

A member of our Library Area Neighborhood had a dream: "Why don't we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day by inviting neighbors -the elderly and residents in need to a luncheon?" We liked the idea.

At St. James United Church of Christ at 15th and Walnut Streets, Pastor Lorraine Sell and the congregation quickly approved use of the church hall for the event. Pastor Don Stone of Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church at 31 South 11th Street and members also agreed and sent volunteers. The Mission Committee at Presbyterian Church of Allentown provided funding for the dinner and Pastors Stephen Emick and Tony Sundermeier with their youth groups also volunteered. To complete the roster, the William Allen High School Interact club sent 15 students. Also working alongside were enthusiastic volunteers from the Episcopal House.

On the day before twenty-five volunteers came in heavy rain, to debone and cook turkeys, peel potatoes and complete the food prep.

On Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Pastor Sell welcomed everyone with a reading from Romans: "Like Martin Luther King we are all living in community with our neighbors, looking out for each other and being aware of their needs and concerns."

More than 200 came out, including neighbors and residents from the Episcopal House, Walnut Manor, the Hotel Traylor and a Spanish mission outreach program called Alcanzando Al Necesitado (Reaching the Needy).

We all enjoyed turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, applesauce and ice cream cups for dessert. What a nice way to celebrate the memory of Martin Luther King in the fellowship of our neighborhood, among those we know and those we are meeting for the first time.

It was one person's dream. So many in our neighborhood and throughout the City made it happen. Think of how one seed can sprout and yield a hundred grains.

Nicholas Butterfield

Library Area Neighborhood Association