



# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2015

April 12-18, 2015

Volunteers: Passion. Action. Impact.

How do people volunteer at the Church of the Ascension on Sparks Street?

- let me count the ways.....

You are in this list somewhere!

- They take responsibility for the smooth running of the church as wardens, board members, treasurer, committee chairs and committee members.
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- They prepare beautiful lessons for our children, and help them, so they will grow strong in the Lord.
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- They look after our children in the nursery during worship
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- They help to get the church ready for Sunday morning worship. They set the table, wash and iron the linens, buy flowers and arrange them.
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- They help with editing and photocopying the bulletin. They make posters and bookmarks.
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- They read passages of scripture, lead prayers, administer the chalice, sing in the choir and music group, play musical instruments, greet, serve, welcome, preach, celebrate the Eucharist, and help in other ways during worship.

***“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”***  
*(Philippians 3: 8-9)*

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- They take the flowers from the altar in small bunches to someone who needs cheering up.
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- They lead Messy Church so those who have a church and those who don't can worship God in a different way. They support Messy Church in other congregations.
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- They spend a week in the summer helping at Vacation Bible School so kids can learn about God's love.
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- They teach others about God in book studies and bible studies.
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- They service things, and repair things (like holes in the ceiling that the rector made), and paint things, and wash things, and sweep things, and wire things, and vacuum things, and build things, and take away used things to be recycled. And they put the garbage out on Mondays.
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- They shovel snow and rake lawns and plant gardens and fertilize gardens, and tend plants and water gardens. They care for the earth. They help others care for the earth.
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- They put up tables for meetings and coffee time, and take out chairs, and then they put them all away again.
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- They count the offering on Sundays, and they deposit the offering, and they record the offering, and they pay the bills on time, and they send out receipts to everyone for their donation.
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- They visit seniors at home, in nursing homes and in retirement residences, and they bring the joy of the Lord to them. They take cookies or flowers to them and chat with them and listen to them and pray with them and give them communion.
- They visit the sick at home and in hospital.
- They phone people when they notice they haven't been at church for a while just to make sure they're okay. They write letters and note and cards to the sick, the lonely and the bereaved to show that they care. Sometimes they visit someone in prison.

<sup>35</sup> ***In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'***” (Acts 20.35)

- They listen to people when they call to share their joys and sorrows, or even to whine and complain. They encourage them in their faith to 'Stay strong and trust in God.'
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- They make tea and coffee and sandwiches and desserts for our fellowship time. They make sandwiches and desserts for funeral lunches. They bring sandwiches and treats for the students at Barrydowne, and then they bring bread and fixings for the Elgin Street Mission.
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- They cook things, and BBQ things, and they arrange cups and saucers and plates and cutlery.
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- They wash dishes and dry dishes and put dishes away. And then they do it all over again.
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- They check out the flyers and drive all over the city to get good deals for special meals that we prepare.
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- They prepare for and work at the Out of the Cold dinners so the hungry and lonely receive a hot meal.

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- They go to the prison and sing, so that for a moment a problem is forgotten.
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- They sew beautiful quilts all winter long and give them away.
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- At Christmas time, even though they have their own families and friends to take care of, they bring all kinds of wonderful things for people who don't have as much as they do.
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- They give generously of their treasures, because they have been blessed by God and want to return thanks. Sometimes it means that they have to do without something, but they give anyway.
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- They greet one another with words of peace, and joy lives in their hearts.

***“ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2. Corinthians 9.7***

This is to say two small words:

**Thank you!**

Rev. Anne

***Finally, they wash one another's feet.***

***“If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.***

***For I have set you an example, that you should also so as I have done to you.”  
(John 13.14-15)***

