



**SERVANT CONNECTIONS**



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

*Ministering with Our Gifts of  
Time, Talent & Treasure*

*I want to make a difference!*





Church of the Palms  
Servant Connections ~ Opportunities to Serve

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**MINISTERING WITH OUR GIFTS**

*“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
then said I, here am I, send me.” Isaiah 6:8*

God calls each and every member to join in the ministry of the church. What is your place for service? Prayerfully consider where you can be involved.

Below you will find many descriptions of ministry opportunities from which to choose. ALL are important, ALL make the Church of the Palms an effective ministry for our Lord.

Giving your time and talents are equally important in Christian stewardship as giving financial resources. Using this directory of Servant Connections is easy. Just follow these steps and join in:

1. Begin with the Prayer of Commitment or one of your own.
2. Look at the list of opportunities.
3. As you read through the descriptions, mark those which attract your interest.
4. Complete the **Servant Profile form** – send it to the church office in care of Carolyn Wilson, Director of Equipping Ministry, 924-1323 x 203, [cwilson@churchofthepalms.org](mailto:cwilson@churchofthepalms.org).
5. Your response will be processed and you will receive a call to welcome you into service!

May God bless you as you answer his call to do your part in the ministry of the church of Jesus Christ.

## Prayer of Commitment

*Dear Father in Heaven,*

*You have entrusted me with talents and skills to further your purpose and kingdom on earth:  
the ability to care, listen, and smile;  
perform tasks of physical strength or mental challenge;  
to give of my time as you have given to me.*

*It is with a grateful heart that I now respond.*

*You have spoken to my heart and soul-  
It is with hope that I can be a blessing to someone, An example of your love,  
A part of your effort to reach the needs of others.*

*As I read the following place of service,*

*Guide me, O Lord, to what you would have me do.  
Open my eyes to new opportunities for involvement and  
Fellowship with others - in Christ, to your honor and glory.*

*Amen.*



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## SERVING AT CHURCH OF THE PALMS

### Worship, Music & Arts

#### Prayer

**Sunday Morning Prayer Group:** Come join others who meet to pray for our church, pastors, our congregation etc. We meet at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Chapel Study.

#### Hospitality

**Sanctuary/Campus Greeters:** Greet members and visitors as they come onto our Campus or into the Sanctuary for worship services. You can serve for as little as one month each year or as much as you like.

**Sanctuary Ushers:** Assist worshippers to pews on Sundays and special services during the year. Usher teams serve every third month.

**Garden Greeters:** Greet others as they enter the Campus Center for worship. **Praise musicians:** Provide instrumental music for the services.

**Welcome Centers:** Staff the Garden or Sanctuary Welcome Centers before or between the services to answer questions and make newcomers welcome.

**Guest Follow-up:** Call and send notes to guests who visit our church to make them feel welcome and wanted.

#### Sanctuary Worship Services

**Communion Preparation:** Prepare the elements for communion, usually the day before.

**Flower Committee:** Prepare flowers after the 11:00 a.m. service for distribution to hospitalized and home bound.

**Pew Rack Committee:** Restock materials in pew racks. Work in teams, usually on Thursday afternoon.

**Acolytes/Crucifers:** Light the candles during the Prelude, process with the cross, extinguish the candles at the benediction. Ages 8-high school.



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**Christmas Decoration Committee:** Help prepare the Sanctuary and Chapel for Advent and Christmas Celebrations. Set-up the Friday before the first Sunday in Advent, usually the day after Thanksgiving. Take-down the week after Christmas.

### Garden Worship Services

**Worship Team:** Leads the singing for the services.

**Media Technician:** Advancing the song lyrics and other images during the service. Requires a one week a month commitment. Training provided.

**Sound Board Operator:** Sound tech helps with set up and operation of audio system for rehearsals and services. Requires a one week a month commitment. Training provided.

**Lighting Board Operator:** Lighting tech helps with set up and operation of the stage lighting systems for rehearsals and services. Requires a one week a month commitment. Training provided.

**Set-Up/Tear Down:** Stack chairs and help rearrange the Campus Center after worship for Lifetree Café, classes or other events.

### Music and Arts

**Chancel Choir:** The Chancel Choir is the main choir to provide music for our Worship experiences. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Music and Arts building.

**Cantori Choir (Christmas Season):** This choir brings their gift of song to skilled nursing facilities, retirement centers and The Hospice House during the Christmas season. Rehearsals are on Mondays during the months of October and November at 7:00 p.m. in the Music and Arts Building.

**Praise and Glory Singers:** This is a small group that sings contemporary Christian Music. All of the music is memorized. Rehearsals are Sundays at 4:30 p.m. in the Music and Arts Building.

**String Class:** This group is for stringed instruments only and meets on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Music & Arts Building.

**Sounds of Glory Orchestra:** This group enhances our worship on a regular basis. The group is open to all ages and all stages of playing ability and meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the Music & Arts Building.



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**Jubilee Ringers:** Our Adult Hand-Bell group offers music on a monthly basis in worship. They perform a variety of levels and Hand-Bell ringing technique. Rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Creative Signers:** We use American Sign Language to interpret the music during worship on a monthly schedule. Former knowledge of sign language is not necessary. We will teach you. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Music and Arts Building.

**Sarasota Young Voices:** Children ages 6-18 meet weekly to prepare for performances in concerts.

## Family Ministry

**Event Coordination:** The event coordinator enjoys event planning, is passionate about creating excellent programs, and is gifted at managing details. Responsibilities include organizing event logistics such as food, lodging, transportation, etc. in coordination with the family ministry team. Large events include Fall Kick Off, Advent Extravaganza, Easter Egg Hunt, and Vacation Bible School.

**Communications Support:** Communications volunteers help staff to get the word out for events through phone trees, managing social media, sending emails or snail mail, making posters and flyers.

**Administrative Support:** Administrative volunteers enjoy office work, are passionate about Church of the Palms children and student ministry, and are gifted at a variety of administrative tasks. Responsibilities include writing, decorating, managing computer files, and running errands.

**Prayer Team Member:** Prayer team members enjoy interceding on behalf of our ministry and students, are passionate about the contemplative life, and are gifted at inviting others into the presence of God. Responsibilities include attending prayer gatherings and the occasional facilitation of student prayer services.

**Hospitality Volunteer:** Hospitality volunteers have a passion for making holy memories and are gifted at connecting with adults, children and students. Responsibilities include helping prepare for events and being the front line of greeting and making people feel welcome at events.

**Early Childhood Center (ECC):** Looking for story-tellers, rockers, readers, huggers, artists, musicians, artists, dancers, puppeteers, game players, crafters, actors, songsters, jugglers, artists, gardeners, office assistance, friends or adopted grandparents. Hours of opportunity are Monday through Friday between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. or 2:30 and 5:00 p.m.

**Volunteers Working with Children (birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children):** These volunteers love kids, playing, getting down on their level, and sharing Christ's love in a relaxed, loving, kid-sized way. There are opportunities for large & small group leaders on Sundays, nursery/pre-school helpers, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade service leaders, acolyte helpers, choir leaders, and Wednesday evening helpers.



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**Volunteers Working with Students (6<sup>th</sup> to 12 grade students):** These volunteers have a passion for youth and sharing their spiritual gifts with students. There are so many opportunities to share and grow – large and small group leaders, confirmation mentors, service project coordinators, guys & girls ministry leaders, and trip leaders. Each area has opportunities to serve that accentuate different gifts. Just fill out a Servant Profile and a leader from Student Ministry will contact you.

## Congregational Care Ministries

**Memorial Services and Funerals:** Compassionate volunteers usher, greet, and assist guests in signing the registry book during these services.

**Stephen Ministry:** Provide a helping relationship focusing on one-to-one needs of each person. Fifty hours of training is required. Classes are held once a year.

**Shepherding Deacons:** One of the newest ministries at Church of the Palms, Shepherding Deacons are each assigned a “flock” of five to seven families for whom they pray daily, remember their joys and sorrows with cards and notify the pastors about hospitalization, death, illness, change of address or phone number, or any particular need.

## Adult Ministries

**PALMS University Class Leaders:** Teach, lead, facilitate adult education classes during our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening discipleship times. See the latest Palms Planner or check our website for a complete listing of current classes.

**Palms Life Small Group Leaders & Hosts:** Lead or host an ongoing small group Bible study in a home, on campus or other location determined by the group. See the latest Palms Planner or check our website for the most current and complete listing of active small groups.

**Discipleship Coaching:** Work with new members, SHAPE class attendees and other church family members get connected in our ministry teams and take the next step on their spiritual journey.

**Library/Media Management:** Volunteers are needed to arrange books, DVD’s, Bible studies and other resources and supervise circulation.

**Presbyterian Women:** Circle meetings provide opportunities for Bible study and fellowship. In addition, women meet for monthly gatherings to nurture faith through prayer, bible study and supporting the mission of Church Worldwide. A luncheon and program are a part of the gatherings.

**Palms Men:** Palms Men is the men’s ministry for Church of the Palms. Our goal is to help equip men to be disciples of Christ at home, in the workplace and in our community. We host breakfast



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programs, retreats, and other special events throughout the year to share and learn, provide encouragement, support Christian fellowship, and help men connect with different ministry opportunities in the church.

**Food/Kitchen Ministry:** Serve in the Kitchen and/or dining area, as much or as little as you have time for in a fun and rewarding atmosphere. Volunteers most needed during special events, Wednesday night dinners, memorial service receptions, PW functions, etc.

## Outreach Ministries

**Food Pantry:** Church of the Palms hosts one of the largest food pantry ministries in Sarasota. We provide groceries for people who are in need of food and have been referred to our church. Volunteers can help in two primary ways:

- Join fellow members early one morning of the week to pack grocery bags for distribution
- Help distribute from the office the packed bags to those in need

**Tutoring:** Tuesday afternoon and evening and Thursday afternoon in the Campus Center. During the school year, tutors work with students in programs designed to help students from elementary to the college level to improve their educational skills in a one-on-one setting.

**Family Promise:** Serve in any number of capacities as we host homeless families in the Family Promise program one week per quarter, helping them to get back on their feet again .

**Day of Hope:** Our annual Day of Hope event provides services to the underprivileged families in Sarasota that have been hit by hard times and may have trouble getting their kids off to a good start in school. Families bring their children to the COP campus for a day of food, fun, and various exams that are required for the entrance to school. Volunteer Doctors, Dentists, Audiologists, hairdressers, and a photographer to take a family photo they may have never had spent the day giving their time and expertise to many families with children. They are also given back packs with school supplies, gift cards, shoes and other items that they would otherwise have difficulty in obtaining. No special skills required, give 1-6 hours of your time and we will find a place for you to serve.

**Good Samaritan Mission:** This local mission is largely a Hispanic migrant mission. Volunteers contribute school supplies, food, clothing and financial support.

**Job Resources:** This ministry provides practical, emotional and spiritual assistance as we “walk along side” the job seeker on his/her journey to gainful employment. Each Guide / Coach will serve as a listener, empathetic friend and resource guide. This ministry is open to anyone. Training is provided.

**Knitting/Quilting/Sewing Groups:** Make baby blankets, sweaters, hats, socks and quilts for First Step and Healthy Start. Lap robes for the Veterans Hospital and local skilled nursing facilities. Hats for the International Sailors who sail out of Anchor House at Port Manatee. Prayer shawls for visitation pastors to distribute. Teddy Bears for the Sheriff’s Office and Fire Department to distribute. These groups meet the fourth Friday of each month in the Chapel Reception Room from 10:00 a.m. - noon.





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**Mission Projects:** Our church reaches out in missions both locally and around the world. We have several projects we undertake to provide help to meet many needs. See the Mission Booklet for details, indicate your interest and you will be contacted by a member of the Missions Committee.

## Church Administration Opportunities

### Church Office

**Receptionist:** Substitute at the front desk answering phones and directing visitors during lunch hours and vacations.

**Office/Clerical:** Various office duties depending upon current needs - bulk mailings, etc.

**MS Office Projects:** Complete projects using MS Office software, usually Word or Excel.

**Data Entry:** Updating church database with attendance and involvement records from ministry leaders.

**Filing/Organizing:** Filing documents, organizing files, assembling packets for classes, etc.

### Buildings & Grounds

**Grounds Maintenance:** Volunteers are needed to weed, clean up debris, place mulch, etc.

**Building Maintenance:** Volunteers are needed to make minor repairs and perform maintenance tasks in church buildings.

**Painting:** Complete interior and exterior painting projects on an as-needed basis.

**Set-Up/Tear Down:** Set up rooms for meetings and events and return rooms to original layout after events.

### Communications

**Marketing & PR:** Volunteer needed to work 1-2 hours per week to create Press Releases and Market the church.



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**Photography:** Photographers needed to photograph church activities, events and new members.

**Proof Reading:** Volunteers needed to proof publications before being printed.

**Layout & Design:** Graphic designers are needed to work on special projects and assist Communications Ministry when necessary. Knowledge of Adobe CS6 required.

**Printing/Assembling Publications:** Volunteers are needed to print and assemble various publications. Times will vary. Training is provided.

**Videography:** Film short video projects for the Communications Ministry and help us tell our story!

**Display Areas:** Volunteers are needed to maintain display areas - bulletin boards, kiosk and publications display holders. Displays are updated every Friday.

**Web Design:** Web Designer needed to assist in updating the church website. Knowledge of Adobe Dreamweaver CS6 required.

**Journalists:** Journalists are needed to write articles for newsletter and magazine publications.

**Researchers:** Volunteers interested in demographic research are needed to help with pinpointing our target audiences in the community and determine the best way to reach them with our communications.

**Social Media:** Reach out and minister to members, friends and the community by working with social media such as Facebook and Twitter under the direction of the Communications Department.

## SERVING IN THE SARASOTA COMMUNITY

**Habitat for Humanity:** Help construct and/or refurbish homes for families with moderate incomes. Work times are Thursday and Saturday mornings.

**Resurrection House:** Office and support volunteers are needed at Sarasota's only daytime resource for our homeless population.

***More to come!***

***Note that this booklet currently lists ministry opportunities primarily at Church of the Palms. If you are interested in serving at one of the many fine organizations in the Sarasota community, we will be happy to help you make that connection.***

Church of the Palms  
*a community of faith . . . a way of life*