

The Flower Guild

“You should place yourself in the way of beauty every day,” so says Cheryl Strayed’s mother in the best-selling book, *Wild*. Coming into Saint John’s church on Sundays is definitely one way to experience that statement. Every week parishioners and visitors can view the beautiful arrangements that decorate the altar and worship space, but that doesn’t just happen. A good amount of effort goes into preparing the church every week throughout the year.

For the past five years, Rosemary Sullivan, along with co-chair DeeDee Bedford, has organized and executed the work of the Flower Guild. This includes weekly arrangements for worship services, decorations and additional flower work for holidays such as Christmas and Easter, which includes ordering flowers and other essentials based on the season (e.g. palms for Palm Sunday).

There are a lot of moving pieces that go into making this work, with Rosemary steering the ship with an able-bodied crew. For Advent and Christmas, the Ms. Fixits help to hang the nut wreaths, and install the Advent wreath above the altar. They also hang the greens outside the church for the annual Middle Street Walk. On Christmas Eve, the worship space is transformed into a burst of cheer with setting up the Nativity Scene, switching the wreaths to green, and displaying a myriad of flowers, all adding to the joyous Christmas services.

During the Lenten season, there are no flowers, but the Stations of the Cross are hung. For Maundy Thursday this year, Rosemary designed a “Garden of Repose” in the Thompson Room for meditation and prayer, and then the Flower Guild transformed the church for Easter Sunday literally overnight. The “Alleluias” resounded and once again, churchgoers experienced “beauty” in the church.

Rosemary is the energy that “makes everything happen,” but there are others who help on a regular or continuing basis. In addition to DeeDee Bedford (co-chair), Carolyn Stewart, and Gwen Kopka lend a hand when needed, and this year, Kipp Ellis has kept the vases that line the walls of the church filled with fresh flowers.

If you would like to become a part of this ministry, the Flower Guild is always looking for fresh faces and ideas. The schedule is flexible and there is no training involved. You can contact Rosemary at rosemarysullivan1@comcast.net, or see her in church on Sunday. Wouldn’t you want to be a part of creating “the beauty” for all to see?