



Cathedral Cooling Center a Success:

**One-Hundred Thirty Five
found relief from the heat last week.**

by Rev. Steve Skiffington, Cathedral Deacon

THE HISTORY

Last year the cathedral was designated as an official Cooling Center by the City and County of Sacramento, and we remain the only church to be so designated in the City of Sacramento. That means that whenever the 211 system deems a

weather emergency (be it heat or cold) the cathedral has the option of declaring itself open to give relief those suffering from the heat or cold.

How the system works.

- **City and County offices of Emergency Services:** Constantly monitors weather conditions and when they foresee extreme weather conditions they notify key personnel at sites which had previously designated as cooling/heating centers.
- **Cathedral Deacon:** Is the main contact with the Emergency Services departments and receives notices of impending extreme weather conditions. Once I receive the notice....
- **Dana Chamness:** The Cathedral Deacon then contacts Dana to determine if the cathedral has space available to open as a cooling/heating center. It is Dana's sole prerogative to determine if we do. He and the Deacon then determine the specific hours and location within the cathedral for the event.
- **Cathedral Deacon:** Notifies the 211 system, which in turn notifies the media as well as law enforcement and fire/medical services. They in turn notify the public via the media (print, radio & TV). The deacon also notifies the Front Street Animal Shelter which provides portable kennels and dog food. Once all those pieces have been put in place, an 'E-mail Blast' is then sent out to the cathedral data base notifying the congregation and asking for volunteers, who are asked to respond to the Deacon so he/she can monitor the volunteer assignments.

WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK

The cathedral was open Monday thru Wednesday as a designated Cooling Center from noon till 6pm. Five volunteers responded to the appeal that went out on the E-Blast, allowing us to open: Dee Cary, Amanda Rodman, Eileen Harvey, MeriAngel Enriquez and Jim Reese. On Monday we had 24 guests, Tuesday 43 and Wednesday 68. Those who were here on Wednesday then stayed to join in the Community Dinner, which was overseen by Lyle Gramling.

THE FUTURE

Under the oversight of the Deacon, the cathedral will continue to serve the public during severe weather conditions as determined the Offices of Emergency Services and as space allows.