

Coffee Hour Report (English service) February 2018

Providing a time for parishioners and visitors to meet remains a path of building community in our church. We enjoy serving, buying and preparing food on Sunday. People are certainly enjoying the food and conversation week after week. However, we are still in need of much help.

Lack of sufficient numbers of servers: The good news is we have stalwart servers who have done this for years, and other have started more recently. However, we still fall short of the number needed – thirteen- for each of us to serve twice a quarter with a partner. We ended the year with eight volunteers, well short of our goal. In the six (or so) years I have been coordinator, 2017 ended up being the year with the fewest volunteers. The greatest number was 12 during this time. We really would like to see more coffee hour volunteers.

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

1) Potlucks - In the last half of the year, we have been asking people to bring a food item according to their last name. For example, parishioners whose last name begins with A through F bring items one week, H to M the next, etc. This has resulted in a more tasty selection. These contributions allow us to buy less items each week. Many of these items are devoured quite quickly, testifying to their popularity. Thank you parishioners for helping out!

2) Food delivery vendor – The church continues to provide a vendor who is willing to deliver various savory pies and meals. We use him two or three times in a quarter. His efforts allow us to not be overburdened with buying food. Still, we need our people to serve the food.

3) Special events – the Dormition and Veterans' Guilds continue provide special meals that help us coffee servers but also provide for variety for our parishioners. We thank them as well.

We continue to run with the minimum number of coffee hour volunteers. On the other hand, we are only four parishioners away from being up to speed with a sufficient number of coffee hour volunteers. We hope you will consider joining us.

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