

Hospitality Committee

During the very moving and welcoming Collation the Committee, and its many friends, created to honor the passing of Norm Sills following his memorial service on November 19th, I was reminded of my Grandmother's expression: "Many hands make light work."

I had described to some out-of-state friends how our Church Hospitality Committee prepares a Collation, and many were stunned that our Church provides a such respectful and comforting and beautiful and delicious way for the family and friends of a beloved community member to gather after the service. Many of their churches, they told me, do not do this, either because they do not have a Hospitality Committee or because of space restrictions, etc. There was a small minority who said their house of worship did follow our example. However, their surprise continued when I described the variety of sandwiches and cookies and explained that everything had been homemade, and that we also provided cheeses and crackers and a beautiful fruit salad and kept the coffee pot and the apple cider and water pitchers full, and that there were autumn flower arrangements on the tables.

Their surprise led me to think about the hospitality that Mary and Joseph did not receive at the inn but did receive among the awed gentle animals in the stable, followed by the solemn reverence of the arriving Three Kings. One can see in the Christmas story that hospitality is a simple grace that changes lives.

As we enter into Advent and the joy of the Christmas season, many visitors will enter our doors to be welcomed warmly by our ushers, uplifted by the thoughtful and guiding and generous words of Pastor Diane and by the music of our choir and bell ringers. Please know that the Hospitality Committee will make sure that as our visitors enter the Parish Hall for refreshment and conversation after these special December services that we will echo your own warm personal welcomes in the sanctuary to these new friends.

We always love it when volunteers offer to help in this ministry of welcome. As December is a busy month, an offer to pour coffee or to help clean up would be a lovely gift of your time. If you would like to join our happy crew for one of the December coffee

hours, just send an email to me, Nancy Rossi, nrossi779@gmail.com, and let me know which Sunday in December would be most convenient for you. As the blessed month of December will prove over and over again, hospitality is a simple grace that changes lives.

--Nancy Rossi Hospitality Committee member