

If you can help with any of the “Needs” listed, please let me know.

### **Carpenter’s 101**

Three SJC members attended the Carpenter’s 101 session on Mar 7. Wow, what an eye opener! I highly recommend it for everyone.

I had gotten excited about “Housing First,” which I’ve been hearing about for a few months. Here is one article that explains it: <http://nationswell.com/utahs-housing-first-to-end-chronic-homelessness/>

I didn’t know anyone was working on this concept in Lubbock. Carpenter’s Church has started this program, and has two people in housing now. They made a great video featuring local law enforcement and government reps in addition to interviewing homeless people:

<http://www.carpenterslubbock.org/housing.html>

They took us on a driving tour of the area. Chad Wheeler, the Exec Director, pointed out some men drinking behind a building. He said that since Lubbock became a “wet” county, panhandling allows some people to stay drunk 24 hours a day. He repeatedly emphasized please DON’T give cash to panhandlers. There are free meals available 3 times a day in Lubbock, and free clothing giveaways.

Chad said they are always turning down offers from groups to come do things for the church. His team is trying to change the giver / receiver mentality by teaching the homeless to do for themselves when they can. He gave other real-life examples of “when helping hurts.”

Carpenter’s offers these 101 sessions about once a quarter.

### **Divine Mercy Corps**

I recently had a phone call from a St. E’s parishioner who has since joined our group. The day we finally got together, she had been taking water to street people and asking how they were doing. She does this on a regular basis, keeping tabs on the people she meets and searching for them when she cannot locate them. (Chad mentioned at 101 that such continual personal contact greatly increases the chance of helping someone turn his or her life around.)

In the Amigos on N. University, she met a lady, Juana, who lives in a trailer park behind the store. Juana may be showing some early signs of Alzheimer’s and her trailer is dirty and needs cleaning and some repairs. Our new member hoped we could start a “Divine Mercy Corps” to help out people like her new friend Juana. I don’t think I’m ready to join the rounds with the street people, but I could DEFINITELY get behind a group work session some weekend.

Our new member will be coming to our April meeting to tell us a little about her work. If she finds a time that Juana will allow us to come clean her trailer, I will let everyone know. I gave one of our personal care bags to give to Juana on her next visit.

**LCCH (Lubbock Coalition of Churches for the Homeless) Meeting 3/11/15**

- **High Cotton / Tent City (Link Ministries)** – They are at 98% capacity (one open woman’s tent) and have about 52-55 residents. Men’s tents are always full. They have money for more tents, but they need to build more bathrooms first.  
**Needs:** men’s jeans (used are ok) size 28 to 34 and boxer shorts (new) of any size; Women’s undies – all sizes. – Les Burris
- **Family Promise** – They are staying full (which is four families). They hope to have a community luncheon/ fundraiser in May.  
**Needs:** diapers sizes 2 & 4 – Jeff Malpiede
- **Hope Community of Shalom**  
**Needs:** women's clothing, women's & men's shoes (WPS comes every Monday to get clothes for their shelter.) – Eddie Marcum
- **FUMC (1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church)**  
FUMC will hold a Hunger and Poverty Summit on Monday, May 4. This will be an all-day event and will include: a talk on child nutrition, a poverty simulation, a panel of experts, a Carpenter’s 101 session, and other things. Representatives from LISD, City Government, and the Police Dept will attend. There will be a charge to attend (about \$12) to cover lunch.
- **Veterans Affairs Peer Support**  
There is a HUD program with 15 home vouchers available for homeless vets. Call me if you know a vet in need.
- **SPHC (South Plains Homeless Consortium)**  
Fundraising luncheon Thursday, April 16, 11:30am – 1:00pm. Tickets \$40/person. Contact me for more info.
- **ELPN (East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood)**  
Cinco de Mayo Parade May 3 at 2pm, starting at Cesar Chavez Dr – ending at Mae Simmons Park. Festival in the Park until 6pm. Contact me for more info.

### **Fiesta Domingo at Hope Shalom (20<sup>th</sup> and Ave T)**

Dinner is served every Sunday by church groups to low-income people from the surrounding neighborhood. After dinner, a food pantry and clothing closet are open. **Would anyone be interested in having our group provide the meal one Sunday?** As of two weeks ago, Fiesta Domingo had three open dates this Spring: May 10 (Mother’s Day); May 24; (Memorial Day weekend); June 7. It takes a minimum of 6, maximum of 15 people to serve the 120-150 participants, with 10-12 helpers being the ideal number. Churches prepare and bring the main dish: chili, spaghetti, pizza or whatever we decide and dessert. A salad is provided by Hope Shalom. (We would NOT be responsible for the after dinner activities.) We would need to arrive by 4:45 to be ready to serve by 5:30. After dinner, we need to clean up. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. I need definite commitments from at least 6 people before we can offer to help. (We can always wait until later to volunteer for other weekends, if our group decides we want to participate.)

### **PFADP (People of Faith Against the Death Penalty)**

Prayer vigils scheduled for men facing executions and their victims:

3/18/2015 Randall Mays

4/09/2015 Kent Sprouse

4/15/2015 Manuel Garza

4/23/2015 Richard Vasquez

4/28/2015 Robert Pruett

5/12/2015 Derrick Charles

Vigils are held in front of St John's UMC on University at 15<sup>th</sup> St. from 5:45 – 6:15pm the night of each vigil. If you'd like to be added to the PFADP email list, let me know. There are sometimes last minute changes, and we try to notify participants ahead of time.

### **Threads for Teens**

Two members donated last week to a call for clothing and shoes. I received a text from the leader saying many of our items were given to very happy teens ☺.

### **CRS Rice Bowls**

All rice bowls were gone by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Lent! Thanks to a member for carrying plenty of rice bowls over to the Ash Wednesday Mass on Campus. Last year, we had bowls that were never taken. We will collect the bowls April 11 & 12 before all the Masses.

### **(PCB) Personal Care Bags**

We will pack PCBs on Sunday, March 29 starting with set-up at 11:00am. **We need to be finished that day by 12:45**, so we will start packing as soon as we are set up. If anyone can help anytime between 11:00-12:45, please join us in the Conference Center.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 16 at 6:15pm in the Conference Center.

I hope everyone has a restful and safe Spring Break!

Beth

SJC Webpage: <http://stelizabethlubbock.com/index.php/ministries/social-justice-committee>

SJC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/120852867963387/>