Log





February 2015

Randy and God

I remember the first time I met Randy. He came by to pick up a bicycle that we were giving him to help him get to the various jobs he had. He was a small, slender man in his mid-fifties with a big smile and dimples. Being homeless off and on for 10 years



had given him that look you see in people who live on the streets: holloweyed, thin, and in need of a long, hot bath.

For months I'd see Randy riding his bicycle up Market Street. Then he'd disappear for an even longer stretch. I learned that he struggled with alcohol, often drinking to the point of passing out. He'd tell me he wasn't going to drink anymore, but then he'd show up at my office after a binge, asking for help. Usually all he needed was some soap, shampoo, and other basics, which I gave him along with a gentle reminder that this lifestyle was going to kill him. He was always grateful.

But the cycle repeated itself many, many times during the past few years. I'd get frustrated with Randy when he'd say he was going to change, do better, end the bad behaviors...and then I realized that Randy and I are a lot more alike than it appears. Because in my quiet moments with God I tell Him, "I'll change, I'll do better, I'll end my bad behaviors..." but then I realize that I've made the same mistake a second, third, tenth time. Yet our compassionate God forgives me when I come back to Him with contrition and a commitment to do better.

Randy just moved into his own apartment, a studio near downtown. I continue to serve as his case manager. He will have ups and downs in his new life, just as I have ups and down in my own. Working with him is a good reminder to me of how important it is to be firm but also to be loving. To enforce the rules with consequences, but to show mercy to the person who has broken the rules. To forgive.

Otherwise, how can we ask God for those same things if we are not willing to give them to others?



Anne Corriston **Executive Director**

Church of the Blessed Sacrament is hosting a Final Friday event at Inter-Faith Ministries featuring the artwork of

Thank you

Thank you to all who attended Souper Bowl 2015

Great Soups from: Artichoke Sandwich Bar AVI at the Drury Hotel Candle Club Cargill Inc. **Corporate Caterers** Freddy's Frozen Custard Harvest Kitchen & Bar at the Hyatt Regency II Vicino Wood Oven Pizza Jason's Deli Kansas Star Casino Harvest Kitchen & Bar at the Hyatt Regency Old Mill Tasty Shop Outback Steakhouse Petroleum Club Tanya's Soup Kitchen Wichita Marriott Wichita Wagonmasters

Pottery: City Arts Friends University Art Program Blue Swallow Studios Gardner Elementary Heights High School Jon's Pottery Mary Drouin Wichita Center for the Arts Wichita Pottery

Also thank you to: First Presbyterian Church Hiland Dairy Foods Ken Lockwood Panera Bread Piccadilly Market & Grill Pleasant Valley United Methodist Southwest Paper Spangles

Jeanne Gordon and other parishioners. After surviving an accident in 2006 that left her a quadriplegic, Ms. Gordon paints with a mouth stick. You are invited to this free event, Feb. 27th, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, at 829 N. Market.



Starbucks Texas Roadhouse Wendy's

Committee: Lori Marceau (chair) Gayle Webb Mary Knecht

Volunteer Groups: Wichita Wagonmasters WSU Panhellenic

Events and Highlights

February 15: "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy"-People of Faith for Peace Urges you to see Ted & Company TheaterWorks' satirical comedy, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy," coming to University Friends Church, 1840 W. University, Wichita, Kansas, at 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 15th. The free, interactive event invites you to laugh, think about unjust practices that pervade the American mentality, and bid on homemade pies in an auction to raise money for Christian Peacemaker Teams and Food 4 Kids, an outreach to food-insecure students in the Wichita area. The show speaks across religions, denominations, generations, and backgrounds to all who aim to be the change they seek. For more information, contact Rev. Alan Stucky, alan.stucky@gmail.com or 3116-263-0247.

February 18: "Peace in the Home-finding an end to domestic violence" with keynote speaker Dorothy Stucky Halley, Director of Victims' Services Kansas Attorney General's office, will be February 18th from 7:00 pm to 9 pm at the WSU Hughs Metroplex. For more infomation contact WSU women's studies at 978-3358.

February 21: "Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE) Poverty Simulation" – Saturday, February 21, 2015 - West Heights United Methodist Church, 745 N. Westlink, Wichita, and the Wichita Circles Network are hosting a poverty simulation on Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 9 am – 12 noon. The simulation is a role-play event that offers participants a glimpse into the lives of low-income individuals and families living in our community. Participants get a brief look into the obstacles, the decisions, and the consequences that impact their daily lives. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the Wichita Circles Network and the work it is doing and how you can help. If you're interested in making a difference in poverty in our community, please come to this FREE event. Registration is limited. RSVP by February 13 by calling West Heights UMC at 722-3805.

March 10: "Free, Fair, Faux, Fum" presented by First Church of the Brethren, 1103 Jefferson, 5:30 - 6:30 pm light meal with 6:30 pm presentation by David Radcliff, director of New Community Project. The topic is a discussion about Free Trade. For more information contact taraamymathur@gmail.com or 263-0274.

Ponate Now!

In Remembrance

Sue Castile Ralph Hershey Jewell L Seaton

Check out our free
Faithlines app available
for Android and Apple mob
ile devices!

Feb. 2015

Get your "Love One Another" bumper sticker now for only a \$1 donation to IFM!



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Visit IFM's Website