

From the Desk of the Senior Warden

FEED MY SHEEP

As Christians we are told that we should serve those who are in need. For the last twenty years the parishioners of Holy Trinity have been involved in service to the Ocean Beach community by feeding those who were in need of a meal through our Community Outreach Dinner. This meal is served on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and is part of an ecumenical effort which has expanded to serve a meal every Wednesday of the month.

Since I joined the Holy Trinity family over nine years ago I have been blessed to be a part of this ministry and have seen it change and grow into what it is today. When I first started, the food was being prepared by Master Chef Bob Ehmann, who came in early the day of the meals and cooked entrees such as various chicken dishes, corned beef and cabbage, and even once (I was told) prepared a whole salmon. When Bob was unable to continue in this effort the remainder of us needed to change the menu to something that we could prepare in a shorter period of time. After trying several alternatives we decided on Spaghetti and Meatballs.

Our usual menu, for every month except November (turkey) and December (ham), consists of: Spaghetti and Meatballs in a marinara sauce, garlic bread, one or two vegetables, a green salad, dessert, coffee, milk, water, and occasionally fruit. The groceries needed to supply these meals come from two sources. First, the program coordinator, Jon Greulich, goes to Smart & Final and buys the ingredients for the spaghetti, garlic bread, vegetables, dessert, and coffee which he pays for with money either from the outreach budget or out of his own pocket. The source for the salad, milk, and fruit are donations from members of the congregation.

In the past the number of people we fed each Wednesday usually ranged from 12 to 80 in November and December with an averaged of about 40. For the last few months we have seen a dramatic increase in our numbers and are now averaging almost 100 people each night. With this increase we exhausted the church's Outreach budget by July and are looking for donations from the parish. If you would like to financially help the Community Outreach Dinner ministry we will gladly accept monetary donations designated for Outreach, or food items from a list that will be placed in the Sunday Bulletin and is posted on the bulletin board the week before the dinner.

I want to thank all those who have given of their resources and time to make this ministry a blessing to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Merritt, Sr. Warden