



The volunteer staff at First Love Christian Fellowship (top photo) and the volunteers at Harvest Kitchen (bottom photo), which uses the building and facilities at St. Matthias Episcopal Church serve all-comers such as those in the middle photo.

(Photos by Christina Hill)



## Feeding valley hungry a labor of love

By CHRISTINA HILL  
Correspondent

Four days a week, the hungry can feast on hot, home-cooked meals thanks to the hard work of three women from three Illinois Valley churches.

To start the week, there's the Harvest Kitchen, coordinated by Linda Butler. It is available Mondays and Tuesdays from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. at St. Matthias Episcopal Church.

"This is open to everyone," said Butler. "It's not just for the homeless, but for anyone who's hungry, and it's free."

"A lot of times, people who show up are living on a fixed income and toward the end of the month, money gets tight, so they come here to help supplement. And, we get a lot of people who come just to socialize."

Butler has been coordinator of Harvest Kitchen for the past four years.

As she was a home economics major in college, she has knowledge about nutrition and tries to serve well-balanced meals.

"We have good cooks," said Butler. "Together we come up with some pretty tasty dishes, and it's always a good, hot meal. We don't just throw a sandwich at them."

"We don't lock them in and make them listen to a sermon either, because our service to them speaks louder than some words could. The people we serve very much know we're Christian people. We feel it's our mandate to take care of them and all of God's kids."

The next stop for the hungry is at Living Word Fellowship, located in the Caves Mall, on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.

"Soup's On" is what the flyers advertise.

"We just opened in the middle of February," said Mary Edmiston, coordinator of Living Word's soup kitchen.

"The church had been looking for some way to help with the problem of people being hungry, so we decided to make hearty soups, something that's filling and hot and tastes good," said Edmiston.

"We have a crew of people doing the cooking and a group of home-schooled teen-agers who do the serving," she said.

Since the start of the soup kitchen, Edmiston estimated that they serve an average of 40 to 60 people each week.

"We have prayer before we eat, and everyone is just so friendly," she noted. "The homeless are so polite. Everything seems to be going so smoothly. Even the dogs, which are tied up outside, don't get into dog fights. It's just really friendly," said Edmiston.

First Love Christian Fellowship, also located in the Caves Mall, is the last stop of the week.

Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., people can find Pat Tweedy and her crew serving delicious meals

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## Meth lab ...

(Continued from page 1)

ery of a controlled substance, meth; and three counts of first-degree child neglect. Hilton also was charged with three counts of first-degree child neglect.

Selig provided the following account:

Acting on reliable information from several sources, sheriff's patrol officers went to the home of Guess and Hilton to located Southard. Shortly after officers arrived, Southard ran out a back door of the single-side mobile home, and tried to fight his way through deputies, but was subdued by a stun gun.

While pursuing Southard, deputies found evidence of a meth manufacturing operation inside the residence. JOINT was called in, and processed several containers of bilevel toxic waste, and meth use and manufacturing equipment and paraphernalia.

A chemical waste disposal team was dispatched from Portland.

Investigators believe that the three suspects stored hazardous and toxic chemicals in the same rooms used by the three children of Guess and Hilton. They range in age from 7 months to 12 years.

Meth precursor chemicals are extremely flammable, and investigators noted that the household heat consisted of an open-flame propane heater and a red hot and open heating element of a kitchen stove.

The children were placed in the temporary care of their grandmother pending review by Child Welfare. Investigation is continuing, Selig concluded.

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What to do in your garden in April:

Vegetables - Plant cool season varieties such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, chard, lettuce, potatoes & onions. You can also sow seeds of carrots & peas. Start summer veggies indoors - tomatoes, peppers & eggplant - to name a few.

Shrubs - Get in one last dormant spray on fruit trees & deciduous trees & shrubs. If you haven't done it yet - fertilize now!

Lawns - Apply multi-purpose fertilizers to eradicate problems in your lawn, such as moss & broad-leaf weeds.

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- \$10.00 Entry Fee and "Winner Takes All" -  
- Carlos Will Match the Pot - Entries Limited to the First 12 -  
Enter in Advance at Carlos Restaurante  
- One Crock Pot Full - Ready to be Tasted & Tested -  
- Open Rules with respect to Recipes -  
- Blind Judging to be Based on Flavor & Taste: Not Fire -  
- Peoples Choice Award will also be Given -  
- Judging between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. -  
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