

Minute for Mission, 9/14/14

Patsy Acheson

Roasted marinated pork loin, spinach salad with strawberries, chicken enchiladas, vegetable lasagna, roast beef with roasted potatoes. This sounds like a menu from a fancy restaurant, doesn't it? But it is not, it is just a few of the many delicious dishes cooked by members of this congregation and offered to our guests at the twice monthly Welcome Table dinners.

Good morning, I am Patsy Acheson and was asked to talk about the Welcome Table for just a minute. I hope by now most of you have heard of Welcome Table and know that it is our very successful mission of offering a healthy and welcoming dinner to those in need in our community on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. If you are not familiar with this mission I urge you to get involved. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed for each of the dinners with opportunities starting as early as 1 p.m. to help cook and chop, to the group that comes in at 6:30 p.m. to clean up. Volunteer spots can be for a short period of time, such as an hour, or you are welcome to help for the whole event. Working people can come in at 6 p.m. to serve dinner or help clean up. Those available only during the day can help prepare the meal then be home in time to greet the kids getting off the bus.

As much as our dinner guests enjoy the delicious meal, I assure you that we volunteers enjoy the Welcome Table just as much. We have all gotten to know many of the people. From the two brothers who escort their elderly mother in and kindly remind her that no, she can't have a cup of coffee because it will keep her awake, to the lovely blind woman who is gently helped by another guest, all are so appreciative of these dinners. Many guests make a point of thanking us and frequently mention how warmly and respectfully they feel treated at our dinners.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in learning more about, please just stop by one of our dinners and simply observe and decide if this fits your schedule and your desire to help. Our next dinner is this Wednesday, September 17. I also recommend that the best way to get involved is to sign up for the automatic email reminder by going to the bottom of the FCPC homepage and clicking directly on the VolunteerSpot link under the Welcome Table article. You will then get an email reminder a couple times a month asking if you would like to sign up to help on a particular day. If you can't, simply ignore the email.

But you can't ignore the fact that the need within our very own community for food and assistance is great. This Welcome Table doesn't solve all the problems of those in need, but I assure you that twice a month right here at FCPC a special effort is made to serve a hot, delicious and nutritious meal and those in attendance are most appreciative. Become a part of this exciting mission and see for yourself.

Thank you.