



## A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR ABOUT FOOD 4 KIDS

Dear Friends,

There's never an "unbusy" season at The Church of the Holy Spirit. But among the many activities going on in mid-Spring is the effort (substantial, and at this point, mostly behind the scenes) to get our Food 4 Kids program up and running for another summer. And indeed, Food 4 Kids has grown into one of our signature ministries where, as a Parish, we reach out to help meet the needs of communities from the mid-Cape all the way out to Provincetown. And the needs are most certainly there!

While many of us are aware of the program, I wanted to share some specifics of what we did last year, to give us all a better sense of what goes on in this effort. Here are a few highlights:

- ◆ More than 100 volunteers logged more than 1,650 hours preparing and packing the food.
- ◆ Plus, 32 volunteers drove more than 6,500 miles delivering the food to our sites from South Dennis to Provincetown.
- ◆ While some volunteered only a few days, many came regularly every week and some several days a week.
- ◆ While most volunteers are members of The Church of the Holy Spirit, many are from beyond our walls.
- ◆ Our 18 sites, including community sponsored summer recreation programs, libraries and pre-schools, did the wonderful work of bringing children together in a fun, friendly and safe environment where they enjoyed the meals we prepared.
- ◆ Our small staff mastered the day-to-day complexity of planning meals, purchasing supplies, adjusting to constantly changing estimates in order to deliver safe, nutritious meals, and to do so within a tight budget.
- ◆ While MA DESE funded 75-80% of the program, we could not have accomplished our work without the financial support of the larger community including The Church of the Holy Spirit's own Outreach Committee, Cape & Islands United Way, Nauset Newcomers, The Federated Church, St. Vincent DePaul, Cape Cod 5, and additional organizations and many individuals.

Amazing, isn't it?

And while they quickly point out the contributions of others, I think it apt to mention the leadership of our Food 4 Kids volunteer Co-Directors, Brenda Ridgeway and Anne Koehler+. We owe them a debt of great gratitude for their many hours of dedicated service. A while back, they co-authored a description of what's going on at the heart of this ministry. I'd like to share it with you:

"All these people and organizations come together because they recognize the need is real: children are hungry on Cape Cod. While you and I may not see it, teachers, childcare givers, camp counselors, librarians, see it every day. And the beauty of the summer Food Service Program is that we offer free meals to every child, without stigmatizing, without shaming. Will doing what we do solve child hunger here? No. We are treating a symptom. Is it true that some parents are just not taking responsibility for feeding their children? Maybe. But for the most part these are children whose parents care very much for their welfare. These are children whose parents hold multiple jobs, pay taxes and provide the services vital to our local economy, explains The United Way. They are the childcare providers, retail salespeople, healthcare aids, cleaning crews and laborers. The underlying problem is low wage jobs and high housing cost that make it difficult for more and more young families here. And the problem will only go away when we and the surrounding communities address these issues, or when young families simply give up living on the Cape and try to provide for their children elsewhere."

And now, under Brenda and Anne+'s leadership, working with our Food 4 Kids Steering Committee, we're gearing up for 2018. There's much going on: organizing, hiring, securing funds. And the activity level only gets higher!

Through our Outreach Committee, The Church of the Holy Spirit is a financial partner. A number of us make individual contributions as well. As your Rector, I encourage you to offer your active support in whatever ways you can. Maybe you'll pitch in as a volunteer, once again—or maybe, for the first time. Whatever it might be, it is **all** appreciated—most certainly including prayer and personal encouragement.

So, I pray God's rich blessings on all who will be touched by Food 4 Kids 2018 - all who work as either volunteers or staff, and—of course—most of all, the young people and their families who will receive needed assistance, and helped to know, too, that they really matter!

In Christ,  
Adam+

## **FAITH CHALLENGE**

Continuing our 52-week Faith Challenge of reading a scripture verse every Monday, below are May's selections.

Remember to read them on Monday and then try to "live the message" as you go through the week.

<b>May 7</b>	Ephesians 4:32	<b>May 14</b>	Galatians 5:22-24
<b>May 21</b>	Luke 6:31	<b>May 28</b>	Hebrews 4:12

**B. I. B L. E. Simply means:**

**Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**