



Building bridges into the faith community for homeless, poor and needy men and women.

The Story of Christmas

Elsi Dodge — December 28th, 2010

The story of Christmas was told and retold throughout the Old Testament—from God's promise of a coming Messiah in Genesis through Isaiah's detailed prophecies. Matthew and Luke picked up the theme, writing the fulfillment of the promises in the birth of God's Son Jesus, Savior and Redeemer. And the story of Christmas was lived out through the Lamb's Ministries at First Pres during Christmas week 2010.

More than 80 homeless guests were served a festive meal Saturday, December 18, by the First Pres deacons, members of the Boulder Chinese Baptist Church youth group, and other volunteers. Under the guidance of Scott McVicker, the deacons made hors d'œuvre and fruit salad, cooked a tasty pilau for the main dish, and provided cherry cobbler for dessert.

Guests were seated in Oerter Hall at tables decorated with seasonal holly and pine, served by volunteer waitresses and waiters, and treated to a medley of Christmas carols by the John Mier family worship team. This was the first of monthly sit-down meals served this season; other Lamb's Lunch Saturdays offer a cafeteria-style meal.

"I love to hear the old carols," said Joseph, a guest. "Will you sing 'Away in a Manger' next?"

One week later, on Christmas day, approximately 60 guests came to the First Pres Annex for movies, coffee, and a variety of festive sweet rolls and breads donated by the Panera Bread Company. The guests had come from Walnut Brewery's Miracle on Walnut Street dinner. At the Annex, they helped themselves to coffee and cookies or bread, then enjoyed watching The Nativity Story, a retelling of the events surrounding the birth of Christ, and A Christmas Story, about Ralphie and his desire for a "Red Ryder BB-gun with a compass on the stock." Six volunteers from three churches, under the auspices of Russ Teets from First Pres, staffed the table and chatted with the guests.

"What a blessed way to spend Christmas afternoon," said one volunteer as the last table was folded and the remaining breads packaged to take to the warming center at Crestview Church on Madison. Guests who missed the shuttle to the homeless shelter, provided by Arrow Stage Lines and hosted by (apparently) TinkerBell, complete with tutu and wand, were driven back to the shelter in a First Pres van.



Volunteer Vicki Schneider sets out breads for Lamb's Ministry guests on Christmas Day.