



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
SAINT STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Open Hearts • Open Hands • Open Doors

Outreach Ministries Program Guide

This outreach guide includes specific information on how to get involved with community outreach ministries here in the Birmingham area, listed in alphabetical order.

For more information or to talk with someone about finding the best fit for your interests and gifts, please contact our Outreach Committee chair, Cindy McCain. You may also contact the specific leaders listed for each of our outreach ministries.

If you are interested in learning more about getting involved with our international ministry partnerships with the Alliance for International Reforestation (AIR) Guatemala and Saint Luc School in Haiti, please contact the Rev. John Burruss or Cindy McCain.

In addition to those listed below, we also regularly participate in Episcopal Diocese of Alabama ministries such as Episcopal Place (a senior living center), Sawyerville (a summer day camp in Greensboro), and Special Session at Camp McDowell. More information on these can be found at <https://www.dioala.org/>.

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Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership (ALIRP)

The Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership (ALIRP) is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in Birmingham, Alabama. ALIRP is a diverse coalition of community members, interfaith religious leaders and laypersons, as well as representatives of other community groups, who have come together for the purpose of supporting refugees and asylum-seekers through direct assistance, education, and advocacy. Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church's Outreach Committee is an organizational sponsor of ALIRP. You may learn more about ALIRP through their [website](#). If you would like more information on getting involved with assisting refugees and asylum seekers in our area, contact our ALIRP Liaison Lisa Beatty or the Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke.

Angel Tree (with Greater Birmingham Ministries)

Saint Stephen's ministry groups, families, and individuals can select an angel off our Angel Tree to provide Christmas gifts. Volunteers buy gifts for children from their wish lists and assist in delivering gifts and packages to Greater Birmingham Ministries. For more information on how you can help, contact Shana Peagler.

Avondale Outreach Ministry

The focus is to provide simple breakfast and snacks, hygiene items, clothes, bus passes and to form friendships and relationships with our brothers and sisters in Avondale. As we do these things, we can show love and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. This ministry seeks to serve the homeless, the needy, the poor, individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. Contact Lisa Schroeder or Dolly King to learn about getting involved with this ministry.

Birmingham AIDS Outreach

We provide services to persons living with HIV, LGBTQ adults and LGBTQ youth through education, programs, prevention, mental health, medical services, and testing/treatment.

Through programs at Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Magic City Acceptance Center, Magic City Wellness Center and the Magic City Acceptance Academy is to enhance the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS, at-risk, affected individuals, and the LGBTQ community through outreach, age-appropriate prevention education, and supportive services

Opportunities are available to mentor students at Magic City Acceptance Academy, organize the clothing closet, and gather items for the youth that we can put in goody bags. To learn more, contact Karen Musgrove.

Community Kitchens of Birmingham

The purposes of this ministry are 1) to feed those that are experiencing homelessness, loss of employment, and are on fixed or limited incomes, 2) to inform, energize and motivate congregations about homeless families, and 3) provide opportunities for host congregations to volunteer their time. Volunteers are needed to set up donations, serve meals, and clean up at their sites at Grace Church Woodlawn and St. Andrew's in Southside (by UAB). Volunteers can serve any day throughout year and as frequently as one desires. A volunteer schedule calendar is on the website. Contact Dorothy Cochran, Lisa Rutherford, or Ginger Savage. Learn more at <https://thecommunitykitchens.org/>

Disaster Relief and Recovery

We aim to provide immediate emergency supplies and long-term support to aid in recovery. This supports warming stations and various storm related relief efforts. Disaster recovery includes hands-on needs, whether locally or in neighboring dioceses, plus collecting and delivering donations in response to disasters. Volunteers also assist with various tasks at the warming station located in Woodlawn. To learn more, contact the Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke.

Family Promise

Family Promise of Birmingham is a network of diverse faith and civic organizations working together to provide safe, home-like lodging where homeless families can stay together while working to regain their independence.

Family Promise of Birmingham serves families without homes; adults have passed a thorough criminal background screening and a drug test. More than half of those served by Family Promise are children.

To learn more, contact Chandler Busby, AC Hairell, or Preston Hairell, or visit <https://www.familypromisebham.org/>

GraceWorks and GracePlace

We aim to share Christ's love with those in need in the Woodlawn community through the summer children's ministry and the repurposing of the donated church building (Grace Place).

During the summer our ministry is focused on children ages 10 to 14 and mentors age 16 and older. During the rest of the year, we are striving to meet basic needs and help strengthen personal dignity, work, and educational skills through the reconstruction of the Grace Place building.

Volunteers mentor children working in the gardens, cook breakfasts and lunches, facilitate a weekly workshop relating to a favorite hobby one could share with children, provide snacks, sponsor pizza Thursday, chaperone children on field trips to Camp McDowell (and other adventures), volunteer to help teach yard maintenance skills to the children. Volunteer to provide transportation for Friday trips during the summer program. Volunteer to help in the reconstruction of the Grace Place building. Once the building opens, provide operational help with the Love Laundry ministry in the GracePlace building.

Volunteers can work with children and in the building or can do projects from home to support the different areas of the ministry, such as making or supplying items needed for the daily workshops, or both. When working with the children or in the building renovation, volunteers are in Woodlawn community.

Saint Stephen's organizes workdays to continue the renovation of GracePlace on one Saturday morning per month during the school year. Contact Rob Gellings about Saint Stephen's workdays at GracePlace. To learn about GraceWorks, visit <https://graceworksbbham.org>

Kairos Prison Ministry

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women, and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. Kairos' vision is to be a community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment—reaching all impacted by incarceration, through the love, hope, and faith found in Jesus Christ.

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a Christian faith based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts, transform lives and impact the world. Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and is supported by volunteers from the 4th Day movements such as Cursillo, National Episcopal Cursillo, Presbyterian Cursillo, Lutheran Via de Cristo, The Upper Room's Walk To Emmaus, and independently ecumenical Tres Dias as well as volunteers from independent and non-denominational churches. As a ministry, Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36.

Kairos is a ministry of the church—a ministry of the apostles whom Jesus, the Christ, has called into community and sent forth into the environment of the correctional institution. Kairos has been called the best example of the early church in existence today.

The word, Kairos, is a Greek word meaning in God's Special Time or in the Fullness of Time indicating an opportunity for our participants and guests to re-consider their life choices - as hearts are changed, inmates begin to take responsibility for their actions - it's like a front row seat at a miracle - transforming lives and impacting the world.

Kairos of Alabama operates as a State Chapter and serves in prisons and jails through a contractual agreement with the Warden and Chaplain of each unit. At present, we are in 16 units (prisons & jails) across the State of Alabama (we are opening more units from time to time). We are blessed to minister to family members with Kairos Outside Ministries.

We form teams of Christians who volunteer to serve at each of the established Units. When we serve we become guests of the Units and are given many privileges because we have such a positive impact on the inmates. We accept forty-two inmates per weekend, and put on two weekends per year, in each unit. The selection at each Unit of the residents who are to attend our weekends is made by the Warden and the Chaplain, with input from the Security.

Kairos encourages the selection of leader inmates, both positive and negative. Many times the forty-two participants will include those who are seemingly unlovable. Once God changes the hearts of the residents, we have found that they have a great influence in the environments of their Unit.

It is our privilege to have the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus and then show them the love he has shown us. With "God's Special Time" they have the opportunity to know the Kingdom of God.

To learn more about supporting this ministry, visit the Alabama Kairos web site (https://www.kairos-al.org/about_us.html) and contact Van Chaplin or Sam Johnston.

Laundry Love

The Laundry Love ministry in Woodlawn is part of a national effort to "lighten the load" for thousands of people through love, dignity, and free laundromat services.

This ministry serves the homeless and low-income families.

Volunteers assist guests using washers and dryers. Provide detergent, dryer sheets, and money for machines, welcome and register guests, engage in dialogue and activities while waiting for laundry. A dedicated Laundry Love facility is being constructed in the GracePlace building in the Woodlawn neighborhood of Birmingham, near Grace Episcopal Church. Upon completion of the new Laundry Love site, volunteer shifts will be available most weeks throughout the year. To learn more about supporting Laundry Love, contact Lisa Beatty or the Rev. Deacon CJ Van Slyke.

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers

We aim to provide local area hospitals and care facilities with much needed blood and plasma and to help address the shortage in our community.

This outreach serves ALL in the Birmingham area. The blood and plasma collected is distributed

to local hospitals and care facilities that are in desperate need of supply. The best way to support this outreach is by word of mouth, posting on social media, placing flyers in your workplace to promote awareness of blood drives as much as possible in the community.

Blood drives are held every few months, depending on community need, usually on Sunday mornings and early afternoons in the Saint Stephen's parking lot. To learn more, contact Jill Hunt.

Outreach Alcove: Monthly Collections for Outreach Ministries

Each month we highlight an agency that we support. We collect items for that agency according to their requests. You can drop off those items in the hallway outreach alcove or order items directly through our Amazon wish list, which is linked through the weekly e-news. You can also drop off anything that you think someone could use and we will find an agency for that item.

This outreach is an easy way to serve others especially if you don't have time to volunteer on a regular basis. We need help distributing the items we collect. Typically, this requires gathering the items from the alcove, loading them in your vehicle, and driving them to the agency that will receive them. To learn more and to sign up, contact Diane Hightower.

Parish Partnership with Christ Church, Fairfield

Over the first few years of shared ministry, we have shared workdays at Christ Church, joined together to plant wildflowers on Billy's Lot at Saint Stephen's, worshipped with one another on Sundays, and hosted one another for lunches. We have invited Christ Church to join us for our Lessons and Carols service and Shrove Tuesday. Following the Lessons and Carols service, Saint Stephen's hosted a lunch in the Parish Hall to create more time for people to break bread and share conversations with one another.

Christ Church welcomed people from Saint Stephen's to worship with them and hosted us for lunch in their newly renovated Parish Hall. After lunch, we went around the room sharing about ourselves and then took a tour of the church buildings, especially the building in which their new laundry ministry as well as the Metro West food bank are operating. Saint Stephen's Outreach Committee has allocated funds to Christ Church that will pay for the additional utilities costs for running these two important ministries in the Fairfield community.

Looking ahead, our congregations plan to continue to sponsor a joint Parish Partners team for Gumbo Gala, benefitting Episcopal Place. Co-sponsoring a team is a fun way to work alongside one another for a cause beyond our own parishes. In addition, David Knott, completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing an apiary (for beekeeping) on the grounds of Christ Church. As this Parish Partnership evolves and grows, we continue to look for opportunities to be with one another through sharing in worship, fellowship, and ministry to the Greater Birmingham

community of which we are all a part. As one participant reflected, "For me, there's no more rewarding outreach than getting to know and build relationships with people. It's really magnified in the Parish Partnership because we're all coming together for the same good purpose. No matter what sort of work we set out to do, we're unified by a higher purpose, despite our differences."

For more information and to get involved, contact Connie Hancock.