



St. Elizabeth's

Episcopal Church

A FAMILY OF FAITH

Activities and Ministries



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ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Distinguished Scholar Weekend

Past scholars, including Marcus Borg, Diana Butler Bass and John Dominic Crossan, have brought fresh insights on theological questions and have met with a resounding response not only from our parishioners, but also from many in our community. We invite all to participate in these fruitful discussions and lectures. Planning is underway for future scholar weekends.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

If you would like to dig deeper into the Christian faith, study the Bible, Church history and theological ideas, and reflect on connecting faith with life experiences, EfM may be the program for you. This is a four-year commitment to theological study, and is organized in small seminar groups of 6 to 12 students, with trained mentors and texts.

Lectionary Discussion Group

The Lectionary Discussion Group is a casual Bible study which meets on Sunday mornings during the education hour. The main format of the study is a discussion of the day's lectionary readings, particularly as to how they relate to everyday life.

Sunday Adult Forum

An opportunity for presentation and discussion is offered in Tharp Hall on Sundays during the program year from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. Topics vary and include theological issues, Bible study, faith practices, mission endeavors and effective human relationships. Participants are invited to make subject suggestions to shape the planning process.

Wednesday Evening Classes

Wednesday evening adult classes will offer a variety of topics, as requested by parishioners. Meeting from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm (lengthened 15 minutes to accommodate

the richness of the content we explore!) from September through May, they will also vary in format, including talks, discussion, video presentations, and more.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Church Building

Our building and surrounding grounds are considered Sacred Spaces reflecting the beauty of God's creation and Holiness. Although the church is cleaned and vacuumed weekly, there are additional needs from time to time to keep everything sparkling and in good working order. This team of skilled and unskilled workers takes care of these issues as they arise. Tasks range from cleaning windows to dusting the church from top to bottom, touch-up painting, fixing a leaky water fountain or making minor modifications that lessen our impact on the environment. We have four clean-up Saturdays during the year when we meet together to tackle a task list. We jump-start each of these Saturdays with donuts and coffee, and we usually end at noon.

Flower Gardens and Beds

Volunteer to work on the award-winning flower garden areas in front of the Narthex, the office and our three parking lot islands. The cleanup activities include removing dead plants, planting new flowers, weeding, trimming and mulching. For the flower garden areas next to the church and during the growing season, we ask that people sign up for two-week periods to weed and deadhead flowers, coming once during the two-week period at a time of their choice. If you want more flexibility (and more responsibility), you may choose to adopt one (or more) of the parking lot beds to plant and maintain for the coming year.

Memorial Garden

Join us in maintaining the memorial garden in honor of deceased parishioners. This green garden needs weeding, light pruning of shrubs and sweeping of its walkways.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

At St. Elizabeth's we believe that all of God's people, no matter their age, are a part of the Church and should have opportunities to learn and grow in their faith. Our Children, Youth, and Family ministries provide a safe and engaging environment for all ages to learn, grow, and have fun! If you have any questions about the following please contact William Simerly, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at alexander@stelizchurch.org.

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel takes place during the 10:30 Eucharist. Children ages 4 years - 5th grade are welcome to leave worship during the Song of Praise and follow the cross to Children's Chapel where they have their own worship service. Prayers, a brief lesson, and fun are always a staple in Children's Chapel! Children return to worship at the Peace and participate in the Eucharist with their families. Children do not have to go to Children's Chapel, they are more than welcome to stay in worship with their families if they so choose.

Christian Education Council

The Christian Education Council works as an advisory and sounding board for the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. CEC meets once a month and discusses all aspects of programming for Children, Youth, and Families. Parents, teachers, and parishioners are members of the council. We are always looking for new members!

Date Night

Date Night is offered on the first Friday of each month. Date Night is a time for parents to have some time for themselves and for their kids to have fun in a safe place! Date Night runs from 5:30 - 8:30 pm with dinner being served to the kids along with activities. Ages infant – Fifth grade are welcome to attend Date Night. We ask for a \$5 donation per child to help offset the cost of the event.

Nursery

Nursery is offered for infants up to 4 year olds on Sundays from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm and on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Our nursery is run by Lisa Davis and Michelle Blackwell. The St. Elizabeth's Nursery is a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for the youngest members of our parish. Nursery care is offered at some special events, please see Lisa Davis for more information.

Other

Throughout the year, we have numerous special events geared towards Children, Youth, and Families including Rally Day, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Eve Family service, the Epiphany Pageant, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Lenten activities, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Faith at Home activities.

Sunday School

Sunday School for Children and Youth meets after the 10:30 am Eucharist from 11:45 am - 12:30 pm. Currently, we have three classes divided up by age group: a Primary Class for ages 4 years - 2nd grade, an Intermediate Class for 3rd - 5th graders, and a Youth Class for 6th grade – High School. All classes enjoy a snack and a lesson on a number of topics including Bible stories, church customs and history, theology, etc.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is a fun, exciting week of learning held each evening the week of Memorial Day. VBS is open to children ages 4 years - 5th grade. Our 2019 theme was Animals of the Bible, and our 2020 Theme will be Moses: Let my People Go! VBS consists of dinner, story time, arts and crafts, music, and outside games. We are planning on having 50 kids for summer 2020!

Youth Group

Youth Group is composed of youth from 6th - 12th grade. We meet on Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Our meetings are always full of fun, learning, and fellowship! Some of the activities we have done in the past include game nights, Bible study, baking bread for Eucharist in Advent, Ashes to Go, discussions on race and inequality, a visit from the Rev. David Burman for a discussion about discernment, service projects, tubing, lock-in's, Jump Jam and more! We normally have 6-10 youth on Wednesday nights but are always wanting new folks to join us!

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee assists in telling the story of St. Elizabeth's Church and the opportunities we offer for fellowship and spiritual growth. We are a committee consisting of the parish administrative staff and parishioners who desire to promote church activities and parish meetings using service bulletins, Facebook, and the St. Elizabeth's Church website. We act as the marketing liaison to various media outlets and maintain the church electronic and telecommunications equipment. We welcome all interested parishioners to assist in this important endeavor.

LIBRARY

The Library staff works together to maintain the card catalog, re-shelve books that are returned and generally keep the library tidy and in order.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

The Adult Choir

Ever striving for musical growth, this all-volunteer group has performed many of the greatest works of choral literature, including Handel's *Messiah*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, the Vivaldi *Gloria*, and master-works by Brahms, Rutter, Bach, Fauré and other classical composers. The Adult Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:15 pm to 8:45 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, and leads the music for the 10:30 am service.

The Cantare Chorus

The Cantare Chorus of St. Elizabeth's, comprised of youngsters ages 7-17, rehearses Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and leads all the music for one Sunday of each month of the school year. Their responsibilities also include providing special music at the services on Easter morning and Christmas Eve. This choir does not rehearse during school holiday weeks.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Council oversees the hands-on and financial assistance that St. Elizabeth's gives to a variety of local, national and international programs. We have specific funds for the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the Episcopal Church. One of our primary goals is to be sure people have the food they need. Homeless issues and children have traditionally been next in importance as we make plans. However, we see so many needs in our world that each year we re-evaluate what we are doing and consider new ideas to give more people an opportunity to participate. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to join the council after church on the third Sunday of each

month as we make decisions in these areas. Some of our ongoing, hands-on programs include:

Alternative Gift Market

Each year during the Christmas season, St. Elizabeth's holds a gift market where items may be purchased as an alternative to a traditional Christmas gift in that the receiver gets notice of "a gift" given in their name to help people in underdeveloped countries. Gifts are categorized in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, a key mission priority of the Episcopal Church nationwide. Gifts are as varied as a flock of chickens, a new water well, or funds to educate a young girl. Volunteers organize and "sell" the gifts and cards during November and December.

Angel Tree

The St. Elizabeth's Angel Tree assists low income families and teenagers living without family each year with gifts, household supplies and a food gift certificate. A commitment to this ministry involves time from early November through mid-December. Jobs include: making tree gift tags, setting up the tree, making and maintaining the gift chart, keeping track of the process, wrapping parent gifts, organizing family gifts, organizing household supplies and gift certificates, and delivering gifts to social service sites for families to pick up.

Family Promise

Family Promise is the only program that allows complete families to stay together during their time of homelessness. St. Elizabeth's works in conjunction with First Farragut Methodist and Family Promise to keep these families out of shelters, where husbands and wives and children over age 18 are separated. Here they work to achieve sustainable independence. We offer assistance for one day each quarter. Individuals are needed to make

supper for the families, plan entertainment, help with homework, and to act as overnight hosts.

FISH

St. Elizabeth's works in conjunction with the West Knox FISH Pantry to provide food to families in need. Our members take calls at St. Elizabeth's for food needs on the second Wednesday of each month, and then we help with the delivery of the food to as many recipients as possible. Every February we work with Farragut First United Methodist Church to stock the pantry with food. We sell FISH Christmas Cards every year, and the price of each card provides food to a family of four for three days. Volunteer drivers, working in teams, are always needed.

Gift of the Month

All members of the family can easily and inexpensively assist many organizations in our community when they donate needed items through the Gift of The Month program. We purchase needed items for such places as Vine Middle School, the YWCA and the FISH food pantry. Each month's designated items are listed in the Crossties newsletter and weekly bulletin. Parishioners purchase the items and leave them in the basket in the outer Narthex. Volunteers write articles about the monthly gift and make flyers to be displayed around the church. A volunteer is needed to keep the area around the "Care Can" organized and neat. Individuals are also needed to help deliver items.

Outreach Plate Offering

The Outreach Council, in collaboration with the Stewardship Council and Finance Committee, established the Outreach Plate Offerings program as a means to donate the cash collected each week during offerings to various organizations and ministries. This program, in addition to other existing outreach activities and

donations, provides another way for us to experience the spiritual benefits of generosity.

We also support a variety of other Outreach projects as needs arise. Some examples are collecting hotel toiletries and knitting scarves and blankets for homeless and low-income people and cleaning a Farragut Greenway Trail.

St. Elizabeth's Garden

Our vegetable garden group members grow fresh produce for distribution through the Food Pantry at Farragut Christian Church. Several opportunities exist for volunteers to become involved in planting, watering, mulching, harvesting and delivering the produce. A green thumb is optional.

We also support smaller ongoing Outreach projects such as collecting snack food for low-income students in three inner-city schools, and collecting hotel toiletries for homeless and low-income people in Knoxville.

Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC)

St. Elizabeth's works in conjunction with the VMC to assist the homeless, mentally ill, and working poor citizens of Knoxville as they move to a more stable and productive life. Individuals are needed to serve on our monthly feeding team. Feeding team members are needed once per month to prepare, transport and serve lunch at VMC. Opportunities are also available to volunteer onsite at the VMC in a variety of other ways.

PARISH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Bread Ministry

The making and giving of a loaf of bread are powerful symbols of Christian fellowship, especially when given to

someone we do not yet know. At St. Elizabeth's, our Bread Ministry relies on two persons: the Bread Baker and the Bread Deliverer. A Bread Baker will provide three small loaves of bread for the Bread Deliverer. The Bread Deliverer takes loaves of bread to the homes of those guests who submitted visitor cards during the service.

Greeters

The ministry of our Greeters is to welcome our guests and parishioners as they enter the outer narthex and at the office doors prior to the 10:30 am Sunday service. Afterwards, they stand with the priest and introduce any guests met beforehand. If needed, they help escort guests' children to class or youth group and invite guests to stay for hospitality and show them the way to Tharp Hall.

Hosting Newcomer Social Events

Newcomers are invited to periodic gatherings in the homes of parishioners who volunteer to host welcoming dinners or other social events to connect persons new to the parish with one another.

Small Dinner Groups

The Small Dinner Group is an opportunity for both new and not-so-new individuals to meet and enjoy fellowship with other parishioners. Groups of 6 to 8 meet October through May in members' homes. Hosts and participants in the groups change each month. The host usually provides the main dish, and other dishes, from appetizers to dessert, are brought by the other participants.

PARISH LIFE

The Parish Life Council endeavors to create an environment that affirms fellowship through group activities and encourages parishioners to lend their gifts and talents to the various ministries.

The Bishop's Reception

The council encourages all parishioners to participate in preparing and hosting a reception for the Bishop during his annual official visit.

Book Club

Members choose the books for reading and then meet to discuss them. Book club meets in Tharp Hall on the second Thursday night of every month except December during the school year.

Kitchen Guild

The Kitchen Guild invites you to come and work independently or with the leader to see that our parish kitchen is well maintained and kept in good order for all of us. For example, the group works together to maintain the kitchen, including keeping a supply of clean linens, fresh clean refrigerator, organized pantry, storage closets and kitchen cabinets, and noting any staples that need to be replenished. Kitchen shoppers may assist in shopping for items in need, as well as staples that are being depleted, and as requested for special events during the year. We also need volunteers to assist in shelving purchases at church.

Parish Life Festivals

The council recruits volunteers from across the parish to plan and present social events such as a Mardi Gras party, parish picnic, game nights, and a parish-wide Thanksgiving dinner.

Seniors Lunch Group

This group meets monthly for fellowship and fun. Members include folks over 55 and the young at heart. Please join us for lunch and a chance to get to know each other.

Sunday Hospitality

This ministry brings the fellowship generated by the passing of the Peace into Tharp Hall where volunteers from across the parish take turns offering refreshments after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am service. Sharing food and smiles is an excellent way to meet people and extend our great hospitality to parishioners and visitors.

Wednesday Evening Dinners

From mid-September through early May, teams of volunteers rotate in preparing and serving dinners in Tharp Hall in support of Wednesday evening activities. They plan and serve dinner for parishioners, who are asked to reserve in advance so the number expected is known. You may sign up either to work on a particular team or as a “substitute” to help on an as-needed basis.

PASTORAL CARE

Caring Connections

Volunteers are asked, on a rotating basis, to be in touch with a member of the parish who may be home-bound or hospitalized, recovering from an illness or loss of a loved one, or who otherwise might need some kind of encouragement. Volunteers may send a card, an email or make a telephone call, or any combination of those things based on what they would like to do. Volunteers may use note cards obtained from the church, or they may use their own cards.

Caring Cooks

The Caring Cooks group prepares meals and various food items for fellow parishioners who need support through times of crisis and/or illness. Volunteers are notified of parishioners in need and coordinate delivery of the items.

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a women's organization which spiritually supports parishioners through daily prayer, provides post funeral hospitality services and conducts Stations of the Cross throughout the Lenten season.

Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors serve at the discretion of the Rector and are licensed by the Diocese of East Tennessee to provide spiritual support with communion to those in need, sharing the Eucharist together in prayer and a lay worship service tailored to meet individual needs.

Holy Rollers

Holy Rollers are volunteers who provide transportation for fellow parishioners who are in need for physician visits, church attendance and travel needs.

Homebound Visitors

Homebound Visitors provide social interaction and often take flowers to homebound or lonely parishioners as needed.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Council works to encourage parishioners to dedicate their God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure to God's work within St. Elizabeth's and beyond to the local community and the world. St. Elizabeth's vestry is a part of the Stewardship Council and each vestry member is committed to the stewardship ministry of our church.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Episcopal congregations have traditionally invited young people or adults to fulfill these roles. In the past, St. Elizabeth's has invited children from the age of 8 through senior high graduation to serve in these important positions, beginning as torchbearers and progressing to positions of increased responsibility over time. It is a great way for young people to have a ministry in the life of the

parish, to gain confidence and poise, and to learn about our liturgical tradition. We have now opened these opportunities to serve to adults as well. All volunteers will receive training before beginning acolyte duties.

Acolytes: Torchbearers, Crucifers, Servers and Thurifers

Acolytes add a great deal to our services and provide valuable help to the priest. They fulfill one of four possible roles: Torchbearers carry candles at the opening and closing of our services and at the reading of the gospel; crucifers bear the cross to lead all of our processions, with additional duties in our biggest liturgical celebrations, and receive the people's offerings of money for presentation to the altar. Servers receive the congregation's gifts of bread and wine and assist the priest with setting and clearing the table for Eucharist. Thurifers carry incense, the sign of our prayers rising to God, and assist the priest in its ceremonial use during our biggest celebrations of the year.

Altar Guild

Throughout the church year, the altar guild has the privilege of preparing the altar for any service held in the church. Members of the guild are responsible for the care and preparation of the altars, linens, priests' and servers' vestments, brass, silver, and candles. The Altar Guild is a quiet "behind the scenes" ministry done in reverence and devotion.

Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as Lord of our lives. We live out this commitment through study, prayer, and service.

Prayer – Prayer is the foundation upon which Daughters respond to God in service to others. Daughters pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom (especially among women and girls), God's blessing upon members of the

Order, and the spiritual growth of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal parish.

Service – We offer a reception for families after a funeral or memorial service. We take on other programs such as leading Stations of the Cross during Lent, and offering a Tea for Advent. We support the Priest as requested.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers assist with the Eucharist by serving the cup of wine to those receiving communion. Other duties may include reading one of the lessons, reading the prayers of the people, and assisting the priest as requested in the service. Training will be scheduled at a time when most can attend. Upon completion of training and the recommendation of the rector, those fulfilling this ministry are licensed by the diocese to offer this service to the worshipping community.

Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors bring communion to those who are hospitalized or homebound, sharing together in prayer, conversation, and a special worship service tailored to the needs of the individual being visited. EV's are given special training by the rector, who then arranges for them to be licensed by the diocese to offer this service to those who are ill.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild prepares arrangements for the altar shelf to inspire and enhance worship each Sunday and, upon request, for special events such as weddings, funerals, or parish events. During the preparation for Christmas and Easter, we have great fellowship as we decorate the church. The Guild is also looking for volunteers to break up arrangements to take smaller bouquets to homebound parishioners. Individuals with no experience are encouraged to join us and will partner with members of the Guild until they are comfortable working on their own.

Altar flowers may be dedicated in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or special event and also in memory of a loved one.

Lectors

This ministry is made up of adult (at least 16 years of age) volunteers who read one or more of the lessons appointed for the service. At times, they also lead the reading of the appointed psalm. Training will be scheduled at a time when most can attend.

Oblation Bearers

At the offertory during each service, select parishioners carry the bread and the wine forward to the altar as an offering to God for consecration as our holy communion.

Ushers

The ministry of being an usher provides support for the orderly and safe conduct of services held at St. Elizabeth's. In our parish both women and men serve as ushers during Sunday worship once or twice a month and as needed for other services.