

Our Fourth Annual Single Adult Holiday Lunch happened yesterday at the Greater Framingham Community Church.

The church basement was overflowing.

Rev. Dr. J. Anthony Lloyd said grace, making sure to remind all those in attendance that they were an essential part of community.

Our United Way partners put together the food with the help of Mark from the Eagles.

Our Police Chief's family and friends were our volunteer servers.

There were both many new faces and many old friends, including

Ronald and Revis, black and white, a reminder of what Hurricane Katrina did to some of the poor people living in New Orleans at the time, and what SMOC can do to reintroduce community as a positive force in people's lives.

As people finished eating, I asked for a moment of silence for Bob Dyer, who had passed away in our housing earlier this week.

Chronically homeless, he died in his own bed with dignity.

Darlene led an energetic, festive interpretation of some holiday standards.

My favorite was "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

As the entertainment was winding down, and right before the hoodies were passed out, a young woman walked into the hall

mentioned to folks that she had been directed to the lunch by a friend in the recovery community

asked to sing a song

stepped to the mic

and proceeded to belt out a startlingly beautiful rendition of "Silent Night"

As the crowd in the basement ebbed and people returned to the activities of the day,

I walked to my car

started it up

turned on my iPod interface

and was greeted by Bob Dylan's "Precious Angel"

Peace