

Family Focus

THE SHEPHERDS' CORNER

THE FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

"For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat, nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing (Luke 12:22-23)."

"If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content (1 Tim 6:8)."



While we need to take these verses to heart, it is also clear that we need food and clothing for our daily survival. We do not want to take these verses out of context, but a reality is that here in Columbia, there are people who need help to meet these basic needs. This church has been helping in this area with the recent coat drive, St. Francis House work, and outreach through the 'Meet Me at the Plate' summer series, just to name a few. But there is still a need for more assistance in the community.

Last week, David Winn introduced the new food pantry ministry we are starting here at Fairview as a continuation of our 'Mission Columbia' effort. It will start small, with only a few families (who will be referred to us by the Voluntary Action Center) to assist, but we hope to grow into a larger work, and possibly even deliver some food boxes to those that have a hard time getting out but have a need.



There will be several areas that you can volunteer to help with, including stocking shelves, keeping inventory, preparing boxes, assisting on pantry Saturdays, etc. You will be hearing more about those areas at a later date.



One of the first things that we will be asking for help with is building up our food inventory with donations. That will begin with the youth classes, which will be challenged to bring in certain food items. Be sure to ask your child what their food item is, and help out. It is great to have a ministry that all ages can assist with, and this certainly is one of them. It is our hope that we will get into the habit of bringing in items for the pantry as time goes by, so we can continue and expand the work.

By helping to feed people, we are following the example of what Jesus did, as well as the early church. Caring for those in need is a basic Christian characteristic and attitude. It is certainly a good way to put one's faith into action. If you have questions, or want to help, contact David Winn.

"What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself (James 2:14-17)."

In His Service,
Britt Newby