

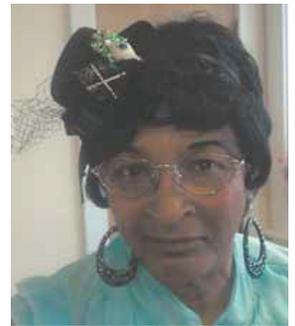
PEOPLE



Debra Knight wears Kay Barnes' hat, which she borrowed.



These women are about to nibble a variety of food.



Mary Baker wears a small black hat with net.

At English Tea, Rising Hope Fetes Volunteers

“The ladies of Rising Hope really rose to the occasion.”

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Just for fun, about 40 Rising Hope volunteers were treated on Friday, March 15, to a semi-formal English tea party complete with white tablecloths, china cups and saucers from England, and an array of dainties to nibble.

“The ladies of Rising Hope really rose to the occasion. They all turned up in dresses and hats,” said Kay Barnes, Rising Hope’s resident Englishwoman who is director of missions. Thanks to volunteers and donations, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church aids the poor along the Route 1 corridor. Events to thank the volunteers are held about every six months.

“One thing I think is remarkable,” said Rising Hope’s pastor, the Rev. Keary Kincannon, “is that most of the volunteers today are from the community that Rising Hope serves. We also have many more who come from supporting churches within the community.”

Colluding on the tea party scheme were staffers Venisa McCormick, Sula Tyler and volunteer Maryellen Rodgers who made the triangular cucumber sandwiches. Other nibbles included strawberries and other fruits, diminutive egg salad sandwiches, cookies and meat pastries.

The tea leaves themselves deserve mention, being a Yorkshire tea from Taylors at Harrogate, England. “It’s a black tea stronger than what you have over

here,” said Barnes.

Among the guests was volunteer Icilda Rattigan who has donated time serving in the mission’s clothes closet called “From Rags to Riches.” Originally from Jamaica, she said she loved “the beautiful English setting” and enjoyed feeling “accepted and appreciated.”

“It was so pleasant just to sit and chat,” she said. “I just felt good, like among friends and family.”

Another guest was long-time volunteer and church member Mary Baker, who said, “I just enjoyed the ladies sitting around drinking tea. I had a little hat on my head, a little black hat with a hairnet.” She’s volunteered in the kitchen and on numerous committees.

“It made me feel wonderful, very important after my years of volunteering,” said another volunteer Dale Turner, who’s helped in the office. “I was honored to be there. Everybody had a great time socializing.”

“Many that need our assistance,” said Kincannon, “also volunteer in our services as a way of giving back. Rising Hope is not about freebies or handouts. We are about building an organization where rich and poor, black, white and Hispanic, housed and homeless can work side by side to bring solutions to those in need. We are purposefully manifesting the values of the Kingdom of God to bring healing to our community.”

“We had such a lovely afternoon,” said Barnes. “It was a little bit of England that came to our world.”



Tea Party organizer Kay Barnes (standing) poses with volunteers Pam Heath and Debra Johnson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Will Route 1 Improvements Follow Transportation Agreement?

FROM PAGE 1

“There’s no question that more money would allow more projects to be addressed,” said Ebbin. On the House side, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) opposed and Del. Dave Albo (R-42) voted in favor of it. He says the people who voted against the plan made for some strange bedfellows.

“They all have one thing in common — they didn’t want to compromise,” said Albo (D-42). “They all wanted everything one hundred percent their way.”

ESTIMATES VARY as to how much money it would take to widen the parts of Route 1 that have not already received funding. Considering other similar projects, it could

be as much as \$200 million. That means competition will be fierce among regional interests if the governor approves the plan.

“I didn’t much like the plan,” said Puller. “But you can’t turn it down when it’s all you are going to get.”

One issue that might become part of the argument for allocating the funding to Mount Vernon is the recent addition to Fort

Belvoir as part of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. That added thousands of new commuters to an area that’s already notoriously clogged.

“We have a bunch of new employees coming to Fort Belvoir,” said Kelleher. “In fact, there are more employees at Fort Belvoir than the Pentagon. Most people don’t realize that.”

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