



“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7

Christmas will soon be upon us and the West Side Deacons are already planning for food baskets to help those less fortunate in our community. In December, our Deacons will once again be teaming up with Marcus Whitman Elementary to provide Christmas baskets to families in our neighborhood and West Side families and friends. This year, however, we would like to encourage a more interactive experience with those who will receive food baskets and those of you in the congregation. The changes will include the following:

- West Siders who are **in need of a food basket** or know of families that could use a food basket should provide the name(s) by Fri., Dec. 8, to either Perry Moore (509.440.0752) or the Church Office (509.946.4656).
- **Donate non-perishable items** for the food baskets between Nov. 26-Dec. 15: boxed Stuffing Mix, canned Sweet Potatoes, boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes, packets of Turkey Gravy Mix, canned Corn and Green Beans, boxes of Macaroni & Cheese, canned Cranberry Sauce, boxed Rice, canned Fruit, Biscuit or Muffin Mixes, and Cake Mixes & Frosting. Donation boxes will be available in each narthex.

- Make a **special monetary donation for hams and turkeys** for the food baskets. Please make your check out to “West Side Church” with “Deacon’s Christmas” on the memo line. You may leave your donation in the offering baskets on Sunday mornings or bring it to the Church Office during the week. Please consider helping others in this way.
- Instead of pre-packing food baskets for **recipients**, they **will** be invited to **pack a box with West Siders** on Sat., Dec. 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, WS North Narthex. This will provide for more direct interaction between West Siders and those we are seeking to help during this holiday season. If you suggest a family to receive a food basket, you will be asked to help the family pack a basket at this time.
- West Siders who would like to **deliver a food basket to a shut-in** should also come on Sat., Dec. 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, WS North Narthex. You will pack a food basket for the shut-in and then deliver it.

The above process is somewhat of a change in the way we have traditionally done seasonal giving. We hope this approach will be a blessing to those in our neighborhood and community who need help during the holidays. If there is someone you know who, for whatever reason, will be unable to participate in preparing their basket on Dec. 16, the Deacons are always ready to make sure that their needs are also met. Please feel free to contact Perry Moore if you know someone who won’t be able to help assemble their basket on Dec. 16.

