

# OUR LOOK *on* OUTREACH



## **Changes Coming to Safe Ground Pilgrimage**

All ministries are a form of life, and as such, have changes. Starting this month, Trinity Cathedral will host the Safe Ground Pilgrimage once a month on the fourth Wednesday. Thus the next time Safe Ground will return is August 26. Kevin Donohue and Ron Waddell will be our "Chefs de Cuisine" - the Dinner Captains that oversee kitchen operations, and develop our evening's menu.

For many years our cathedral family, along with many others from the greater Sacramento community, have graciously and generously opened their hearts and their arms to the homeless community via the Safe Ground Pilgrimage Ministry. As we all face change in our personal lives, the same goes for ministries. Some of our volunteers have retired from active ministry, some have changed jobs or moved, and others have felt called by the spirit to other ministries. This is good and it is the natural cycle of our lives, and of the life cycle of any ministry. We are deeply grateful for the work of all who have given of their hearts and their time.

### **THE GROWTH OF THE MINISTRY**

Since we first opened Trinity's doors to the ministry in December of 2009 we have seen ever growing numbers of our brothers and sisters without shelter come to us. Last year (2014) we served five thousand three hundred meals (5,300) and provided a safe night's sleep to over three thousand seven hundred (3,700). All of which was made possible by the untold hours of the love and labor of our volunteers, but it wasn't the reason for the growth. The reason is the lack of societal, and thus governmental, responses to the needs of the poorest of the poor.

The seven congregations (see below) involved in the Safe Ground Ministry have certainly given much, however churches cannot do it alone, and government does have a responsibility to its people. The question for the cathedral now is how much can we do and for how long. Dave Coburn, Director of the Safe Ground Pilgrimage, has done an amazing job of bringing resources to the need. That is why we have a strong supply network of food banks, that is why Elica Health Care now brings their mobile clinic to the cathedral, and that is why Federico Beauty School of Sacramento now comes on a regular basis to give free haircuts to our guests. So it really isn't a matter of lack of resources, it is a matter of how we can manage the growth in a way that does not drain the human and facility resources of the cathedral.

## **THE CURRENT SITUATION**

As we've already mentioned, there is a natural ebb and flow of all life and thus of ministries. We have a lot of volunteers for each Safe Ground Pilgrimage night, what we do not have are individuals who have the time and the ability to manage them. We call those people Kitchen Captains. When you operate a ministry as large and as quickly moving as the Safe Ground Pilgrimage, there simply must be someone in charge of the kitchen. To not have such a person on site for those nights invites chaos and the resulting safety and operational problems which could lead to the end of the ministry. That would be irresponsible, and speaking biblically, make us poor stewards of what God has given us to care for. Since we cannot allow that to happen we made the decision to operate on only the fourth Wednesdays for the time being. Please remember we view this as a temporary situation. You should also know that our companion churches in the ministry are experiencing the same management/resources problems.

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

As other churches in the ministry are struggling to continue, Dave Coburn, Director of Safe Ground Pilgrimage Ministries, has called a meeting of the leadership of participating churches for the night of August 13<sup>th</sup>, which is the day you will be reading this article. We will be attending the meeting on behalf of the cathedral and will be reporting to you in next week's e-news. We have no idea what will occur at that meeting in relation to the continuation of the ministry, but we are assured that cathedral's ministry to the poorest of the poor – which we believe is Christ's call to us - will continue. It is a matter of how that will look in composition.

We fully understand and respect the limits of our facilities and are well aware that the Safe Ground Pilgrimage is only one of our ministries to the poor, the others being Wednesday Night Community Meals and Family Promise. By the way, those ministries also need help. If you are interested in the Wednesday Night Community Meals contact Loren Weatherly ([Loren.weatherly@gmail.com](mailto:Loren.weatherly@gmail.com)) or Lyle Gramling ([lylegramling@gmail.com](mailto:lylegramling@gmail.com)). If you are interested in Family Promise contact Eleanor Taniguchi ([ehtaniguchi@gmail.com](mailto:ehtaniguchi@gmail.com)) or MeriAngel Enriquez ([3chihuahua90@gmail.com](mailto:3chihuahua90@gmail.com)).

We have prayerfully and carefully made this change as to how and when Trinity Cathedral hosts the Safe Ground Pilgrimage. We ask for your prayers as we seek to restore the ministry to the twice monthly (three times when there is a fifth Wednesday) operational plan that we've had for several years now, and we also ask that you pray with us that we may connect with the generous hearts of others in the greater Sacramento community who wish to share in this ministry through volunteering.

In the end all our hopes, dreams and work are in God's hands. We do not ask for more.

Blessings,

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**Safe Ground Pilgrimage Ministry Churches**

Bayside Midtown, First Church of the Nazarene, First United Methodist, Pioneer Congregational UCC, St. John's Lutheran, Trinity Cathedral, Trinity Lutheran.