



September 2017

Manna Cafe Ministries
www.mannacafeministries.com
931-933-0970

MANNA MATTERS



power and divine identity clear, even though they are invisible" (Voice). In other words, God allows us to see, hear, and touch Him through the beauty that's all around us—if we're not so busy that we look right past it!

This autumn, determine to recognize the expressions of God's love and artistry in your own backyard.

His bondservant,
Vicki York, Co-founder, Manna Cafe

Happy September!

As much as I adore summertime, autumn is the most invigorating and stunning time of year for me. That's why I want to challenge you to fully experience it this year—to pay close attention to the scents, sights, and sounds of autumn. Romans 1:20 tells us that "creation in its magnificence enlightens us to [God's] nature. Creation itself makes His undying

One gorgeous fall day last year, I went to the Riverwalk and snapped a few photos with my phone. When I posted some of my favorites on Facebook, several people commented, "Wow! Where did you take these?" They couldn't imagine that I'd discovered such gorgeous splashes of color right here in Clarksville. But these small evidences of God are *everywhere*.



WHAT: Manna Cafe's sixth annual Pirate Fest and Chili Cook-Off

WHERE: Clarksville's historic downtown district, at First Baptist Church's Commerce St./Hiter St. Parking lot

WHEN: Saturday, October 7 from 2 – 8 p.m.

WHY: Because it's FUN to dress up like a pirate, eat heaping bowls full of chili, and say stuff like, "Ahoy, matey!" and "Shiver me timbers!"

Details on pg. 3



WEEKLY EVENTS:

Mobile Cafe:

Tues. from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. @ Liberty Church parking lot (613 E. Street)

Wed. from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. @ Lincoln Homes (Sponsored by Clarksville Grace Church of the Nazarene)

Thurs. from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. @ corner of Pageant Lane & Madison, Veterans Plaza

Sat. from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. @ Liberty Church & Pageant Lane Locations

Food Distribution:

M–W–F from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. @ 1319 East Franklin Street

MannaCafeMinistries.com Instagram: mannaafe1
Facebook.com/mannacafe2010 Twitter: MannaCafe1

Have you ever had so many leftovers from a wedding or other event that you wished you could bring them to Manna Cafe? We're pleased to announce the addition of a **COMMUNITY COOLER**, available after hours for those with donations.

To contribute your surplus, just contact **Kenny** by phone (615-568-5115) or email (Kenny@MannaCafeMinistries) to get the combination code.

Manna Cafe Ministries is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to serve people in need in Clarksville/Montgomery County through a soup kitchen on wheels, food box distribution, and other vital resources. Propelled chiefly by volunteers, Manna Café strives to restore hope, dignity, self-reliance, community, and the love of God through Jesus Christ.

Once upon a time, there was a faithful little oven...

*In April of 2010, when Manna Cafe was in its infancy, Kenny purchased a used convection oven to cook our Mobile Cafe meals. For seven years, this oven has done its job like a champ. At roughly 24,000 meals per year for 7 years, it has cooked more than **160 thousand** meals!*

Recently, however, our trusty friend has broken down twice. This is alarming, since every single meal we serve (on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays) depends on it. Unfortunately, once a commercial oven starts breaking down, it's time for an update, especially since some of our clients

have told us that they count on us for their only hot meal of the day.

Our goal is to purchase a double-stack oven (2 ovens stacked atop one another so that if one acts up, the other is unaffected). An oven like this could feasibly last 15-20 years. We need \$6,100 to purchase and install it. If you—or your family, church, or workplace—would like to help us purchase the oven, email us at info@MannaCafeMinistries.com, and we'll make sure your donation goes directly to a new oven.

-Thank you from the Manna Cafe team!



Help Manna Cafe win up to \$15,000 in just 60 seconds a day. Freeland Chevrolet is donating \$5,000 to 2 nonprofits each month, and we can win up to 3 times! On each of the 5 Facebook pages below, comment #MannaCaféMinistries #FreelandCares in the pinned post near the top of the page. Vote once on each page every day! For a weekly email reminder, email Vicki@MannaCafeMinistries.com.

Freeland Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Freeland Chevy Superstore Freeland Auto Recycling
Freeland Chevrolet Fleet & Commercial Allstate Insurance Agent: Freeland Insurance Agency

One of the most immediate and practical ways you can help us help Clarksville is by assisting with **food box assembly** on Thursday evening from 6–8 p.m. or Saturday morning from 9–11 a.m. This is a great project for community groups, church groups, Scouts, high school teams, families, homeschool groups, clubs, etc. Make a difference in your community while having a blast with family or friends.

To sign up, log onto MannaCafeMinistries.com, click on "Volunteer," then "Warehouse Help."

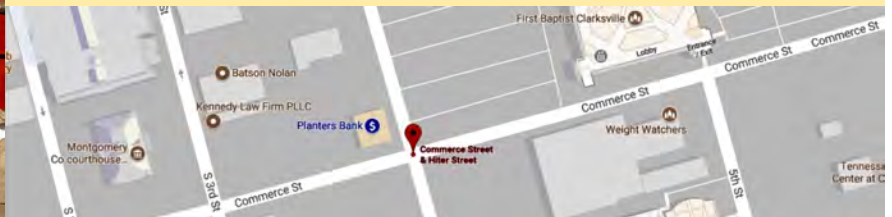


Time's running out! Gather a few friends or coworkers and reserve your chili booth at pirates@mannacafeministries.com or by calling Sara at 931-449-0591.

Trophies and prizes will be awarded for best decorated chili booth, most original chili, crowd favorite, and judges' favorite. Reserve your booth today!



LOCATION: Clarksville's historic downtown district:
*First Baptist Church's
Commerce St./Hiter St. Parking lot*



THE PIRATES ARE COMING ON OCTOBER 7!

Manna Café's sixth annual **Pirate Fest & Chili Cook-Off** will take place on **Saturday, October 7**, from 2 until 8 in historic downtown Clarksville! (Please note the new day and time, as our previously scheduled date has been changed.) Listen to live bands, turn your kids loose in the Kid Zone, meet Captain Bubba, win a prize for the best pirate costume, and purchase a mug for all-you-can-eat chili! For more info, log onto MannaCafeMinistries.com.



There's a conversation that's been rehashed over and over for the past seven years. As Manna Café's founder, I think it's time to address the issue with you, our valued supporters and donors. The matter involves our food rescue program and our efforts to get fresh produce into the hands of our clients before it goes bad. We get fruits and vegetables from three sources: 1) by sending our refrigerated trucks to local grocery stores to pick up their surplus, 2) from farmers and gardeners who bring their surplus to us, and 3) by purchasing it from Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville (after they've purchased or rescued it themselves).



Each year, we give away 1.5 million pounds of food; almost a million of that is rescued and includes everything from canned goods, meat, and pasta to milk, cheese, bread, and produce. A major challenge is getting the fresh items—i.e., produce—to our clients quickly enough (since much of

it has a very short “window”). Add to that the fact that we often receive bags of apples, potatoes, etc., that include just *one* bad apple or potato, and it's tough to do a perfect job.

Before produce is put into a client's food box, we do our best (with the help of volunteers) to sort through everything and remove anything that's no longer palatable. (And sometimes, especially during the summer, produce will expire in the short time between sorting and distributing it.) Every day we handle thousands of pounds of food while serving between 150 and 200 clients. Try as we might, it's impossible to guarantee that no one ever receives a piece of spoiled fruit. During the past few months, there are times we've been so cautious that almost one-third of rescued produce has gone to the livestock farmer who collects our rejects. But we still occasionally get a complaint about bad produce.

As the leader of Manna Café, I'm constantly battling with where the line between “reasonably cautious” ends and “excessively cautious” begins. I don't want to be careless and distribute food that can't be used, but I also don't want to throw away good food by being too meticulous.

The only way to guarantee that no one will ever receive inedible produce is to stop rescuing food altogether and let it go to the landfills like it did before the food rescue



program began. But that would mean we'd have no more access to the hundreds of thousands of pounds of nutritious food that currently feeds hungry people—and I'm not willing to do that. So we're asking for your prayers and support. Please help us educate the community as to how the food rescue process works. Help us spread the word that we have a phenomenally successful and valuable food pantry in place, but we need a little patience when something slips through the cracks. In the meantime, with your continued support and encouragement, my team and I will keep rescuing food and serving as many Clarksvillians as we can.

Peace out.