

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

DIRECTORY OF MINISTRIES

INTRODUCTION

This summary of Ministries at ECR was updated September 2008. Descriptions were provided by the ministry leaders or the communications coordinator and approved by the Rector. We hope this summary of ministries will inspire all who read them to become involved in sharing time, and talent in service to God.

Ministries are listed by major categories of ministry, then alphabetical order. Please contact the Church Office at (512) 459-0027 or by E-mail, ecraustin@sbcglobal.net if interested in serving God through any of these ministries. We will direct you to the person who can provide much more information about them.



WORSHIP

Acolytes



Acolytes assist the Rector in service at the altar during worship services at ECR. This is a ministry for children from 3rd through 12th grade and requires special training. The ECR acolyte ministry has three levels; Beginner, Intermediate, and Senior. The duties of Beginner acolyte are lighting of candles at the altar, handling torches for the service, handling communion plates and extinguishing the candles after the service.

Intermediate is the same as a Beginner plus carrying the choir cross, carrying flag or banner if needed, and helping the priest with communion. Senior Acolyte is the same as Intermediate plus carrying the main cross and ringing of sanctus bells during the service at the appointed time. Acolyte recognition services are held twice a year in order to acknowledge the ministry and the dedication of the acolytes. Rank advancement also occurs during these services. Training and refresher meetings are held throughout the year.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar for each worship service and taking care of the vessels, candles and linens used in each service. Any confirmed member of the parish can be appointed to the Altar Guild by the Rector. Members are assigned to one of four teams, and each team is assigned to one week of the month and responsible for the services held during that week. Two to three times a year, the entire Altar Guild meets for a workshop and a thorough cleaning of the church nave and sanctuary.



Audio/Visual

This ministry operates and maintains all the sound equipment in the Church and for special church events held elsewhere. This includes the microphones for the rector and speakers at regular services, and other audio/visual equipment used for church functions.

Carillon

This ministry operates and maintains the ECR Carillon which plays inspirational bell chimed music at periodic intervals from the Carillon tower as an invitation to all who hear it to come worship with us at ECR.

Chalichists

This ministry involves the administration of communion by lay persons as part of the Holy Eucharist. Words of administration are said when administering the chalice to communicants. The exercise of this ministry requires training and a license from the bishop which may be granted for up to three years. The proper vestment is a cassock with surplice. As a part of this service a person may carry the Gospel Book in procession, for the actual reading, and the recessional. There may be other occasions in which this person may perform acolyte duties and further participate in other types of services. Chalichists serve at the discretion of the Rector.



Flower Guild



The Flower Guild is a subgroup of the Altar Guild; however, members are not required to be members of the Altar Guild. They are responsible for selecting fresh flowers from a wholesale or retail flower outlet and creating the floral arrangement that sits on the shelf behind the altar during a worship service. After Sunday morning services, the designated Flower Guild member removes and separates the arrangement into smaller arrangements for the

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers to take to members of the parish family unable to attend services or to a nursing facility.

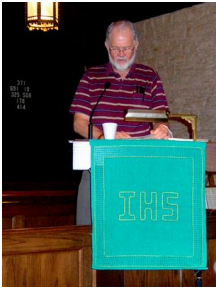
Music/Choir

The adult choir welcomes all who enjoy singing, regardless of prior experience or ability. The primary purpose of the choir is to lead the congregation in musical praise and worship of the Lord during the Sunday Eucharist and to offer anthems during the offertory period of the service. Occasionally, the adult choir will sing in conjunction with the children's choir. The adult choir meets to rehearse once a week on Wednesday evenings and converges at 10:30 AM on Sunday to prepare for the 11 AM service. The choir often sings in four part harmony, soprano, alto,



tenor and bass for which rehearsals provide the opportunity to learn the music being offered.

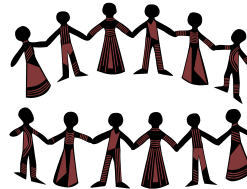
Readers



The main purpose of the Readers' Ministry is to serve through reading at services thereby helping to enrich the worship experience for all. Participants in this ministry add to our corporate worship by reading the scriptures and leading the congregation in the Psalm and the Prayers of the People. Training sessions are held periodically and most readers serve once or twice a month.

Ushers

The role of the Ushers is to welcome worshippers into the church. The Ushers pass out service leaflets, assist persons with special needs, and pass the alms plates through the congregation during the offertory and bring the alms to the altar for presentation.



FELLOWSHIP and RECREATION

Dine Out



This is an informal gathering open to all members of ECR for fellowship and outreach to friends and new members. It is held at different restaurants, usually on the third Saturday of every month. It allows parishioners to become better acquainted, especially those attending different services, and has helped to attract new members. A sign up sheet is placed in the Narthex monthly so reservations can be made.

Foyers Groups

The purpose of Foyers is to enhance fellowship and encourage parish members to become better acquainted in an informal and relaxed atmosphere through a ministry sharing of a meal by groups of 8 to 12 persons. It is open to singles as well as couples and groups are reformed twice a year. These meals range from simple to more complex with the hosts for that month providing the main course and everyone else



bringing side dishes. Hosting duties may be shared and the location may be at homes or anywhere else the group agrees to come together.

Naomi Guild

Naomi Guild originally began as a support group for older women living alone. It was started over ten years ago. As the years passed, the group has evolved into a mix of both men and women, living alone, or married couples. All are seniors but any age is welcome. Naomi Guild meets monthly in the Parish Hall. We have a pot luck lunch, lots of good conversation music, and laughter. We offer camaraderie and comfort to those who join us each month and the luncheon is open to one and all. We also provide lunch to the workers at the Thrift Shop on that day

Parish Weekend



Once a year in October, ECR has a parish retreat weekend at Camp Wellspring near Blanco, TX. This runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and offers an opportunity for parishioners to get away to a peaceful and beautiful place for relaxation, getting to know each other better, and for a unique Sunday morning worship service at the beautiful chapel there. Lodging is dormitory style and food preparation is shared. This is a

highlight event for bringing the parish family together in a very informal and relaxing setting.

St. Lydia's Guild

St. Lydia's Guild has been active for at least 15 years. Our main purpose is to make items for the annual Christmas Bazaar. Money made from items sold at the Bazaar goes to the church. We have a mini-bazaar in the Narthex for the sale of left-over items on the first Sunday in December, and any money made from it is spent on purchases for the church and an annual contribution to North Central Caregivers. We are always in need of more ideas and more crafters to help with this worthwhile project and welcome any craft contributions.

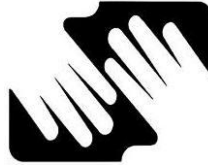


Small Groups

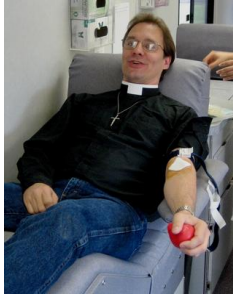
Small Discipleship Groups are a great way for new church members to get to know some other ECR members better, to learn about various ministries and how meaningful they are to members of the group, to pray with others, and to share their interpretations of the Gospel lesson of the week. Small Discipleship Groups consist of 6-8 members and are reformed each Fall. They currently meet in the Parish Hall every other week but have met in member's homes in the past.. The meeting lasts for approximately two hours, with the first hour spent in

fellowship, with each member checking in with the others about how things have gone in their life for the last two weeks. The second hour is spent discussing the Gospel lesson for the previous Sunday and then closing with a group prayer. Members often speak about how God is working in their lives. Refreshments are shared at the meeting.

SERVICE/OUTREACH



Blood Drive



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapter at ECR has maintained a 22-year outreach ministry in which parish members donate blood to save lives in the community. We give as a part of our personal stewardship, in thanksgiving for our many blessings. We also receive credits we can pass on to communicants who are in need of blood. We have donated more than 1,200 units of blood during this time and saved many lives in the process.

Columbarium

This ministry administers the operation of the Columbarium (a structure of vaults to receive ashes of the dead). The bronze structure located at the rear of the Canadian Chapel contains 75 niches. Interment rights may be purchased by members or former members for themselves or their families. Having this columbarium available to our parish members has proven to be a great comfort to families during the loss of a loved one. By planning ahead, much stress is relieved.

Girling Lectures

ECR works in coordination with Girling Healthcare Advisory Council to bring informative lectures on topics of interest to seniors on a monthly basis. ECR provides a friendly meeting place and light refreshments while Girling schedules the speakers and presents the program. In addition, a Girling nurse is always on hand to take blood pressure readings for those who are interested. ECR is reaching out to the senior community in this ministry in which seniors gain valuable knowledge while making friends in a relaxed social setting.

Holiday Fair

The Holiday Fair is an on-going annual church fund raising activity that helps to support the operating budget of our church. This is one of the best ways our church members come together as a community in fellowship and fun to share this spirit with our surrounding neighboring community. We offer many activities for our visitors to enjoy such as: a



Thrift Shop



The Thrift Shop consists of a volunteer group which resells items such as clothing, furniture, appliances and other household items to customers at very affordable prices. Items are attained through individual contributions and estate sale pickups. We also do outreach during the year with vouchers for the needy, other in kind situations, donations to Salvation Army, Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Annual Coats for Kids Program and St. Johns Community

Center. We provide a loving and caring environment and 100 % of our proceeds (minus sales tax and other small expenses) go to the Church operating budget. We are always looking for volunteers. Operating hours are M-F from 10:00 to 1:00 and also the 1st and 3rd Saturdays (same hours).

United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering is the joyful and tangible response, prayerfully offered, to blessings received from God, and this response provides blessings to others. This ministry encourages individuals to say prayers of thanks for blessings received and to deposit coins in the Blue Box. It is not a fund-raising ministry, but a prayer-raising ministry. Twice a year (fall and spring), these coins are gathered together and united with coins from all over the Diocese. They are then returned to God's world through UTO grants. These grants are awarded within our own community as well as all over the world. While the money is certainly a benefit to the grant recipients, what is more important is all the people these coins represent, their prayers, hopes and thanks for all the many benefits and blessings that flow from God alone.

Recycling

Protecting the beautiful environment that God has given us is the primary focus of this ministry which strives to educate everyone about what they can individually do to protect our environment. The "Green Spot" has been established to provide a place for parishioners to bring in unconventional items that the City of Austin doesn't pick up, which can be recycled such as batteries, eyeglasses, electronic devices, prescription containers, etc. Promoting and practicing recycling is a form of stewardship everyone can easily do.



AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Aging Conference

Participating in planning and presenting Austin conferences on Aging Well, via an Interfaith collaboration, ECR addresses the joys and sorrows, the challenges and opportunities of aging in our community. We also encourage attending the annual conference on Abundant Aging presented each year at Camp Allen by the Diocese of Texas and the University of Texas Medical Branch Sealy Center on Aging.

Boy Scouts



ECR sponsors Boy Scout Troop 1407 which holds weekly meetings in the Youth Building, has monthly campouts, and a week long summer camp. This ministry provides an opportunity to teach boys 11 though 18 years of age citizenship, leadership and life skills. The 12th point of the Boy Scout Law is that a scout is “reverent”

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood is an international ministry of men within the Anglican Communion to “spread Christ’s Kingdom among men”. Local chapters such as the one at ECR perform this goal within our Church. The three disciplines of the Chapter are prayer, study, and service. ECR has had a Brotherhood Chapter for over 25 years which is part of the Diocesan Assembly. Our Chapter provides services to ECR on special occasions and uses their combined time, talent, and treasures working to bring others nearer to Christ through His church. The Brotherhood lends support to St. John’s Community Center in Austin which provides food, necessities and other forms of help to those in need.

Cursillo

Cursillo, a Spanish work meaning "short course," gives church members tools and "rules of life" to enthusiastically share the joys of knowing Christ with others in their environment. It starts with a four day experience at Camp Allen where people explore how to live into their discipleship. (We are all called to be disciples!) After the weekend experience, the spiritual journey continues supported by weekly Small Group Reunions (friends that meet to discuss and hold each other accountable for their spiritual journey) and Ultreyas (larger gatherings at a different church each month or so for fellowship and support).



Daughters of the King (DOK)

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an international religious order for Episcopal women. Its purpose is to bring others into a living, loving relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior and to help strengthen the spiritual life of our parishes and missions. The requirements for membership in the Order are that woman be a communicant in the Episcopal Church, be willing to participate in the preparation period and vow to accept the Rule of Life. The Rule of Life is a reaffirmation of the promises made at Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. To become a member, a Daughter completes a study that is done with other members, on completion of this study, and after prayer discernment, she is installed into this Order. Our Daughters of the King meet once a month. Prayer requests for the DOK can be placed in the special Prayer Box in the Narthex of the Church.

Episcopal Church Women of Resurrection (ECWoR)



The Episcopal Church Women of Resurrection meet the 3rd Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall. The ECW has great programs that help each of us continue our spiritual journey. We make contributions not only to our church, but also our community. We would invite all women to join with us and enjoy a warm and friendly fellowship. Every woman at ECR is by definition, a member.

Order of St. Luke

This is a healing ministry. It involves the Laying on of Hands and anointing with oil and prayers for the recipient. This can be done by an individual member or group. It is offered the first and third Sundays in the Chapel or at the rail after communion on the 4th Sunday.

Safe Place

Safe Place is a shelter for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence. ECR is one of three churches to provide funding to outreach case management.

Church Women United

Church Women United is biblically based through our shared Christian faith; gifted by our diversity of race, economics, age, culture, and theology; called by the Holy Spirit to act for justice on behalf of women and children. There are monthly meetings September through June, with a theme for the year, and a service project for the month. Earlier efforts resulted in what is now the Betts Gardner Juvenile Center and the Center for Battered Women, as well as sewing rooms, and an International Holiday Market.



EDUCATION

Adult Education



This ministry provides for at least two classes, Fall and Spring, for adults plus special Lenten and Advent series to help attendees grow in knowledge of our Lord's message, our Church, Anglican history and tradition, and new ways to look at our spiritual path through life. Many of the classes are lead by the Rector or Seminarians as well as fellow parishioners who serve in this ministry.

Children's Education

Children's Christian Education provides classes for our youth from preschoolers through high school. Our goal is to nurture our children and equip them to live out their baptismal covenant. There are opportunities to serve in this ministry by working with children in the classrooms or behind the scenes as support.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

ECR has a combined youth group of junior and senior high school aged youth which meets every Sunday evening in the Youth Building for study, fun, discussion and prayer. The Youth Group at ECR is lead by a team of adult youth sponsors. As the Youth Group grows, it will become more active in outreach programs and in the church life at ECR. Youth Sunday is celebrated quarterly.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

This ministry meets on Wednesday mornings at ECR to read and study the Bible and to discuss the readings as they relate to our faith and spiritual journey.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Bible study group meets for supper at a local restaurant each Wednesday. After supper, we go to the church for Bible reading and discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend at any time.

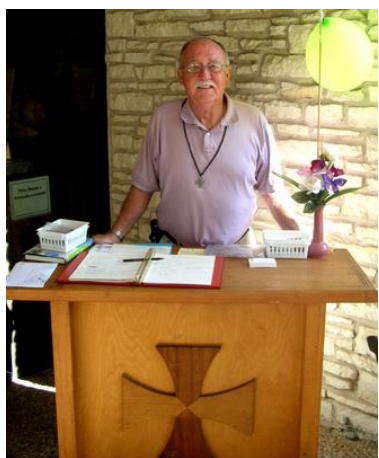


COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Communications

This ministry establishes and facilitates means for our many ministries to communicate more effectively with the parish and among themselves in offering opportunities to work together as a church family to better serve the needs of others and to let everyone in the parish know what our ministries are doing in answering God's call to us. An example is the "Mid-Week at ECR" email being sent to all parishioners in addition to published announcements in the Bulletins and Radiant Cross, as well as consolidating information about our ministries into one source to benefit newcomers and church seekers.

Greeters/Ambassadors



We don't get a second chance to make a good first impression. This is why this ministry is so important at ECR by the human touch in greeting and helping newcomers and visitors feel welcome when they walk through our doors. A warm inviting greeting in Christ's name is the first step in adding new members to our Church family. Although this function should be every parishioner's goal, it is very important to have an identifiable person who can help and answer questions for someone new and to invite them to return and consider ECR as a church home and family. Ambassadors will follow up with visitors as well.

Media

This ministry provides publicity and advertising outside of the web site to reach those seeking a parish and church family, or Christian experience and inviting them to come to ECR. Publicity includes newspapers, radio, television, and all media sources available to make ECR known to the community.

Phone Network

When an emergency occurs in the life of one of our parishioners or news must be conveyed quickly to those in ministries that can help in a given situation. A phone network is in place. ECR has a phone network coordinator who will invite other parishioners to participate and be ready to respond should it be necessary. The network is activated at the request of the Rector.

Physical Signage

This ministry is responsible for placing and maintaining signs that invite the public to come worship at ECR. Included is information about our worship schedule, how to get more information about ECR, and directional signs to help visitors find

their way around the campus easily and in an inviting manner. This ministry also provides for signs to advertise special church events.

Web Site

Our ECR website at www.ecraustin.org is our primary outreach to the un-churched and those seeking a church family by providing timely and accurate information about the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection to the outside world, inviting them to come be a part of our church family and ministries. It is primarily an external outreach but offers valuable information for our parishioners that they need on-line in a real-time manner. The web site gives us the capability using today's remarkable technology to reach out to others and a totally new and efficient way.



ADMINISTRATIVE

Clergy



In addition to the duties prescribed in the Canons of the Episcopal Church and taking direction from the Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, the Rector guides and directs the spiritual formation and growth of the Parish and has an active involvement in all the ministries . He offers counseling, guidance, support and encouragement to ministry leaders and to any parishioner in their involvement with any ministry supported by ECR. The Rector holds quarterly ministry leadership meetings to bring all ministry leaders together to share their experiences and plans for ministry with each other as a corporate group.

Counters

These are volunteers who assist the Treasurer by taking time after the Sunday services to count and record the offerings and prepare them for deposit. The offerings are then given to the treasurer for bank deposit.

Office Angels

Since ECR only has a part-time Parish Administrator in the office for three days a week, volunteers offer their time and talent by answering the phones throughout the week, and doing special tasks that help in the administration of the Church.

Parish Administration

This ministry is carried out by a compensated part-time professional Parish Administrator who performs all administrative tasks necessary to operate the Church Office such as maintaining the Church calendar, producing the Sunday



Service Bulletins and monthly Radiant Cross, and maintaining all church records. The parish administrator works directly for the Rector and supports the Vestry. Volunteer help for the parish administrator is always welcomed.

Property and Grounds (Jr. Warden)

The Junior Warden is the vestry member responsible for oversight and the upkeep of all building and property owned by the Church. He or she needs help in performing maintenance needed to keep our physical facilities in good operational condition. Any person possessing talents in facility or grounds maintenance can make this an offering of ministry to the Church.

Sexton

The Sexton is a compensated individual who does actual maintenance and upkeep tasks necessary to keep all functions of the Church operational and is available to the Rector for non-administrative type duties. This includes set up, take down for meetings, lawn care, simple repairs, and help in Keeping the physical facilities operational and functional.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee develops and implements the annual stewardship campaign encouraging the sharing of God's gifts to all of us in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure. They also make presentations, send out pledge cards encourage pledging to support the Church and it's ministries. More important, stewardship must be seen as a perpetual activity, not just an annual event. The work of this Committee is an ongoing ministry..

Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for overseeing the financial affairs of the parish, and for many years this position has included the duties of bookkeeper as well. At the present time, the treasurer pays all of the bills, including payroll and payroll taxes. Detailed financial reports are prepared and presented to the vestry monthly as well as an annual parochial report to the diocese. Parishioners' pledges are recorded and distributed quarterly to each pledging member

Vestry /Senior Warden

The Vestry is the governing body responsible for all Church administration, operations and support for it's ministries. Its members are elected in intervals, at the annual Church meeting and serve for three year terms or portions of a full term if vacancies occur. Occasionally, the vestry seeks leadership help from members of the Parish to assist for special tasks to help Vestry fulfill it's vital role in sustaining and planning for future growth in the Church. The Senior Warden is appointed by the Rector to work closely with him/her, and to serve a leadership role on the Vestry.