



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SAINT STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Hands • Open Doors

Pastoral Care Ministries Program Guide

The ministries at Saint Stephen's that attend to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those in times of change and uncertainty are called Pastoral Care ministries. These are ways to get involved and share God's love at Saint Stephen's.

For more information on finding the best fit for you and your gifts, please contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org) or the Rev. Katherine Harper (katherine@ssechurch.org).

Card Guild

The Card Guild's purpose is to let people who are on our prayer list know that they are in our prayers in a time of need, sickness, bereavement, or hospitalization by sending a handmade card with a personalized message or prayer enclosed. There are two roles in this ministry: the artists and the senders. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Artists

The artist's time varies with the individual creating the card jackets. Some paint or use photography; others use a multimedia approach. Each artist can be creative and spend time on their own schedule for this ministry. Some training and guidance are provided.

Senders

The sender's time involves creating an appropriate prayer or words of encouragement for the need, checking accuracy of the name and address, and then mailing the card. There may be up to ten cards sent each week. These people work with Gretchen and SSEC staff frequently.

Feed My Sheep

A group of willing people help pick up and deliver a hot meal to our parish families during a hospital stay, illness, death, or the birth of a baby. A parish volunteer notifies the meal delivery team of needs and requests volunteers. Meals can be arranged through a local restaurant. Saint Stephen's reimburses the cost of meals. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Flower Apostles

Flower Apostles relay Christian care and concern through the gift of flowers. There are two roles in this ministry: arrangers and deliverers. For questions, contact Pat Bills (pat@ssechurch.org). To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Arrangers

Weekly on Monday mornings, a small group of volunteers removes the flowers from Sunday's altar arrangement and rearranges them into four or five individual bouquets. These are taken to parishioners on Saint Stephen's prayer list. Vases and supplies are provided. This is a great ministry for anyone with a love of flower arranging.

Deliverers

Volunteers are notified in advance of the need to deliver flowers. Those who deliver will pick up arrangements at the church and take them to a parishioner's home, between mid-morning Monday and Tuesday early afternoon. Pick-up and delivery time usually take 10-30 minutes, depending on the location of the parishioner's home.

Healing Intercessors

The healing intercessor ministry makes Christ known through praying for people in a targeted way – whether in person during worship, or with names from the prayer list. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Home Eucharistic Visitors

Saint Stephen's clergy train Eucharistic Visitors who take consecrated bread and wine to one household following Sunday worship services, or at another agreeable time with those who are homebound or ill. Training is provided. Those who serve as Eucharistic Visitors must be confirmed and trained as Eucharistic Ministers. To find out more and volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Little Lambs

The Little Lambs ministry shares Christ's love to the parish's growing families. Following the birth of a child, families receive meals, flowers, and gifts, as well as information about the church nursery and the process for baptism. For questions about this ministry, speak with Amy Passey. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Prayer Beads

Prayer beads are strung into bracelets and Anglican rosaries. They are made by many groups within the parish. We keep a supply of these in the office. They are blessed by clergy and given in small silk bags with a prayer attached. No prior experience is required. To volunteer for this creative and prayerful ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Prayer Shawls

This ministry uses donated and purchased yarn to make prayer shawls of various colors, sizes, and textures. Labels indicate they are from our parish ministry, and we sew a small metal cross beside it. Volunteers meet during the week to knit together, and even take yarn home to continue the process. They bring the prayer shawl to the church when it is complete. The pastoral care team lets the knitters know who and when these are needed. Clergy will bless the shawl or blanket before it is delivered to the recipient. Training is provided to teach volunteers how to knit and/or crochet; yarn and needles are also provided. To volunteer for this meaningful and creative ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Simply Prayer

This group's ministry is to pray for those on Saint Stephen's prayer list. All are welcome. They gather weekly at a variety of times, including Thursday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings between 5:00 and 6:00. They offer a collective prayer and say each name on the prayer list. This ministry is great for those who enjoy contemplative prayer or are looking for a simple and meaningful way to pray for others. To join this ministry or find out the next meeting date, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).