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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY
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Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing Feb. 7 at First Presbyterian Church

Celebrate the Edison Festival of Light and help feed the hungry by attending Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing Tuesday, Feb. 7 at The First Presbyterian Church in downtown Fort Myers at the corner of Second Street and Lee Street.

It's the 28th anniversary of the hymn sing, which is organized and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. Because of the overwhelming popularity of the event, three performances are planned at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. The doors will open 30 minutes prior to each performance.

Admission is free, but because of the increased need for food for the hungry, organizers are requesting that those who attend bring cans of non-perishable food and a voluntary cash donation, if possible, to benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.

"We need to help The Soup Kitchen by donating as much canned goods and cash as we can to help families who most need it in our community," said Sam Galloway, Jr., founder of Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing.

Community Cooperative provided food and other services to 10,250 people last year. "There are even more families who need our help. Do what God would want you to do and give what you can," said Rev. Paul deJong of First Presbyterian Church.

Community Cooperative was started by First Presbyterian Church along with other downtown church-

es in 1984 to help alleviate hunger and suffering in Lee County. The church has continued to support its ministry there by providing volunteers in The Soup Kitchen and delivering hot meals to home-bound seniors.

Galloway, who originated the hymn sing in 1989, said he wanted to do something to honor Mrs. Mina Edison during the Edison Festival celebration.

"We hear a great deal about the wonderful work of Thomas Alva Edison, but we don't do a lot to honor his wife who also volunteered a great deal of her time and talent to making Fort Myers what it is today. This hymn sing is a way to honor her good work too," Galloway said.

This year's event will feature the First Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir and many other singers, including members of the Mastersingers, guest soloists, along with a piano-organ combination.

Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing is the first of three hymn sings sponsored annually by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. The other two are First Celebrates Freedom July 6 and the very popular Christmas Carol Sing in December. All three events benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.

For more information or directions to the church, call 334-2261 or visit www.fpcfortmyers.org. For more information about Community Cooperative, call (239) 332-SOUP or visit www.ccmileecounty.com.



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