

We Are Many Parts...

Many Thanks to All Those Who've Invited Beacon Street to Visit Recently

INCLUDING:

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, AMHERST
ST. MICHAEL CHURCH, INDEPENDENCE
CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
OUR LADY OF ANGELS, CLEVELAND
CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC
ST. MARTHA PARISH, AKRON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, RAVENNA
ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, FREMONT
ST. ROBERT CHURCH, EUCLID
ST. JOHN BOSCO CHURCH, PARMA HTS.
THE HALLINAN CENTER, CWRU
CUYAHOGA COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, S. EUCLID
HOLY FAMILY PARISH, STOW
ST. CHRISTINE CHURCH, EUCLID
I.B.M.
ST. STEPHAN CHURCH, WEST SALEM
THE SALVATION ARMY
CLEVELAND PERFORMING ARTS
MINISTRY AND TETELSTAI
GREAT LAKES THEATER FESTIVAL
ST. JOAN OF ARC, CHAGRIN FALLS
GILMOUR ACADEMY
ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL, BARBERTON
ERIEVIEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
TURN OF THE PAGE BOOKSTORE
AND MANY MORE!
THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

If you would like to join the list by inviting Beacon Street to perform for your group, call us at 252-5650.



Beacon Street's current home at OLA.

BS Visits the Salvation Army

by Jean Hulseman

We all love a little affirmation in our lives. We can even bear an unsolicited compliment on occasion. To the members of Beacon Street, however, the highest praise is to be invited for a return visit. Most notably this past Advent season, I was looking forward to our second performance with the men at the Alcohol Rehabilitation Program of the Salvation Army. Like the previous year, this particular program turned out to be the finale of our Advent calendar. It was sure to put me in the Christmas spirit.

Beacon Street descended on the Salvation Army, near E. 55th and Euclid, on December 17 -- ready for anything. It would have been easy to be a little apprehensive. I was in an unfamiliar part of the city, about to meet eighty new faces, and expecting to see last year's mouse hanging from the ceiling tiles (a sure sign of hospitality). But, it had gone well last time, so I was calm, even excited.

As we prepared to begin an evening of song and play, prayer and hope, the men slowly filed into the chapel and took their seats. I recognized a few faces from our last visit, which is unusual for a six week rehabilitation program. To loosen them up and make them feel welcome, I employed the "Koosh Toss Extravaganza"--I started throwing things at them. It works every time. Eventually, people learn that it's okay to return the gesture. This dynamic was so successful that we even lodged a koosh ball in one of the light fixtures. Bob and Maria bravely retrieved it, to the delight of all. This was just the beginning.

Our time together was filled with Christmas carols, juggling, Gospel stories, fire-eating, and entertaining community rituals. Homer, the gentleman who greeted us at the door, was an accomplished musician. His fingers effortlessly danced at the piano to begin the program, changing keys with us as necessary. Homer's a good sport. They were a great audience.

It was clear to me that these men had been through a lot together. They were becoming a community in the true sense of the word. Through all of our stories about "can do", they knew from experience that they would never succeed alone. We all need to have the support of the people around us. As we encouraged each to pay attention to the people that love them, the nods and the smiles spread throughout the room. Though we all need to hear the messages again and again, this good news had arrived at the Salvation Army long before Beacon Street. We were blessed to have been a part of their evening.