GRACE + SAINT STEPHEN'S

Parish Life & Ministry Booklet



Introduction



Grace & Saint Stephen's is a church in the Colorado Springs community and the Episcopal tradition, united by our common prayer, gracious welcome, and a faithful response to the love of Jesus Christ. We value beauty, wisdom, and witness in all that we do.

We are glad you are here.





This booklet is intended to demonstrate the fullness of the ministries of our church. Involvement in the parish is the best way to grow in faith and community, and we encourage everyone to be involved in one ministry in the areas of Beauty, Wisdom, and Witness.

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Dr. Robert Black, *Rector*

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Wisdom

Spiritual Growth & Formation (Adults)

Sunday & Wednesday Formation

On Sundays, between services, and on Wednesday nights, after the parish meal, there are opportunities for adult education to help our parishioners grow in their faith and understanding.



Morning Prayer

Each Tuesday and Thursday, members of Grace & Saint Stephen's livestream a service of Morning Prayer on Facebook.

Education for Ministry

Although the word Ministry is capitalized, the program is to help the members go out into the world and minister in small ways. It is a unique, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King pledge themselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. A Daughter receives support in this commitment from a worldwide community of like-minded women.

Wisdom

Spiritual Growth & Formation (Children & Youth)

Nursery

Our nursery provides care for our youngest children who are not yet ready for Sunday school

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is a special service during the regular Sunday service dedicated to youth and children, it occurs about once a month in the Children's Chapel on the lower level.



Sunday School

Our Sunday school provides age-appropriate Christian education to our elementary aged children during the first half of our 10:30 service, after which they rejoin the church for Holy Communion.

Youth Group

Our youth group is for our middle and high school aged parishioners and meets for service and age-based Christian formation. Youth group meets after our 10:30 service.

Acolytes

Acolytes are youth in the church (6th grade and up) who assist in leading processions and help throughout the service in various roles. A great way to be involved in the worship of the church!

Beauty

Ministry in Worship

Taylor Choir

The Taylor Choir is open to adults and youth, with previous choral experience desirable. The choir sings each Sunday for the 10:30 am Eucharist, and offers services of Choral Evensong and occasional concerts.

St. Nicholas Choir

The St. Nicholas Choir is open to all students in 2nd to 8th grade, without audition. St. Nicholas choristers participate in music theory training, derived from the curriculum of the Royal School of Church Music

Video & Sound Crew

Our video and sound crew are responsible for the setup of our livestream, which allows us to reach our community members who are not able to be with us physically.

Intercessors & Readers

Our intercessors lead the Prayers of the People from the Book of Common Prayer, and our readers assist in worship by reading the Old Testament & Epistle lessons.

Archives Ministry

The archives ministry maintains the historical records for Grace & Saint Stephen's and provides a snapshot of life throughout the history of our parish.



Beauty

Ministry in Worship

Sacristans & Chalice Bearers

Our sacristans and chalice bearers help in the setup and distribution of Holy Communion. The sacristans assist the priest in ensuring that Holy Communion occurs as smoothly as possible, and the chalice bearers help in the distribution of Holy Communion by administering the chalice.

Ushers

Ushers help in worship by greeting people as they come in, distributing service bulletins, and carrying the offerings up to the altar.

Vergers

Our vergers hold a ministry of service, organization, and welcome by assisting the clergy and congregation in the ceremonial aspects of worship, most visibly by leading processions.

Altar Guild

The altar guild sets up and cares for the many sacred objects used during worship at the altar and ensures that all the necessary supplies are available for services

Building & Grounds Committee

This group works with the sexton and junior warden to take care of the building and grounds of the church.



Witness

Community Outreach & Service

Outreach Committee

The outreach committee coordinates our ministries that focus on outreach into the community outside our building, including our little pantries outside the church offices.

Beloved

Beloved is a fellowship group primarily for the LGBTQ+ community, but is warmly open to allies and anyone who may feel like they "don't fit in" at church. We meet regularly for fellowship, and coordinate our presence at Pride each year.

Newcomers Ministry

Our newcomers ministry helps welcome new members into the life of the church, making sure they have opportunities to connect more deeply into the life of the community.

Grace Gardens & Graceful Sowers

Our Grace Gardeners and Graceful Sowers are responsible for much of the beautiful vegetation around our property: these groups grow vegetables for local organizations and flowers to keep our property beautiful.



Docent Ministry

The docents are trained to provide tours of our beautiful and historic building both to inside and outside groups.

Witness

Service to Grace & Saint Stephen's & Our Parishioners

Hospitality

Our hospitality ministry is responsible for our wonderful coffee hour each week and allows us to enjoy each other's company after worshipping together.

Meal Train Ministry

Our meal train ministry provides meals for people in our community who need a little extra support.

Security Team

Our security team helps the leadership in making Grace & Saint Stephen's a church that is a welcoming and safe place of worship for all people.

Welcome Committee

A warm welcome is one of the first things that we hope everyone will find at GSS. The ministry of greeting and welcoming people to church on Sunday mornings is a vital ministry in making this a place for all people.



Witness

Service to Grace & Saint Stephen's & Our Parishioners

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our prayer shawl ministry makes shawls for anyone who might need some extra peace, strength, warmth, and healing in body, mind, and spirit.

Community of Hope International

Community of Hope International equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care. Members will often visit fellow parishioners at home and in the hospital to comfort and be present with them.

Taylor Concert Ushers

Our Taylor Concerts are a series of free classical music concerts during the year, and our Taylor concert ushers help welcome people at the concerts.



Witness

Social & Fellowship

Jazz in the Garden

Jazz in the Garden is our free summer concert series featuring local jazz musicians on the lawn at Grace and Saint Stephen's. The concerts bring hundreds of people together for an evening of fellowship and great music. Volunteers help set up, take down, and manage booths during the concert.

Men's Book Group

Our men's book group meets on Wednesdays to discuss topics in theology and the church, previous discussion topics have included AI and the Apostolic Fathers. A men's Bible study also meets on Saturday morning on the first, third, and fifth Saturday of the month.

Women's Book Group

The women's book group meets on Tuesday mornings at 10 am in the Blaik Library to discuss books related to spiritual and cultural topics.

Young Adults

Our young adult group is aimed at parishioners in their twenties and thirties to have room for fellowship and connection. We might be up to all kinds of things including hikes, game nights, & service projects.





Sunday Worship: 8am & 10:30am*
Wednesday Worship: 5pm

***Livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube,**
Nursery Available

GRACE ✠ SAINT STEPHEN'S
Episcopal Church

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