

At the Church Door

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

-Matthew 7:12

When the church door buzzer rings, the people of St. Mark's are prepared to help in many ways, and as always, the need in our community is great. Many are struggling with rising costs of living. Often, there just isn't enough money for the basics, let alone special things like Christmas gifts. Here are some people we have met:

- A man in his fifties stood with a huge smile on his face, unable to speak, when Carol, the church office manager, opened the door. She assumed that he wanted to access the food cupboard, so took him in. He nodded and smiled and was able to say thank you. He took very little. He was finally able to tell her his name. She told him to come back any time, as he had barely taken enough food for one meal. And over time, he did come back. He was able to tell her in broken speech that he had had a stroke. He had been a long-distance truck driver, but after the stroke, he lost his job and eventually, his house. He has nothing. He is living in his truck. He is hopeful to get into a rehab program for stroke victims to help regain his speech.
- We first met Mr. J. at our pop-up Christmas store a few years ago. He came in with an infant and a toddler, both girls in diapers. His wife had left him. Mr. J. himself has some health challenges and is unable to work. He is quite destitute. He is a dedicated dad who revolves his life around raising his little girls. He is concerned that they eat good healthy food. Mr. J. does not abuse our cupboard, but comes once a month. He is very thankful for everything that we do for him.
- Mrs. K is a grandmother who looks after her grandchildren, while her daughter goes out to work for minimum wage. There is not enough money to go around. Mrs. K is always cheerful, has her own challenges in life, but does her best to provide what support she can to her underemployed family.

Throughout the Bible, Christians are instructed to show compassion toward the poor and those in need, not because we have to do "good work" to gain God's approval, but because sharing what we have with others is one of the things we as humans were created by God to do.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

-James 2:14-17

You can help our Food Cupboard & Pop-up Store action group by:

- Donating groceries, gift items (please see our **current list of what is needed**), or funds
- **Volunteering** to meet people and assist them when the Food Cupboard or Pop-up Store is open
- Stocking shelves and picking up items at our community partners (we coordinate our work with the Orangeville & Area Food Bank and others)

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