

How Is God Calling You?



JESUS CALLS US

A central focus of parish life at St. Andrew's is exploring God's *call* on our lives as His disciples and actively engaging in ways to serve the Lord and His people. Parishioners serve in diverse settings, both within and beyond St. Andrew's, employing the wonderful variety of gifts and talents the Lord has bestowed upon us as members of the Body of Christ. In the words of St. Paul,

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

God calls us "to follow (Him)" as a disciple and to discover and live out His plan for our lives. To carry out His Kingdom work, He designs each of us with a unique combination of *gifts, passions, talents, personality and experiences*. Finding that "sweet spot" of serving Him according to our gifts and calling brings great joy and confirmation that our service is pleasing to God.

For 100 individuals, there might be *100 different ways of serving, according to the way God has designed each person*. And the way parishioners serve this year may develop into quite different settings another year, as circumstances change and as they encounter new opportunities and enter new seasons of life.

Consider the following list of *real examples* reflecting the great variety of service by members of our own Parish Family:

- Serving the Lord at St. Andrew's as dedicated members of the Altar Guild
- Leading Chapel services and music on Sunday in Children's Chapel for preschoolers
- Coordinating and providing Bible studies and special events for the women of our parish that offer ways to grow as disciples of Jesus and encourage fellowship among women parishioners of all ages
- Leading a lunchtime Bible study or serving as a Christian role model among co-workers at your place of employment
- Glorifying the Lord by raising your children in the knowledge and love of God
- Leading and supporting Men's Ministry with morning prayer service, Bible study and fellowship that strengthens men in their discipleship and walk with the Lord
- Serving on our Alpha teams to lead small groups, handle logistics and practical support, and support the course with intercessory prayer
- Volunteering as a receptionist in the church office and assisting with phones and administrative duties
- Shaping young minds in the knowledge and love of God as a Sunday School teacher in St. Andrew's Children's Ministry

- Designing and creating special birthday and other cards to cheer and encourage parishioners with a personal message of “connection” with their Parish Family
- Rocking babies in Cook’s surgical recovery, or delivering breakfast treats to families staying at Ronald McDonald House where they can be close to their hospitalized children
- Praying faithfully each week for the clergy, staff and ministries of St. Andrew’s and for military veterans and those in active service
- Serving hot meals to Union Gospel Mission guests or participating in small group fellowship time with UGM women residents
- Devoting yourself to being the best parent you can be under God’s guidance and will for your special needs child
- Welcoming visitors to St. Andrew’s, offering friendship and helpful resources
- “Investing yourself” in the life of a child as a coach through Read2Win or as a caring neighbor, relative or Godparent
- Serving as a St. Andrew’s chorister devoting many hours for choir practice to support our beautiful corporate worship services every Sunday and other special events
- Spending countless hours just “being there” to comfort an aging or infirm parent or friend
- Meeting regularly with Victory Temple Women’s Home residents to teach them sewing and quilting skills, while modeling what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus
- Organizing and participating in the St. Martha’s Meals Ministry to assist those needing help during times of crisis
- Serving as Room Mother for your child’s class at school, where you can share the love of Christ with the other students and their parents through your gift of service
- Serving on a Prayer Support Team for missionaries overseas
- Delivering altar flowers on Sunday to parishioners needing a thoughtful “lift”
- Training teams of Christians with a heart for the lost and bringing the love of Christ and God’s Word to those who are incarcerated in state prisons
- Providing meals at Ronald McDonald house and participating in special outreach collections to support needs around our community
- Planning and purchasing Christmas gifts with loving care for a needy child through our Angel Tree ministry or filling a shoe box with gifts for Operation Christmas Child
- Organizing and working to construct sets and materials that support St. Andrew’s original VBS programs and productions
- Taking Holy Communion as a Lay Eucharistic Minister to parishioners unable to attend church
- Giving of your own resources to fund special music and related Music Ministry needs that enrich our worship
- Showing God’s love in faithfully tending to the physical, emotional and transportation needs of a member of our Parish Family
- Organizing a regular day of games for the parish, providing a venue for fellowship and fun
- Stitching sacred adornments for our church through beautiful needlepoint creations for kneelers
- Helping as a greeter and guide during funeral services at St. Andrew’s to direct and aid visitors with parking and finding their way around
- Travelling to Malawi, Belize and other countries around the globe to build up the Church and take the love of Christ to those in faraway lands

- Organizing and managing the prayer chain and faithfully praying for the needs of parishioners
- Participating in outreach events with mission parishes in our Diocese to share love and fellowship as well as material blessings
- Tending and organizing the many wonderful books and other resources in our Lending Library
- Meeting regularly with the men at Victory Temple Ministries for Bible study and discipleship
- Knitting special Prayer Shawls with love and prayer in every stitch for delivering to parishioners undergoing sad or stressful times in their lives ...
~ the opportunities to serve are *limitless!*

Be encouraged to discover God's call and ***experience the joy*** of serving the Lord according to the way He has designed *you!* To find out about serving opportunities and ways to plug into parish life at St. Andrew's, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Mitchell at dmitchell@st-andrew.com.