

## Volunteer of the Month - Walter Scott

Walter came to Grace Lutheran Church for the first time about 5 years ago. His friend Alan suggested they both go to the free dinner the Church was offering every Friday night, and so they did.

The food wasn't bad, and the people seemed nice enough, so they came back again until it became a regular habit. Somewhere early on someone asked if anyone would like to help, and Walter said yes. That was the beginning of what has become a life-changing event for Walter.

He was born in Hartford along with two brothers and a sister, and graduated from Hartford High. After that he worked in the fast food business, first for Wendy's and later for McDonald's. He needed to leave to care for his ailing parents, and by the time they had both passed on, he'd lost touch with the business world and much of the world in general. So coming to Grace on that Friday night was the beginning. Soon he was volunteering every week and with his previous experience, he mostly took charge of the kitchen.

This also led to a spiritual awakening that brought him to Grace on Sunday's as well. Today he is the sexton for the church, a part-time position that he has held for several years, and he participates fully in the Sunday services. Each year during holy week, when the Churches in Asylum Hill get together to mark Good Friday with prayers and procession, it is Walter who carries the cross from Grace to Immanuel.

Health issues and a need for others to step forward prevents him from being "in charge" of the kitchen on Friday nights now. They have changed to a rotating group of cooks who take the lead with more than a half-dozen helpers to prepare each Friday's evening meal which can feed more than 100 hungry neighbors on some Fridays, but Walter is always there, at least when his health permits.

Walter has given a lot to this community since coming to the Grace Friday Night Gatherings, and volunteering has given a lot to Walter.

To see more, come to Grace Lutheran Church any Friday evening. The doors open at 4:30 for conversation and often dominoes. Dinner is served at 6:00 and then there are community prayer, sharing and communion at 7:00 for any who want to stay.

