



Fish Newsletter

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

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Joining Forces to Help Feed the Hungry at Fishes and Loaves Café

What started as a passion to cook and a calling to feed the hungry for two Fish, Inc. volunteers has turned into a reality called the Fishes and Loaves Café.

Working together in the Fish Food Room, Tom and Lisa shared a conversation about their desire to cook for the clients they served. The first task was to find a location that would have a suitable kitchen and dining area. The answer came from the Shepherd's Shelves at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway. The café was off to a good start but after serving for several months, it was clear it wasn't reaching the clients it was meant for. Rather than discontinue the café, the Shepherd's Shelves along with the Youth Group decided they wanted to keep it going.

Still feeling the call to serve, Tom and Lisa began again to find a suitable location, this time within walking distance of the Fish Food Room. After much hoping and praying, a phone call came from Father Lou Mattina of Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church, a strong advocate for the café, offering use of the former school cafeteria and kitchen. The first dinner at the Fishes & Loaves Café II was served on Friday, December 19th to approximately 50 people.

The mission of the café is to provide a free, home-cooked meal, hospitality and fellowship to anyone in need, particularly the underserved. *Fishes and Loaves Café II* serves dinner the 3rd Friday of each month, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria of Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church, 499 New Market Road, Piscataway. *Fishes and Loaves Café I* serves lunch the 3rd Thursday of each month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, Hoes Lane, Piscataway.

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks goes to those who have helped make this dream a reality – Christ United Methodist Church, the Shepherd's Shelves and Youth Group; Our Lady of Fatima Church parishioners, and Father Lou Mattina; Knights of Columbus; and Our Lady of Czestochowa Social Concerns, South Plainfield.



Coming Up ---

Friday, February 20: Fishes & Loaves Café II.

Dinner served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the third Friday of each month, in the cafeteria at Our Lady of Fatima Recreation/Learning Center, 499 New Market Road, Piscataway.

Saturday, March 28; Monday, March 30 through **Thursday, April 2:** Distribution of Easter Holiday food, by appointment. Food Room closed Friday, April 3; will reopen Monday, April 6.

Thursday, May 14, 2015: – Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, 218 Dunellen Avenue. Steering Committee elections will take place this year. All are welcome to attend.

Ongoing: – Third Thursday of each month, Lunch served by **Fishes & Loaves Café I** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane, Piscataway.

Ongoing: – Third Saturday of each month the Food Room and Clothing Room will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



In Memorium

We fondly remember those faithful volunteers and dear friends of Fish, Inc. whom have been called home.

Robert “Bob” Mitchell, November 3. Bob was a long-time volunteer for Fish, Inc., most recently serving as Food Room Chairman, retiring from that position in 2012. Bob was a life-long resident in our area, born in Plainfield, residing in Dunellen, and was a member of The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen. He had also served as volunteer and president of the Dunellen Board of Education, and the Dunellen Library. Bob was 96 years old.

Fred Gleason, November 4. Fred was another long-time volunteer at Fish, Inc., having retired from service as a telephone volunteer. He was born in East Orange, and resided in Piscataway for many years. He was a member of Raritan Valley Baptist Church. Fred was 86 years old.

Betty Gill, November 19. Betty recently retired from her service as a telephone volunteer. Actively volunteering since the 1970's, Betty was a telephone volunteer and secretary for the Cranford Area Fish organization before settling in Piscataway. She became a member of The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen where she first learned about Fish, Inc. – Dunellen Area. (See related story in Fish Newsletter, Vol. 19, No. 2.)

Leo Zmuda, Sr., December 24. A long-time, dedicated volunteer in our food room, Leo volunteered his time six days a week to travel in the Fish van to the Costco in Edison to pick up breads and pastries. He was the side-kick to van driver Clyde Johnson and always had a story or joke to share. When asked how he was doing, his famous reply was “I’m vertical”. Leo built his own house in Piscataway where he had resided since 1954. Leo was 90 years old.



Correction

In the Fall Newsletter (Vol. 19, No. 3), page 1, in “*The Story of Friendship Hall*,” last paragraph: the two congregations should read, “... Jesus Lamb of God Fellowship, and Shekinah First Haitian Church.” Likewise, on page 2, the article titled “*A Familiar Voice ...*,” the first paragraph should read, “...Praise In The Parking Lot” was led by Zion Tabernacle of Praise.” We deeply regret our error.

--- J. Cox, Editor

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Fish is especially grateful at this time of the year for the many individuals, social groups, businesses, scout troops, schools; and especially for all the volunteers who support us in so many ways throughout the year. With your help, you have made our work easier. Thank you. The following have donated recently:

Food donations from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Dunellen; Lindeneau Student Council of Edison “Souper Bowl” collection; Affinity Federal Credit Union, Basking Ridge; the many Girl Scout Troops in Piscataway and Middlesex; and Green Brook Middle School.

Schools who have contributed clothing, including coats, hats, mittens scarves and socks, are: in Piscataway, Theodore Schor Middle School, Conamack Middle School, Randolphville School, Martin Luther King School. Also John P. Faber School, Dunellen; Middlesex High School; Watchung Elementary School; and Irene E. Feldkirschner Elementary School in Green Brook.

Mocha Moms Inc., Somerset/Union Chapter collected clothing, children’s books, and games.

At Our Lady of Fatima Church, all Mass offerings on Thanksgiving Day were given to Fish.

We thank the many other churches in our communities that continue to support the work of Fish including: St. Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran, Dunellen; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Middlesex; St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic, Hillsborough; St. John the Evangelist, Dunellen; St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway; the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen; North Branch Reformed Church, Bridgewater; and Wesley Methodist Church, South Plainfield.



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The Last Word

For assistance, or to contribute or volunteer, call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081**. For more information about Fish, Inc., please visit our website: www.fishdunellenarea.org.

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area qualifies as a nonprofit corporation and is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.