



Love, Peace, and Manna

The Manna Cafe Ministries newsletter

July 2024



Sharing the Gospel with the love of Christ

BY VICKI YORK

Most people know that Manna Café is a Christ-centered organization, so folks occasionally ask me if we share the gospel while serving people. The answer is yes; we always have and always will.

We just don't do it in the traditional way.

For example, we don't offer a typical church service. Perhaps one day we will, but since 2010, Bible teaching has happened at our five weekly community meals. Our guests have plenty of time to sit and chat when



they get their first plate. But before second helpings are available, a team leader shares the Scripture. Messages are relatively brief but powerful. Afterward, several of our core volunteers deliver hot meals to shut-ins in Summit Heights and Lincoln Homes, praying for and encouraging anyone in need.

Similarly, when the weather is frigid and our emergency warming center is open, local musicians and pastors share the gospel or music. Clothing distribution also presents an opportunity to love people in practical ways. "Sometimes folks just want to talk if they're sick or having a hard time," says longtime volunteer Cindy. "I ask if I can pray for them, and they always say yes." In addition, throughout Manna's 15-year history, there have been seasons when we've gathered in the warehouse or community center for the purpose of prayer and worship. And every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., anyone is welcome to join me in my office for 45 minutes of prayer in a peaceful, intimate setting.

Many of our staff and volunteers do the work of the gospel after hours and behind the scenes. I lost count long ago of the times I've heard through the grapevine of someone sharing their testimony or praying with a client who was hurting, sick, or lonely. Occasionally the love of God is shared in



"Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.

Give clothes to those who need them."

—Isa. 58:7, NLT



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profound ways without anyone saying a word. Sometimes those are the most powerful moments.

Many years ago, my late husband Kenny (founder of Manna Café) felt like the Lord told him he wasn't allowed to preach to someone who was hungry without feeding him first, so that's what we've always done. No matter your age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual preference, social status, or religious beliefs – we're going to feed you. And by the grace of God, our friends will receive both physical and spiritual nourishment. So come taste all the good that the Lord provides -- we're always serving up generous portions of something delicious, with hope and compassion on the side!



Plan for a secure future

for yourself, your loved ones, and those facing hunger in our community.

FREEWILL



Create your will for FREE



Welcome Sierra Copeland

Manna Cafe Volunteer Coordinator



Scheduling and tracking volunteers is a crucial part of what makes Manna work. Sierra has a thorough understanding of the needs of our clients and the opportunities for volunteers to serve. She can provide avenues for individuals, groups, and organizations to help in the mission of feeding the hungry and serving the homeless in our community.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Sierra at Volunteer@MannaCafeMinistries.com or 931-933-0970.



Then & Now

*Good friends,
faithfully serving.*

BY DEBRA SUTTON



Roger & Shelly serving at the April 2024 mobile pantry.

Roger Donovan & Shelly Cooper serving at the first Manna Cafe mobile pantry in July 2010.

What started as a friendship between Fellowship UMC worshippers has evolved into a mutual calling to serve our community through Manna Cafe.

They have each taken their own path in serving at Manna, but the mobile pantries are where this dynamic duo love to work together.

Roger started serving by cleaning up in the kitchen after hot meals were prepared. He also helped with the annual Combat Hunger food drive and has been a towering figure in directing the flow of guests at countless mobile pantries.

Shelly is an integral part of the team that built the Manna Clothing ministry and is a leader in the outreach ministry of the organization. She has a year-round role in the mobile hot meals, and in the winter she's a leader in the warming center operation.

Her buddy, Roger, describes her as "an encourager and a team builder." He adds, "She is a person you want to work beside because her positive attitude is infectious."

Roger and Shelly are fine examples of what makes the Manna crew a family.

Meet Chef Maxwell Paupore

The kitchen at Manna Cafe has always been a place of comfort, hospitality, and deliciousness. Now the staff is cooking up exciting stuff under the direction of Manna's new chef, Maxwell Paupore.

Raised in Kalamazoo, MI, Maxwell acquired his amazing culinary skills

from accomplished chefs in Chicago and Detroit, who instilled a passion for creating exceptional food.

Seeking a quieter pace, Maxwell relocated to Clarksville. Today he enjoys the challenge of creating menus based on available ingredients and making memorable dishes.



*Be a part of the Manna Cafe mission
of feeding the hungry and caring for the homeless
in Montgomery and Stewart Counties.*

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***Little children, let us not love in word or talk
but in deed and in truth.
1 John 3:18***



***Manna Cafe is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a proud
member of United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region
and the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce.***