

# Lancaster/Northumberland Interfaith Service Council

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May 1, 2010

## MEETING CALL

The next General Membership Meeting of the Lancaster/Northumberland Interfaith Service Council will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13, in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 435 East Church Street, Kilmarnock.

Prior to the General Membership Meeting, Interfaith's Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 13, in the Parlor at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Guests are welcome.

Please join us as we discuss Interfaith's activities, programs and goals for the future. Your opinions and ideas are very important.

## OTHER INTERFAITH NEWS AND INFORMATION

**Emergency Assistance:** During the first three months of 2010, Interfaith received 104 appeals on our message line seeking help with delinquent rent and electric bills. Each of those calls generated two or three more to verify information, pledge assistance, or to explain to the caller what must be done before we can help. Recent statistics show that 10% of our two-county population is living at or below the poverty level, and that 50% of children attending our public school are financially eligible for free breakfasts and lunches. Since such data usually is two years old, we expect these numbers to increase because of the current economic downturn.

**Home Repairs and Wheelchair Ramps:** Our program of home repairs and construction of wheelchair ramps continues under the able direction of Joe Curry. Joe reports that many projects to make homes safe for our elderly and disabled neighbors are on hold because our available funds have been stretched to the limit. About three-fifths of Interfaith's current \$100,000 budget is allocated for Joe's projects. But the need for emergency assistance was so great this winter and early spring that some projects have had to wait. We're appealing for donations and grants to fund some of these jobs during this year's building season.

Interfaith representatives recently visited several church and civic groups. If your group or organization would like to hear more about Interfaith, please call us. We'd love to let everyone know about what we're doing and how you can help.

**Progress Report:** Come by and see the transformation-in-progress at our Warehouse. The old shed is enclosed, windows are installed, and underground utility lines are coming in, all due to our wonderful volunteers. Soon we'll have an office next to the main warehouse for interviews, meetings and small group events. But most importantly, clients wishing to apply for assistance will have a comfortable place to do so, where they can speak privately and in confidence. Our grateful thanks to Tony Stanley, Stock Bates, Paul Ryan, Willie Woods and all the good people who are working so hard to turn "The shed" into "The Office."

**(MORE)**

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus in Kilmarnock for volunteering to pick up and deliver donated household goods to our Warehouse during March. They sure had rough weather and deserve special thanks for hanging in there with Interfaith. There were many donations and the Knights were always there.

Please give some thought to signing up for a month for pickup and delivery to the Warehouse. This is so important, and people willing to give time, transportation and muscles are wonderful volunteers!! If your civic organization, club or mission group have some folks willing and able to pick a month, please call Jeannie Kling at 580-4050 or 724-0012.

Bethel United Methodist Church in Lively had its annual Missions Program on Sunday, April 25. Thanks to Chris Neumann, Interfaith's Treasurer, for putting together an interesting and attractive Interfaith table exhibiting examples of our programs.

Interfaith will host a booth at the Heathsville Farmers Market for July and August this summer. The charge is very reasonable – \$10 for each month – and I think it's a good time to get our information to those who may not know about us. A tent and folding table will hold an exhibit and information. The Farmers Market involves putting everything together at 8 a.m. and having it down and out of there by 1 p.m. Volunteers????

**New Board Members:** Welcome to our newest members of the Board of Directors! Judy Fay was elected at our last general meeting to the post of Assistant Treasurer. Judy has been an Interfaith volunteer for several years, and is currently the director of our School Supplies program.

Edna Mason has consented to serve as one of two Northumberland County representatives. Edna works at the Kilmarnock Baptist Church, but she lives in Northumberland County, so she has knowledge of both of our counties. Welcome, Edna and thanks for stepping up!

Most of all, Interfaith sends grateful thanks to every church, organization and individual who has so generously supported our efforts to help neighbors in need. Please keep Interfaith in your prayers.

My favorite benediction to each and every one of you:

May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you,  
And give you peace.

Amen.

President