



A Menu for the Soul

*The full soul tramples on a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.
~ Proverbs 27:7 (DARBY)*

My wife should have a bumper sticker that says, "I brake for bird nests." If it is a shirt, a book, a mug, a painting, a pair of earrings, socks, you name it, if it has a nest on it, it is coming home with us. She draws them, paints them, sculpts them and makes them into bookmarks. A nest with eggs is her kryptonite.

The first home we lived in in Anchorage was across from a wooded area full of moose and all kinds of birds and squirrels. If you stood quietly on our front porch the blackcap chickadees and the finches would land on you. I almost had to work a second job to keep the birdfeeders full. Those stellar jays are real piggies.

We had a metal shelf on the porch that had plants on it, a ceramic dish full of seeds and a fake nest with greenery and plastic eggs she purchased at Michael's. You could sit out there surrounded by lilacs and it was heaven.

One day the nest looked like it had gone through the disposal. The greenery was torn up, the eggs chewed. We left it there and later saw the culprit return for another try. A very persistent squirrel was doing his best to make a meal of eggs that had never seen a mommy bird. All in all, he made about four passes before we disposed of the wreckage.

I know squirrels raid nests and love eggs but here was one driven little guy who kept coming back for a mouthful of plastic when there were tasty seeds everywhere you looked. At one point he was actually sitting in the seed bowl while trying to eat the indigestible eggs.

One thing I have learned, and it has been borne out by scripture, is that nature is *always* preaching us a sermon. That squirrel reminds me

of so many people I come in contact with who are empty but who in their search for fulfillment reach out for things that leave them with a gnawing unsatisfied hunger.

Christ is the Bread of Life, the real and genuine satisfaction for every longing in every heart. Soul-famished people who give up the world's empty menu find nourishment of the deepest kind at His table.

So it is here at the Mission that we serve up "meat the world knows not of." God is inspiring us to bring into our services and our interactions the beauty and freshness of His word, to share the best and most satisfying, life-giving spiritual food the Lord has provisioned for everyone.

The food served in the Mission kitchen is nutritious but every night when we close the kitchen we find that the next day people are lining up again for a meal. That has been happening every day for the last fifty-eight years. The food served in the chapel however lasts forever and has on occasion been the final meal for some who have come to the altar late in a life of alcoholism and drug abuse.

Are you hungry yourself? There is satisfaction in breaking the bread He has shared with us, His word. Sharing it in the company of the saints is an added blessing. Christ's promise is that if we have His bread we will never be hungry. There is always a place at the table for you in His Kingdom.

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Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see how good GOD is. Blessed are you who run to him. Worship GOD if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness. ~ Psalm 34:8-9



May the Lord fill us with wisdom that seeks out what lasts. A wisdom that discerns what is real and may we be smarter than any of the squirrels in Christendom.

Blessings!

Pastor John LaMantia

Thank You First Baptist



Thank you lovely folks from First Baptist Church for helping to feed our neighbors!

September Memorials



“Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, sing His mercy and His grace; in the mansions bright and blessed He’ll prepare for us a place.”

Memorial for: Joyce Barrett
by: James Barrett
Memorial for: Keith Lindsey
by: Carol Lindsey

Knockin’ Down Some Pins



What do you do when the rain won't stop? Go bowling! Nice break for our LifeSkills group.



As an AGRM van driver, I see daily how Jesus blesses this house. I see how He molds and forms many who walk through the front door. His love is truly remarkable. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve and to be a part of something so wonderful. ~ Jay Jackson

(Jay's professionalism, enthusiasm and conscientious attention to the importance of maintaining a good relationship with our donors is a blessing. ~ Pastor John)

Thank You Larry



Larry Davis is a Mission shopper with a big heart. Thank you so much for your kindness to those we serve, Larry. May the Lord reward your generosity.

The Mission always tries to be a good neighbor. This is why we are sponsoring a drive to support our local grade school by collecting boxes of tissues for the upcoming school year. If you have ever been a teacher (I was) or classroom volunteer you know that there are ALWAYS more runny noses than there are tissues.

The school asks parents to purchase some along with school supplies but many in our neighborhood cannot. If you would like to pick up a few extra boxes (or a lot of extra boxes) we would be happy to deliver them to our local school. They can be dropped off at our Front Desk anytime. Please mark For School Collection.

That may help keep those cold viruses contained and since families from the school share our Open Table in the evening to help stretch their food budget that would be good news.

Douglas and His 3D Printer to the Rescue!



Our Men's LifeSkills dorm has some great lockers that have drawers and a personal writing desk that slides out. Our problem was that they are older and the plastic glides for the drawers were breaking due to age. They were no longer obtainable and we would have been looking at replacing the lockers. Enter

Douglas Leaf with Architects Alaska. Douglas made us all new glides on his 3D printer and we are good to go. What a blessing! Thank you, Douglas!

Cookie Angels



The cookie angels made a stop! Thank you for thinking of the folks at the Mission. Those treats may be sweet but not nearly as sweet as all of you!

Perseverance Pays Off!



Congratulations to Laura Setuk. Laura is in our women's program and she has completed her certification in peer support. Laura began her new job working for the ARC of Anchorage the first week of August. Well done, Laura! Our prayers go with you for every success.

A Truckload of Kindness

The Lord made this man such an encouragement to the Kingdom! Thank you, Tom Steigleman, Kathy Steigleman and the folks from KAFC 93.7, KATB 89.3 and several other radio stations Tom manages for making room for blessing. They encouraged their listeners to fill a box truck for the Mission!

Thank you to all who came out to donate. You have filled our shelves and we are deeply grateful. We received food, clothing and \$400 in cash.

This is the kind of partnership that allows the Mission to be a gift to the city of Anchorage without putting any burden on the taxpayers.

May The Lord return the kindness of everyone who participated.

With thanksgiving,
Pastor John LaMantia and all at the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission





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Pizza With a Double Order of Gratitude

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ~ Hebrews 13:16

When we needed to move all the frozen food into our new indoor freezer and get our warehouse in good working order there were 40 people who came forward to help. They were all so gracious. Even some of our shelter clients volunteered their time and made a challenging day work for all of us. I am so grateful.

We had a pizza party to say, "Thank you!" Pizza, chips, salad, fruit and drinks and lots of smiles were on hand. I sure appreciated these folks helping the Mission.

