

Episcopal Chaplaincy at Stanford Report 2013

“You’ve become part of our family,” were his last words to me, spoken as I was about to turn and walk out of the intensive care unit. A few minutes earlier, his wife had peacefully slipped away. Now, I was continuing on to visit my next patient and he was about to head to a home far away. It was in many ways a typical day for me as the Episcopal Chaplain at Stanford Hospital & Clinics.

Sometimes our journey with a patient ends this way, sometimes it ends with the joy of a cure, and other times it continues for years through a series of setbacks and advances. We never know how our time together will end: all we can promise is to walk, for as long as it takes, with each Episcopal patient, his or her family and the people who care for them.

We’re able to make and meet this promise thanks to the support of this diocese, of Episcopal churches in communities served by Stanford Hospital, and our individual donors. Our work continues thanks to the efforts of volunteers who visit Episcopal patients or serve on our advisory board. Together we are able to make sure each Episcopal patient at Stanford Hospital is visited at least once by our chaplaincy.

During 2013 we recruited, trained, and mentored five new volunteers and started an Episcopal Patient Lending Library that offers books on prayer, spirituality, grief, and other topics. We’ve expanded our new web site at www.episcochaplain.org and started an electronic newsletter (you can subscribe at <http://bitly.com/episcochap>). In addition, we’ve been reaching out to invite more Episcopal congregations to become part of this ministry.

Last year also saw the retirement of our long time Advisory Board Chairman, The Rev. Matthew McDermott. We give thanks for his many years of dedicated service as we look forward to our new chairperson, the Rev. Hailey McKeefry Delmas. Deacon Hailey brings to this post her experience of serving as the Episcopal Chaplain at Stanford Hospital for many years.

The Episcopal Chaplaincy continues to welcome new volunteers to assist us in our ministry — please contact Chaplain Tom Jackson at tcjackson@episcochaplain.org or by calling us through Stanford Hospital’s Spiritual Care office at 650.723.5101. If you would like to help support our ministry, please send your gift to us as a check made out to The Episcopal Chaplaincy, Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church, 1055 Taylor Street, San Francisco, CA 94108.

Parishes supporting our ministry include All Saints, Palo Alto; Christ Church, Los Altos; Christ Church, Portola Valley; Church of the Epiphany, San Carlos; St. Andrew’s, Saratoga; St. Bede’s, Menlo Park; St. Mark’s, Palo Alto; Trinity Parish, Menlo Park; and the Spiritual Care Service of Stanford University Hospital.