

# Foyer Groups

Foyer Groups are small groups consisting of 8-10 randomly assigned church members (including singles, couples, longtimers, and newcomers) who covenant to meet together monthly for a casual dinner in homes or at local restaurants. It's a great way to get to know fellow church members whom you might not otherwise meet; to enjoy good food and fellowship together; and to lift one another and our church in prayer.

## Best Practices

**Assign a Leader/Communicator:** Groups work best when one or two people agree to be in charge of sending out timely reminders, directions, and other communications. Often this is someone who has participated in foyer groups in the past.

**Meet Monthly:** Groups that meet once a month form the strongest bonds. Those who meet less frequently often do not sustain through the whole year.

**Consider a Standing Date:** Many groups find it works best to choose a standing date (e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, etc.) rather than moving it around as you go. A standing date is easier to remember and allows folks to protect that date on their calendars.

**Assign Hosts Ahead of Time:** Don't wait until one dinner is over to figure out who's hosting the next. Consider having everyone choose their month well ahead of time.

**Decide How to Do Food:** In most foyer groups, the host provides an entrée, and everyone else brings a potluck side. Other groups do it differently. Choose what works best for your group. And remember . . . it's also fine to go out to a restaurant together!

**Include Prayer:** Foyer Groups are not strictly social. They are grounded in our life of worship and prayer as a parish family. Whether you do an evening devotional together (e.g. page 139 of the *Book of Common Prayer*) or simply take prayer requests from the group and include them in your blessing over the food, it is important to pray together.

**Invite Others!** Consider inviting two or three folks who aren't already in a foyer group to join you once in a while. It's especially nice to invite those who may be new to St. Anne's.

**Sit With Folks You Don't Know:** We believe the Holy Spirit puts people together for a reason. Take the time to get to know folks whom you might not already know.

**Alcohol Policy:** Alcohol is not taboo or forbidden at all functions associated with St. Anne's, but our parish does have a clear policy about how it should be treated. Foyer groups are a ministry of St. Anne's and fall under the umbrella of St. Anne's Alcohol Policy. (See reverse.)

## **Alcohol Policy St. Anne's Episcopal Church**

***Revised by Vestry 1/29/16***

Alcohol is not inherently evil. There are occasions where its use may be appropriate, and we do not believe it should be prohibited by the Church. However, alcohol is a drug which has risks attached to its use, and there are many who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to drink. In any situation where alcohol is present, we bear equal responsibility both toward those who choose to drink and those who choose not to drink. For these reasons the following policy is to be observed at all functions held on church property or sponsored by St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

1. Beer and wine shall be the only alcoholic beverages served at functions held on the grounds of or sponsored by St. Anne's Episcopal Church.
2. No alcohol shall be served at any parish functions before 3 p.m.
3. When alcoholic beverages are offered, non-alcoholic beverages must also be made available. Non-alcoholic beverages must be served in an equally accessible and attractive manner as the alcoholic beverages.
4. Any food or beverage made with alcohol must be clearly labeled. This applies to any food in which the alcohol has been "cooked out."
5. A responsible adult over the age of 21 must be in control of the serving of alcoholic beverages during functions covered by this policy.
6. Alcoholic beverages shall not be sold at parish functions without a license or permit issued by the governing authority or agency responsible for the issuance of such licenses or permits.
7. Drunkenness is always inappropriate behavior, particularly in worship. The Rector and staff reserve the right to have intoxicated and disorderly persons removed from worship services, including weddings and other special occasions.
8. Alcoholic beverages shall not be offered at business meetings or to advertise or promote attendance at any business functions. Mixing business and alcohol is not appropriate.
9. The primary sponsor of any private event held at or sponsored by St. Anne's is responsible for the distribution and consumption of alcohol at any such event. This responsibility may include refusing to serve persons who are visibly intoxicated and taking reasonable measures to prevent any such persons from leaving the premises while operating a motor vehicle, as well as providing transportation home. Private events are those that are not open to the entire parish—whether on or off campus—such as wedding receptions, baby showers, banquets, foyer groups, fellowship groups, etc.