

Opportunities to Serve, Learn and Connect at Rolling Hills

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10)

In accordance with many Biblical entreaties to serve one another, the Rolling Hills Church offers its members many and varied opportunities to serve, learn and connect with each other. The best way to stay up-to-date on all the "serve, learn and connect" opportunities at Rolling Hills is to be sure you are receiving and reading the weekly emails from the church office. Here the opportunities are listed by category with a short description and contact information.

Adult Learning and Connecting Opportunities

Two book clubs meet at Rolling Hills Church. Members take turns leading the discussions. Anyone who is interested may join either group.

The Tuesday Morning Book Club meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the church. For more information, contact Leslie Thomsen at 913-383-3921.

The Thursday Afternoon Book Club meets on the 2nd Thursday each month, at 1:00pm at the church. For more information, contact Penny Acuff at 913-649-6756.

Two Circles meet at Rolling Hills:

Mary Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in Rooms C & D. Studies focus on a book of the Bible and are led by Rev. Ted Pierce. Coffee and dessert, along with good fellowship are shared each meeting. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Leslie Thomson at 913-383-3921.

Sarah Circle meets weekly on Thursday mornings at 9:30am during the school year. Many of our members have high school and college age children or grandchildren, although any age is welcome! Sarah Circle has enjoyed several video-based studies in the past, as well as a few books by female Christian authors. Fellowship is an important part of this circle. For more information, contact: Tara Flint, tmflint@msn.com or 913-907-7940.

Adult Bible study groups are in several categories:

Based on a sermon series:

Depending on the sermon series, there may be adult study groups meeting either before or after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. In addition, on Friday mornings Rev. Ted Pierce hosts Zoom meetings at 9 a.m for a sneak peek at the Sunday sermon in the latest series. In addition, Rev. Tom Young leads a brown bag lunch and study group on the sermon series at noon on Mondays at the church. A 4th group meets at Meadowbrook Assisted Living Facility on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. All adults are encouraged to participate in one of these study groups. For more information, please contact Julie Young, juliakyoung@msn.com or 913-499-8094, or Dave Lindley, dalinop@msn.com. or 512-797-7074. Our weekly email to all members will announce these sessions.

Regular and ongoing adult study groups:

Writing In the Spirit meets at the church on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 - 2:30pm. We enjoy fellowship and have fun with writing. Each meeting starts with sharing responses to a "writing prompt". You will find us a welcoming, encouraging group to write with! Any questions? Call Carole Carter 913-558-8948.

The Wired Word adult class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Each week a story from the news is discussed through scripture references. All are invited to join this class. For more information contact Julie Young, juliakyoung@msn.com or 913-499-8094 or Pete Pallesen at peter.j.pallesen@gmail.com or 703-585-1941.

The **Gospel Y3K** class meets on Monday evenings via Zoom. Classes focus on various studies related to scripture and the church and often begin with a video presentation. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Mic Morris at micmorris@sbcglobal.net or 913-381-4616.

Racial Injustice: Toward a Better Understanding. This group gathers monthly or as announced to learn, explore, and act on systemic issues related to racism. The group discussions are dynamic, informative, and interesting. In addition to the discussions, there are field trips, You Tube/TED talks, and book studies. Meetings are third Wednesday of each month, 2:00 p.m. at the church. This group is open to and encourages others to join at any time. If you are interested, contact Kathleen Hermes, khhermes101@gmail.com or 913-244-1081.

Going Forward is a grief support group that meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. For more information, contact Wanda Lantz at 913-722-0702.

Kaleidoscope is a lunch or dinner meeting with studies or informational presentations given. Advent studies and Lenten studies have been done. Other times, guest speakers tell about programs from outside of our congregation. For more information, contact Julie Young at juliakyoung@msn.com or 913-499-8094.

Prayer Room and Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Room, also known as the Bride's Room, is open for prayer almost any time the building is open. This room has resources to help guide your prayers, and a bulletin board on which to post prayer requests. All are invited to come spend time in quiet conversation with God.

During Lent people are invited to be part of a prayer chain and agree to pray at certain times throughout the week. Some come to the Prayer Room, some pray at home or at work. During the remainder of the year specific requests for prayer are sent to this group. If you would like to participate, please contact Julie Young at juliakyoung@msn.com or 913-499-8094.

Service Opportunities Within Rolling Hills

Greeters and Ushers

The Rolling Hills greeters and ushers welcome you and open the door to our congregation and worship. Rain or shine, our greeters, sometimes called "the curbside crew" will open doors – to the church and even the doors to your car when needed – and greet you as you enter. Individuals and families are welcome to participate. If you would like to become a greeter, please contact Katie Stone at 913-642-9248 or kgstone61@gmail.com .

The ushers add another welcome and help you find a place to sit, and answer any questions you might have. There is room for you to join this important ministry of Rolling Hills. If you would like to be an usher, please contact Mark Chipman at 816-519-7344 or chipman.mark@gmail.com .

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

Various groups prepare treats and snacks for Coffee Hour in the Narthex following the 10 a.m. Sunday service. If you would like to help with this, please contact Dave Lindley at dalinop@msn.com or 512-797-7074, or Pete Pallesen at Peter.j.pallesen@gmail.com or 703-585-1941.

Communion Preparation

If you are interested in helping with communion preparation, please contact the Church office at 913-642-9100 to see if assistance is needed.

Music Opportunities

Do you like to sing? We would love to have you join our Chancel Choir! We rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm in the choir room. **Do you like to ring?** The bell choir is a very fun, welcoming group and we have openings! Bell Choir practices on Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:45pm in the bell room. Bells will play in worship about once a month. **Do you like to strum?** Our Ukulele Choir gathers from time to time to work on music for a Sunday presentation. Other music-related groups form from time to time. If you are interested, please contact Donna Hetrick, our music director, at donna@rollinghillskc.org.

Help With Sunday School

To support and nurture children is one of our most important—and rewarding—missions. At Rolling Hills, we believe there is nothing more exciting than a vibrant and growing relationship with God. And we want to help kids experience that excitement for the Lord.

Every Sunday morning, we have childcare available for our youngest members in room 105 and Sunday School for our Elementary-aged friends. Children from birth to age 4 are welcome to join our nursery teachers to play together with lots of fun toys, do crafts, and hear Bible stories. Children ages Kindergarten – 5th grade meets for Sunday school during our worship services. Elementary-aged children start the worship service with their family in the sanctuary and are dismissed to Sunday School after *A Time for Children*. We rotate our curriculums throughout the year to focus on Bible stories and liturgically relevant lessons as well as lessons on socially relevant topics, such as our *Compassion and Empathy* unit, our *Neighbor* unit, or our *Kind Kids* lessons.

If you are interested in helping or getting involved with Children's Ministries please reach out to Amy Hopkins, Director, at Amy@rollinghillskc.org, or Kate Gentry, Assistant Director, at KateG@rollinghillskc.org.

Help with Middle School and Sr. High Fellowship

Rolling Hills Youth are active, thoughtful, and mission minded. The Middle School and Senior High groups meet weekly on Saturdays or Sundays where they enjoy fellowship with each other! They also love doing service projects.

A big highlight of the year for the Senior High is their annual summer service trip where they serve God in partnership with other communities. The middle schoolers enjoy a retreat camping week where they engage in all the fun camp experiences while working to develop their leadership skills and exploring their relationship with God. Our youth love their church! They also love sharing their experiences with their church family when they lead worship on YOUTH SUNDAY.

If you wish to be involved as an adult sponsor/helper, or to donate to help make their life-changing trips possible, please contact Emily Nelson Dixon at emily@rollinghillskc.org.

Assist with funeral services and receptions

The Rolling Hills Board of Deacons provides care and support to families by helping with funeral services and with receptions for those services. Various people provide cookies, help in the kitchen, or serve as greeters and ushers. The Deacons invite people who are interested in engaging in this ministry to contact Kathi Knop at kask@sbcglobal.net or 913-558-1275.

Friends of Music and Arts

Friends of Music and the Arts has a long history of serving and celebrating with the Rolling Hills Community of Grace. We wear the black aprons and make sure you get enough to eat from the reception table after a concert. We set up beautiful centerpieces and create food that will make you smile! We are a fellowship group that shows hospitality and generosity to visitors and members alike.

If you like to cook or bake, enjoy decorating, and want to become more involved with a group celebrating fellowship that is uniquely Rolling Hills, please contact Pam Roland at pamroland1@gmail.com .

Card Making

The Card Making Group meets to make cards from scratch. These are turned over to the Board of Deacons to be sent to people who are on the prayer list, in the hospital, homebound, etc. The group meets at the church on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the third or fourth week of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. People interested can come whatever day suits them and stay as long as they like. All raw materials are supplied. Ideas are enjoyed! No experience is necessary. If you are interested in receiving information on the meetings, contact Vickie Menke at vmenke0749@gmail.com.

Knit, crochet, quilt

Would you like to make blankets, scarves, hats and mittens for others? Several talented Rolling Hills members donate such items when asked. Currently, they create these items at home, but would welcome the chance to meet together. If you are interested in sharing your talents to welcome and serve others, please contact Patrice Sollenberger at patrice@rollinghillsskc.org.

Garden Angels

The Garden Angels maintain the Rolling Hills gardens. They gather during the growing season to do basic garden upkeep such as deadheading, weeding, and pruning. We meet on Friday mornings, weather permitting, at 9:00 a.m., though we don't anticipate working every Friday. Please consider joining our efforts to maintain the Rolling Hills gardens. We welcome your input and your help! Please contact Irene Ecklund at 402-214-8844 or Mike Andrews at mikeandrews@frontier.com for more information, schedules, and to get involved!

Dirt Devils

The Dirt Devils take care of the back acreage known as the Rainbow Park and Community Garden by clearing weeds from around the garden, pond, and labyrinth. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mic Morris at micmorris@sbcglobal.net.

Green Team

For several years Rolling Hills has been a certified green church. The Green Team's primary goal is to evaluate and recommend actions to improve the church's ecological standing. We encourage any who are interested in earth care and willing to help us with this endeavor to join. If you have any questions or would like to join, email: Mic Morris micmorris@sbcglobal.net or Kathy Hermes at k.hermes101@gmail.com .

Movie Mavens

This group simply loves going to movies! If you love movies too, this group is a great way to enjoy the world of cinema and connect with other Rolling Hills members. They meet occasionally and go to the Glenwood Cinema in Ranchmart South at 95th and Mission Road. No reservations need be made. Just show up prior to movie time. Contact Debbie Nelson at drnelson@everestkc.net for more information.

Service Opportunities in the KC Area

Our Outreach Committee is always actively evaluating opportunities to partner with deserving organizations in our community. Here are some recurring and recent recipients:

Grandview Park Presbyterian and La Paz Food Pantry

Rolling Hills has had a sister church relationship with Grandview Park Presbyterian Church in Wyandotte County for more than 10 years. Rolling Hills members helped with the demolition of Grandview Park's kitchen in preparation for their Cocina de la Paz project. Food, health and beauty supplies, and financial support have been given. Grandview Park provides the La Paz Pantry to people in need around the church. It operates as a bi-weekly program serving 90 to 100 boxes each time. Volunteers help unload the truck from Harvesters, sort the food and prepare the boxes for distribution to the clients on Fridays. The distribution occurs on Saturday mornings.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions or have food/health donations, please contact Cindy Kelley at cynbk@aol.com or John Kelley at jkelly17@aol.com.

Harvesters Mobile Food Pantry at RH

Responding to God's call to care for those in need, members of Rolling Hills Church partner with Harvesters for the Rolling Hills Mobile Food Pantry on the 4th Monday of each month to distribute food to our neighbors in need. This group, which can always use additional arms and legs, meets in the parking lot of Rolling Hills Church for 3 hours, from 11:00am until 2:00pm, working together and enjoying the time. Sign up online, or just show up on the 4th Monday. For more information, please contact Emily Nelson Dixon at emily@rollinghillskc.org.

Village Food Pantry

The Village Food Pantry and Clothes Closet provides free food, clothing, and household goods to those in need. There are no geographical boundaries and recipients can choose their own items within guidelines. Any person or household whose income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline may request assistance. Rolling Hills has long supported the Pantry with donations of cereal once a month and provides four to five volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. The work is easy and rewarding with the added benefit of getting to know and visit with others from Rolling Hills and Village Presbyterian Church!

Donations of food or clothing may be dropped off in Tillotson Building at 9960 Mission Road from 10am - 2pm Monday-Friday, or from 9:30-11am Saturdays. Please contact Kim Penner if you would like to be added to our list of volunteers. Phone: 913.515.6865 | email: Kgp151@gmail.com

Kansas City Indian Center

Rolling Hills Church has been involved with The Kansas City Indian Center since 2014. The KCIC is located at 600 W. 39th St., Kansas City, MO. Their programs include a food pantry, a social service department, a White Bison Program for any type of addiction, wellness classes, and a youth and family program.

Rolling Hills members have attended their first Wednesday of the month Cultural nights, helped with Free Food Friday, hosted presentations for information, a movie night, and an Indian Taco dinner. Rolling Hills members have also helped with upkeep projects and crafted handmade toys for the children's summer camp.

For more information or a tour, contact Gary Beauchamp at gdbclb@aol.com or 816-589-4095.

Amethyst Place

Amethyst Place, at 2735 Troost, was founded in 2000 to provide "comprehensive, family-centered care to help women overcome the interconnected cycles of poverty, trauma, and substance use to achieve multi-generational impact." Amethyst Place has served nearly 200 women and children each year. They have 37 apartments and many on-site programs for these women and children.

Rolling Hills has supported Amethyst Place for several years through the gifts of money, including the Christmas offering, to rehab space for meetings, offices, and therapy space, and provide a new playground for the children. Members of Rolling Hills have also donated supplies, including furniture and kitchen items, and volunteer time. If you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Kathy Sailors at bsailor@kc.rr.com.

Service Options Beyond the KC Area

Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Native American Reservation

Groups from Rolling Hills Church have experienced work trips to Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Native American Reservation in South Dakota for the past several years.

Oglala Lakota County, South Dakota, entirely within the reservation, ranks as the poorest county in the nation. On these trips we learn about the land, the history, the challenges, and culture from the Oglala Lakota people. Work projects include making bunk beds, installing skirting around mobile homes, improving entries to homes with porches and ramps, and installing outhouses. If you are interested in participating in a work trip and learning from our brothers and sisters in Christ, please contact Kim Penner at kgp151@gmail.com or 913-515-6865.

Thwake Village in Kenya

Rolling Hills has supported Kenya's Thwake Village in partnership with the Neema Presbyterian Church in Olathe with several adult mission trips over the past several years, including improving the village's fresh water supply, helping manage provision of basic health care clinics and erecting a building to be used for medical purposes. For more information, contact the Rev. Ted Pierce at ted@rollinghillskc.org.

Social Small Groups at Rolling Hills

There are three Dinner Groups of 8 – 10 people each. These groups meet in a member's home once a month. Members rotate who is the host.

There are two Dessert Only Groups of 8 – 10 people. Members take turns being host for the meetings. One group meets in homes, and one meets at the church.

Another group of members meet for dining out together. They also share the responsibility for setting a time and place to meet about once a month.

Silver Singles has been an active group at Rolling Hills for many years. They enjoy dining out as a group.

New small groups may be formed at any time. For more information, contact Julie Young at juliakyoung@msn.com or 913-499-8094, or Pete Pallesen at peter.j.pallesen@gmail.com or 703-585-1941.

Elected Church Leadership Opportunities

Leadership of Rolling Hills consists of the Session, made up of Elders and moderated by the Pastor. In addition, our church has a Board of Deacons dedicated to all aspects of congregational care. Also, a Board of Trustees manages the church's real estate interests. Members of Elders, Trustees and Deacons are elected by the RH Congregation at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in being considered for one of these leadership or care roles, please contact Larry Roland, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at lroland0211@gmail.com or 913-221-6956.

Following is a list of sessional committees, which consist of and are led by Session members, and may also have other congregation members as well. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact the church office at 913-642-9100.

- Adult Spirituality/Education**
- Budget and Finance**
- Building and Grounds**
- Children and Family**
- Church Family Connect**
- Church and Society**
- Hospitality and Membership**
- Marketing**
- Music and Worship**
- Nominating**
- Outreach**
- Personnel**
- Safety**
- Youth and Family**