

Tim Lyons Recognized for 15 Years of Ministry

On January 18, those assembled at our annual meeting joined Joe Arlauskas in singing "They'll Know We Are Christian". This was a perfect prelude to honoring Tim Lyons for his 15 years of faithful service on the Friday Lunch program; his



work in that ministry is an example of the song's theme - unconditional love and caring for others.

When the parish hall and kitchen became available to St. Andrew's for full-time use, Tim proposed the idea of giving a weekly hot luncheon to our community.

With support from the Encinitas Rotary and Elks Clubs, the lunch program grew from a handful of volunteers and 24 guests to dozens of volunteers serving 80 to 100 folks weekly. Donations for the program come from a variety of community groups and individuals; Tim created the monthly Parish Breakfast and occasional dinner theatre as additional St. Andrew's fundraisers. Half of the volunteers are from outside the immediate St. Andrew's church family and include Boy and Girl Scout groups and adults and teens needing community service hours. Tim says "We train them all in safety, cleanliness and friendliness."

The delicious food is all homemade and hand served. At 1:00 pm on Friday, Tim opens the door and greets the first guests. While the guests line up for the salad bar, including fruit and hot rolls,

Tim welcomes them. As he puts it, "There are many hand shakes and a few hugs." Tim then announces the meal, telling them about the two soups and main course for the day. After the salad course, volunteers hand deliver the choice of soup to each person, followed by the main course, always including a meat, starch and vegetable. Guests continue walking in; they're all greeted warmly and given a place at a table. Tim makes sure that all guests are treated with dignity and respect, which, for many, is the only time during the week that happens.

When accepting the 10 News Leadership Award in 2009 for his work on the Friday Hot Lunch program, Tim was asked "Who's invited?" His response - "Hungry people. You don't need ID, you don't need to pray, all you need to do is show up at the door at one o'clock on Friday." Tim also says "Whenever you do something for someone else, you get a rush." You also present a powerful example of love to others: when I asked my then 12-year-old son who he'd like as his confirmation mentor, he said "That guy who serves the Friday lunch... and Parish Breakfast." Yeah, that guy, our mentor of kitchen love, Tim Lyons.

At our annual meeting, Mother Brenda presented Tim with an apron on which the Friday Lunch guests were encouraged to sign their names. Most were moved to include a message of thanks and support to Tim. The apron is also inscribed with the theme of this month's Epistle "Love is My Religion", a wonderful summary of faith. Thank you Tim, for spending every Friday for the past 15 years showing us how to live that message and share it with others. -Gigi Miller

Interfaith Homeless Shelter: Be Awesome to Somebody

A recent news item told of a New York hair salon owner who monthly provide haircuts to homeless people for free rather than his usual \$150. He related how his service to these people made them feel valued and raised their spirits. He thought that we should all make efforts to "Be awesome to somebody." St. Andrew's will soon have the opportunity to the awesome.

We will host the interfaith homeless shelter in March. I wanted to write a few lines to introduce the shelter "homeless" clients. The word homeless carries many impressions, many of them negative. I will try to dispel some of these impressions by describing the clients we will be hosting here. Our guests are working and temporally homeless. The current clients are actually 2 families. The group consists of 4 parents and 9 children. Three of the parents are working and actively seeking permanent housing so the group may change by the time we host the shelter in March. They will be replaced with individuals in similar circumstances.

The shelter will provide many opportunities for each of us to be awesome. Opportunities include providing meals, tent setup/take down, laundry and overnight host.

Let's share our abundance. -Linda Counts