



*"I was naked and you clothed Me;
I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me."
Matthew 25: 35-36*

**ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

*Ministry of Care
The Ministry of Presence*

Care Share Ministry – Joan Rowe

Our Care Share team provides short term support in crisis situations. We have volunteers who provide a meal, transportation, child care and/or other specific needs as appropriate. When ministerial staff, Elders, Care Connectors or office staff identify needs for support, our volunteers are asked to respond.

Connect with Care – Inge Murray

Care Connectors (formerly known as District Visitors) are faithful members of St. Andrew's who nurture communication and connection within our faith community. This important ministry involves the Care Connector contacting their designated families at least four times a year through personal visits, phone calls or emails. This sharing and connection helps to ensure that no one feels anonymous, and that those who are associated with St. Andrew's and its worshipping community feel known and appreciated.

Hospital Visitation Ministry – Judie Coleman

When someone is sick, a visit from a caring listener can make all the difference. When faced with treatment options, family responsibilities, and day-to-day struggles – a few minutes of encouragement and prayer is often just what the doctor ordered.

Our visitors are specially trained for this service and calling. A new training will be offered by Rev. Geoffrey Simmins in 2024.

Life after Loss – Barb Kearnes

Our bereavement ministry team contacts the people of St. Andrew's known to have been recently bereaved and gives support through telephone calls, visits and cards. The Life after Loss team hosts our Celebration of Life service at the end of November for anyone who has experienced a loss of any kind and finds the Christmas season difficult. Candle lighting in memory of a loved one is offered on the 5th Sunday of the month after both services. GriefShare is offered throughout the year.

Prayer Ministry – Lorie Nielsen

One of the cornerstones of St. Andrew's church is prayer, so it follows that our prayer chain is an important ministry. This consists of individuals who pray for people and their needs, which can be diverse and wide-ranging. All prayers requests are treated with confidentiality.

If you let us know, we would like to pray for you when you or others in our church are ill or going into the hospital, are grieving or fearful, are homebound, or with other needs where God could comfort and support.

If you have a prayer request to pass on to the prayer chain please email Lorie at prayer@standrewscalgary.ca, contact the church office or one of our ministers.

Side by Side- Audrey Cole (in-person) & Alice Post (online)

Side by Side is a pastoral care and community outreach ministry. This is a day program that provides warmly encouraging fellowship for people living with dementia, and respite time for their care partners. The program takes place once a week in an informal and relaxed atmosphere where enthusiastic and caring volunteers walk alongside participants as friends and neighbours. A one hour version of this ministry is offered online on Thursdays.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Annette Shaw

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has grown out of the desire to combine the healing power of prayer with the healing ministry of human touch. Imagine that you are lonely, grieving or ill, or perhaps leaving home for the first time, or celebrating the birth of a child and what a blessing it would be to receive a soft, warm and comforting shawl that was created with the love and prayers of your church family. Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance. Women from our congregation have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knit and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer, for those in need.

How is a prayer shawl made? The shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient of the shawl being made and the recipients of all the shawls. The prayers are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. The experience has been described by many as a very moving and powerful experience with both the giver and receiver feeling encircled by the love of a sheltering, mothering God!

Stephen Ministry – Judie Coleman

Stephen Ministry is a supportive, caring ministry. Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends who can offer a listening ear to help others through the tough times in life. Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised in their ministry. While this ministry is currently on hiatus, we continue to mail out *Journeying through Grief* booklets to those who have experienced a loss of a loved one.

Presence

- Not necessary to have any answers
- Not necessary to “say the right thing”
- Not necessary to say anything at all
- Just be there
- Your presence is a ministry – a gift of yourself to another

Two's Company ... – Judy McVittie

... a ministry to our homebound. St. Andrew's conducts an active ministry for the homebound of the congregation. This ministry is made up of volunteers who visit or call persons in care facilities or in their homes at least four times a year to comfort, listen or give support in whatever form it takes.

If requested, Holy Communion can be served to them in their homes.

Wellness Ministry – Alice Williams

This ministry is devoted to growing life together through wellness. Its members include registered nurses, or those with appropriate health-care training and experience, who, on a volunteer basis, promote health and wholeness for members of the congregation through health education and promotion activities, spiritual support and encouragement. This ministry reflects the faith and compassion of Christ's followers and calls on the resources of church and community to carry out this ministry of healing body, mind and spirit.

They also maintain the various First Aid Kits around the building. In case of an emergency there is an AED defibrillator situated on the wall adjacent to the downstairs access in the foyer.

Ministries of Care Volunteers

For further information on **lay pastoral care**, how to be involved or how to let someone know you may be in need of lay pastoral care please contact the appropriate coordinator, the church office at 403-255-0001 or Judie Coleman at pastoralcare@standrewscalgary.ca

If you are interested in learning more...

Brochures on individual Ministries of Care teams are available on the website or can be found on the Pastoral Care rack in the K.E. Lounge at St. Andrew's.

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