



Hope Episcopal Church

2021 Profile in Transition

Hope Episcopal Church was formed 17 years ago after a merger bringing together two racially diverse congregations. **This advantageous juncture provided Hope the benefits of diversity. Today we still strive to consciously practice understanding and appreciating the interdependence of cultures and humanity in using God's gifts to create beloved community.** The approximately 45 households who support and contribute to the church's ministries eagerly await the opportunity to grow in this rapidly changing geographical area. Like the people in Zechariah 13:8-9, we are refined and tested as silver and gold, and the Lord is our God.

Our mission states "We are servants of Jesus Christ, called to spread God's transforming love to all people." Through inspirational worship, leadership development, community outreach and spiritual growth, we hold a vision that leads us to these goals, based on a survey of congregants in 2019. Hope Church wants to:

- Serve the needs of our community
- Improve our facilities
- Modernize and centralize communication of events and ministries (especially considering Covid)
- Provide pastoral care to all, including the homebound
- Build on the Christian formation we have begun, and continue our spiritual journey
- Create a welcoming environment

Beloved Activities at Hope

Worship and Formation – Rites I & II, The Daily Offices, Godly Play, Vacation Bible School, Live Nativity, Seder Meal, Guest Singers, Bible Study, Blessing of the Animals

Contemplative Practice – Taizé Service, Outdoor Stations of the Cross, Labyrinth recently built, Retreats, Prayer Shawl ministry, Altar Guild

Outreach and Community Relations – MAM(Memorial Assistance Ministries), TMO (The Metropolitan Organization), Girl Scout troop, OFHA (Oak Forest Homeowners Association), Lord of the Streets blanket drive, Voter registration, School Supply donations, BBQ/Turkey Smoke/Soul Food/Pancake Dinners, Community Garden

We want to be a place of love and understanding, providing Hope in the real sense. As we continue to strive to accomplish the above goals, Hope is looking for a new rector who:

- ❖ Has a good background in scripture and doctrine, as we have an insatiable appetite for knowledge of the scriptures. Participants are full of questions about how to apply “the Word” to the real world.
- ❖ Can lead the practice of Christian prayer and spirituality through the Daily Offices.
- ❖ Is comfortable with both traditional liturgical music, hymns from LEVAS and open to contemporary music.
- ❖ Is devoted to pastoral care to the Hope community.
- ❖ Is committed to interface with others through outreach.
- ❖ Can teach us, or is willing to learn with us, what it takes to move our community beyond the walls of the building.
- ❖ Is patient with inexperienced incoming congregants seeking knowledge and/or guidance.
- ❖ Can help us discern what God is doing in us and others to become a loving and inclusive Christian family.

“In the whole land, says the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”

Zechariah 13:8-9