

INFORMATION SHEET: HOSPITALITY

"Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (Romans 12:13)

The hospitality periods that follow our Sunday services give members an opportunity to spend time together, catch up on what has happened since the last time they gathered, and welcome visitors. Members are invited to sign up to provide food and drink on a schedule posted on the bulletin board.

Look at the hospitality schedule as soon as it has been posted and sign up for one or more Sundays. Check the schedule periodically, and sign up again if you wish. When you can't serve on a Sunday you've signed up for, ask another member to trade dates with you. Write the changes on the schedule; if this isn't possible, send them via e-mail to the church (st.stephensridgeway@gmail.com) so the service bulletin will accurately reflect who is providing hospitality on that day.

The food you provide is entirely up to you. Past offerings have ranged from what would be considered a meal to simply something sweet to eat; from homemade to ready-made, to a combination of both. The important thing is the ministry of hospitality, not what is served. During the summer months, hospitality can be provided outdoors, weather permitting, and generally set up under the cedars on the south side of the church.

Coffee and tea are available in the parish hall kitchen. You're welcome to provide other beverages, such as juices, soft drinks, lemonade, etc.

Paper products, serving dishes and utensils are provided. You're welcome to bring your own if you wish to acknowledge or celebrate a particular holiday or special event.

All leftover food and beverages should be handled as follows: (1) take leftovers home or give them to someone; (2) if the hospitality provider for the next Sunday is present, ask them if they can use any of it; (3) if the first two are not options, then throw leftovers away. It doesn't take long for the refrigerator to fill up with food and drinks that are never used, and there's no "refrigerator angel" to throw them away later.

Before you leave: The Parish Hall should be returned to its original state. This includes collecting and throwing away used plates, cups and plastic utensils (don't forget to check the Quiet Room and the Sunday school room), and cleaning up spills and food on the tables and the floor. Items that need to be washed can be hand washed and put away or rinsed and put in the dishwasher. If the dishwasher is full it should be started. The drain strainers should be cleaned out and the sinks and counters cleaned up. Used towels should be taken home, washed and returned to the kitchen.

All garbage bags in the Parish Hall and kitchen should be removed and replaced with clean bags. Take the trash with you; St. Stephen's does not have garbage pick-up.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS MINISTRY