

On the Spiritual Side

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Martin Luther King Day of Service St. Martin of Tours prepares record number of meals

More than 380 adults, teens and children made a record number of tangible gifts for the less fortunate on Monday, Jan. 19, at the MLK (Martin Luther King Jr.) Day of Service at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in New Hope.

In a well-organized assembly line, participants prepared a record 4,000 meals for shut-ins. Some of the meals will serve local residents. The remainder will be transported to a central location and distributed to need shut-ins in the larger area.

Participants in the Day of Service also made hundreds of toiletry and breakfast bags for the homeless, as well as created tote bags, decorated T-shirts, knitted gloves, scarves, hats and caps, and fashioned no-sew blankets for sick children.

The Day of Service is very meaningful to parishioners. "I'm a Christian, that's what we do. We serve God when we serve other people," said Vickie Lupisella.

Participation helps parents teach important values to children.

"It's an opportunity for us to give back to the community and helps the kids learn to give back. It helps them appreciate what they



Some of the 383 participants in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at St. Martin of Tours Church in New Hope on Monday, Jan. 19, stand outside the church building.

have," said Paul Chiodo.

The importance of service to others already impresses many parish children. Asked about why he was participating in the Day of Service, Jake Saxton, 11, said, "To serve the community and give back ... It's what we're supposed to do, help out."

For teens Connor, Nolon and Lindsay Gromlich, the Day of Service "makes more people get active with the community and help others."

The St. Martin of Tours congregation now consists of more than 1,100 families. The parish boundaries encompass 35 square miles, including parts of Lumberville, Lahaska, New Hope, Solebury and Upper Makefield. About 25 percent of the population in that area are registered parishioners.

In 2015, the parishioners are supporting more than 40 ministry activities. Parishioner Jim Hanly describes St. Martin Parish as "a place where there are many activities people can choose from to shape a faith journey that is meaningful to them."

For information about St. Martin Parish or to inquire about meals for a shut-in, call 215-862-5472 or e-mail info@smartinofours.org.

Interfaith Council packs 25,000 meals for hungry in MLK event

Approximately 160 people, organized into nine production lines, packed 25,000 meals for the area's hungry in the space of four hours on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The venue was the Cornerstone Event Center at the Eagle Fire House in New Hope. The occa-

sion was a Martin Luther King Jr. "Day of Service," organized by Delaware Valley Interfaith Council in partnership with Iowa-based Outreach, Inc.

The packing of fortified beans and rice dinners was a ferociously efficient process - frequent

laughter and high-fives among the "workers" notwithstanding.

Volunteers came from St. Philip's Episcopal Church, The Little Shul, Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Circle of Ancient Paths Church, all of New Hope, and Trinity Episcopal Church, of Solebury Township, as well as other faith-based and civic groups.

"Hunger often hides in plain sight here in Bucks County," said the Rev. Michael Ruk, of St. Philip's, and president of the Delaware Valley Interfaith Council.

"So this event served a few purposes: we raised awareness of hunger, we provided food for hungry people, and built community."

Once assembled and packed, the meals were donated to the food pantries of the Delaware Valley Interfaith Council, Lambertville, N.J., and Morrisville Presbyterian Church, as well as the Flemington Food Pantry and Bucks County Opportunity Council.

Matthew Martin of Outreach said the New Hope meal-packing event was one of seven he and his organization were doing over the Martin Luther King Day weekend.

Outreach facilitates such events all over the United States for people who are food insecure at home and abroad. Outreach buys the food in bulk and partners with churches and other organizations, who provide the labor and funds to cover costs.

For information on how to get involved, call the Rev. Michael Ruk at 215-862-5782, or contact Outreach at 800-513-0935 or office@outreachprogram.org.



Volunteers from various faith-based and civic organization stand with boxes of meals packed for Outreach Inc. The meals are for food pantries in Bucks and Hunterdon counties.



Volunteers pack and seal meals of fortified beans and rice.



More than 150 people from area religious and civic organizations prepare meals for those in need at the Event Center by Cornerstone at the Eagle Fire House.



Volunteers pack meals of fortified beans and rice to feed the hungry.

Temple Judea hosts discussion on Middle East peace

Temple Judea hosts a panel discussion, including the Israeli Consul General and representatives of The Peace Center, to offer the community experienced insight on the Middle East conflict.

"Israel Conversation" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, at Temple Judea, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong.

All of the speakers on the panel have spent time in the embattled region in close contact with the people who live there, bringing to the event their first hand understanding of the complex challenges in the region's quest for lasting peace.

The panel will include: Yaron Sideman - Israel Consul General

of Philadelphia; Barbara Simmons - The Peace Center; Keith Pacheco - The Peace Center and Bucks County Human Relations Council; and Rabbi Mitchell Delcay - Rabbi, Temple Judea.

Temple Judea's Joel Weiner, who organized the event, shared his reasons for holding the program.

"The horrible attacks in France punctuate the growing threat from radical Islamist terrorists around the world. Europe and U.S. civilians have experienced this terrorism first hand, and Israel, too, has been a target of this terrorism for over 65 years.

Israel has attempted many times and in many ways to build relation-

ships with its Arab neighbors. Yet, Israel is condemned and criticized more than any other nation in the world today.

"How can and should Israel be understood? What are its problems? Can its situation help us to understand our own? I invite the community to be a part of this important discussion."

Topics will include the dangers to Jews in Europe from the merging of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism; Israel's absorption of Jewish refugees from Arab lands; the two-state solution and Israel's peace offers; the 2014 Gaza War; among others.

A question and answer session with audience participation will

follow the panel discussion.

The goal of the program is to share with the community an informed understanding, from different perspectives, of the complex

issues that face Israel and its neighbors on the road to peace and justice in the region.

For information, call 215-348-5022.

Archdiocese offers communications talk

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary host the second annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture Series.

The series honors Cardinal Foley's work in the media by featuring speakers of national or international renown who are engaged in evangelization through social communications.

John L. Allen, Jr., associated editor at the Boston Globe and Cruxnow.com, specializing in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church, will speak on "The Crux of Church Communications" at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Vianney Hall Auditorium, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood. The lecture is open to the public with free admission.

For information, visit scs.edu.

Temple Judea offers service for youngsters

A short Shabbat service for families with very young children will be held at Temple Judea, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong, at 6 p.m. Jan. 23. It will be followed by a family Shabbat dinner and traditional Shabbat service, beginning at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 215-348-5022.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, January 25, 2015
The Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey, Sr., Pastor
9:30 am Worship / Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship and Refreshments
Nursery Service available

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