

“TAKING JESUS’ WORDS SERIOUSLY”
OCTOBER 2009

In the New Testament, Jesus often speaks in parables or uses language that encourages his listeners to ask more questions. An example of this occurs near the end of Matthew’s Gospel when Jesus says, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35). The crowd puzzles over these words. When did they encounter Jesus as someone hungry, thirsty, or as a stranger? It doesn’t make sense to them. Jesus replies, “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (v. 40). Our Lord points to a profound spiritual truth: when we help those in need, we are witnessing to the presence of God’s Kingdom.

We take Jesus’ words seriously. They carry an added weight during these times of economic difficulty. As the number of the jobless increases, so do the ranks of the hungry. Our church is in partnership with the Interfaith Food Pantry. This is an active partnership. We will have our second annual Community Food Drive on Saturday, October 17th. Members will be by our corner sign and collect food from passersby. When we first did this in October of 2008, it proved to be very successful. All of the food will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Those who are feeding the hungry in our community will be honored on Friendship Sunday on October 25th. Vie Thompson, the pantry’s director, will participate along with Phil Crow, the president of the Seminole Rotary Club. This club makes a monthly donation of \$500.00 to the pantry. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and join us.

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