

Providing a time for parishioners and visitors to meet remains a means of building community in our church. Years ago, coffee hour servers decided to with partner rather than serve alone. This not only reduces the burden on coffee servers but allows us to get to know each other. We will continue to serve in this way but face some obstacles:

Lack of sufficient numbers of servers: We lost of some our long-serving coffee hour volunteers last year, but we were fortunate to gain some very helpful new servers. However, we still fall well short of the number needed – thirteen- for each of us to serve twice a quarter with a partner. We ended the year with about nine volunteers, nearly the same as last year.

We are trying to find creative ways of working around this labor shortage:

1) Potlucks - we continued to have occasional Potluck Sundays this year. Many parishioners. Parishioners brought in various sweet as well as savory dishes that are enjoyed by all. This allows our coffee hour servers to buy less food each quarter and gives the congregation a better variety of food. We learned that we need to give ample notice of the potlucks to be successful.

2) Food delivery vendor – The church has found a vendor who is willing to deliver various savory pies. We continue to enjoy his services. This also allows our servers an opportunity to shop less. Still, we need our people to serve the food.

We will need to resort to more drastic measures such as eliminating coffee hours during some weeks or drastically reducing the items available at certain coffee hours *if* we lose (and don't replace) coffee hour volunteers. On the other hand, we are just four parishioners away from being up to speed with a sufficient number of coffee hour volunteers.

If you haven't considered being a coffee hour server, please give it try. As we say in the bulletin, you can try it out before committing to doing it on a regular basis to see how you like it. I'm proud to say most enjoy it and end up on our team.

Mark Naydan, Coordinator of the Coffee Hour Volunteers (English Service)