

Overflowing at the Lamb's Lunch

Ministry to homeless the hands and feet of Jesus

by Elsi Dodge

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.” ~Saint Teresa of Avila

Hope, joy, peace, and blessings have indeed been overflowing at the Saturday Lamb’s Lunch, an outreach to the homeless and marginalized of Boulder County, hosted at First Presbyterian Church in Boulder. And Jesus shows up there, regularly.

With volunteers from a wide variety of local churches and service groups, the Lamb’s Lunch provides a hot meal, a place away from the streets, time for fellowship, Bible study, clothing distribution, music, a Christian message—and oh, so much more!

December 1, for example, volunteers from Bruce and Laura Greiner’s home Bible study fellowship out of Foothills Community Church in Lafayette, prepared baked chicken, mashed potatoes from scratch, green beans not from a can, corn bread, and brownies with whipped cream. In addition, they served fruit salad, made from fruit donated by Boulder Food Rescue. Johnny Mier spoke about his current cancer diagnosis and how the Lord

is helping him. Girls from Faith Christian School offered manicures to guests. Volunteers from Silver Wings, a service and professional development organization at CU-Boulder, offered the opportunity to write Christmas cards, as well as serving water and chatting with people at the tables. Six people gathered at one table to discuss some of the women in Jesus’ genealogy, focusing on Tamar and Ruth this day. Approximately a hundred guests, many coming back for seconds and thirds, plus around 30 volunteers were served.

All of this is pleasant and encouraging, of course. Outreach to the community, fellowship and friendship, filling hungry stomachs ... great!

But ... wait ... there’s more! On Saturday, December 1, 2012, Jesus reached out to people in some unique ways.

The Lamb’s Lunch has fairly strict behavior expectations for guests and volunteers, including no drinking or smoking on site. Eric, the security guy, reported to a Lamb’s Lunch board member that he had had to evict a woman who continued to drink, even after being warned she would have to leave. As she left, Eric offered to take her a plate of food. That’s Jesus in action.

A little bit later, the police arrived to remove a guest who was violating a restraining order. They talked with the man, then escorted him from the premises—but not before requesting a full



Volunteers from Foothills Community Church in Lafayette serve up a home-cooked meal.

meal for him to take with him. Even the Boulder Police were acting as Jesus’ hands this day.

In the meantime, one guest had been consistently argumentative, loud, and disruptive. He was warned several times that he would have to leave. Matt, volunteering with the Greiners, was asked to attempt to settle the guest down. Matt sat with the man, talking calmly and listening, for almost an hour, and we had no further trouble. Matt later said, “I think he just wanted someone to hear him.”

There’s Jesus again.

And that’s what the Lamb’s Lunch’s purpose is—to provide far more than a hot meal and a place out of the wind—but to be the hands and feet of Jesus, every Saturday, at 15th and Walnut in Boulder. Come on by ... maybe you’re part of this, too!

Fifth annual Father-Daughter Dance

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hearts how a young lady should be treated on a date. And me, well, I’ll just kick back, pop the cap on my Fat Tire, slip in the CD and quietly sit through one more round of “Call Me Maybe,” just for old times’ sake.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When: February 9 at 4:30 – 6 P.M. (matinee) and 7 to 9 P.M. (evening)

Where: First Presbyterian Church, Boulder: 1820 15th Street Boulder, CO 80302

How Much: \$7.50 per person online (www.fpcboulder.org/dance); \$10 per person at the door (please sign up online, if possible!)

What Else: Tell your friends (two-thirds of last year’s participants don’t attend First Pres! Think easy outreach opportunity...)