

November 2015 Bulletin

PACEM at TJMC

By Elizabeth Breeden

PACEM organizes congregations throughout our community to host homeless guests overnight in churches and synagogues and meeting houses during the cold winter months assuring that no one freezes on the streets of our town. Congregations partner with each other to provide dinner each night and to host the guests overnight. PACEM provides the organizational structure, cots and bedclothes, and a staff to provide intake of guests, help connecting guests to services that secure permanent housing and provide staff for the time guests are engaged with the congregations. Men and women are housed in different congregational homes. Our church has been doing this outreach for about 10 years. The direct involvement with those in our community who we would rarely meet otherwise allows us to understand the full arc of the people in our town and engage in social justice with real people whom we have met at the core of our actions.

TJMC hosts the homeless men of PACEM from November 28th to December 4th this year. Sign-up sheets asking for your volunteer effort to provide food, to host our guests during dinner and to host them overnight will go up in the Social Hall after every service in November. We try to divide feeding 55 people every night for a week into 100 easy jobs. Jobs range from providing a dish like bread or chili or green beans for 8 to hosting dinner to staying overnight in Summit House where the men sleep. On Saturday, November 28th a big crew will be needed to move the furniture around in Summit so we can arrange the cots and blankets provided by PACEM. We usually expect an average of 40 men per night. We have tried to divide the work so everyone can be involved at the level they are comfortable. Once again this year we will be sharing this effort with Ebenezer Baptist Church. Please look for the sign-up sheets. Questions: Elizabeth Breeden, Gloria Morgan or Jen Larimer: socialjustice@uucharlottesville.org

