

Happy Thanksgiving

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FREE BIRD?

Every Thanksgiving, the president pardons a turkey (or two): Why? **LIVING@HOME**

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NOON LUNCH FOR NEIGHBORS IN STAUNTON



Curtis Handy finds his spot during Noon Lunch at Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton on Nov. 17.

A COMMUNITY SHOWS IT CARES

Text and photos by Mike Tripp
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It began with a sandwich, sometime in the 1970s. Co-coordinator of the program, Carter Hannah was talking about how the Noon Lunch program got its start once upon a time at Staunton's Trinity Episcopal Church.

"A very cold person came into the building, met with the church secretary ... and told her he was hungry," she continues.

"She shared her sandwich with him, and I guess that led her to talk with other people and ... they just started."

When the program began in 1970s, Trinity was the only church involved.

In those early days, it likewise had no connections with other organizations.

But over the years, things changed with the program becoming a larger operation.

See **LUNCH**, Page A4



Janet Wood, or the "Queen," shares a laugh Nov. 17 with one of the volunteers as she carries a lunch for her brother during Noon Lunch.

SOME STATISTICS FROM THE PAST YEAR

- » An average of **153** people were served each week.
- » **9,318** meals were served.
- » There were a recorded **245** new guests utilizing the program

MISSOURI SHOOTING

Officer wonders what's next

Wilson, who shot, killed teen, wants 'normal' life

By Marisol Bello
USA Today

Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson is married, expecting a baby and contemplating his future now that a grand jury has decided not to indict him in the shooting death of unarmed black youth Michael Brown.

In a wide-ranging, almost hour-long interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, snippets of which ran on "Good Morning America" Wednesday morning and on ABC News' "Nightline" on Tuesday, Wilson spoke publicly for the first time about what happened that summer afternoon when he encountered Brown and a friend, his life in hiding since the violent protests that followed the killing, and his uncertain future.

See **WILSON**, Page A6



Doctors diagnosed Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson with a facial bruise.

INSIDE, GO!



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

A listing of fun events for the family in the area during the festive season.

CLASSIFIEDS D1-3, 6
COMICS D4
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Bob Boyle of Trinity Episcopal Church sorts through cards with basic information about people, some of whom frequent the Noon Lunch at Trinity, before the day's lunch is served.

Lunch

Continued from Page A1

"They didn't serve every day either," says Hannah about the early days.

"Now, we serve a hot meal every weekday," she continues.

"We are part of the food bank and Feeding America, so we get a lot of our food from the food bank."

Trinity also no longer stands alone with shouldering efforts of making this program possible.

"We have 14 other groups, mostly churches but also organizations like Office on Youth, that help us in the kitchen," says co-coordinator Kathy Schneiderman.

"They are wonderful volunteers."

"They all enjoy doing this a great deal, and we are very thankful for them," she continues.

"They each have their designated days that they prepare a meal," adds Hannah.

"I think it's a very important service to our community, and our Noon Lunch guests are just so grateful that it is here," says Schneiderman.

"Food is obviously vital," says Hannah.

"To know that they can get a hot meal every day," she continues, "maybe it will give them the strength to carry on throughout the day ... to find work, to find a place to be. It's just amazing."

Noon Lunch takes place Monday through Friday each week at 11:30 a.m. in the church parish hall at Trinity Episcopal Church.



Phyllis Bolton of Covenant Presbyterian Church helps Pat Clark of Trinity Episcopal Church slice bread.

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO

More than 125 volunteers give over 5,000 hours of service. Here are some of what those volunteers do: shop, plan, cook, clean pick up donations, keep records, write thank-you notes, write reports, supervise the dining area, purchase food and supplies, make donations, as well as serve food and drinks.



Pat Clark of Trinity Episcopal Church slices up a loaf of bread.



Program co-coordinator Kathy Schneiderman retrieves bowls as she prepares to serve potato soup and beef stew at the Noon Lunch on Nov. 12.

“

I think it's a very important service to our community.

CO-COORDINATOR
KATHY SCHNEIDERMAN

”



WHEN AND WHERE

Noon Lunch takes place Monday through Friday each week at 11:30 a.m. in the church parish hall at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Guests form a line at the serving window to receive a meal during Noon Lunch at Trinity Episcopal Church.



Hunter Moss takes another tray for the person waiting in line at the serving window during the Noon Lunch on Nov. 12.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS PARTNERING TO MAKE NOON LUNCH POSSIBLE INCLUDE:

Trinity Episcopal Church, Anglican Church of the Valley, Central United Methodist Church, Cheryvale United Methodist Church, Church of the Good Shepard, Church Women United, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Office on Youth, Pleasant View Lutheran Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Staunton Grace Covenant Church, Stuart Hall School, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Kroger, Food Lion and the nursing program at James Madison University.



A tray with potato soup heads to a guest's table.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR TRINITY NOON LUNCH COORDINATORS:

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Phyllis Bolton of Covenant Presbyterian Church headed the kitchen at Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton on Nov. 12. Here she shows the empty pot of beef stew.



Ingredients for this beef stew were prepared separately the evening before by one of the volunteers and then put together in the pot Nov. 12 just before Noon Lunch.



Wick Vellines and Ron Sexton in conversation while doing the dishes at Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton.



"To know that they can get a hot meal every day, maybe it will give them the strength to carry on," says program coordinator Carter Hannah of the Noon Lunch guests.