

## Stewardship Article for April 2018 Newsletter

Thanks to God's grace and the generosity of all of you and many others from our community our fourth Rise Against Hunger event was a huge success-32,000 meals! Woodbridge Rotary was a super partner, helping with funding, as well as spreading the word and helping the day of the event. We were also joined by Scouts, homeschoolers, a board member from ACTS, young people from two other congregations, and individuals around the community who saw flyers or social media postings. Giant Foods, Safeway, and Dunkin Donuts added their support by providing the means to have bottled water and snacks on hand for volunteers. This was a win/win/win situation: many individuals and their families will receive critical nourishment from the 32,000 meals; LCOC was blessed to be part of this project in service to God; and new, exciting connections were made in the community. There are several videos of RAH up on Facebook courtesy of What's Up Prince William and the youth from the Iglesia Bautista who attended and of course we will have a wonderful video compiled by our own Daniel Owusu soon too. Our next meal packing is already on the calendar for March 23, 2019 to do 30,000 (or more) meals. We will be hosting several events to fund the meals, the first being an Italian Dinner cooked onsite by Carrabbas on May 15, 2018-more details to come. We will be inviting those who came to the Chili Cook-Off and Rise Against Hunger to join us for fellowship and continuing to make a difference.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make the Lenten activities meaningful. We are looking forward to sharing God's love and serving our neighbors with the upcoming Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Family Faith and Fun Nights (four Thursday evenings starting mid-July in lieu of the usual week of Vacation Bible School). Each of us has gifts and talents that add to LCOC's ministries. If you haven't already signed up to be part of these activities, prayerfully consider doing so-you will be richly blessed and glad you did.

As you are out shopping, **please consider continuing to purchase a few extra items to help us continue to support ACTS and Neabsco Elementary with food items that truly make a difference** in the lives of many families. Lists of needed items and bags are always available in the narthex.

Please continue to share your gifts and talents as the Spirit leads in the variety of ministries provided through LCOC. Thank you also for your generosity in your financial commitment and consider using the Vanco option which can be accessed online at: <https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco> if you haven't already done so. Please consider becoming a Thrivent member as well and if you already are a member and use Thrivent products, make use of the Action Team funds that are available to help fund LCOC's ministry projects. This seed money really makes a difference and helps us increase the scope of our service projects.

Words of inspiration:

Let us continue to grow our generous compassion.

Love and blessings,

Patti Beattie

