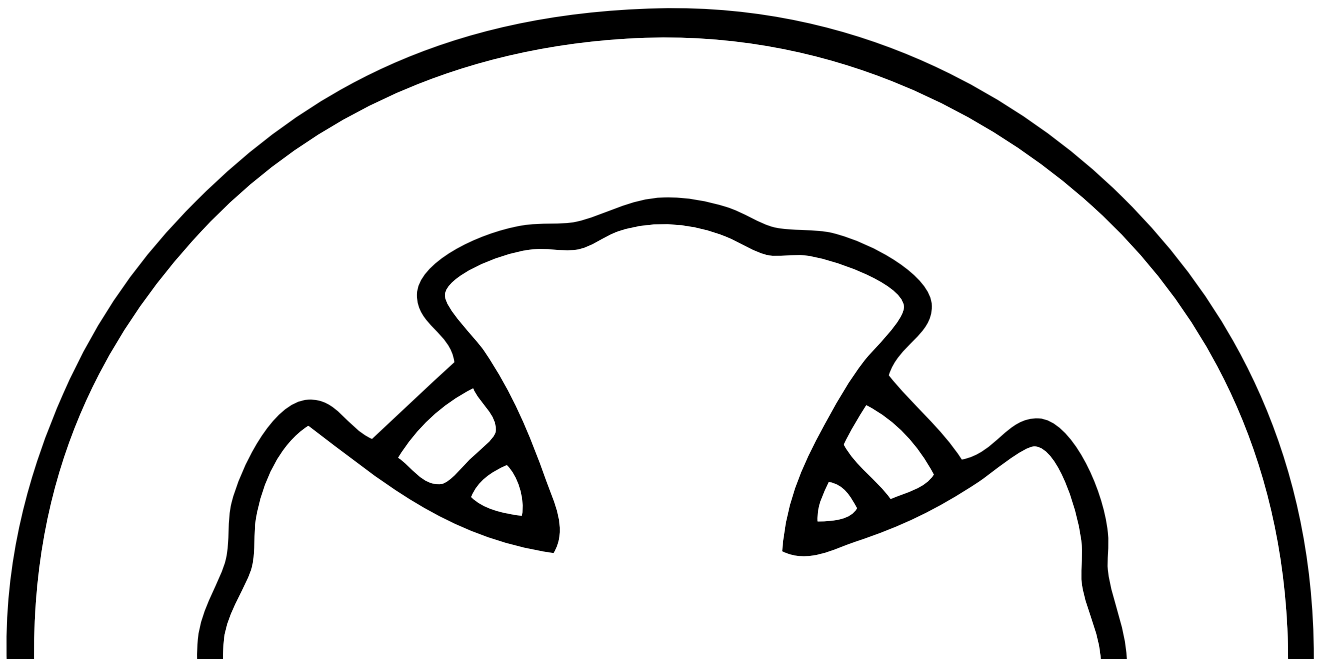
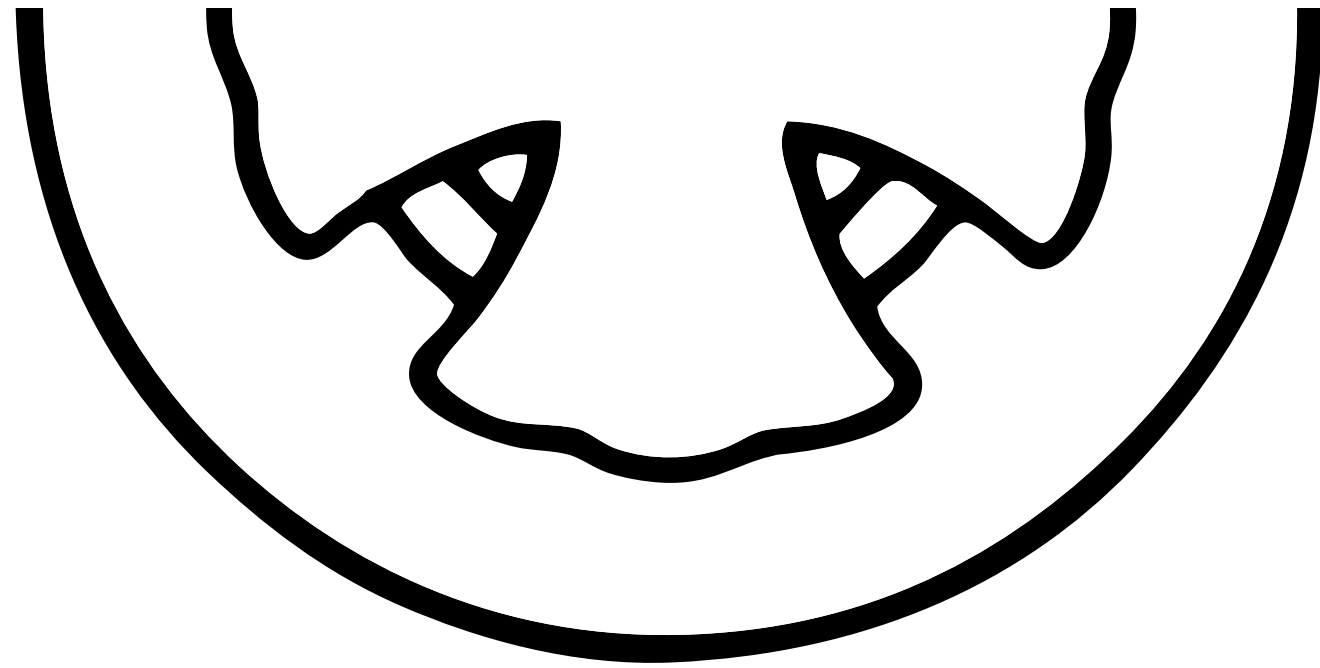


St. Benedict Episcopal Church
The Hands of Christ in the Heart of Lacey

Ministry

Why we are here: 2011-2012





Preface

Introductory notes & background.

Vicar's Introduction

It's an age old question — Why are we here? What's our purpose? For as long as humanity has had the faculty to ask, this question has been pondered.

We as Christians have a particular response to give. We are here to be Christ's Resurrected Body in our community. What does that mean?

It means that we gather each and every Sunday, fling open our doors, listen for God in scripture, respond with the faithful words of our creed, pray for the world, and offer our whole selves to God. God in return gives us so much — God gives us Christ in bread and wine: week by week, Sunday by Sunday.

Then comes the Great Beginning: we are dismissed to be Christ's Hands in the world. That means that when we leave St. Benedict, we are to be Christ for the world — each and every one of us is Christ.

We practice in church what we will do in the world: listen for God, respond with faith, pray for things that are going in our world, offer ourselves as we are able, and recognize that eating together, feeding others changes us completely.

We are here to transform lives. We are here to serve. We are here to show hospitality to the stranger. With everything we do as a church community, we are Christ's hands — both inside the church and, more importantly, in the world.

We are here for mission. In the pages ahead, you will find the ways we minister both in and outside church. This is by no means a comprehensive list of all things happening at St. Benedict. It is however an indication of why we are here. You will find statements of purpose and mission for ministries you may not know about and ministries for which we need more ministers.

I don't know a better way to talk about stewardship and why this place makes a difference than to invite you to look at what your church community is up to in its ministry. My hope is that you will find this listing of mission and ministry to be exciting. I believe it explains why we are here.

Let us give thanks that our lives have meaning and purpose beyond ourselves. Let us be the Hands of Christ by offering ourselves to God, using our time, talent and treasure.

When we do this, what we get back from God is far more than anything we have offered of our time and talent and treasure.

In Faith,

The Rev. George Anne Boyle

Guiding verses of Scripture are cited throughout this booklet at the bottom of selected pages with citations. These verses inform our approach to community, ministry and stewardship at St. Benedict Episcopal Church. Text from the New American Standard Bible is used, with words spoken by Christ in red.

Stewardship Statement

We believe that God is the source of all that we have. We commit to living our faith by pledging our treasure freely, our talents joyfully, and our time willingly. We strive to hold God's standard of generosity to us as our standard for giving.

Core Values

Sacramental

We center our life together on the Eucharist from which all things flow.

Compassionate

We heed the words of God to love one another, caring for all God's people and creation.

Prayerful

We believe in the power of prayer and through it seek God's guidance in all we do.

Inclusive

We honor God by welcoming all.

Outward-Looking

We value our community by responding to needs through the provision of services.

Vision

St. Benedict Episcopal Church is the place in Lacey where a hungry community receives love, compassion, help, and hope. St. Benedict acts as the hands of Christ in the heart of Lacey.

Mission Statement

Called by God to love our neighbors, St. Benedict serves all who hunger and thirst in soul and in body.

We do this

by

feeding all who hunger to experience the living God as present in the Eucharist

by

feeding all who hunger for a deeper understanding of God through opportunities to know God

by

feeding all who hunger for food to sustain the body and

by

including all who hunger to serve others.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

An Invitation to Ministry

We are all called to ministry by virtue of our Baptism and we are all ministers for Christ. It can be difficult to figure out how we can live out that call both in our church and in the world. This booklet is not a complete listing of every ministry but talks about a variety of ministries in five major areas of ministry: Worship, Formation, Inreach, Outreach and Hospitality. You can identify work that you can feel proud of our community for doing, and you may through these brief introductions form some sense of what ministry you are called to.

St. Benedict Episcopal Church is not a business, with a congregation of customers, it is a community and a family that works together to be the Body of Christ and to do God's work. We feel very strongly that all should feel a sense of ownership of our community, and investment in its work. We know from experience that everyone does have a ministry, though they may not know it. There are individuals doing work which is essential to our community whose work we may not think of as ministry, but which is nonetheless.

Part of our work is to help each other develop our ministries. We want everyone to have an opportunity to contribute and to change us. This process of development happens in three stages and may happen many times in the course of your presence in this community, as your priorities and sense of calling change. These stages are: Identify, Educate, and Support.

Identify

You may know exactly what ministry you want to be part of, or you may have an idea of the kind of work you would like to do, but not a specific ministry. You as an individual and we as a community come together to identify your interests, your talents, your resources and the needs of the community, and from there form an idea of what ministry is right for you.

Some ministries, especially but not only those licensed by the Diocese, may begin with a process of Discernment. In Discernment you have the opportunity to meet with others in our community to talk about your call to ministry and other questions which you are considering in your life. By listening to and sharing with one another, we hope to hear together what it is that God is calling you to. It may be that you are called to write articles for our monthly newsletter, Benedictions, to being a Eucharistic Visitor or a Preacher. It may be that where you find your call to ministry is in supporting the food bank or working with other groups in the broader community.

Educate

There are probably others in our community engaged in similar ministries, or maybe you're joining a group that has existed for a long time or taking over a ministry from someone who is moving on to something else. We will try to make sure you have a realistic idea of what is expected of you and what challenges you might face in your ministry. Will you have enough time for your ministry? Can you regularly attend Choir practice? Are you prepared to manage the work of others? We will make available training resources to you within our community that will serve your ministry and help you to identify educational opportunities elsewhere which may be helpful.

Support

If your ministry needs money or supplies, we will search within our community for the resources you need. If you need another set of hands or someone with specific skills, we can help identify other ministers in our community who may be able to help. We will make sure others know about your ministry. And we will make sure that you are still finding your ministry life-giving and not life-draining. If you need to move to a different ministry, we will support you. We won't ask you to commit for more than two or three years at a time to make sure that you don't get burnt out and that others who are new to the community or moving on from other ministries have opportunities to try new things and to take ownership of the work of our community.

2011 Ministry Listing

Worship

8:00 & 10:30 Sunday Services
8:00 Sunday and Panorama Bulletins
10:30 Sunday Bulletins
Acolytes
Altar Guild
Choir & Music
Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Visitors
Greeters
Lectors & Intercessors
Panorama Services
Prayer Chain
Ushers
Worship Committee

Inreach

Office Work
Calendar Coordination
Bishop's Committee
Communications and Publicity
Benedictions
Weekly Announcements
Vicar's Weekly Word
Recording Clerk & Tellers
Treasurer
Child Care
Technology
Garden and Grounds
Facility Maintenance
Capital Improvements

Hospitality

Reception
Coffee Hour
Social Events
Soup Ministry
Men's Breakfast
Youth Group
Newcomer Ministry
Kitchen
Wood Workers
Knitting
Saint Suppers

Formation

Children's Sunday School
Sunday Morning Adult Formation
Wednesday Morning Group
First Wednesdays
Stewardship Coordination
Alkins Scholarship
Baptism & Confirmation Classes
Special Programs

Outreach

Community Dinner
Food Bank
Hospitality at Community Events
Emergency Shelter at Sacred Heart
Jail Ministry
Camp Michael
Busy Bees
Pastoral Care Team

Guiding Scripture

*You shall love the Lord
your God with all your
heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength,
and with all your mind; and
your neighbor as yourself.*

Luke 10:27



Several items are visible in the narthex and the sanctuary, placed by people in the community to enhance our worship spaces. The paper cranes were folded in solidarity with the people of Japan after the 2011 tsunami by many individuals and groups. This is what ministry looks like.



Jan Akin sits in the pews with her camera during a Sunday service at St. Benedict. We may not think of ourselves as having a Photography Ministry, but the work Jan does is indispensable. She regularly photographs services and special events both for our own memories and to show the world outside what worship and community look like at St. Benedict. Ministry doesn't always mean being involved in an organized group with a mission statement and a rota. Often it's the work that happens behind the scenes at the hands of a single motivated individual. This is what ministry looks like.

Worship

Restoring our relationship to
Christ through prayer and praise.

Worship Ministry Information

Acolytes

The Acolytes perform several liturgical functions as part of our worship services. They are the ones who assist the Celebrant (Priest) at the altar during the Eucharist. An acolyte leads the procession with a cross and acolytes carry candles when necessary. Though frequently school-aged children, adults can be acolytes, too.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild works to arrange elements within the church for worship services. They prepare the sanctuary and flower, including setting flowers at the altar. The Sacristan heads the Altar Guild and ensures that liturgical elements kept in the Sacristy are treated properly and used appropriately.

Choir & Music

The choir contributes music to our 10:30 services and either performs or arranges for the performance of special pieces as part of the Offertory each week. They practice once a week and take summers off. For those who come to the 10:30 service, music forms a key part of worship, and gives them a way to worship that transcends words. You don't need musical experience to join.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers serve bread and wine to those receiving the Eucharist. They provide blessings to those who ask for them and take the Host to those in the pews who cannot come up to receive it.

Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors leave church immediately after the Holy Eucharist to bring the Eucharist to people who are ill or otherwise physically unable to attend services. They take the Peace with them, too, and form an important connection to the congregation for those who might otherwise feel disconnected from the community. Eucharistic Visitors typically must work in pairs and are licensed by the Diocese.

Lectors & Intercessors

Lectors read the Word of God to the congregation as part of the Liturgy of the Word and Intercessors speak the Prayers of the People on behalf of the whole congregation. If you are comfortable with speaking in front of the assembled congregation or would like to be, this is an important ministry to consider. We all benefit from hearing the Word and our Prayers through diverse voices.

Panorama Service

The congregation does not meet in the building on Bowker Street alone. At nearby Panorama City, a retirement community, congregants who are part of our community meet for regularly scheduled services led by lay and ordained ministers. Taking part in the Panorama service gives more opportunities to engage in leadership roles, and to make new friends who may not often be part of the services in the St. Benedict building.

Ushers

Ushers help seat those who want or need the help and ensure that if someone needs to receive the bread and wine in the pews, the Eucharistic Visitors and Celebrant know. They make sure that those who need any kind of help before, during or after the service get it.

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.

Matthew 18:20



The altar as set by the Altar Guild for services at Easter, including plants. This is what ministry looks like.



The congregation is gathered in the darkened church for the Easter Vigil.

Worship Mission Statements

Acolytes

Purpose is to recruit and train Acolytes to enhance worship services by their presence and exercise of duties.

Altar Guild

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to the glory of God. It is God's house and the Lord's Table that Altar Guild members are asked to prepare and maintain. Through the Altar Guild members' work, the people will know their church is a holy place, a place where God is honored. It is also a ministry to one another. Members of the Altar Guild are called to care for one another as a community. The work done should be satisfying and joyful.

Eucharistic Ministers

To offer hospitality through offering bread, and wine so that all people can be transformed for service in Christ's kingdom.

Lectors & Intercessors

The Sacred ministry of reading scripture and prayers a loud in church helps us to listen and hear Christ's word in the world.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:27-28

From the Thirty-Nine Articles

Article XIX. Of the Church

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful [people], in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance, in all of those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

Not Just the Sunday Services

Worship ministries do not stand alone and are not just for the sake of organized worship services that happen each week on Sunday morning. Worship happens in many forms at St. Benedict and at many times, and when what we do is to the Glory of God, it is Worship, too.

Taking part in Fellowship activities and other ministries within St. Benedict and outside of it can form an important part of your own worship, and ours as a congregation.

There is also the German Ministry that uses our space, and our services at Panorama. Our First Wednesdays program combines Worship, Formation and Fellowship on Wednesday nights once a month. The ministries listed here just begin to scratch the surface of Worship at St. Benedict.

Think of us in this way, as Servants of Christ and Stewards of God's Mysteries.

1 Corinthians 4:1



The choir performs together.



Above: The Advent wreath is lit. Opposite: An Acolyte processes in with the Gospel Book.

Formation

The fulfillment of our baptism and growing into the full stature of Christ.

Formation Mission Statements

Sunday Morning Adult Formation

The purpose is to provide an opportunity for adults to grow in faith and understanding of the Christian life in a welcoming and nurturing atmosphere and to prepare adults who wish to receive the sacrament of Baptism or Reaffirmation.

Sunday School Formation

To coordinate and provide a multi-age Christian education learning environment where the children of St. Benedict, ages 5 thru 12, encounter the meaning and mystery in the Bible.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is all about building relationships — shepherding young people from childhood to adulthood in a faithful context that recognizes young people's gifts for ministry, their questions about spirituality, and their desire to make a difference in the world. The only way church can authentically respond to the spiritual needs of preteens and teens is to walk with them on the journey in trusting relationships.

Formation is for Everyone

Formation at St. Benedict isn't just for new and young believers. Our Sunday Morning Adult Formation at 9:15 (between the services) provides introductions to new things that are going on at St. Benedict and throughout the Diocese and the Episcopal Church, as well as a lively forum in which to learn from one another or to mine insight from historical lessons.

Our new First Wednesdays program features open discussions in which adults can learn from one another and consider deep and challenging questions. First Wednesdays also provide an opportunity to say Evening Prayer together and to share a communal meal.

Our community is a curious and knowledgeable one, and we love to spend time together learning and sharing stories and information. We've organized Bible Studies at a local pub, discussed matters of deep theology at Coffee Hour and shared with one another as part of dialogue sermons at the Wednesday morning Eucharist. We have book and movie groups. We are blessed to have many people who have studied religion formally and just as many coming from a variety of backgrounds with personal experience that could, and in some cases does, fill books.

We do, of course, also offer Baptism and Confirmation classes on an as-needed basis, and always enjoy helping people prepare to receive those Sacraments. We also have the Alkins Scholarship, which provides grants for individuals and groups at St. Benedict for purposes of education and spiritual growth, so that we may all benefit from formation opportunities occurring outside of the St. Benedict community.

“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” ...And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Matthew 18:20



Above: A First Wednesdays discussion group listens to a guest speaker.



Left: Rosemary Walrod addresses the congregation.

Center: Acolytes discuss the finer points of their liturgical role.

Right: Donovan Weston-Smart leads Evening Prayer as part of a First Wednesdays night.



Above: Youth at Camp Michael.

Outreach

Being Christ in the world
and to the least among us.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:13

Outreach Mission Statements

Community Dinner

Purpose is to provide a nourishing meal monthly in a loving, inclusive environment to all who come.

Jail Ministry

The purpose of Jail Ministry is to take Christ into the people who are in the Department of Corrections custody.

Pastoral Care

To be the presence of Christ to members of our mission who are in need of quality loving care. We are a listening, caring presence.

From the Thirty-Nine Articles

Article XII. Of Good Works

Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment, yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.

Reaching Out

Outreach provides us with opportunities to serve the community and to evangelize by showing that we live the very Gospel we preach. We join with other churches in our area to provide food and shelter to those living in need of them. We show up to community events honoring military families in our community. We help those in crisis pay medical bills and rent. We collect food for the food bank. We make ourselves seen at Olympia Pride to offer an inclusive message of welcome to those who might find little welcome elsewhere. Many at St. Benedict take it upon themselves to get involved in the community in other ways, and we support their mission of outreach whenever we can.



Foot-washing on Maundy Thursday recalls Christ's message of service to one another.

Inreach

Stewardship of the gifts and
resources given to us by God.

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you are also built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Romans 12:13

Inreach Mission Statements

Bishop's Committee

To guide, govern and steer the leadership of our church community.

Building & Grounds

To provide a contact person for building systems issues and to maintain history and data of various building systems such as water, heat, electricity, etc.

Calendar Coordinator

The purpose of the Calendar Coordinator is to provide accurate scheduling for all church events, activities, meetings, and outside group requests for use of the building.

Office Administrator

To supply administrative/office support to the Vicar.

Personnel Commission

To provide support for the Vicar in his/her role as supervisor of the individuals employed by or assigned to serve St. Benedict Episcopal Church.

Tellers

To practice good stewardship of our community's treasure by ensuring two tellers count our collection each and every Sunday, filling out the appropriate paperwork, and checking calculations three times.

About the Building

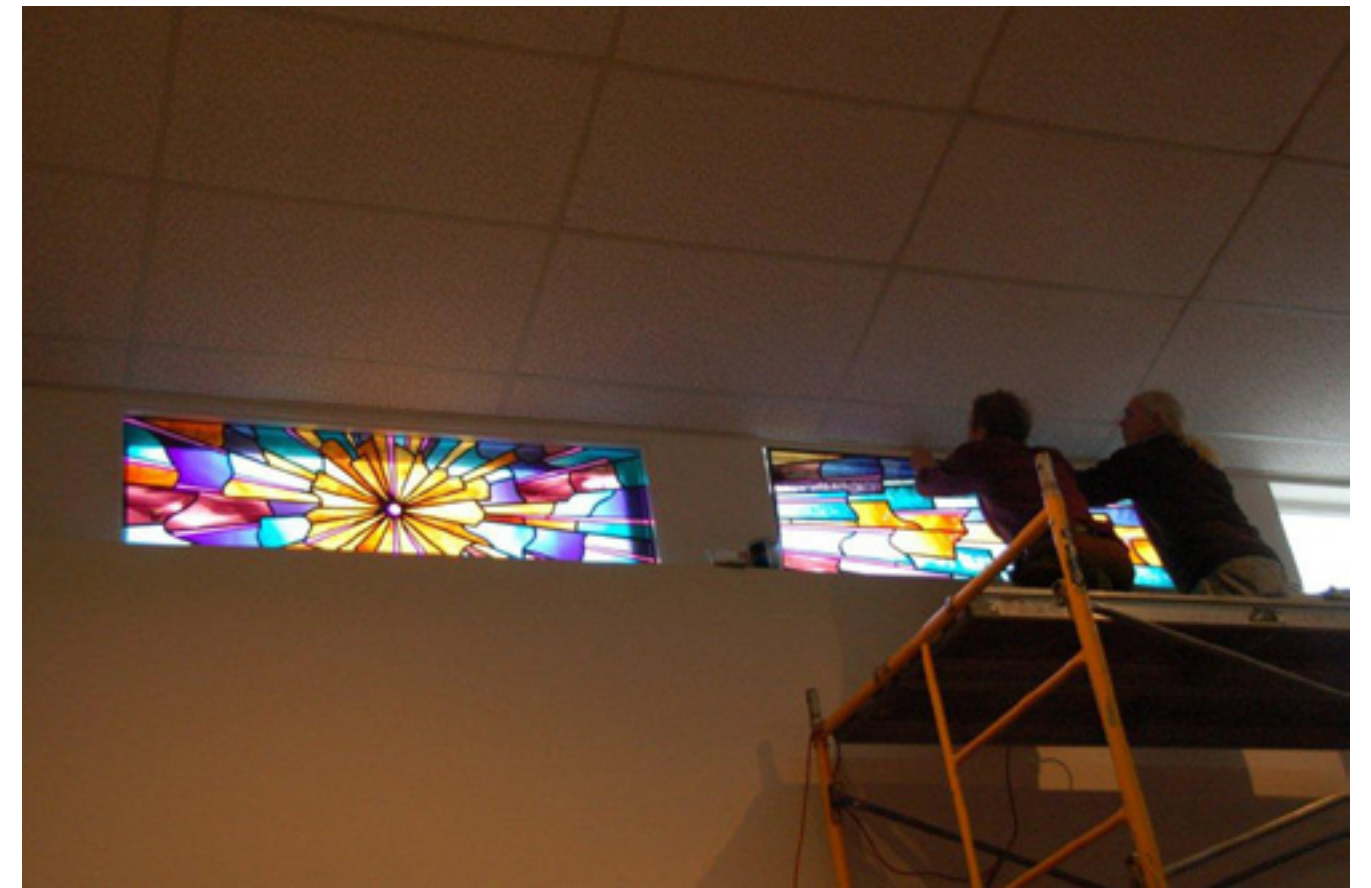
We have not had a building for the entire time that we have been a community, a Mission of the Diocese of Olympia. It is not necessary to have a building to have a Church. But we have been blessed with one and have paid off its mortgage early. The building does require upkeep, and we have been blessed with people with the skills, resources and time to keep it up.

As we cannot possibly make use of the building at all times and there are other communities in need of one, we open our doors to those with appropriate (secular or religious) missions who would be well-served by use of a building like ours. The German Ministry and Holy Wisdom Inclusive Catholic Church host services at our building at 910 Bowker Street. We host Al-Anon meetings and T.O.P.S. meetings. We share use of our space with our neighbors at Sacred Heart for various purposes within the broader community.

Owning our building does give us opportunities to shape the space to fit our needs and to reflect the values and history of our community. We have a Columbarium in which the ashes of the departed rest. We are in the process of installing a series of small stained glass windows paid for through memorial donations. We hang icons to create sacred spaces for prayer, contemplation and healing. We host frequent and wonderful meals in our kitchen. We have a library and dedicated teaching spaces. We have an office and a copying room. There are many more things that we could be doing with our space, and there are things that we are already doing which may not be widely-known, which may benefit from more people working to support them.



Above: The Columbarium. Below: Three crosses on the building facing Bowker Street.



Installation of our second stained glass window.



The fellowship hall.

Hospitality

Seeing Christ
in every guest.

Hospitality Mission Statements

Greeters

The purpose of the Greeter Coordinator's position is to provide a welcome at the door to all who enter St. Benedict on Sunday morning for the 10:30 a.m. service and to ensure that people who are visiting or new have an opportunity to sign the guest book and are invited to coffee hour.

Men's Breakfast

The purpose of men's breakfast is to have fellowship and share stories and have guest speakers.

Newcomer Ministry

The purpose of the Newcomer Ministry is to provide an open, welcoming and nurturing church family for all.

Reception

To provide the St. Benedict congregation with food and a decorated space at church events such as funerals, seasonal liturgical gatherings or other major events.

Usher Ministry

The purpose of the Usher Ministry is to facilitate the movement of the congregation before, during and after any services requiring ushers.

Beyond Hospitality

Hospitality is not limited to the ministries above, it is at the heart of our living out of the Gospel and of our coming together as a Church. We are hospitable and welcoming to one another, as Christ taught us to be. Hospitality is also outreach, in caring for those in our community who will never enter our doors. It is also making people feel truly welcome, both through holding true to our radical and inclusive message of welcoming, and by celebrating the diversity that they bring. We are blessed at St. Benedict to be in a community which is very diverse, and through which many individuals pass, from members of the military and their families to migrant workers.

Hospitality is about not just getting people in the door and making them feel like they fit in, but also the ministry of helping people to navigate a church that they may be unfamiliar with. "Who do I talk to about Baptism?" "What does the priest mean when they say, 'all are welcome at Christ's table?'" "How do I pledge?" These questions and more we answer for each other and for newcomers as part of hospitality, of helping people find their way in a new environment, as well as helping people find ministries that suit their gifts within St. Benedict and outside of it. "Can I join the Bishop's Committee?" "What does it take to become a priest?" "What are the Thirty-Nine Articles?" "What is the Daily Office?" Individually and collectively we have a lot of knowledge to share with newcomers and with each other as we progress through our personal and shared journeys of faith.

None of the ministry sections in here really stand alone, they all inform each other, but it truly is the hospitality of the community that makes all of the others possible. Whenever you help others find their way inside or outside of our community, in Worship or as an Inreach or Outreach program, that's Hospitality, too. You are what ministry looks like.

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25:35-36



St. Benedict Episcopal Church
910 Bowker Street
Lacey, Washington 98503

Tel.: 360.456.2240
Web: <http://stbenedictslacey.org/>