

FRIDAY - APRIL 21, 2017 . . . circle it on your calendar now!

Seriously. Make the decision to commit to being present and sharing your faith, hope and love! We're planning an event that will demonstrate our desire to connect with and build lasting friendships with folks in our community.

Remembering Jesus call to "...make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19), we are partnering with some of our friends from Skipwith Elementary School to intentionally express hospitality with the families of the 32 children who receive food through our backpack ministry. The hope is to go beyond simply meeting the physical need to nurturing vital ongoing relationships, also known as "making disciples."

Each member of our church family is encouraged to participate in a variety of ways. Help us in the planning. Pray for God's will to be done. Lend your culinary skills to prepare the Spaghetti dinner. Give generous donations of food, school supplies, and money. Volunteer to lead a game or activity. Be present to attend to needs and engage in conversation with our guests. Give out school supplies. Assist with parking. Serve the meal. Help design the invitation/flyer. Offer ideas of additional ways to be hospitable.

Principal Todd Smith (yes, that is correct!), Vice-Principal Jeanette Jones, school counselor Brittany Finch, teacher Nancy Salazar, Spanish interpreter, Natalia, and several others have been a crucial part of the planning and most have agreed to be present on the night of our event to help our guests feel more comfortable. We have asked the children, their siblings and their parents, **AND** the families of each of the school's leaders to be our guest. Potentially we may have over 120 guests!

Folks, this night is about our guests and our desire to build lasting relationships with them. We will have just celebrated Easter the Sunday before this ministry event. The evidence of having experienced the truth and joy of God's deep love for us and all humankind will, most assuredly, still be reflected in our countenance and our heartfelt actions. In **faith**, motivated by **hope**, let us **love** our neighbors so that they, and we, may be drawn ever-nearer to the heart of God!

That date again is:

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 4:30-6:30 PM

~ PASTOR TODD