



FAITH LINES

People of Faith Uniting to Meet Human Needs

Log

May 20 2015 [Tweet](#)

Faith the Cat

A couple of years ago I adopted a one-month old kitten, a stray stuck in a friend's window well. I named her "Faith" and started bringing her to work every day.

I quickly learned that even though she comes with me to the office, she's not a great office cat. She's not very friendly to strangers and has lots of what a colleague calls "cattitude." When I'm not around she stands at my office door and meows loudly. But when I'm right next to her she acts as though I'm invisible. She'll tolerate being held and her fur stroked but only for a minute or so. Then she leaps off my lap, eager to be free. It doesn't matter that I'm the person who feeds her, takes care of her, and loves her – she's still aloof.

When I think about my relationship with God, I realize that I often behave like Faith the cat. God's love for me is infinite but I don't always appreciate His blessings. His generosity cannot be outdone but I still fret over the unanswered prayers, the situations that don't go my way. He wants to give me every good thing but I act like I already know what's good for me.

Faith the cat reminds me that love is more than a feeling, it is a choice. I choose to love her, despite her persnickety behavior. God chooses to love us, eternally and infinitely, despite our behavior toward Him and each other. When I take a quiet moment to consider this, I feel hope and encouragement for whatever lies ahead. And that's why I keep Faith around. She is a constant reminder that God always loves us, no matter how much "cattitude" we have.

Anne Corrison
Executive Director



The Inn Crowd

The Farmers Markets are open, gardens are looking lush, asparagus, radishes, lettuce and other spring crops are thriving - and I have discovered residents at the Inn love fresh produce as much as anyone else.

It flies in the face of the stereotypes many of us have about homeless and low-income people. We've all heard, or perhaps even said, things like "why is that person using a Vision card to buy all those donuts and frozen dinners?" It could be because they're living in a motel with nothing but a microwave, or they're working two jobs and don't have the time or energy to cook.

My admittedly narrow experience shows that given the opportunity our residents love fresh produce. We had large donations of bananas, oranges and apples this weekend. I made a fruit salad for Sunday brunch that was so popular people asked for it again at dinner time. Saturday dinner was provided by the Hindu Nation, a vegetarian feast that had people going back for seconds and thirds. Sunday's dinner included a stir fry of fresh vegetables donated by the Wichita Symphony. When I started to throw away the little bit left over the residents who were cleaning the kitchen objected rather strenuously, saying there was enough left for their work lunches the next day.

This doesn't mean that given a choice everyone at the Inn is always going to choose carrots over carrot cake, but it does mean that with education, good recipes and good ingredients we



RESOURCE FAIR AND BREAKFAST MEETING FOR FAITH LEADERS

What do you do when you have a congregation member in need? What about when someone walks into your church asking for help? What's the best thing to do if you see someone on the street who wants to know how to find a place to sleep?

IFM's Resource Fair and Breakfast can help with the answers. Several area organizations will be on hand to provide information about the different services available in Wichita and Sedgwick County to help those in crisis.

Faith Leaders and community volunteers are urged to attend. Breakfast is 9-11 am, Tuesday, June 16 in the Good Shepherd Hall in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, 430 N. Broadway. Use [this link](#) to register.

Humanitarian Award Recipients



Bishop Mark Carroll was the first person to receive a Humanitarian Award in 1951. The tradition of recognizing local citizens for their efforts to make Wichita a better place was started by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and is continued today by IFM.

This year's five awards are shared by seven people. They have diverse backgrounds, but they all share a drive to help others improve their lives.

Recipients will be honored at the Humanitarian Awards Dinner, Thursday, August 20 at the Beech Activity Center. Tickets are \$100 each and available from the Inter-Faith Ministries office. In addition to highlighting the contributions of the recipients, the dinner is a major fund raiser for IFM's programs. As this year's chairperson, Chris Goebel of Star Lumber and Supply, said, "Fundamentally, the better you can make the community in which you work, eventually it's going to come around and help you. We all have a responsibility, a mission, to do what we can for others."

This year's recipients are: Madeline Akers, Peace by Piece; John M. Lewis, DDS, Leadership Through Faith; Kim Carraway and Debbi Green/Head to Toe Pantry, Spirit of Faith; Yolanda and Gene Camarena, Light of Faith; and Sister Becky Balthazor/Center of Hope, Golden Rule.

might be able to improve eating habits - and have a lot of fun doing it.

Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Kell works at Inter-Faith Inn on the weekends and will happily use any fresh produce we receive.

We need your input!
Early next week IFM supporters and subscribers will receive an email survey. IFM is currently working on a new mission statement, budgeting and long range planning. Your input is important to this process. Please take a few minutes to complete it, either next week or right now. [Click here](#) to go to the survey.



IFM's Final Friday is on hiatus for May because of the Memorial Day weekend and River Festival. Mark your calendars for the June 26, when the Art of Faith Gallery will showcase the work of members of First Metropolitan Community Church.

Honor and Memorial Gifts

- In Memory of
John Palenz*
- In Honor of
Leslee Campbell*
- In Honor of
Wade A. Robinson*
- In Honor of Our
Military Men and Women*
- In Memory of
Sean Patrick Regan*
- In Memory of
Avenell Elliott Harms*

► Events and Highlights

If your organization has a special event to include in our calendar



L to R: Chris Goebel, Debbie Green, Madeline Akers, Sister Becky Balthazor, John M. Lewis, DDS, and Anne Corriston at the Humanitarian Awards announcement of honorees. Not pictured: Kim Carraway, Gene and Yolanda Camarena.

please send to:
ckell@interfaithwichita.org.

May 20: Walk at Work

IFM will be participating in Sedgwick County's Walk at Work as part of the National Employee Health and Fitness Day. We challenge your church or company to get out and walk, too!

June 14: Mark Swinney at Botanica

2 pm, Sunday, free admission to Botanica for "Come Explore Reality" with Mark Swinney.

June 16: Resource Fair and Breakfast
9-11 am at the Good Shepherd Hall, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. For more information call Kyle Gibson, 264-9303.

June 26: Final Friday
5:30-8:30 pm, Art of Faith Gallery. The art of First Metropolitan Community Church

July 11: Project Care Pet Clinic
1-4 pm, Safe Haven Gazebo

August 20: Humanitarian Awards Dinner
Join IFM in recognizing local citizens for their volunteer efforts. Call Linda Wren at 264-9303 for more information.

It's never been easier to help IFM! All you need to do is register your Dillons card here: <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>, (IFM's number is 83262), use your card when shopping, and our programs benefit. What better way to help the homeless and hungry than when you're buying food!



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



You Can Help

829 N Market - Wichita, KS 67214-3519 - 316.264.9303

[Visit IFM's Website](#)



[help IFM by clicking here](#)

Current needs (aside, of course, from money, which is *always* a current need!): bath towels, anti-perspirant, fresh produce, diapers (all sizes), eggs, milk.