

Stories of Volunteerism

by Jim Micallef

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It all began in 2005 when my wife, M.K., came home one Sunday and said she thought we may have found a church that I would find acceptable. She said that the church had a female priest, Anne Howard, in the sanctuary! That church was Trinity Episcopal. The next Sunday, the both of us attended the eight o'clock service, and we have stayed with it ever since.

Once a month for ten plus years, I joined with M.K., Sarah Dobbs, Charlie Zimmer, Robert Maxim, Helen Mountford, Teresa Angulo, Kathie Pando, Bill Burke, and Sibyl Holder in the distribution of the noon meal at Casa Esperanza, a local home-for-the-houseless. We served over 100 lunches each week to all who came. The guests at Casa were enthusiastic with the program and genuinely grateful. I made lasting friendships with all my buddies who served.

Since Casa Esperanza had access to more "day old" bread than they could use, Sibyl Holder had a layout of about six other, smaller homes than Casa, and each week we would drive the circuit and distribute bags of bread.

For the last two years of Trinity Backstage, I joined Steve Gibson in collecting money for coffee, tea, and desserts. There was never a dull moment working with Steve, such a fun experience.

There was a time that I was elected to the Trinity Vestry. It was the era when the vestry was seeking a replacement rectory for the rector. The reposed replacement that was on the purchase list was to be inspected by each vestry member. When the vote was held, I was the Lone Ranger to vote "no." My reasoning was that the building would require too much maintenance in the future. Oh well, you can't win them all.

For the first three years, or so, of parish ownership of the new rectory, I was the "go-to" guy for maintenance and repairs. After that period, the parish established a Parish Campus Maintenance Committee. Glory be and halleluiah!

Early during the era of Assistant Rector, Eva Cavaleri, she asked me if I painted. After a positive response, she asked if I would repaint her office, which I did. She requested that the walls be painted in three colors: brown, turquoise, and white. For some reason, those colors did not stay long after Eva departed.

Now, I can be found in the backside of the parish kitchen, operating the dishwasher, or cleaning up after a function, such as "Dinners in the Park" for any and all who show up hungry.

Another function over which I have a 50% interest (you can imagine who shares the other 50%) is the upkeep/straightening of the name-tag boards which Melinda Carey "trained" me in 2005. More recently, we have the double-faced name tag boards which Loren Solin so generously fabricated several years ago.

Now, under the leadership of Dawn and John Draper in the weekly Path get-togethers, I have confessed to taking only one class in bible studies at Loyola University. I have a lot of catching-up to do.