



La Habra United Methodist Church

Vista

November 2017

The crisis of homelessness has been in the news because of the encampments along the Santa Ana River in Anaheim. Tragically this is not news. Homelessness at various levels is a problem in most communities. The latest survey done in the county showed an increase of 7.6 % over the survey done in 2015. That figure represents 4,792 people who are experiencing homelessness. Fortunately, a little over two thousand of those folks are in temporary or transitional shelters. The rest are living on the streets.

I participate in a "Faith Based" gathering of La Habra Pastors and other leaders. This group is partnering with the City of La Habra and a Not-for-profit group called City Net, to address the issue of homelessness in our community. Our city government is proactive in addressing homelessness.

Homelessness congers up many images for us. We may see pictures from "encampments" like the one in Anaheim. For some the image involves the people who pan-handle along freeway entrances. We may even have a more immediate picture because of individuals who sometimes find "shelter" under a bush on our church property.

Whatever your image is we should all understand that the causes of homelessness are complex. Mental health and/or substance abuse remains a huge factor. For many the loss of a job, coupled with living close to poverty already, is enough. We hear that some people "choose" to be homeless. I don't doubt that this is true, but sometimes it is true because there is no other choice available. Affordable housing is an issue. (And that is also a very complex problem.)

The most recent information (and this is very reliable) indicates that there are approximately 100 people within La Habra who are "street-level" homeless. In addition, the local schools keep track of the number of families that are "at risk" of homelessness. In some cases, this means that families are living in someone's garage, or in a motel room. The schools count about 250 families in this category.

This represents a lot of people. But it is not an insurmountable problem. City Net, in concert with the La Habra Police, have been helping some of these folks into more stable living situations. So far they have helped 22 individuals move off of the streets.

The city, with the help of City Net, churches, the police, and others, are tackling this issue. I brought this concern to our last Church Council meeting and asked if the La Habra United Methodist Church wanted to be part of the solution. They answered YES. In the coming months there will be specific needs that we will be asked to help with. We will be asked to offer help only in situations where we have the capacity to respond.

The goal is to move all of La Habra's homeless or at risk persons into stable housing. City Net has discovered that working with individuals and families, with the support of local people, can end homelessness.

I'll be sharing additional information about our participation in the coming months. If you have a heart to be part of our congregation's helping team, please let me know.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug

Out to Lunch Bunch

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets every third Wednesday of the month. We get together

for a nice meal and fellowship. Come join us for this month's event on Wednesday, November 15, at 1:00pm. We will be meeting at "Senor Campos" on Whittier Blvd. Hope to see ya there!

happy
birthday

November Birthdays!!

<i>Billie Crowder</i>	<i>1st</i>
<i>Warren Fuqua</i>	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Cameron McIntosh</i>	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Joshua Bell</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Mary Daniels</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Ed Dyer</i>	<i>8th</i>
<i>Rev. John Knox</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Kevin Gaston</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Terri Pfenning</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Gail Crabtree</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Anthony Gamboa</i>	<i>22nd</i>
<i>Jan Pape</i>	<i>28th</i>

Preschool News.....

The kids had a blast during their Halloween parade!! Thank you to all the parents and families that could come and watch.

The Preschool staff would like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. We will be closed November 23rd & November 24th.



*....if we have forgotten your birthday,
Please contact the church office.....*



Thank You...

Dear LHUMC family,

Your generosity and thoughtfulness during this difficult time has been such a blessing to our family. Our mother loved each of you and we are grateful for your sustaining prayers. We know she is experiencing a joyful reunion with loved ones and is finally at peace.

Thank you to each of you who helped in any way during her services. More importantly, thank you for your love and friendship towards Mom. You are truly disciples of Christ!

*In appreciation ~
The family of Betty Lane*



Fall Food Collection

We will again be participating in the
Catarina's Club "Pastathon"

This organization feeds some 3, 300 young people at 48 locations across the Southland.

We will collect pasta, sauce, paper napkins, plates, bowls, and plastic ware from November 12th thru December 3rd

Also during that time, we will collect specific items for La Habra's
Community Care Resource Center

Please bring from the following "Most Needed" list.....

Boxed Mac & Cheese, Small Size Peanut butter, Pop-Top Canned Fruit, Canned Meats (like spam), Granola Bars, Boxed Juice, and Lunch Sized (non-refrigerated) Snack Items

The G.A.P. God's Awesome People

Our next gathering will be held at the home of Jim and Karen Hill (2221 Carlisle Circle, La Habra) on Saturday November 18,th at 6:00pm. The Hill's will provide a main dish, so please bring a salad, dessert or an appetizer to share. Also, please bring a beverage of choice. RSVP to Karen at (562)690-1500 so she can plan accordingly. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Remember this is a fun, every-other-month event and hope to see you! It is open to all ages.



RESPONDING TO HURRICANE RELIEF

Our United Methodist Church has been helping in many ways with the people who are impacted by these crisis. Please keep all of these people in your prayers. Also pray for the many who are in the region to rescue, care for, and to help recover and rebuild.

Thanks to all of you who graciously donated for these crisis. Our total collected was approx..\$2, 140.00.