

The Mission of Caring Friends St. Paul's Respite Ministry

from the Catechism

Human Nature

Q. What are we by nature?

A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 845

from the Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will with God's help.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 305

The foundation of St. Paul's Caring Friends Respite Ministry is the recognition that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, and Christ's call to us is to "Love your neighbor as yourself." We intend this ministry to be a haven of love and respect for our neighbors who live with impairments from dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

We live in community. We seek to reach out into our community to share the burden of care for those who are ill. We hope that this ministry will be a service to caregivers and households who are providing shelter, protection, care and oversight for their family members and loved ones who live with these illnesses.

Everything we do through this ministry will be characterized by respect. Our namesake patron St. Paul writes, "Do you not know that you are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16) We will carry out our work with a deep sense of respect for our Friends and for their caregivers.

We intend for this ministry to create a community of love and fun, offering stimulating, developmentally appropriate activities for our Friends so that they may enjoy a life that is as full and abundant as possible.

We do our work as Christians in the Spirit and example of Jesus. But we recognize God's presence in all people and in other forms of religion and devotion. We intend to welcome, respect, and honor all persons regardless of their own religious tradition or lack thereof. As we say each week in church in our invitation to communion, "Whoever you are, or wherever you are in your pilgrimage of faith, you are welcome..." We do not seek to proselytize or convert. We simply intend to serve in the generous spirit of Christ.

We embrace a commitment to best practices as defined by the Alzheimer's Association, and we are committed to follow all state and local statutes and regulations.

We hope that the companions and other volunteers serving in this ministry will find it a fulfilling way of living out their own call to ministry. We intend to create a loving, creative atmosphere that is safe, conducive to good order, and fun.