

**RALLY SUNDAY**  

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**GET INVOLVED**



# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

**SEPTEMBER, 2016**

# **Rally Sunday—The Complete Guide to Volunteer Opportunities at St. Francis Church**

## **Altar Guild - Historic Church**

The altar is set up on Saturday morning and altar guild members help take it down following the 8 a.m. Sunday service. New recruits work with an experienced volunteer about 6 times per year; 2 Saturdays in each of 3 months of their choice. Contact Beazie Larned([beazie@aol.com](mailto:beazie@aol.com)).

## **Altar Guild - Church**

Guild members, typically a team of 2, set up the altar before the 10am service and put it away after the service. Participate on a monthly basis. There are step-by-step instructions along with photos so that the process is easy. Contact Claudia Bilotti ([claudia.bilotti@pb.com](mailto:claudia.bilotti@pb.com)).

## **Book Group**

The St. Francis Book Club meets about six times per year and every Sunday during Lent following the 10:00 am Sunday service. The books cover a variety of genres, and the discussions are lively and informative. A reading list is provided in the monthly parish newsletter. We discuss a book for a given month, and delve into a specific text during the Sundays in Lent. Please join us when you are able. Contact Rev. Mark Lingle ([marklingle.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:marklingle.pastor@gmail.com)).

## **Buildings and Grounds**

“We do Buildings and Grounds”.

Our activities encompass all activities necessary to maintain our buildings and grounds at both Church locations. Typical jobs include handyman repairs, design of building replacement elements, contractor selection and coordination, budgeting, cost control, monitoring the Public water system on-site, and seasonal activities such as snow removal, HVAC system turnarounds, and irrigation systems. We also provide support to the Landscaping group. We could always use a few extra hands! Contact Tad Kinne (tadkinne@optonline.net).

## **Care for Creation Working Group**

The Care for Creation group seeks to establish a core group of parishioners committed to learning about issues pertaining to sustainability and the theological underpinnings within various religious traditions, to offering educational opportunities to the parish about these issues as well as concrete conservation/ sustainability measures that can be undertaken by individuals and families, and, in consultation with the Vestry and appropriate parish committees, exploring potential opportunities to promote sustainability and conservation in parish operations. Contact Rev. Mark Lingle (marklingle.pastor@gmail.com).

## **Christian Education**

Our volunteers teach 3-4 Sundays per year, from September to May, leading the K-6 Sunday School classroom from 10:00 - 10:40 a.m. The curriculum *One Room Sunday School* is used. The lesson and craft activities are pre-packaged; no advance preparation is necessary. Professional teaching experience is not required! Contact Rev. Mark Lingle (marklingle.pastor@gmail.com).

## **Choir**

The adult choir rehearses once each month, and leads the music at the 10am service each Sunday during the academic year. Our choir sings a diverse repertoire of music including traditional sacred, contemporary and gospel music along with our hymns and psalms to accompany the service. The choir also performs a holiday concert prior to the 10 PM Christmas Eve service and offers special music with accompaniment at this and the Easter services. Any parishioner who can carry a tune and commit the time is very welcome. Contact Richard Weidlich (rweidlich@optimum.net)

## **Coffee Hour**

Coffee hour is a welcoming tradition at St. Francis. It is held every Sunday after the 10 a.m. service at the church and on the first Sunday of the month following the 8 a.m. service at the Historic Church. Hosted by volunteers who rotate the responsibility, it is a time to meet newcomers and to catch up with fellow parishioners while sharing snacks. To host a coffee hour contact Linda Quinton (lquintonq@aol.com)

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

At St. Francis, the annual Easter Egg Hunt takes place the Saturday morning before Easter for the children of the parish and their friends. Activities include an egg and candy hunt, egg dying and craft making. Join the fun in the weeks prior by organizing candy, craft and cupcake donations. Participate the morning of by helping the children with egg painting, craft-making and various activities, as well as welcoming neighbors. Come join us! Contact Melanie Carroll (melaniecarroll43@icloud.com).

## **Finance**

The Finance Committee is chaired by the Treasurer, meets several times a year and focuses on the financial health of the church. Activities include: monthly financial review, investment strategies, operating budget, capital spending and approval of outside use of facilities. Contact Sue Rutz tsurutz@optonline.net )

## **The Flower Guild (Church)**

We glorify God and beautify our worship space weekly with a floral design on a pedestal next to the Altar (Easter and Christmas require all hands & clippers on deck!!). The special requests of those dedicating the flowers are honored. No special skills are required, just the joy of arranging fresh, often seasonal, plant material in whatever style the arranger chooses. If you are new to flower arranging you can work with an experienced

arranger. The time commitment is about once every 4 – 6 weeks. Come and join us!! Contact Valerie Mead (vemead@aol.com).

## **Greeters**

Greeters make a first and lasting impression on newcomers or anyone who appreciates a warm hello at St. Francis. The most important function is standing out as a point-of-contact by offering a greeting before the Service, being a friendly face to chat with during coffee hour, and answering any questions. Sound like fun? Contact Jane Lazgin jane.Lazgin@waters.nestle.com).

## **Home Pray-ers**

For many, having others praying for them as they face illness or in times of special need is a source of healing and comfort. The Home Pray-ers are a group of parishioners who pray individually and in strictest confidence for anyone (parishioners, their families and friends, or others) who requests or explicitly consents to having us engage in intercessory prayer on their behalf. We meet together from time to time for encouragement and sharing of updates. To become part of the Home Pray-ers or to request prayers, please contact Betsy Adams (esadams0527@gmail.com).

## **Landscapers**

Landscapers meet for two hours one morning a month and work on different projects - all focused on beautifying the grounds. Weeding, mulching, watering, planting and pruning, we have fun! We welcome who is a gardener or wants to learn more

about becoming one. Contact Beazie Larned (beazie@aol.com).

### **Lay Chalice Bearers**

Chalice bearers are responsible for several important activities during each service. They lead the procession into the church, read the Prayers of the People, receive the offerings from the usher for blessing, assist with the distribution of holy communion and extinguish the candles at the end of the service. Training is provided. Contact Cindy Schroer (stfrancisstamford@gmail.com).

### **Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry**

Part social, part spiritual, the LEV ministry is a wonderful way to connect with parishioners who are unable to join us for worship. Each week, two LEV's bring bread and wine, blessed during services, to our shut-ins. While there, LEV's hold a short service that includes communion. News of the parish, greetings from others, any special intention requests are shared. The parishioners we visit are always happy to see us and never fail to express their profound gratitude. Contact Rev. Debra Slade (debra.slade@gmail.com).

### **Lectors**

The proclamation of the Biblical text is a centerpiece to every worship service and provides the context for weekly sermons. Lectors provide leadership in this ministry by reading the appointed first (Old Testament) and second (New Testament letters) lessons. During the summer,

the lector also leads the congregation in the reading of the appointed Psalm. Contact Rev. Mark Lingle (marklingle.pastor@gmail.com).

## **Marketing**

The Marketing Committee works to fulfill 4 goals at St. Francis Church--increase membership, increase participation, increase stewardship, and to improve communication / coordination. Our goal is to effectively promote all of the events, activities and opportunities for participation and engagement in the St. Francis Church community.

We sponsor events like "Rally Sunday!", Newcomers' Cocktail Parties, Coffee Hour, and coordinate the marketing for the annual "Miles for a Mission Road Race", the "Sounds Good" music series, and all new events to engage current parishioners and newcomers. We have a need for anyone who is socially engaged and active, able and interested in promoting our community through social media, websites and print sources, creative, and involved in the local community. Contact Eilish Main (eilishmain@msn.com).

## **Miles for a Mission**

Miles for a Mission is a 5K walk/run that raises money to support our Outreach Committee, which provides grants to deserving charities in Stamford. Volunteers are needed for planning, marketing and obtaining corporate sponsors and on race day (Sept. 25, 2016). The race is a wonderful community event for a great cause. Contact Nancy Geary (nwgeary@aol.com).

## **Music**

The Music Committee supports the musical expression during worship from week to week including special services during Christmas, Lent and Easter. It oversees the St. Francis *Sounds Good* program providing three varied musical concerts (fall, winter, spring) each year. Contact Philip Calabrese (keynut@aol.com) or Margaret Canada (mcanada@optonline.net).

## **Outreach**

Outreach is a core activity within the ministry at St. Francis parish, and is supported in many ways by our parishioners. Several times during the year, we organize hands-on activities, such as serving meals at shelters and group homes. Anyone can participate in these activities, and sign-up instructions are publicized a few weeks before each event. In addition, the Outreach Committee administers a grant program, where local nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for grants each fall. The committee reviews the applications and makes decisions about what grants will be awarded. The committee also makes recommendations from time to time for second collections to be taken in response to major disasters around the world, and then researches and decides where those funds will be sent. Contact Cathy Ostuw (cathy.ostuw@gmail.com).

## **Prayer Shawl**

The St. Francis Prayer Shawl Ministry meets once a month to combine a love of knitting and crocheting into a prayerful ministry that creates shawls as gifts to those who are struggling with health or other issues. We welcome you to come join us even if you are not experienced. We have many skilled crafters who are willing to teach basics or help you improve to a new level! Contact Deacon Edrice Viechweg (evv12@hotmail.com).

## **Prison Ministry**

Once a month, Debra Slade and one or two prison ministers offer a Holy Communion Service in the hospital of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Bedford Hills, NY. Bedford Hills Is the only maximum security prison for women in NY state and many of the women have long, even life sentences for serious offenses. The ministers spend about 3 hours there on a Saturday morning and the women are always happy to see us and have a chance to socialize. There is an initial clearance process to get approved for entry into the prison. Contact Debra Slade (debra.slade@gmail.com).

## **Scrip Gift Card Program**

An easy way to get involved and help the parish is to purchase gift cards through our Scrip Gift Card Program. We buy gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount, and re-sell the certificates for full face value. Orders are placed about once a month. The discount, anywhere from 2% to 18%,

is revenue to St. Francis Parish. Scrip gift card purchasers produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway--groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, and gas. Popular participating retailers include A&P, Fairway, Lord & Taylor, Macy's, ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Walmart and Whole Foods. Check out the complete list of participating retailers at [www.tinyurl.com/StFScripList4](http://www.tinyurl.com/StFScripList4) Contact Cathy Ostuw ([cathy.ostuw@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.ostuw@gmail.com)).

### **Stewardship**

The Stewardship committee is responsible for raising the funds required to operate the parish through our annual pledge drive. The bulk of the committee's activities occur from October through January, consisting of coordinating the annual appeal mailing, handling questions and information requests, and following up with announcements and gentle reminders about the importance of Stewardship at St. Francis. Contact Patricia Lydon ([patricia.ann.lydon@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.ann.lydon@gmail.com)) or Cathy Ostuw ([cathy.ostuw@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.ostuw@gmail.com)).

### **St. Francis Shows Up for Racial Justice**

Appalled by recent events, especially the mass shooting of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, the Episcopal Church has committed itself to standing with people of color to end racism. STF SURG seeks to further our longstanding commitment to inclusion by pursuing opportunities to become aware of our own biases (we all have them), to understand how structural racism is practiced consciously and unconsciously,

and to stand with our sisters and brothers of color to end racism. Contact Nancy Bisset (bisset46@aol.com).

## **Ushers**

The role of usher at St. Francis is an important one, yet not difficult. Along with handing out bulletins to parishioners as they enter the sanctuary space, ushers provide one of the first--if not *the* first--greetings that people receive. A "Hello," or, "Good Morning," can go a long way to making people feel welcome, which is a key part of life at St. Francis. Ushers also collect the offering during the service, bring the Eucharistic and the offering to the altar, usher parishioners for communion, and count the number of individuals present for Sunday worship. Ushering is a great way to help out and to participate in the life of St. Francis! Contact Rev. Mark Lingle (marklingle.pastor@gmail.com).

## **Vestry**

The Vestry is the leadership board of the parish. We seek to have a representative distribution of the parish serving on the vestry at any given time. Meetings are held monthly throughout the year, reports of the various committees are received, ad hoc projects are discussed and implemented or tabled, and the budget is set for each year. The vestry is a group of wonderful and committed individuals. Along with discussing the ministry of the parish, we begin each meeting with a brief and reflective

compline prayer service.  
Contact Rev. Mark Lingle  
(marklingle.pastor@gmail.com).

### **Webmaster**

The Webmaster is a member of the Marketing Committee who keeps the St. Francis Website current & accurate with weekly updates to Upcoming Events, posting pdf files of Church Newsletters and Sermons, and providing text and image updates/corrections, as required. If you have website experience, please contact Eilish Main (eilishmain@msn.com).