

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact:  
Steve Freeman  
Director of Communications  
Crossroads United Methodist Church  
Ashburn, VA  
Phone 703-729-5100, Ext. 136  
Email [stevefreeman@ecrossroadsumc.org](mailto:stevefreeman@ecrossroadsumc.org)

## **Sunday's Cookout for 750 D.C. homeless set by Ashburn church**

**ASHBURN, VA. --** Once a year, a church in suburban Ashburn, Va., throws a picnic, but it's not your average church picnic by any means. The special guests are the homeless congregating in Franklin Park, Washington D.C.'s address for street people.

**Approximately 750 indigents – called “our brothers and sisters” by the Ashburn congregation – are to be fed during the Fifth Annual Kevin Brown Memorial Cook-Out, set for Sunday, May 7. The picnic, set for 2 to 5 p.m., is in cooperation with and happening near the Gospel Rescue Ministries' mission, 810 Fifth St. NW, Washington, D.C.**

**The 900-member Crossroads United Methodist Church in Ashburn is collecting all the supplies, assigning the necessary number of grill operators and arranging the massive undertaking. It's a mission trip that the church sponsors twice a month, albeit on a smaller scale, the rest of the year.**

**A homeless man named Kevin Brown ignited the church's interest in feeding the down-and-out in this corner of D.C. In 2001, Brown showed up on the church's doorstep. His need for short-term assistance turned into a long-term transforming friendship. Through Brown's infectious personality, sense of hope and desire to help those still living on the street, he assisted the church to live up to its name and “cross the road” for those less fortunate.**

**Event organizer Rob Hickey, Ashburn, can still remember when Brown accompanied him on a car ride through D.C. where the homeless live. Although Brown died after the first cookout, his legacy lives on the hearts of a suburban congregation, 30 miles away.**