

# TKJ Schematic

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## Summer 2004

We are well into the Summer season and God is providing in marvelous ways. We are still looking for more folks to join us in the city to help serve. Give us a call to tell us when you want to come.

### “... all things work together for good ...”

For Thursday, July 1, we decided it would be nice to serve hot dogs with all the fixings on the street, since it was almost the 4th of July weekend. That would seem like a good plan, except it was the same night as the Bible Bowl at the Eastern Region Parish Life Conference of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America. The Haas family couldn't help us, because Andrew was on St. Philip's team. The McGraw family couldn't help us because Philip and Garret were on Holy Ascension's adult and youth teams, respectively.

It came down to just Judy Carpenter and myself meeting in the city. I brought 20 pounds of boiled hot dogs, about three gallons of fruit salad, two cases of muffins, ten gallons of iced tea and lemonade and hundreds of sandwiches. Then there was the ketchup, mustard, relish and cheese whiz for the hot dogs. Judy brought 200 hot dog buns, a big pot of baked beans and more sandwiches. I don't recall if she brought potato salad.

The people were already waiting for us when we arrived at the park. You can understand our problem. This was quite a complicated meal to serve. On the way downtown, Judy and I, in our separate cars and routes were praying for God to provide more people to help us serve and for order and peace to prevail. As I parked my car, I noticed a church van from a Protestant church in Maryland parked across the street surrounded by a group of young people. As we started to unload, Judy asked me if she should ask them if they could help us serve the food. That was exactly my thought and I said, “Yes! Please do.”

They joined us. It was just the right number of people. Everyone had something to do: one person on getting the hot dogs out of the hot water with tongs, one person holding the buns, one person serving the baked beans, two people serving ketchup, mustard, relish and Cheese Whiz, two people handing out sandwiches, two people serving cold drinks, two people serving deserts, two people free to help maintain order in the line and pick up litter.

It turns out they were a youth group from a UCC church in Maryland along with their leaders and the leader from Center for Student Ministries. They were in Philadelphia for a week to be involved in urban ministries. We thanked them for helping and told them how they were an answer to our prayers. They told us that we were an answer to their prayers.

They were parked where they were, because they had come into center city to give away the leftover lunches they had made for the vacation Bible school earlier in the day. They had just run out and the people were clamoring for more, when I pulled up in the Scion xB with The King's Jubilee signs on the sides and back. One of the homeless men said, “Don't worry. Our dinner just pulled up across the street.”

So we were answers to each other's prayers. God worked all things together for the good. It is always an adventure when we serve the poor in Jesus' Name. God is always instructing us to: “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Philippians 4:6)

## St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church

I am not sure who all is involved from St. Philip's, but at one point or another, it has been everyone. Last newsletter I said, “I will go into more detail.” So I will not name names, because I do not know all of the names of who has done what and no one is doing this for recognition, but in the spirit of Matthew 6:3-4: “But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”

Many families make meat and cheese and/or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Most, if not all, participate in “Turkeys 'R' Us” providing us with meat for soup for more than half the year, along with special distributions at holidays to families in need via The Word In Action. A few families come downtown and help serve on a regular basis. Someone gleans baked goods, and sometimes meat or candy from the ‘expired’ freezer of a local grocery store. Many have donated clothes, blankets and toiletries for us to distribute on the street. Several individuals have driven the van into the city on nights when I was not able to. Someone faithfully makes the hot chocolate at church on Thursday nights in cooler half of the year. Various people donate household goods for us to distribute to those transitioning off of the streets. A couple of people have picked up bulk items through their wholesale clubs to help us save money on supplies. Many people give money that has paid for the van and its upkeep, gas, food, supplies and direct aid to individuals and families in need. Money has also been channeled to buy Word in Action a new gas range so they can keep cooking the 200 meals per week that they serve to the poor in Jesus' Name. Mechanical work has been donated. People have helped deliver furniture and appliances.

The list goes on. I am sure I am forgetting some things. But, most importantly, many at St. Philip's pray regularly for The King's Jubilee and all pray regularly for the poor whom we serve.

## Consider Today's Lily

I have grown to truly delight in daylilies. We have about a half dozen varieties in our backyard. They are so amazing! They produce these enormous, brilliantly colored blossoms. Each blossom is a work of art superior to any likeness that Georgia O'Keefe or Rene' Renoir could ever produce. Then it is gone in a day. Talk about your irrational exuberance!

"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Luke 12:27)

Anyone who walks with me into our backyard while any of these lilies is blooming will hear me say: "Consider today's lily!" The daylily blossom is a reminder of God's great care for us. He made them beautiful for us to enjoy. He made them to wither in a day to be replaced by another blossom as uniquely beautiful as the last in order to illustrate his abundant provision for us. They also instruct us as to the urgency of doing what is good today. The passage goes on:

"If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:28-34)

Jesus is telling us that giving alms is a more secure investment than the stock market or an IRA. It is not an investment for your old age, but for what comes after that, or could come at any time. But, by the same token, God is promising that if we truly obey Him in almsgiving by faith, we will always have what we need in this life as well: "and all these things shall be added unto you."

The idea that giving to the poor is giving to God is all through the Scripture. In Proverbs it even says that He will repay with interest. (Proverbs 19:17) Banks fail. Stock markets crash. The Lord is steadfast forever!

It needs to be noted, too, that in none of these passages is there a mention of giving only to those poor who are deserving or worthy or who are poor through no fault of their own. No. Giving alms is a mercy. What is mercy? It is when one is spared the negative consequences of one's misbehavior. The poor are not presumed to be innocent, nor are we to judge them to be guilty. When we are confronted by them, we are given an opportunity to respond as we would hope God will respond to us in our poverty. It is the tender mercies of God that lead men to repentance. (Romans 2:4) When you give alms to a sinner in Jesus' Name, you are making an investment for both his and your future in the Kingdom of God.

Thank you all for your great generosity in Jesus' Name.

## What We Do

The King's Jubilee serves soup, sandwiches, pasta with meat sauce, iced tea, fruit and goodies (if we have them) to between 50 and 150 men and a few women in Center City Philadelphia every Thursday night. This is in a park, year-round. We also share toiletries, blankets and season appropriate clothing with them.

We serve in the open air, because some of those we serve are paranoid and will not readily enter a place with which they are unfamiliar. Also, some of them are not homeless, but are on very low fixed incomes. They won't go to a soup kitchen to take from a program just for the homeless, but they feel free to eat with us to stretch their food budget, so they can stay off the street.

We also try to gather resources for other ministries that serve the poor in Jesus' Name. If we can't do it in Jesus' Name, we don't have the time or the desire to do it.

## The Ad

"COME AND SEE" Icons, Books & Art was started with the hope that it would provide a steady income with flexible hours to facilitate my involvement in service with The King's Jubilee. After more than three years, it is starting to look like a viable business. The website has nearly 1,000 different icons on it. We have signed royalty agreements with more than a dozen iconographers of a variety of styles. The collection is growing all the time. We have shipped to all 50 states, and to twenty other countries on five continents. We average about 6,000 hits per day on the website. Please come and browse our collection at [www.comeandseeicons.com](http://www.comeandseeicons.com)

## The Appeal

We can only do what we do, because there are many others who share the resources God has given them with us. Donations are gladly and gratefully received. In addition to checks and cash, personal size shampoos, soaps & lotions are always welcome, as well as men's clothing in season.

Checks can be mailed to:



216 W. Fourth St.  
East Greenville, PA 18041-1629

Our phone is: 215-679-7563  
email: [TKJ@comeandseeicons.com](mailto:TKJ@comeandseeicons.com)

Thank you. May the Lord bless you as you bless the poor in Jesus' Name. Have a great Summer! Remember the sunscreen.  
Peace,

Cranford Joseph Coulter