

Q: What exactly is Dinner Church?

A: Dinner Church is a new ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (on the corner of 84th & Pacific), but it's actually nothing new. It was an idea that was originally thought-up about 2,000 years ago by the first Christians, who regularly gathered together in homes and "devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42). There has been a resurgence of the idea of Dinner Church over the past few years, and it has taken many different shapes in different contexts around the country.

For our Dinner Church, we will gather for prayers, music, either acapella or with guitar or piano accompaniment (no praise band, no organ or choir) and scripture readings, culminating in the Eucharistic Prayer. (If you've ever been to a "liturgical church," like the Episcopal, Lutheran, Orthodox, or Roman Catholic churches, there will be many parts of our service that will seem familiar.) Once we have shared communion (or, The Lord's Supper) we will share an actual meal together and spend some time in conversation. We may have a specific topic of discussion or a guest presenter, or we may simply discuss the readings that we heard (no sermons!).

Q. When is Dinner Church?

A. We meet on Sundays at 5:00 PM, and the whole worship service, including meal and discussion, will last about an hour and a half.

Q: Where will Dinner Church take place?

A: We meet in the basement parish hall of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on the corner of 84th and Pacific. (The doors to the basement are on the East side of the building. The North set of doors is handicap accessible.) We meet in the basement rather than in the main sanctuary of the church, so that we can move seamlessly from prayer to the communion table, and finally to our meal tables for fellowship and discussion together (did I mention no sermons?!). We will also have a small "play area" near the tables for young children so that if they feel a little restless they can entertain themselves with activities and still be present with us during our time together.

Q: Why is St. Andrew's offering Dinner Church, and why should I come?

A: Dinner Church is an opportunity for a different type of Church experience. Just as our Saturday evening and Sunday morning services are all unique and appeal to different tastes and needs, we hope that Dinner Church will also appeal to those in our community with different tastes and needs. Whether you are new to the Episcopal denomination, or to Christianity altogether, or are just looking for a different type of worship service, we hope that the welcoming atmosphere and less formal structure of Dinner Church will be one that you find inviting and accessible.

The prayers that we say and the music that we sing will provide you with the opportunity to slow down and spend some time in contemplation – listening for the "still, small voice" of God in your life and in the world around you.

In addition to the more relaxed atmosphere, Dinner Church also provides... Dinner! Our dinners will vary from week to week, depending on who volunteers to cook. We may even have pot luck style meals from time to time. We hope that sharing a meal together, especially in the context of the Eucharist (The Lord's Supper) will provide opportunities for us to become closer to Jesus and to one another.

Q. Who's invited to Dinner Church? Do I have to be a member of St. Andrews?

A. Just like everything else we offer at St. Andrew's, EVERYONE is welcome at Dinner Church! Maybe you've never been to church and are interested in finding out more about Christianity and want to see what it's like, but are afraid of going someplace too "churchy" – come to Dinner Church! Maybe you were raised in a different Christian denomination and are curious about the Episcopal Church – come to Dinner Church! Maybe for some reason you can't make it to church at your regular Saturday or Sunday time some weeks – come to Dinner Church! Maybe your kids play sports on Sunday mornings, but you have Sunday evenings free – come to Dinner Church! Maybe you need more peace, prayer, fellowship, conversation or food in your life – come to Dinner Church! And come as you are, **all are welcome!**

