

Fletcher Flashes

Honoring Norm & Sue Stuart

The Couple Led by God to Serve So Many



Fletcher Place Community Center hosted a volunteer and donor recognition event on September 19, 2019. The highlight of the event was the special recognition of Norm and Sue Stuart. The Norm & Sue Stuart Dining Hall was dedicated for the decades of service the couple has provided to our Hot Meals Program.

Sue Stuart began the tradition of St. Luke United Methodist Church's involvement in the incredible sharing of God's love through serving dinner at Fletcher Place. She thought it was a good idea since other churches were doing it and wanted St. Luke's to be a part of this outreach. She was asked if she would be in charge of coordinating the meals. Originally they prepared the meals at the church and brought them down to Fletcher Place to be served in the evenings. There were many people involved with this undertaking, with some preparing the green beans, others preparing chicken and noodles, and others who washed the pots and pans.

With evening meals being prepared for so many, Norm, a morning person, had the great idea that people might be hungry in the morning, too. Norm had been nudged by God for two years to start a breakfast service, but he was unsure of how to do it. Finally, God spoke loud and clear, "*Just do it and I will take care of it.*"

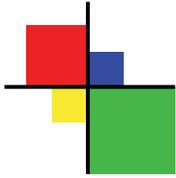
So in April 2002, Norm organized an effort to begin serving breakfast -- the most important meal of the day!) And thus began St. Luke's involvement in this new adventure with eggs at Fletcher Place. The undertaking began slowly and was quickly embraced and well attended by many as the need was clearly there. God has taken care of it from day one and continues today. Since starting the breakfast program, 283,319 breakfasts have been served to our neighbors in need.

Norm talked about early in the program that they provided seconds, thirds sometimes even fourths for our guests. He remembers an old Navy man that loved hot sauce, he would put hot sauce on absolutely everything and covered his plate.



He asked Norm why they didn't have hot sauce when they serve dinner. Norm said feel free to go ahead and ask for it in the evening. But one evening for dinner he asked to cover his food in hot sauce, Sue was there and clearly stated, "Not on my cooking!" So that is why hot sauce is now a breakfast only condiment!

St. Luke's UMC Meal Teams continue to be the biggest Hot Meal supporters in our program. St. Luke's serves meals 7 times each month. Both Norm and Sue are an integral part of the meal program at Fletcher Place. They have earned the honor of having the dining room named after them. We will always remember the couple that was led by God to serve so many.



REACH Early Learning Continues to Grow

REACH Early Learning continues to grow by increasing enrollment and staff. For the 2019-20 school year, REACH is enrolling 40 youth ages 3 to 5 in our program. We also now have four teachers and a newly added Family Engagement Specialist. The additional staff provides consistent support to our youth and their families ensuring youth are ready for kindergarten and families are on the path to financial stability.

Interested in sponsoring a child and their family on their education journey? You can support our REACH Scholarship Fund that supports scholarships to families as low as \$20/week. **For more information, contact Melissa at melissa@fletcherplacecc.org**



Answering the Call to Serve



After a Sunday service visit from our Executive Director, Meridian Street UMC accepted our call to become the "soup" church by collecting and delivering canned soup to our pantry monthly. Reverend Steve Conger challenged the congregation to fill the sanctuary with soup and they responded. Hundreds of cans of soup were delivered the very next week.

Are you interested in being one of the Flagship Churches or businesses by committing to a single food pantry item monthly? **Learn more by contacting Holly at holly@fletcherplacecc.org or 317-636-3466 ext. 404**

Help Pack the Pantry & FREE Thrift Store

Food Pantry Needs:

- Fresh/Canned Veggies and Fruit
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Snack Packs with Instant Oatmeal, Ramen Noodles, Cracker Packs, Granola Bars, Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups, Cans of Pop-Top Soup and Tuna for Homeless Snack Packs

Free Thrift Store Needs:

- Gently Used Fall/Winter Clothing (especially sweatshirts and jackets, all ages & sizes)
- Men's Jeans
- Socks
- Underwear
- Shoes/Boots
- Gently Used Towels & Wash Clothes
- Blankets
- Household Items Including Water Bottles

**Interested in serving a hot meal? Dates are now being scheduled for 2020!
Contact Holly via e-mail at holly@fletcherplacecc.org or call 317.636.3466 ext 404**

It's Christmas Time at Fletcher Place!

For info on the 2019 Christmas program or to download a flyer to share, visit fletcherplacecc.org/christmas-program

An Eco-Friendly Service Project

by Cindy Grey



Creative Adventures is a small group of women from the New Palestine United Methodist Women. For their 2019 service project they decided to make sleeping mats for homeless people. The bags are made of "plarn" i.e. plastic yarn. After a short tutorial on Youtube the work began!

We needed plastic bags - lots and lots of plastic bags. Our congregation responded by donating used plastic grocery bags. In fact we received so many bags that we recruited help to make the "plarn". The help came from our parishioners and children who attend our church daycare. Some people cut bags into strips.

Others tied the strips together and rolled them in balls. A few were able to crochet the resulting "plarn" into sleeping mats. It takes a lot of bags to make one single sleeping mat. In fact, each mat requires approximately 900 to 1100 bags. We estimate that we have saved 20,000 bags from landfills.

We have distributed mats to several ministries including Fletcher Place. These mats can be rolled up like a sleeping bag and tied for easier transport. They even have a carrying strap. They are water repellent. Bed bugs and roaches do not like them and will not nest on them. They are surprisingly soft to lay on and stay drier than cardboard pieces that many homeless use as a bed. Jesus said "whatever you do for the least of us, you do for me." Hopefully, we have followed his lead.

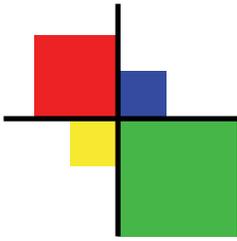
Community Garden Grow it! Prep it! Preserve it! Eat it!

2019 was another record year in the garden! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support with over 500 volunteer hours.

- Over 2,000 lbs. of produce was harvested with another 2,000 lbs. donated from our friends Corteva Agrosience H4H Program.
- Over 500 families received FREE fresh produce.

A special thank you to our happy farmer Ted Letherer! Ted is retiring after this season. His commitment to the garden project has been PHENOMONAL and the reason for the garden's continued growth. We will miss you!





Fletcher Place Community Center

Breaking the cycle of poverty through Hope, Compassion and Renewal



Fletcher Place Community Center has been serving our most vulnerable neighbors since 1872. Our roots are in the United Methodist Church. Today we continue to reach out "to the least" in ways that help break the cycle of poverty.

Location: 1637 Prospect St., Indianapolis, IN 46203
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 825, Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-636-3466 • www.FletcherPlaceCC.org



Current outreach includes hot meals served Monday - Friday, Food Pantry, Community Garden, Free Thrift Store, Preschool, Senior Luncheons and Christmas Assistance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate Funds

- A **\$50** donation feeds 20 people a hot meal.
- A **\$100** donation provides 50 food pantry baskets to families in need.
- A **\$150** donation provides hygiene kits and snack packs through our free Thrift Store.
- A **\$250** donation supports our Community Garden Project
- A **\$800** donation covers a month of tuition for a student in our Preschool Program.



Monetary donations are always needed to fund our programs, building maintenance and pay our staff. Planned giving and stock gifts are also a great way to support the cause. Please consider going to our website and making a donation to support FPCC today! You can also set up your donation to recur monthly to help on an ongoing basis.

Look for another donation matching opportunity for our year end campaign!