELS

For the second consecutive year, youth and adults from Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Logan, the congregation where I serve as pastor, participated in a Group Work-camps Foundation 'Week of Hope' mission trip. This year, on June 14 to 19, our group of 16 went to Nashville, Tennessee.

It was not glamorous: We slept in sleeping bags on a church's basement floor. The church basement was (sometimes) air conditioned and temperatures were in the mid-90s with 90 percent (or more) humidity the entire time.

The first two days brought a few challenges and mishaps. One of our adults had to be taken to an urgent care facility with heat exhaustion. Several youth got poison ivy. A few others found and killed ticks before the little critters could cause them trouble. The challenges continued for several days.



submitted photo

**Stephen Starnier (ball cap) pictured with children with whom he worked during the week.**

But the last two days seemed to go better and, at the end of our week, most participants said that they would go on another trip in the future.

Among the things that Saint Matthew folks did: spruced up facilities for mentally handicapped adults and recovering drug addicts, packed boxes to be distributed by

Feed the Children, painted nursing care facility, and spent time with the elderly there, packed and stocked food at a Second Harvest distribution center, and worked with children at a community Vacation Bible School.

The Saint Matthew group was part of a larger gathering of 74 youths  
(Next page)

# On a mission

Page 12

(Continued from page 11)

and adults who, during this particular week, came from church youth groups and one Girl Scouts contingent. The other work campers came from Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, and South Carolina. (Group Workcamps has hundreds of these camps nationwide over an eight-week period every summer. Thousands of young people and their adult leaders participate annually.)

Once again this year, the experience encouraged Saint Matthew young people (and adults) to see service to others as an act of worship to God.

All 74 people were assigned to work groups made up of five to eight people. That meant that all groups brought people from different churches and communities together.

Over the course of five days, each youth group took turns preparing breakfast and dinner for the entire camp, as well as cleaning the facility where we stayed. On Wednesday night, the Saint Matthew group teamed



submitted photo

**Kylen Harmon working in the regional center of Feed the Children.**

with people from another congregation in serving dinner. The dining area was turned into a makeshift Italian restaurant, complete with Root Beer bottle candles creating ambiance. The Wednesday night dinner crew received the award for the most memorable dinner presen-

tation of the week.

All in all, the Nashville Mission Trip was a great experience for our youth and our adults. Next year, we intend to do our own mission trip right here in Hocking County and then, in 2011, participate in another Group Workcamps Week of Hope.