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3/30/10



Church donates meals to Community Action C

By **Everett Catts**
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Special photo

From left, Paul, Mattie, Quinton, Norah and Owen Stout carry boxes to place meals in for St. John United Methodist Church to give to the Community Action Center.

This Sunday, when St. John Methodist Church in Sandy Springs celebrates Easter, it will do so by celebrating the Lenten program of Jesus Christ feeding 5,000 people. On Ash Wednesday last month, the church started its inaugural Feed the People program, in which congregants made a \$30 donation, which fills a box of food to feed a family of four. The boxes will be blessed at church on Sunday before being donated to the Community Action Center, a based nonprofit that serves the city and Dunwoody.

The Lenten program refers to the story of Jesus Christ feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two books of Matthew. It was introduced by church organist Deb Ulrich, a similar initiative at a previous goal of filling 139 boxes to feed people, St. John had already reached its objective as of March 25, filling about 6,000 meals.

"I'm very impressed," Stan Stout, St. John church's mission committee chair, said of the effort. "It's one of those where it's really given the community an opportunity to give as they see fit, just made it available to them and resonates during the Easter season." "It was a program that both Pastor Ward [the church pastor] and I thought, it would be nice if we weren't too confident that we could feed 5,000 meals, but the church did it fantastically."

CAC Executive Director Tamara Stout said the donation's timing couldn't have been more perfect. "It's really big because we have a

huge donation influx at the holidays, but right around now our storage of food is depleted. "This comes at the perfect time so we can have enough for everyone."

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Ms. Carerra added that other large Sandy Springs churches and synagogues, such as Nk Church of Christ and Temple Sinai, make donations of this size, but that gifts from sma well as several businesses also are important.

"We get about 60 families coming in every day, and when we don't have food on the sh obviously can't give them anything," she said. "We have a lot of smaller donations from congregations. We need the continuous flow of inventory into the center."

Stockdale said residents, including non-members, can make donations by Friday to have in the Easter donations. The church also will accept contributions for the CAC after East

If you go

- o **What:** St. John United Methodist Church meals
- o **When:** Easter Sunday
- o **Information:** (404) 255-1384 or visit www.stjohnatlanta.org.



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