

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE *Transfiguration*

PARISH LIFE BOOKLET



# SEEKING AND SERVING *Christ in all persons*

The mission of the **Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration** is to seek and to serve Christ in all persons. By our Anglican heritage and our community life, we strive to present Jesus Christ as Saviour through worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care and outreach. The mission of each member is to support this parish with time, talent, money and be:

- faithful in worship,
- dedicated to the study of scripture and to a life of prayer,
- open to the power of the Holy Spirit, and
- active in spreading Christ's love and reconciliation.

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday at 12:00 p.m.

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9:00\* a.m.,  
and 11:15\* a.m.

\* Childcare available

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## **LEARN MORE**

To learn more about the Church of the Transfiguration or the Episcopal Church visit our Web site at [www.transfiguration.net](http://www.transfiguration.net). For information about our ministries, contact Ellen Dingwall at [edingwall@transfiguration.net](mailto:edingwall@transfiguration.net) or 972-233-1898, ext. 229.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE *Rector*

*Greetings and welcome to the Church of the Transfiguration! We're glad you're here and we're eager to acquaint you with the many exciting opportunities for ministry our parish offers you and those you love.*

*In a parish the size of Transfiguration it's easy to get involved, and that is our wish for you. It's also easy to hide if that is your wish. But, when you join a parish organization, come to a prayer gathering or class, become active in some outreach ministry, you won't be a stranger for long.*



For more than 50 years, the Transfiguration has grown from a small parish in North Dallas, to a vibrant and strong Christian community, ever faithful to its mission *to seek and serve Christ in all persons*. Today, we number over 2,000 baptized members from all walks and stations of life. We celebrate and encourage diversity.

We hope that you will find here a spiritual home that will feed your soul and challenge you to a deeper understanding of what it means to be loved by Jesus Christ. I encourage you to read our parish Mission Statement, to worship with us on a regular basis for several weeks and to visit some of our parish organizations and events. If you have any questions about our ministry or how to find your place

in it, please do not hesitate to ask me or any member of our staff.

The first of every week I receive a list of names of those of you who have visited, signed the pew register or otherwise indicated your interest in our parish. As I read your names, I pray for each of you in your search for Christ and a more meaningful relationship with him. I certainly hope you will find that God is calling you to become part of our family, but more than that, I pray that wherever your pilgrimage takes you, you will find a community of faith where you can grow in your relationship with the Savior who gives us his life-sustaining presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Faithfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry Rector". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small cross-like mark at the end.

## ABOUT *Transfiguration*

*A Prayer for Our Parish Family — “Save us, O Lord, as a parish, from being inward-looking and backward-looking in the work of the church. Help us to take our eyes off ourselves and turn them on the world around us: to be concerned less with what we have accomplished or where we have failed and more with what remains to be done: that with our vision enlarged and our love rekindled, we may go forward to attempt new and greater things to your glory, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

### CHURCH HISTORY

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration began in 1956 with 11 families as a mission in north Dallas. A flood in 1964 caused the congregation to move to its present location at Hillcrest and Spring Valley. The church's current modern gothic building was completed in 1970, with seating for approx. 480 people. In 1997 the additions of Roper Hall, the Gathering Space and the Child Care Wing were completed. Our 2006 Jubilee Capital Campaign enabled us to build the Church Life Center South building, install a magnificent new organ, and establish an outreach endowment. Transfiguration's Capital Campaign 2010 will help further expand our growing worship, ministry and program needs as well as areas of parish family life yet to be imagined.



### RELIGIOUS ART

Throughout history, people of faith have sought to express the depths of their experience of God through art and music. Religious artistry is designed to do more than beautify a place of worship...it's designed to inspire! Over the years Transfiguration has acquired a great variety of religious art to enhance our worship, meditation, and prayer experiences.

## OUR *ministries*

*Transfiguration believes that active participation in the life of the parish is essential to the spiritual health and growth of its parishioners. Here are brief descriptions of the many opportunities for ministry that are offered. If you would like more information about any of these ministries, please contact Ellen Dingwall at [edingwall@transfiguration.net](mailto:edingwall@transfiguration.net) or 972-233-1898, ext. 229.*

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

Children are always welcome in the church services at Transfiguration. Worship is one of the basic ways to learn what it means to be a Christian. As an adult we help create an atmosphere in which children can learn to worship in ways that are consistent with their respective levels of development. Bringing children to worship may not always be easy, but it is an essential part of their growth in Christ.

#### CHILDCARE

Professionally staffed childcare is provided for ages 6 weeks through 3 years at the Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Children under the age of three may remain in childcare during the education hour, if parents remain on campus. A staff of paid employees offers children and their parents the consistency and love they deserve.



They quickly learn about each child and can care for them in the way they respond to best while

their parents are in worship, class or meetings. Most importantly, children learn at an early age that church is a wonderful place where they can see their friends (old and young) and learn that God loves them. On request, a pager can be provided so the nursery staff can contact you if your child becomes ill or cannot be comforted.

#### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

A separate service offered during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services. Chapel is designed for those too old for nursery care, but too young to fully appreciate the



full service in the Nave. Children accompany their parents to the Nave for the beginning of the worship service, then follow the cross and priest to Children's Chapel during the Song of Praise. Our Children's Chapel service, led by a priest, reflects the service in the Nave. Children gather to hear the Gospel, sing, say the Creed and share Prayers of the People. An opportunity for an art response follows. They are escorted back to their parents during the Offertory hymn.

#### CHRISTMAS ART CONTEST

Children are invited to submit their nativity scene drawings in October. Selected entries will be used as the artwork for our annual Christmas card, along with the bulletin cover art for all the Christmas services.

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICE

This annual 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy features the children carrying in the pieces of the Crèche to build the nativity scene as the Christmas story is told. Children also bring donated receiving blankets, which are later delivered to Parkland Hospital for needy babies and their families.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

This service is geared to help the younger church members understand the imposition of ashes. A priest assists with this service.

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

This service is designed to help children understand the Triduum or three great holy days leading up to Easter.

#### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Children walk the Stations of the Cross followed by a craft activity. They conclude their time together by eating Hot Cross Buns. A separate activity is held for pre-school aged children where they are led through a simplified foot washing, stations of the cross and art activity. They too, enjoy hot cross buns.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Transfiguration Youth group is an amazing opportunity for teens to have fun in a safe, welcoming environment. Our Christian Formation programs are designed to help them integrate faith into their lives. Our Service and Outreach projects allow them to serve others while earning community service hours.

### MISSION TRIPS

In the summer we have mission trips for Junior High and Senior High youth. This is an incredible chance to serve God, others and be changed by God. We believe mission trips should be nothing short of life-changing experiences so we make sure to do work that matters and worship God in a way that makes a difference to us and God.



## PILGRIMAGE

Every two years, our Senior High students have the option of going on a pilgrimage – a religious journey in which we travel together, looking for God. We get a better understanding of who we are and what God wants us to do with our lives.



### REACHING OUT

In addition to our yearly mission trip, we do things throughout the year to care for the needs of others. We raise money for the Austin Street Centre, serve our community through Hearts and Helpers, participate in 30-Hour Famine, serve dinners at Ewing House and engage in other random activities to care for others.

[www.transfigurationyouth.net](http://www.transfigurationyouth.net)

## ADULT/FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW is composed of an executive board and member representatives, who are responsible for funding projects for Women's Ministries and several women's events throughout the year.

### EPISCOPAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The EMF actively pursues Christian fellowship and service to the parish and community through monthly meetings, outings and community projects. They meet monthly for dinner and listen to a guest speaker. In addition, they also attend sporting events throughout the year. Membership is informal, and open to all adult men of the parish, 18 years and older.

### FIG BRIDGE GROUP

A group of couples and singles, novice and expert, who play friendly party bridge. New members are always welcome.

### FIG THEATRE COMPANY

A group of adults and youth who bring the experience of live theatre to Transfiguration and the surrounding. Anyone interested in acting or in production is invited to participate.

### FOYER GROUPS

Foyer Groups offer a delightful way to meet others, or to renew friendships in a relaxed, fun and informal way. The groups are made up of 8-10 adults (married and single) who meet for conversation and dining together. Everyone takes a turn as "host" and decides on menu and format for their month. Usually it's dinner at home, but could be at a restaurant, or even a picnic in the park. Being creative is part of the fun. Groups are shuffled and reformed every six months.

### GAY LESBIAN FELLOWSHIP

Seeking and serving Christ in all persons by embracing the GLBT community and their family and friends through opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship and service.

### INTERFAITH ZEN MINISTRY

Joining with a group at Saint Thomas the Apostle church on Inwood Road in Dallas, they meet Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. for setup and sit from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

### LABYRINTH MINISTRY

The labyrinth is an archetype, a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking our Chartres

Cathedral Labyrinth replica, you can rediscover a long-forgotten mystical tradition that has been reborn.

As part of this ministry, they offer "Open Walks" and Taize services throughout the year to support individual meditative experiences. Members are also available to facilitate group walks for parish and community organizations. They meet monthly for lunch, fellowship, a brief business meeting, followed with a walk on the Labyrinth.

#### NEXTGEN

This ministry is for "Generation X" parishioners in their 20's and 30's (roughly). This group is great for both singles and couples. neXtgen meets for various get-togethers such as theological discussions, softball/sports, wine tastings and BBQ's.



#### PRIMETIMERS

For men and women over age 60. The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month for a luncheon. Occasional evening dessert gatherings are also planned.

#### ST. ELIZABETH'S GUILD

Bring a friend and join them for great fellowship and food at their monthly Potluck Dinners. They encourage new and old church members to come the first time as their guests.

#### ST. HILDA'S GUILD

They operate the Clothes Horse, a resale clothing shop, and the Kay Andrews bookstore. Lasting friendships develop while working in small groups.

#### WHAT (*Wednesdays Here at Transfiguration*)

This group of young women enjoys visiting, book study and doing service projects for the Children's Ministry. Once a month they cook meals for parishioners with new babies. Childcare is provided.

#### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Open to all women, and you do not have to read the book to attend a session. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month, with a Lenten Book Study during Lent.

#### WOMEN'S FORUM

A series of four luncheon and lecture programs are held throughout the year.

## SPECIAL EVENTS MINISTRY

### FAMILY MINISTRIES

Featuring various events throughout the year for parents to do with their young children. Some events include an annual Easter Egg Hunt, Advent Preparation Festival, Mass on the Grass, family picnics and dancing to some snappy tunes of singer/song writer Willy Welch.

### FIG FEST

Annual fall festival for parishioners and the community, held on the 4th Saturday in September.



### NEWCOMER RECEPTIONS

A gathering of staff, vestry and host committee members who get together with newcomers one Sunday afternoon each quarter to welcome the visitors and new members into the life of the parish.

### THE VISION FORUM

*Reaching Out and Inspiring Change.* The mission is to increase awareness of the reality of the human condition and the promise of hope and healing offered through education and the arts, leading toward a sustainable, just and peaceful world.

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

Transfiguration is blessed to have choirs and instrumental ensembles for all ages which enable us to enrich the worship of our God in Sunday services and allow us to explore, teach, and celebrate the great heritage of music available to us as American Episcopalians. You are invited to join in this vibrant ministry by participating in the choir or ensemble of your choosing. If you enjoy music and would like to assist us in our ministry, please read about the Music Volunteer opportunities listed on page 14.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We have two choirs for children from kindergarten through 7th grades. These choristers learn the fundamentals of choral singing and receive formation in the music and worship traditions of The Episcopal Church. All that is required is a

love of singing, a willingness to participate in group activities and an availability to attend Sunday rehearsals and services. Kim Ahrens directs both of these choirs:

- HOLY FAMILY CHOIR

Composed of children in kindergarten-3rd grade. They sing approximately once a month at the 9:00 a.m. service.

- CANTICLE CHORISTERS

Composed of students in 4th-7th grade. They sing approximately once a month at the 9:00 a.m. service, as well as on Christmas Eve and other occasions.



### YOUTH CHOIR

This choir is for teens in 8th-12th grade who enjoy singing and leading in worship. Though no musical experience or background is required for participation, many members do have some training in choral, vocal or instrumental music. This group sings approximately

twice a month, normally at the 9:00 a.m. service, as well as on Christmas Eve and other occasions. Youth instrumentalists are also welcome in the choir. Chris Ahrens directs this choir.

### TRANSFIGURATION CHOIR

This choir of adults of all ages provides music for the two principal Sunday services, as well as for Holy Day liturgies. The choir is a regular participant on our Transfigured Nights Series, singing Choral Evensong and Compline services and concerts in the course of the year. Because of the challenging repertoire we undertake, it is very important to be able to read music and have previous choral experience, in addition to possessing a good voice for choral singing. An informal audition is also required in order to place choristers in sections and to give advice for work on individual vocal issues. Joel Martinson is the director of the choir.

### BELLA MUSICA

Our *handbell choir* is open to both adults and youth of the parish who read music and enjoy being part of a musical ensemble. This choir plays approximately every four to six weeks during the school year. They also participate in special

services, festivals or concerts during the course of the year. Full-time and substitute ringers are welcome. Joel Martinson directs this ensemble.



#### MEN'S SCHOLA CANTORUM

This choir sings at Compline services, Tenebrae, as well as some Sunday morning Eucharists, during the year. Please indicate your interest in joining this group to Joel Martinson. Belonging to the Transfiguration Choir is helpful, but not required.

#### INSTRUMENTALISTS

Let us if you have experience playing musical instruments, such as strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion, piano, harpsichord and organ. Our instrumental groups include:

- *String Ensemble*
- *Brass Ensemble*
- *Woodwind Ensemble*

#### CHOIR PARENTS GUILD

This group of volunteers assists the children's and youth choir directors

with logistics help at rehearsals, services and social functions. Duties may include help with piano accompaniment, vestments and choir vesting, taking attendance, car pool, snacks and folders.

#### MUSIC VOLUNTEERS

Keeping everything organized for our choirs and ensembles requires a great deal of behind-the-scenes assistance and organizational help. Most of these activities do not require any musical training and include checking-in new musical scores, music library work, office filing, folder organization, and computer help.

#### TRANSFIGURED NIGHTS

Transfigured Nights continues in the Anglican tradition of enriching the lives of the people of God through art and music, whether in the liturgical rites of the church, in concerts, or other programs. Striving to create and host unique programs of quality featuring the finest sacred and secular music, they utilize the talents of parish musicians and local artists, as well as present concerts by national and international performers. The series offers musical experiences to Transfiguration parishioners and serves as an outreach to those in the community.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### ACOLYTES

Girls and boys 8-18 and adults who assist the clergy at the Lord's Table.

### ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing for all liturgical services of the church.

### LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Persons licensed by the bishop to administer the chalice at parish Eucharists.

### LECTORS

Adults and youth, selected by audition, who read the scripture lessons and Prayers of the People at Sunday Eucharists.

### MINISTERS OF CEREMONY

Adults who assist the clergy at the Lord's Table during each service.

### USHERS

Ushers have the unique assignment of assisting and serving all those in attendance at each service so that the liturgy may be celebrated without distraction or interruption. Members are organized into teams to serve the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Assignments are published quarterly.



## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The AA group meetings are Monday and Thursday nights.

### EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

The mission of the Eucharistic Visitors is to be a pastoral and sacramental presence to those who are homebound or in the hospital or are recovering from illness by taking the consecrated bread and wine to these parishioners directly from the service each Sunday.

### FUNERAL MINISTRY

At the time of a funeral, the parish offers a reception following the service, in the tower cloister/gathering space area. Family and friends who would like to help are welcome to do so.

**PARISH NURSE HEALTH MINISTRY**

Registered nurses, health workers, and volunteers offer an innovative and inclusive ministry through various opportunities for health awareness. The nurses and volunteers provide health monitoring by offering blood pressures and blood glucose testing the first Sunday of every month.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Members make a commitment to daily prayer for concerns of the parish and our friends.

**R.O.S.E.S. (*Reach Out -Serve Elderly Shut-Ins*)**

R.O.S.E.S. visitors provide friendship and loving concern to elderly parishioners and other members of the community who may be isolated and have limited social connection with family and friends.

**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have received 50 hours of initial training, been commissioned, care regularly for an assigned care receiver who is experiencing a crisis or difficult life transition. Stephen Ministers participate faithfully in peer supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers about an hour a week, to listen, pray and help bear the burdens confidentially. Stephen Ministers are trained listeners.

**OUTREACH MINISTRIES****AIDS OUTREACH MINISTRY**

The AIDS Outreach Ministry provides meals to Ewing House, a project of Aids Services of Dallas on the First Saturday of each Month. Members of various church organizations commit to one or more Saturday evenings in a year to prepare and deliver a meal. Directions to the home and a list of instructions for the meal are provided. They also provide Christmas presents and school supplies for the children who live in the other Aids Services Homes. The AIDS Outreach First Saturday Supper Club has been ongoing since 1986.

### AUSTIN STREET CENTRE

Provides free, safe overnight shelter for about 300 homeless men, women and children. It is operated by two full-time Episcopal priests and has a full-time staff of 30 people. Transfiguration provides two complete evening meals to the shelter every month.

### CITY HOUSE

Provides temporary emergency shelter for youth aged 10 to 17, crisis intervention, a transitional living program, free counseling for youth and families in crisis, and is adding a shelter for young children between the ages of 0 and 9 who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.



### CLOTHES HORSE

A resale clothing shop, providing low cost clothing options to people within the community while raising money for opportunities at Transfiguration and beyond.

### DALLAS AREA INTERFAITH (DAI)

DAI is comprised of 60 institutions located throughout Dallas and Collin Counties. It is a coalition of people of faith organized for the purpose of engagement in public life, identifying and training leaders from these institutions who work on issues raised by their families, communities, and congregations. DAI's agenda includes neighborhood redevelopment, housing, public education, immigration and citizenship, and health care. The organization is non-partisan and works across lines of race, geography, and class in order to help the voiceless find their voice and participate in the public arena.

### DALLAS CASA (*Court Appointed Special Advocates*)

A non-profit organization that trains volunteers to represent children who have been taken into protective custody because of abuse or neglect. These specially trained volunteers are appointed by judges in the Juvenile Court system and they have received 30 hours of classroom instruction on how to represent the child's best interests and testify on their behalf in court. In some cities these volunteers are called Guardian Ad Litem. There are two events during the year that need

volunteers other than in the Advocacy Program. These are Parade of Playhouses, which is held yearly the first two weeks in August in Northpark Center, where donated playhouses are raffled off with the proceeds going directly to CASA and National Adoption Day, held in November, where between 60-120 foster children are adopted into safe, permanent homes. The attorneys representing these children serve pro bono.

#### EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief and Development is a compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world, established in 1940 by the Episcopal Church in the United States as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. Its original mission was to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. In 2000, its name was changed to Episcopal Relief and Development to emphasize ongoing emergency relief work and a growing focus on long-term development and rehabilitation programs.

#### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A faith based international organization that builds houses with no interest mortgages for

low-income families. Volunteers do most of the construction of the home.

#### HAPPY HOMES

Happy Homes School is our international outreach program in the northeast region of South Africa. This outreach program has continued to grow through generous donations from parishioners, together with students and staff of the Parish Episcopal School, and support from the Africa Foundation. Since 2003, we have built a pre-school facility serving 112 African children, ages 3-6, a large percentage of whom have been orphaned through AIDS. The school comprises 4 bright, airy, fully furnished classrooms, a kitchen, a playground with equipment, ablution facilities and a large vegetable garden. The aim of the school is to be a refuge for these poor children, whilst preparing



them to enter first grade in the local government elementary school, well equipped to thrive and succeed.

### HEART WARMERS

The Outreach Craft Guild. Heart Warmers are volunteer knitters, crocheters, quilters and seamstresses who give of their time and talent in service to others through their love of the fiber arts and by creating items for others. Their mission is to warm the bodies and hearts of all they touch. They collect handmade items once a month for donation to Parkland Hospital, Austin Street Centre, and other worthy institutions.



### HEARTS AND HELPERS

Working with the City of Richardson Code Enforcement Office, they

undertake home maintenance projects for the elderly/disabled. This is a weekly work project for the FIG youth during the summer.



### HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

Provides an opportunity for parish volunteers to build homes and schools, teach and provide health services to the people of Honduras.

### HOPE'S DOOR

A non-profit community organization offering safe, temporary shelter and support programs for battered and abused women and their children. Programs include general counseling, legal, employment, housing and childcare referrals as well as some limited financial assistance.

### NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE COUNCIL

A non-profit organization serving multi-ethnic working families in the

Spring Valley/Coit Road area. The council provides after school camps and tutoring, summer day camps, scouting, ESL classes, employment skills training and athletic programs.

#### NORTH DALLAS SHARED MINISTRIES

An inter-denominational food bank providing the needy temporary help with food, some cash and ESL classes. The parish also collects food several times throughout the year.

#### OUR FRIEND'S PLACE

Provides neighborhood facilities, in a home-like atmosphere, for girls ages 10-21 who have been the victims of abuse and or abandonment.

#### OUTREACH STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets regularly to review and coordinate outreach projects of the parish.

#### PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

*"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"* (from The Baptismal Covenant, BCP, pg 305) Their mission is to "Celebrate God's presence by working for peace and justice in the world. Guided by prayer, knowledge and love, the group is a forum for discussion, education, support and action".

This group is for those committed to working for peace and justice in the world and includes Dallas Area Interfaith.

#### ST. SIMON'S CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Provides after school care at various schools in low-income areas where both parents must often work past 5:00 p.m.

#### U2CHARIST

An Episcopal Eucharist featuring music of the rock band U2 and a message about God's call to rally around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Donations will continue to support the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance, a non-profit organization that provides life-saving services and programs to communities in Africa devastated by the effects of HIV and AIDS.



**VOICE OF HOPE**

Provides children living in West Dallas with strong character models, educational support, life skills, and the family support services needed to help them become productive Christian citizens. Help continue their great work with children in west Dallas.

**WILKINSON CENTER**

An East Dallas social service agency supported directly by parish funds.

**YOUTH FIRST TEXAS**

Provides counseling, referral and social services for youths struggling with sexual/gender identity issues.

**SERVICE MINISTRIES****AGAPE MINISTRY**

This group helps in recording the prayer requests and pastoral care issues written by parishioners in the pew registers every week.

**BOY SCOUT TROOP**

Meets to do service projects for the church and community.

**FLOWER GUILD**

Members arrange flowers and decorate for holidays, social events and special services.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Opportunities for a variety of volunteer projects to support the work of the parish.

**ST. CLARE'S GUILD**

Meets to work on needlepoint projects for the church.

**ST. HILDA'S GUILD**

Operates the Clothes Horse resale shop and the Kay Andrews bookstore. They make available reasonably priced clothing to the community and continuous donations of clothing to charity.

**TAPE MINISTRY**

Digital copies of Sunday worship are available on CD, as well as printed copies of the sermon. To place an order, contact Deanie Winstel in the church office. A suggested donation of \$1 per copy would help cover the church's cost.

**WELCOMING MINISTERS**

Members provide a positive initial impression to visitors and guests by greeting all worshippers as they arrive at church and helping newcomers feel that they are welcome and are among friends. All first time visitors receive a gift bag from the Welcoming Minsters.

## OUR *education*

*Belonging to a community of faith is the first step in one's life-long journey toward spiritual wholeness. Transfiguration offers many educational classes for adults and children to strengthen them for their journey. These classes strive to engage, enlighten and empower members to take information offered here at Transfiguration out into their world.*

### **CHILDREN'S FORMATION**

We offer a comprehensive Christian Education program for children ages three through 6th grade. The curriculum for each age group is designed to provide children not only with knowledge, but also with a sense of belonging and of the love of God.

#### CHILDCARE

All children under age three are cared for by our trained and loving paid childcare staff. The nursery is available from 8:45 a.m. through the 11:15 a.m. service each Sunday morning. Parents must remain on the Transfiguration campus while their children are in the church nursery.

#### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Traditional Christian Formation, as well as two Godly Play classrooms are offered at 10:15 a.m. on

Sundays for children ages three and up. Both Godly Play rooms and one traditional preschool class meet in the childcare wing off the north transept. Preschool through grade 6 use materials that cover both faith and practice and are designed to start children on the path to a lifelong spiritual journey.

Godly Play teaches children the art of using religious language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – in the Montessori Method. Registration for this class is required. Godly Play 1 is for preschool - kindergarten students and Godly Play 2 is for children in grades 1-3.



### CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

A separate service offered during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services. Chapel is designed for those too old for nursery care, but too young to fully appreciate the full service in the Nave. Children accompany their parents to the Nave for the beginning of the worship service, then follow the cross and priest to Children's Chapel during the Song of Praise. Our Children's Chapel service, led by a priest, reflects the service in the Nave. Children gather to hear the Gospel, sing, say the Creed and share Prayers of the People. An opportunity for an art response follows. They are escorted back to their parents during the Offertory hymn.

### BIBLES FOR THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

Once a year Bibles are presented to our Third Grade students. The Kim Curtis Pinson Fund provides funding for these Bibles.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

For students in 5th and 6th grades. They meet monthly, during the Christian Formation hour to share a fantastic breakfast, games and music.

### FIRST INFORMED COMMUNION

In the fall, the first grade class studies a special unit during the formation hour that prepares them for First Informed Communion. The name of this ceremony derives from that fact that many of the baptized children already receive communion. Parents are encouraged to allow their baptized children to make their communion whenever they ask for it.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each year a theme is presented that invites children to learn more about the Christian faith. This week long morning program, during the summer, is available to children ages PK1-4th grade. It is an exciting program full of music, crafts, bible stories and hands on learning opportunities.

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## YOUTH FORMATION

Our church has a deep passion for youth. We know that the passion energy, and wonder with which they wrestle with their faith are invaluable to the life and ministry of our church. The Youth Ministry seeks to cultivate these gifts in our young people through effective relationships, participation in worship, Biblical exploration, service to the community and the world, and Christian Formation. The format we use for Christian Formation is called Journey to Adulthood, and we believe it to be the most comprehensive and useful tool available.

### JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

This is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for Middle and High School students. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries, and both serious and playful activities to underscore two guiding principles:

- Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God.
- Adulthood must be earned.



*There are three, two-year segments of the program:*

### RITE-13

The first two years focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. The Rite-13 Liturgy is the community expression of this and a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood.

### J2A

The middle portion of the program engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. The youth plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of this segment (Summer of 2011 to Scotland). This experience is often the spiritual highlight of their youth.

### YAC

This is a mentor-based program that helps older teens discern and carry out a ministry within their church or in the larger community. Vocation and development of a personal credo are also emphasized. A final rite of passage sends them out into the world as ambassadors of Christ.

*[www.transfigurationyouth.net](http://www.transfigurationyouth.net)*

## ADULT FORMATION

The mission of the Adult Christian Formation program is to provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to transform adults – through study, prayer and fellowship – in order for us to better seek and serve Christ in all persons. Our objective continues to be to provide opportunities for all parishioners to grow and develop our understanding of faith while we strive, both as individuals and as a Community of Faith, to challenge and alter our lives for God's service.

We are offering several areas of study for adults on Sunday Mornings:

### THE BIBLE CLASS

This is our ongoing Sunday Adult Christian Formation class. Learn more about your faith by listening to and engaging theologically with the stories of the Bible. This class has a team of teachers facilitating the presentation and discussion.

### THE BIGGER PICTURE

Take a closer look at some of the issues that challenge us as Christians and modern-day people today as well as spiritual tools both old and new. Includes weekly class format plus several short courses offered by a variety of teachers.

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

The EfM program provides people with the education to carry out the ministry each of us is called to through our baptism. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program which covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy and theology. Students of all four years meet together regularly for nine months, once a week for three hours. The fee is \$350 per year. If you are interested in joining the next group, contact Virginia Holleman.

### THE EPISCOPALIAN CLASS

Study what it means to be an Episcopalian and Anglican. This class takes an in-depth look at Progressive Christianity, ending with lectures on Episcopal Identity and the Great Jewish Festivals. Classes have a team of teachers facilitating the presentation and discussion.



## FAQ SESSIONS

We will attempt to answer those frequently asked questions – and even some you haven't asked and would like to – for visitors, new members and even those who have been around a while!



## GOSPEL TAKE-OUT

As a lectionary Gospel class, "Gospel Take-Out" will discuss, in an informal setting, the week's Gospel reading and its relevance to today, while at the same time continuing to build community.

## GPS (*Giving Parents Support*)

This class is designed for parents of kids in upper elementary through high school. Navigate with fellow travelers in the uncharted and often confusing time through the tween and teen years. The weekly format alternates between topics to facilitate our children and ourselves

through the emotional, physical and spiritual development changes of youth. Special guest speakers will include clergy, professionals with an expertise in youth development issues, and every month we will take time to get to know each other better and enhance our own spiritual growth.

## iPARENT

Connect with a community of traditional and non-traditional parents in the midst of raising young kids in today's information age. Worship, learn, share and grow together as we navigate and understand our roles as parents. Weekly Sunday morning format includes a rotation of small group discussions on spirituality and parenting topics, informal chat and game time, and a series of guest speakers discussing a wide variety of topics. In addition, several social gatherings and kid-friendly community service projects are planned throughout the year.



*M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers Sharing)*

Bring the companionship of other women into your busy life as a mother! Enjoy this opportunity to develop your self-esteem and enhance your relationship skills in the company of other mothers. Take a few hours each week to develop a greater awareness of your own spirituality as a mother, and to appreciate the ministry of your motherhood! Groups are formed throughout the year.

RECTOR'S LENTEN SERIES

On Wednesday nights during Lent, join us for the Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. in the Church, followed by a light supper and program (topic to be determined) in Roper Hall.

*THE WAY (The Catechumenate Program for Adult Baptism, Confirmation and Reception)*

Are you in one of these categories?

- Adults who have not been baptized
- Baptized adults who have not been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church
- Confirmed Adults who wish to deepen their commitment to Christian believing and practice

*Then this series is for you. It consists of the following three stages:*

STAGE ONE: INQUIRY

Seven weeks in a program called *"Connect? What it means to be part of a Eucharistic Community."* It explores how Episcopalians approach the Bible, Worship, Prayer, Ministry and Church membership.

STAGE TWO: FORMATION

Twelve weeks learning how Episcopalians are called to live into their commitment to God and God's Church. We will use a program called *"Commit? What it would mean to live more deeply into my Baptismal Covenant."*

STAGE THREE: PREPARATION

Prepare for the Rites of Christian Initiation (Baptism) and of Confirmation/Reception. This takes place along with the rest of the parish in the Lenten Wednesday night programs.



## WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

This group meets on the first Thursday of each month and reads a wide selection of books chosen by the members. During the weeks of Lent, the group meets weekly to do an in-depth study of a book as a Lenten discipline.

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## THE PARISH EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

For more than 30 years, The Parish Episcopal School's goals and objectives have been to provide an enriched and challenging educational experience that will carry students into a world in need of their talents and enthusiasm.

We want the best for our young people who come from all parts of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, bringing a diversity of gifts, a variety of needs, and a commitment to our motto Wisdom, Honor, Service.

The Early Childhood Division is located on the Hillcrest Campus at the corner of Spring Valley and Hillcrest Roads. Situated on a hill among beautiful trees and picturesque gardens, it is the perfect environment for our young students to begin exploring the world around them.

3rd grade through high school are located on the Midway Campus, at the corner of Midway and Alpha Roads. This state-of-the-art facility is designed by world-renowned architect I.M. Pei. Breathtaking in architecture and design, this campus creates an environment that provides the perfect backdrop for older students to develop academically and socially.

To find out more information, go to [www.parishepiscopal.org](http://www.parishepiscopal.org)



*You are invited to join our parish family in worship and fellowship. If you have questions or need more information, contact a member of the clergy or staff at 972-233-1898 or visit the Web site at [www.transfiguration.net](http://www.transfiguration.net).*

#### HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is administered in the context of the Sunday Eucharist. Candidates for baptism are infants and young children of members of the parish and older children and adults who desire to make a mature and public commitment to the Christian faith. Each candidate for Holy Baptism is generally sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Classes for parents and available godparents of infants and children precede each baptism date.

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#### CONFIRMATION

The Catechumenate Program is a sacramental commitment to an on-going, intentional spiritual journey in response to one's Baptismal call.

For a more detailed description, refer to "The Way" on page 27.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

Holy Matrimony is offered to couples, one of whom must be a baptized member in good standing of the parish. Marriages are not performed during the season of Lent or Advent. A personal interview with the Rector is necessary before a date is entered on the calendar or other plans may progress for any wedding. In addition to the counsel of the clergy, couples are referred to professional counselors who assist in the appropriate preparation for marriage. A minimum notice of 60 days (90 days for divorced persons) is required to set a wedding date. It is advisable to contact the church six to nine months in advance of your desired wedding date.



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**[www.transfiguration.net](http://www.transfiguration.net)**