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# Fruit of the Vine

HUNGER HURTS... WE CAN HELP!

*Overheard: I was really nervous this morning; I've never been to a food shelf. You guys are like a family and made me feel better about myself. Thank you for praying for me. - Sandy*

## Partnering with God

"You know, for a church your size, you shouldn't be able to have a food pantry that serves so many people each week. You don't have enough people or money to pull it off." My friend meant well with these words, and in a way he was right. Larger, better funded churches than ours have tried to open a food pantry and have failed. From a purely logical point of view what we are doing is impossible.

Of course that's the whole point. The Fruit of the Vine food pantry isn't something we decided to do, and then set out to make it happen. **Our food pantry was initiated by God, and is sustained by God.** We just try to keep up with Him.

Time and time again we get donations to cover the costs, and often they are from people outside our church. People who aren't members of our church volunteer on a regular basis. Those aren't the kind of things that result from brilliant planning or masterful solicitation. Only God can do that.

The Fruit of the Vine food pantry exemplifies who we are as a church: a people who want to **partner with God.** We look for what He is doing, and join in. I invite you to join us in thanking God for the miraculous work He does through us every Saturday morning.

Bill Paxton,  
Executive Pastor



## How Are We Doing?

This Year through March 31, 2009

- Families Served 2,479
- Pounds of Food Distributed 101,238
- Number of New Families 547

# Fruit of

*Overheard: Your food shelf has the best food! I think you care about me as much as you serve the food. I needed this to get me through my problems. - Anonymous*



## Changes at FOTV

The Fruit of the Vine Food Pantry has implemented several new policies that include:

- (a) **requiring personal IDs at registration** and
- (b) **setting a maximum number of families per household location at two.**

Each of these policies are intended to enhance our internal systems and maximize the number of needy families we can provide for. A list of acceptable IDs are available at the intake table. This is not intended to make our guests uncomfortable or to disqualify people, simply to verify information for accurate processing.

To facilitate the growing number of families we serve on Saturdays our Church has opened the sanctuary to the FOTV intake process. Now our guests enter the building through our side door and flow through the Sanctuary to register and into the Lobby for refreshments and awaiting their food distribution.

The new automated system will increase the opportunities to come alongside our guests and volunteers and serve them in a more personal way.

Brian Geraty

## FOTV Volunteer Orientation

The next FOTV volunteer orientation is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th at 1:00. We require all our volunteers to attend an orientation. If you can not make this next orientation please let a team leader know.



# *the Vine*

## New Guest Registration System

FOTV is implementing its internally developed guest registration and pantry operations system. The software was developed by Chad Austin with database design by Jason Farb and hardware configuration by Chris Charlebois.

This group of dedicated individuals invested substantial time over the past five months to create a customized system to fit our Ministry at the South Metro Vineyard Church.

The first week in May is the planned start of automated operations. The system is also planned to go through several release versions incorporating new functions throughout 2009. April has been a month of testing and re-testing.

Give the Guys a big thank you when you see them!



*Overheard: I've never been inside a Church like this before.  
I thought we were having Church!  
You people make this fun. Thank you! - Al*

## New Administrative Volunteers Role

An expanded role for the Administrative volunteers has been created. This role is focused on supporting our ministry and includes stats, newsletter articles and testimonies, website coordinating, purchasing supplies, event coordinating and community resource development.

This group of administrative volunteers from the Church will be focused on assisting the new FOTV Resource Coordinator Melissa Hayes in developing our ministry's Community Resource directory during April and May. They will also work along side other Small Group ministries in contacting and confirming resource information and cataloging the data into our systems.



# Volunteer Corner

Spring has sprung and the season of new growth begins in nature and at FOTV. FOTV has grown in guests, resources, volunteers and most importantly, fruit.

FOTV has seen a steady growth in guests over the past winter. We have exceeded the 250 family per week mark as of this issue. The average family size is about 4. That equals about 1,000 family members receiving food in 2 hours. WOW!!

Amazingly FOTV continues to be blessed with food resources that meet the growing demand each and every week. Even more of a blessing has been the tremendous outpouring of volunteers.

FOTV has had as many as 60 volunteers coming together to serve on a Saturday morning. May God continue to bless all the resources and willing volunteers.

FOTV is a place of hope, peace and love. Every Saturday morning people come and not only receive food, but also receive a touch of our hope, peace and love. Over the past winter FOTV has seen people come to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. This is the greatest fruit FOTV has to offer.

As FOTV continues into the future ...

FOTV is very excited to be starting our new electronic registration process this spring. Thanks to the hard work of a few tech-talented volunteers, FOTV is blessed to update our old card cata-

log record system to a modern electronic database. This upgrade will immediately increase our ability to serve our guests more efficiently. If you are one of wonderful intake volunteers you will want to arrive 15 minutes early to be introduced to the new system (see other related article on page 3).

FOTV will continue the mission to partner with God and go with a servants' heart to serve our neighbors in the South Metro.

We believe if you make time to stop in on a Saturday morning you will find a peace and purpose beyond yourself, and God-willing, a holy encounter.

Mark Parr

## PRAYER NEEDS



- Provision for Families affected by job loss and home loss
- Healing and Spiritual Growth for our Guests
- Wisdom for our Leaders
- Strength and Health for our Volunteers
- More Storage for Food
- God's continued Provision for Food and Goods

We would like to say that **Prayer** is what supports the growth of the Food Shelf and wellbeing of our Volunteers and Guests.

We invite Church Members, Volunteers, and Guests to join us from 8—9 AM every Saturday morning for Prayer. We also have **Prayer Cards** available at the Hospitality Counter for our Guests to be able to write down their Prayer Needs. Each card will be prayed over individually. We are privileged to **Partner with God** in this way ...

Kim Geraty

## Thinking about Volunteering?

Come check it out! Here's how it works:

1. Pray about it.
2. Come some Saturday at 9:00 am and see what it's all about, we are open from 9:30 to 11:30 am.
3. "Shadow" someone; contact Beth Krzykowski at [smvc.fotv@gmail.com](mailto:smvc.fotv@gmail.com) and we'll arrange for you to shadow someone at the pantry.
4. Let us know what Saturday of the month will work for you. We'll schedule you for one Saturday a month; the same Saturday each month.
5. We'll give you a list of other volunteers, so if you ever need to take a week off, don't worry, it will be easy to find someone to switch with.

We also need workers on Fridays. Contact Beth at [smvc.fotv@gmail.com](mailto:smvc.fotv@gmail.com). We need people to come in on Fridays to stock shelves and bag groceries. We also need people available during the week to pick up food at various locations in our area.

**Here's something that everyone can do:  
Bring in your extra plastic and paper bags We literally go through hundreds of them every Saturday. We need all the bags we can get!**

**Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf**  
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