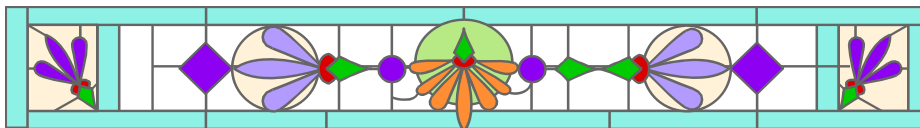


TEAM MINISTRY  
IN  
THE GREATER PARISH  
OF  
ST. ANDREW



## What is Team Ministry?

Donald E. Messer , in his book *Contemporary Images of Christian Ministry* describes ministry as “the gift of God to the whole people of God. The gifts of ministry are given not just to individuals but to all who are baptised in Jesus Christ, the corporate body of the church.”

He goes on to quote Colbert S. Cartwright; “Ministers are not professional holy men or women, but representatives of the people of God. They are samples of what it means to open up one’s heart to Christ, and let his work be done within one’s life. Ministers are examples of God’s work in progress – not the finished products.”

Working as a team in Ministry opens the possibility to let God use the various gifts of His people to serve the church as a whole. It also provides for mutual support within the team.

The goal of having a team ministry is to build up the churches in our Parish by working together and using our gifts for the good of the whole parish.

***We are called to be members one of another.*** Eph. 4: 25.



There are several forms of Ministry:



**Clergy:** Ordained ministry is a calling. In simplified form, it is a call in which the individual first responds to the inner call of God. Through studies and training, the person then seeks ordination and through ordination, gains the authority of the Church. We are blessed in our parish to have two competent ordained clergy to see us through this interregnum, but it is the responsibility of all of us to be praying that God would bring to our Parish a gifted, caring priest to lead us through the next few years. Ideally, this individual will honour and encourage the many gifts shared by all members of our Parish in order that the members of the teams in their various ministries will be upheld and strengthened to develop in their service to God and this community.

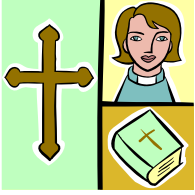
### Lay Involvement in Leadership and Worship:



Following is a listing of some ministries currently active in the Parish. Others could be developed. Anyone interested in participating in any of these, or have ideas about extending lay involvement is encouraged to express their interest and ideas to the Rector.



**Lay Readers:** Lay readers are licensed by the Diocese to lead in Morning and Evening Prayer and to assist in other services under the direction of the Rector. They should teach the Gospel. A lay reader requires training that is available through the diocese.



**Lay Assistants:** Lay assistants are granted permission by the Bishop to assist in the worship services. Our custom has been to lead in the Prayers of the People, read lessons, and administer the chalice. Lay assistants also take on leadership roles according to their abilities.



**Music:** Music is an integral part of worship. Ideally, each church would have an organist who would help choose appropriate music for each worship service; and who would teach and lead a choir. There are some churches in our Parish who do not have the luxury of a music leader. The Parish is hoping for a coordinator of music who might record music for use by any congregation in our Parish as the need arise.



**Visiting:** When a parishioner is ill, the clergy need to be advised so that they can visit at the home or at the hospital. Parishioners can visit each other, especially in times of crisis. This is one of the most tangible ways of showing that we care. There are many who carry on this ministry quietly on their own; however there may be many more that have the ability and simply lack confidence. Assistance could be given to develop visiting skills.

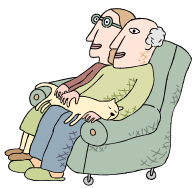
- ➡ Another effective form of visiting is through a phone call. We would appreciate finding someone who would be willing to coordinate callers who might phone those who are unable to participate in the full life of their congregation.



**Youth:** An area for growth in our Parish is to develop programs that address the needs of our young people. This is a ministry that desperately needs the talents of dedicated lay leaders.



**Families:** There are already two family-oriented services that are established in our Parish: St. Aiden's, Louisa, and St. Simeon's, Lachute. Both services offer an alternative approach to worship and music, and both services need lay involvement as well as the leadership of the clergy.



**Seniors:** Seniors are the backbone of our communities. Our Parish hosts a luncheon program at St. Simeon's once a month from September to May. This ministry is organised by a committee consisting of people from within our Parish and the community.



**Readers:** Reading lessons during a church service is a wonderful involvement in worship. Each church in the Parish should have one person who is willing to coordinate the readers and provide the list of readings. (according to the Lectionary)



**Host Families:** Whether a stranger or a regular parishioner walks into the church for worship, it is important to make them feel welcome. The host family greets them at the door, gives them the bulletin and books along with a warm greeting.



**Prayer:** Our parish does have a prayer chain which has been in place for several years. This is a group of anonymous people who are regularly praying for specific needs of individuals within the Parish, or who are known to parishioners. If this ministry interests you, you are welcome to be a part of it.



**Communication:** Communication is a very important tool in drawing us all together. There are several forms of communication in a Parish. Each is its own form of ministry.



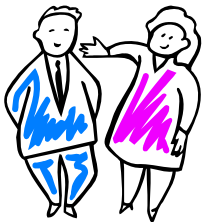
**A:** The Parish should have a Newsletter which would share information about activities and events. Through it, we could learn more about each other – our history, our people, and our common interests and concerns. We need someone to coordinate a team to publish a regular newsletter.



**B:** The parish needs a contact person who will keep track of events and activities in the different congregations. The goal of this ministry would be to reduce the frequency of conflicts of dates and the demand on shared human resources.



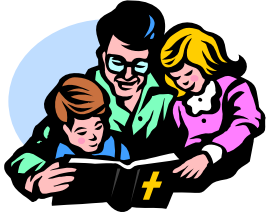
**C:** We have many things to celebrate throughout the year; i.e. children being baptised, special birthdays, etc. The parish is looking for a person who could send cards on behalf of the Parish to mark these occasions.



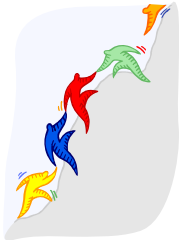
**D:** When new people come into the church, we all welcome them but the priest needs to know if new people arrive so that he/she could visit them as soon as possible. It is desirable to have someone in each church to act as an official “welcomer”, greeting newcomers, asking if they would like a visit, and gathering phone numbers, addresses, etc.



**E:** The Sunday bulletin not only guides worshippers through the worship service, but also informs of any events and includes the prayer list. The Parish at this time is fortunate to have one person willing to prepare the Sunday bulletins for all the churches.



**Bible Study / Education:** Personal growth is essential in our spiritual journey. Learning more about God's word is the catalyst to growing in faith and understanding. There are many forms of continuing our education, through bible studies, educational programs, Lenten programs, etc. The Parish needs both leaders and participants for this ministry.



Each congregation must have persons to carry out various functions essential to the organization and management of the unit. Among their responsibilities are: planning activities, committee work, building maintenance and repair, managing the financial aspect of the congregation. These include wardens, secretaries, treasurers, Synod delegates, etc. People are also needed as members of the Parish Council which represents all congregations and acts in areas related to ministry in the Parish as a whole.

In his book, *Spiritual Gifts in the Local Church*, David Pyches writes; "God matures us through experience of life in the church. God heals us in the processes of ministry, both to us and through us. As we go in obedience to his call to ministry, so should we grow in maturity, wholeness and holiness of life."

Can we as a parish pull together our resources to help each other grow?

