



THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS: *One Meal at a Time*



“

There are people who need help, and that is what we are here to do.”

“That they may come to know the love of Jesus Christ.” That is the goal at **First Baptist Church of Damascus** (FBCD), VA, and members there are fulfilling that goal one meal at a time. More than a year ago, the church saw the reality of COVID-19 not as a burden but as an opportunity. Recognizing the need in their community for meals to be delivered to shut-ins, the elderly, and folks who just needed some food, the concept of “Soup and Something” was born.

With a team of 35–40 volunteers, around 200 meals are cooked, boxed, and delivered to neighbors each week. Since COVID began, they have prepared about 14,000 meals. Yes, you read that right: 14,000!

An endeavor like this takes planning and organization, and the team that heads this ministry does both. Meals are planned out on a monthly basis, rotating through each week. Nine teams of two transport the meals to homes, no matter the weather.

Weather isn't a deterrent because members know a thing or two about tough terrain after years of hosting visitors from both the Virginia Creeper Trail and the Appalachian Trail; so, “no matter the weather, folks are going to get fed!” said one volunteer.

Figuring out where all that food would come from could have been a challenge, but “It just happens,” said Tammie Bebout. Bebout is a volunteer who is also the women’s ministry director and serves as the regional representative in the southwest for the SBCVirginia Women’s Ministry Team. “We have people donate food to us and then others who prepare foods as well.” Simply stated, the Lord provides.

Preparing and delivering meals is just one aspect of this vital ministry. The relationships that are being built are allowing the church to see lives being changed. These growing connections resulted in a recent baptism, and Bebout has seen the lives of church members changed as well. Through prayer and their need for God to lead them, significant spiritual growth has occurred among the volunteers.

“There are people who need help, and that is what we are here to do,” said David Matlock. “He has planted this church in this small town for such a time as this.” ■

RESOURCES:
To help this ministry continue to touch lives in southwest Virginia, visit:

 damascusfbc.com