

## **Pastoral Care**

*"Pastoral Care Principles and Practice: Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion"* was adopted by the Vestry in 2017. This document, available online or from our parish office, discusses the theological basis for pastoral care, its historical evolution and the many ways it might be engaged by the Holy Communion laity and clergy. Subsequently, these principles have been used to structure and guide the care of the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our members, as well as the larger community.

### **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

Trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) are sent bi-monthly from the 10:30 AM Sunday worship service to deliver Communion to those who are homebound or in nursing homes or hospitals. Importantly, these visits complement (but do not substitute for) the regular visits of the clergy. In 2019, the LEMs also instituted weekly non-Eucharistic visits with older members of the parish who find themselves in need of routine contact and conversation. Meetings of the LEMs are held throughout the year to provide a forum for ongoing education, mutual care and spiritual growth. If you are interested in serving in the vital ministry, please contact The Rev. Marc Smith at [msmith@holychommunion.net](mailto:msmith@holychommunion.net).

### **Flower Ministry**

Each Sunday that flowers adorn the altar, two vases are prepared from them and delivered to two people on the pastoral care list – those who are homebound, recently bereaved or experiencing significant stress. Flowers also are used to mark notable birthdays and life events. At Christmas and Easter, flowers are sent to all who are homebound or grieving the death of a loved one. You're invited to help deliver flowers and a card from the clergy by picking up both on the table in the lounge each Sunday. The individual's name and address are on the card.

### **Meal Ministry**

Members of Holy Communion are available on a limited basis to cook meals for those who are sick or homebound. To request meals or volunteer to assist in their preparation, please contact Cheyanne Lovellette at [office@holychommunion.net](mailto:office@holychommunion.net).

### **Clergy Pastoral Care**

Central to the ministry of Holy Communion is the clergy's oversight of and personal involvement in pastoral care, including member visits and Communion, short-term counseling and community engagement. One clergyperson is always "on call" and available to respond to emergencies by contacting the parish office.

Submitted by The Rev. Marc Smith