



Citizen photo by JEAN CARTER

People gather for Steve Aust's Share A Meal at the Lions Shelter in City Park recently.

Share A Meal a time for meeting friends

By JEAN CARTER

Citizen staff

Every last Wednesday of each month, Steve Aust and the Preston Presbyterian Community Church, feature a night of sharing and caring with others through a meal. During summer, you can always see a group under the pavil-

ion at the city park; during the winter months, the meal is served inside the church.

Steve Aust says the Share a Meal began five years ago, when his wife Karen wanted to do something for her community. Thanks to the support of the church, she was able to fulfill that dream. Two years ago, when Karen passed away, Steve decided to continue the meal in honor of his wife.

"The meal is always

free. It doesn't matter what religion you are, or if you go to church or not. Even if you can't afford the meal, everyone is welcome. I think getting together over a meal is a way to get to know your neighbors. It is a time to be social, to meet new people."

Steve said he would like to invite other organizations and churches to host a Share a Meal night, where everyone can meet once a week instead of once a month.

"I grow vegetables in my garden. I cook the meal. I furnish most of the meal. Sometimes others will contribute. I keep telling them to keep their receipts and turn them in for reimbursement, but they don't."

As he dished up another plate, he said, "I just want to get the community together over a meal." The meal is served from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.