

# Welcome Table FAQs



- **What exactly is Welcome Table?**

Welcome Table began in 2011 as a once-a-month dinner to serve those in need in our community. In September 2013 we expanded the program to serve dinner on the first and third Wednesday of each month. We distribute toiletry items to our guests at the 1st Wednesday dinner, and grocery assistance cards to our adult guests at the 3rd Wednesday dinner. Dinner is served from 6-7 p.m.

- **Who prepares the food and where does it come from?**

Volunteers kindly offer their talents to cook for and serve our guests. Some ingredients are donated, and the rest are purchased by Welcome Table grocery shopping volunteers out of the church's Welcome Table budget, which is overseen by the Mission and Social Concerns Committee. We also encourage people to plant a "Welcome" row in their home vegetable garden and donate a part of their own harvest.

- **I have never cooked for a crowd and would like to help but don't know how to begin.**

No problem, the Welcome Table committee will be glad to offer help – from deciding on a menu to figuring out the amount of each ingredient needed to cook and the amount of time to allocate. We have an experienced team of volunteers who would be glad to assist!

- **I would like to help but I work during the day and can't get to FCPC until 6 or 7 p.m.**

No problem! There are several volunteer jobs that need doing between 6 and 7 p.m., including serving the food, helping at the beverage table, and serving as a host or hostess. If you can't arrive before 7 p.m., we always need help with cleanup which finishes around 8:30 p.m.

- **I have children and can only help during the day when they are at school.**

Great! We always need help chopping, cooking and doing prep work starting around 1 p.m. Whatever time you have to help, that is how long you stay. If you can't make it during those hours, we always need donations of fruit and toiletries which can be dropped off at FCPC at any time.

- **I would like to help but can't leave my child home alone.**

Bring your child with you! If your child is old enough to help with setup or assist at the Children's Corner, this is a wonderful way to get him/her involved with helping others. If child care is an issue, please let us know ahead of time and we can arrange for that, too.

- **I am not available on Wednesdays or physically capable of being there but would like to do something.**

There are tasks that need to be completed before Wednesday. Groceries that have not been donated need to be purchased and dropped off at the church. As with any mission project, donations are greatly appreciated. We welcome monetary donations and can always use donations of fruit for the dinner. Drop off your non-perishable or less-perishable items in the marked bin near the Activities Center at any time throughout the week. Bags of fruit can be brought to the office the week of the meal.

- **So, how and where can I sign up to help?**

Visit the home page of the Falls Church Presbyterian Church website and click on the VolunteerSpot link at the bottom. Add your name to the Welcome Table VolunteerSpot e-mail list and you will automatically receive a reminder of the upcoming dinner along with a list of open volunteer spots. You can sign up online at your convenience. You can also contact Jason Good at [djasongood@hotmail.com](mailto:djasongood@hotmail.com) to be added to the list.

- **Still not sure about Welcome Table?**

Come join us on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday. You can pitch in if you'd like, or just observe what goes on. You, too, may feel called to become a part of this wonderful mission project.