



Spirit & Place

a citywide collaborative festival managed by The Polis Center at IUPUI

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www.spiritandplace.org

Dear Congregational Leader:

Potluck or potlatch ... carry-in or covered dish supper ... no matter what you call it, the “pitch-in” dinner is a great way to share food and build community.

Join Spirit & Place in creating 48 consecutive hours of community meals, November 12-14, 2010 during the PERPETUAL PITCH-IN PROJECT. Celebrating the theme *Food for Thought*, the 2010 Spirit & Place Festival rounds out its final weekend by gathering people in congregations, homes, and community centers across Central Indiana.

Simply determine the date and time for your meal (November 12-14), and sign up at www.spiritandplace.org. You can open this to the entire congregation, or perhaps select a smaller group to host the meal. Youth groups, study groups, religious education classes, or mission committees are good candidates. You may even want to suggest a theme. Because the **PERPETUAL PITCH-IN PROJECT** is designed to run for a continuous 48 hours, we also encourage you to think of unique times for your event. A young adult group, for example, may be willing to hold a breakfast pitch-in from 4-6 a.m.!

To supplement your pitch-in meal, we encourage you to surround it with opportunities for reflection and outreach. Options include the following:

- Use our discussion guide to stimulate small table discussion (available soon on our website).
- Create your own question guide on pressing food issues in your neighborhood, food ministries you operate, etc.
- Ask participants to bring cash/goods to the meal for a local food pantry/ministry.
- Incorporate the *Food For Thought* theme into your worship service (see back for ideas).

Who can participate?

- Young Adult Groups
- Youth Groups
- Mission Committees
- Families and Friends
- Study Groups & Book Groups
- Congregations
- Women’s or men’s groups
- Sewing, Knitting, and Other Craft Clubs
- Community & Nonprofit groups
- Business & Professional groups

All groups are welcome!

Pitch-In Theme Ideas

- Food in Film, Fiction, Music, Art, Theatre
- Foods of a particular color
- Foods in religious literature
- Peanut Butter (November is *National Peanut Lover’s Month!*)
- Foods that start with a letter (e.g. “C”: cucumber, corn, chili)
- Food Techniques (slow cooker, grilled)
- Pizza (*Nov 12 is National Pizza with the Works Except Anchovies Day!*)
- Food from a historical era or decade
- Food from a particular country/region
- Types of food (breakfast foods, soup and bread, etc.)

Afterwards, all groups will be asked to report on the number of participants and donations raised so that we can share with the community the impact made by the **PERPETUAL PITCH-IN PROJECT**.

We look forward to your participation as the Indianapolis community ponders *Food for Thought* during the 2010 Spirit & Place Festival. Please direct any questions to Jeni Umble (spiritfestival@gmail.com) or Jennifer Gilles (317-278-3623 or gillesj@iupui.edu).

Sincerely,

Pam Blevins Hinkle
Director

*Help stimulate conversation and action
about food in our community – and help Indy secure a
Guinness World Record for continuous pitch-ins!*

Incorporate *Food For Thought* into Worship Services during the Spirit & Place Festival (November 5-14, 2010)

The Spirit & Place Festival theme, *Food For Thought*, offers a great opportunity for faith communities to lift up God's call to feed the hungry and practice hospitality. Consider incorporating this theme into your worship services by:

1. Collecting a special offering during the Spirit & Place Festival to combat hunger.
2. Preaching on the *Food For Thought* theme either November 6-8 (1st weekend of the festival) or November 12-14 (final weekend of the festival and date of the community-wide **PERPETUAL PITCH-IN PROJECT**).

Some scriptural references from the Abrahamic traditions are provided below for inspiration:

- For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. (Matthew 25:35)
- This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry, let them enter and eat. (Passover Haggadah)
- I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. (Psalm 132:15)
- A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)
- This day are (all) things good and pure made lawful unto you. The food of the People of the Book is lawful unto you and yours is lawful unto them. (*Holy Qur'an*, Yusuf Ali translation, Chapter 5, verse 5.)
- And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not glean your vineyard, neither shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:9-10)
- Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy. (Acts 14:17)
- It is He Who sendeth down rain from the skies: with it We produce vegetation of all kinds: from some We produce green (crops), out of which We produce grain, heaped up (at harvest); out of the date-palm and its sheaths (or spathes) (come) clusters of dates hanging low and near: and (then there are) gardens of grapes, and olives, and pomegranates, each similar (in kind) yet different (in variety): when they begin to bear fruit, feast your eyes with the fruit and the ripeness thereof. Behold! in these things there are signs for people who believe. (*Holy Qur'an*, Yusuf Ali translation, 6:99)
- Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14: 15-21; Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13)
- God brings you into good land with abundant food. Remember that it is from God. Don't forget to give thanks. (Deuteronomy 8:7-18)
- And from the fruit of the date-palm and the vine, ye get out wholesome drink and food: behold, in this also is a sign for those who are wise (*Holy Qur'an*, Yusuf Ali translation, 16:67)
- When God created Adam, God showed him around all the trees in the Garden of Eden. God said, "See My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are. Everything I have created has been created for you sake. Think of this, and do not corrupt or destroy My world; for if you corrupt it, there will be no one to set it right after you. (Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13)