



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

SAINT STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Hands • Open Doors

Worship Ministries Program Guide

There are a variety of ministries you can get involved with here at Saint Stephen's, including those connected to times of prayer and worship. 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).

Acolytes

All young people have a place in ministry at Saint Stephen's. Acolytes participate in worship, and often those who serve are from grade school all the way to seniors in high school. Acolytes serve multiple roles during Sunday services, and they are the leaders of our worship. The crucifer carries the cross into and out of the Nave. Torch bearers carry candles representing the light of Christ in the procession. The server carries the Gospel Book. The younger children are led to Children's Chapel by the children's crucifer; this is a great way to invite children ages four through fourth grade to start participating in worship in meaningful ways. On special occasions, an acolyte will carry the banner of Saint Stephen's.

Training is provided during an annual Acolyte Olympics. Shifts are scheduled well in advance, and preference can be given to service times and dates. Adult volunteers are needed, serving as acolyte masters. Acolyte masters come prior to the service to coordinate acolytes and fill any outstanding needs with additional volunteers. If you are interested, or you want to enroll your child, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Eucharistic Ministers

These confirmed members of the parish are often referred to as "Chalice Bearers." They are responsible for administering the Cup with the blood of Christ (wine) to God's people gathered to celebrate Holy Eucharist on Sundays, as well as other days and special services when there is Holy Eucharist. Shifts are scheduled well in advance, and preference can be given to service times and dates. Eucharistic Ministers may also be asked to serve at other services, such as funerals. To serve in this role in the church, confirmation by a bishop and training with clergy in this parish are required. To learn more about this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Lectors and Intercessors

Lectors and Intercessors play a large role in Sunday worship as ministers of the Word. Lectors read Holy Scripture from the Old Testament, Psalms, and New Testament selections. Intercessors read the prayers appointed each week, as we pray for the church and the world. Training is provided to help prepare for these roles and have fulfilling experiences in ministry. Shifts are scheduled well in advance, and preference can be given to service times and dates. Readers may also be asked to serve at other services, such as funerals. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Ushers

Ushers have an important role in worship. They greet those who arrive at Saint Stephen's to attend worship and help direct people to where they need to go. They distribute bulletins, count attendees, pass offering plates through the congregation, and following the service, they help with depositing the collection and picking up bulletins. Ushers remain aware of their surroundings during worship and are part of the team that can respond if there are emergencies or problems. Training is provided. Shifts are scheduled well in advance, and preference can be given to service times and dates. Ushers may be invited to serve at other services, such as funerals or special events. For questions about ushering, speak with Michael Yancey. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Greeters

Greeters serve as ambassadors and offer a welcoming presence as people arrive at Saint Stephen's. They help show people where to go around the campus for childcare, worship, Christian formation, handicap-accessible routes, and other parts of our facility. Greeters introduce themselves to people – whether new to our parish or long-time attendees. Shifts are scheduled well in advance, and preference can be given to service times and dates. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a servant ministry that happens behind-the-scenes. It is both solemn and joyous, and a great way to build relationships with others at church. The Altar Guild is responsible for fixtures on and around the altar during worship, including linens around the altar, changing the liturgical color of hangings, polishing silver, and setting up bread and wine for Holy Eucharist. They work in teams, generally one Sunday a month, and people of all ages are welcome. Training is provided throughout the year. For questions about this ministry, please speak with Ann Freeland or Susan Edge. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild works in teams, choosing and arranging flowers for Sunday worship and other events at the church. Arrangements are set up behind the altar, and sometimes in the Parish Hall or Gathering Space. If you have a love of flowers, have worked with floral arrangements before, or want to learn how to do this ministry of creativity and beauty, speak with Ann Carpenter to learn more. To volunteer, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).

Sound and Video Team

The sound and video ministry is a vital component of our Sunday morning team, as worship is now broadcast via livestream to reach parishioners in their homes. A production booth at the back of the church has computers to control video cameras and insert pre-recorded material into worship. Volunteers also test and turn microphones on and off, depending on who is speaking, adjust volumes, and make sure that the sound in the Nave enhances the worship experience. Shifts are scheduled well in advance. No prior experience is needed, and onsite training is provided. For more information, contact Steve Thompson. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Gretchen Lerner (gretchen@ssechurch.org).