



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

*“To Know Christ and To Make Him Known
With Joy, Faith, and Service.”*

“Engage your Gifts and Passions”

We believe stewardship is embedded in everything we do and everything we are. We have each been blessed with at least one special and unique gift or talent from God; God calls us to use our gifts and talents diligently, faithfully, and passionately in order to serve Him completely in whatever we do. Identify your gifts and talents; engage them passionately at Good Shepherd as you strive “to Know Christ and make Him known with Joy, Faith, and Service.”

The purpose of this survey is three-fold: (1) to update our church records with basic information on all members and newcomers in order to better the parish; (2) to allow the church to learn more about your gifts and passions; and (3) to help you think about which of your talents may be useful to the church. Church leaders will use this information to identify potentially rewarding and fulfilling opportunities to serve our Lord with joy, to grow in your faith, and to serve according to your gifts, talents, and passions. Please take the time to complete the survey no matter how long you’ve worshipped at Good Shepherd, as our records have not been consistently updated. *To complete:*

- Have one family member complete the Household Information section of the survey. New information being collected is an Emergency Contact and any Special Needs/Restrictions of any household members.
- Please have every member of your household over the age of nine complete the Gifts, Talents, and Passions section.
- Reflect on your gifts, talents, and passions. Don’t try to “fit” them into a particular ministry or pre-conceived idea of what the church needs. We can’t promise that all of your gifts and passions will be used in some way; however, opportunities may arise that you’ve never considered.
- Complete all information; ensure your family members also complete the survey. Make sure names are on every sheet. Surveys may also be downloaded and completed electronically (Word 2003/2007) and emailed back. Additional surveys may be downloaded from the church web site (PDF format). [Church of the Good Shepherd](http://ChurchoftheGoodShepherd.org)
- If you would prefer to have someone walk you through the survey over the phone, call 423-3230 and make a request for a call back from one of our church leaders.

PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY by October 10th, in one of the following ways:

- Email to Diana Smelt at Diana.Smelt@goodshepherdnorfolk.org
- Mail to Good Shepherd at 7400 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, Virginia 23505;
- Drop off in the Gifts and Passions box in the church office.
- Bring to the Stewardship table at the Parish Ministry Fair on October 10th.
- If someone has helped you complete the survey over the phone, you need not do anything further.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why should I fill out this survey? God calls upon us to use our gifts and talents, diligently, faithfully, passionately, and continually in order to serve Him completely in whatever we do. By completing this survey and responding when called, perhaps you will discover rewarding and fulfilling opportunities to grow spiritually, to serve our Lord, and to help others according to your gifts, talents, and passions.

How come I don't see specific ministry programs listed, such as Choir, Ushers or Outreach? Traditional ministry programs are explained in a separate Parish Ministry booklet. More information about these ministries and the opportunity to sign up will be available at the Parish Ministry Fair on October 10th. The Gifts and Passions survey is intended to learn more about you and your gifts, talents, and passions for other potential opportunities that may or may not be defined as a traditional ministry.

Who will use my information? How? This information will be entered into our parish database. Medical restrictions will be noted for the Parish Care ministry and the Rector. Gifts and Passions will be shared with leaders of the ministries in which your gifts, talents and passions may match. When needs arise for ministry opportunities, we'll be able to search our database for those that may have the talents and passion to fulfill the need. Information will not be shared outside of our parish family, nor will it be used by members of our parish family for purposes other than the ministries, spiritual growth or renewal, outreach programs, or parish care.

Can you give me some examples? Suppose you identify a talent as "Coach Basketball." Perhaps a ministry opportunity will arise, such as the need for a basketball coach for a mission trip. Would you go on the mission trip to coach? If that's not possible, could you coach those that do plan to go? Perhaps you love to talk with people; is making phone call reminders to parishioners about specific events a possibility? What if you are an expert on "Personal Hygiene" and an opportunity arises to gather materials and/or teach a small group? Are there enough Bunco fans that a church function could be organized? We won't know to ask you unless you have told us you have an interest or talent.

What commitment am I making? Marking a specific category does not commit you to a particular event or time frame; it indicates a general willingness to participate or share in the way(s) indicated. When your gifts and talents are needed, you will be contacted and given an opportunity to respond to a specific request.