

ST. PAUL'S FOOD BASKET NEWS

Come Have a Ball!

The annual St. Paul's Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday evening, November 25th, from 7 to 11PM at St. Bartholomew's Church, 1989 Rt. 70 East, Cherry Hill. The chefs of St. Bart's will be providing the main course, requesting others to bring appetizers and desserts if convenient. John Weber's incomparable jazz group will again be providing easy listening for the evening. Don't miss it! Reservations are a must, so call Jean Horn for tickets. Better yet, pur together a table of eight and then call her. As usual, there will be door prizes, a 50-50, and fun for all.

Big turkey collection for December 21st

Supermarkets have announced their holiday promotions. Through their largess or any way you can, please consider donating a turkey (about 12 lbs. is the best size). We need 160 big birds Thursday Dec. 21st, ready for giving out the next day. Fortunately, we have been able to secure 120 turkeys through the Food Bank, but we must pay for these at the usual rate of 14 cents per pound. Thus money would actually be slightly more useful than the actual bird, but we will happily accept either. Cash donations marked "St. Paul's" in the memo line will be used to make this payment and to buy additional turkeys if needed.

If you need help with storage until Dec. 21st, please call Lorraine Winyard or Leslie Entwistle. Some turkeys can be accommodated at Grace Church.

IMPORTANT: If any clients inquire about turkeys please respond that we will do our best for them but cannot be sure.

Help us maintain ticket sets

Please go through the set of tickets you just used. If the set is ratty, please discard it. If there are only a couple of sets left, please let Dick H. or Grace know. If there are missing numbers, but the set is otherwise in good shape, please **reband** it with a note. If it's complete and in good shape, please **reband** it and put it back. Do you know anyone who would be willing to keep us in new sets of tickets? Judy Rayser has made many sets for us -- thanks, Judy!

Oh, %@**@*!

Recently, despite having his card "Working at St. Paul's" showing in the windshield, one of our valiant band received *a ticket* from the minions of the law in Camden. Apparently, past assurances are no longer valid regarding metered spaces on Market Street. In a metered space, you **MUST** feed the meter (quarters only). However, if you are in the driveway or blocking the driveway, having the card showing will prevent you from getting a ticket. If you need a new card for your driveway, please call Grace. The penalty for these transgressions has climbed to \$29.

USDA delivery

For December, the delivery will arrive from the Food Bank on Monday the 18th. If you could help, please arrive by 8:30 AM. The truck usually brings our order first, and lately the driver has been able to load the day before. Bring a book if you like, but recently we have been outta there by about 9:15 AM.

Food Bank Luncheon Lucky for Us

The annual Food Bank Luncheon was held on Thursday November 9th. Attending for St. Paul's Food Basket Program were Grace Gagliardi and Dick Bynum. Held at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Burlington, this year's meeting introduced the new executive director for the Food Bank of South Jersey, Valerie Brown Traore. She seems quite competent, with lots of solid ideas for continuing the growth of the Food Bank operation. Statistics for the past year were impressive: for example, they are on track to distribute 4.5 MILLION pounds of food in 2006, and to retire the mortgage on the new Pennsauken facility by 2011, which is ten years early.

Ms. Traore reported that Governor Corzine earmarked \$4 million for fighting hunger this year, \$3 for food purchases and \$1 for capital improvements. The food purchase money is what enabled to Food Bank to acquire 17,000 turkeys. The capital improvement money is not allowed to be used for transportation, a disappointment as the Food Bank thinks they could do more if they could deliver more. However, it CAN be used for refrigerators and freezers. Anyone want to take on the project of applying for some of this money and renovating our capacity? Three of our four refrigerators are old and inefficient. They waste electricity, leak water, and their gaskets do not seal well.

By remembering the number of pounds of food projected for 2006, Grace was able to win 100 pounds of free food for St. Paul's! There were several other door prizes and brief entertainment, as well as presentation of awards. The meeting is a chance to speak with other member agencies -- there are now 325 agencies in the four-county area served by the Food Bank -- and to hear stories of truly remarkable volunteers. If you would like to attend next year's meeting, speak to Dick Hammond.

Year-End THANKS!

Many thanks to each and every one of you for faithful service this past year. You have dealt with unexpected difficulties at the Food Bank, in the bagging room, and with clients on Fridays. You have been there at the crack of dawn, in the cold, in the rain, and in the heat. You have exemplified Christianity at its best, and managed to be a cheerful giver in the process. You have done many things that the clients never see or dream is required. In fact, much of what you all do is unsung. But you persevere. God bless you all and give you health and prosperity in the coming year!

Save the date

Our annual meeting will be coming up in January. You are welcome to bring a treat to share or just bring yourself, but please do plan on coming. Your contributions to the discussion are important. As usual, the meeting will be held in the library at 7 PM. Stay tuned for an announcement of the date.

May your holidays be holy !