



**The Rev. Kay Provine**  
Chaplain  
Episcopal Homes

## SUPPORTING EACH INDIVIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL NEEDS

*“People with a strong faith do better at staying positive and continuing to find meaning in their lives as they cope with the changes thrust upon them by age. What we try to do is nurture each person’s faith, whatever that faith may be.”*

Chaplain Kay

*“I visit new residents as soon as possible after their arrival to introduce myself and welcome them to the Church Home,” says Chaplain Kay.*

*“During those visits,*

*proselytize, we have had a number of residents come to us for spiritual direction. They were people who had never thought much about spirituality earlier in life and found themselves feeling a need to get in touch with it now. But even in those cases, we don’t try to sell them on a particular faith or belief system. Instead, we try to open a number of doors for them, then support their spiritual journey no matter which door they may ultimately choose to pass through.”*

*if the new residents are willing to discuss spiritual matters, I learn about their religious identity, denominational association, faith tradition and what church, synagogue or mosque they belong to, if any.*

*“Another thing I try to learn when I visit is what spiritual resources the new residents draw upon to celebrate the joys and cope with the sorrows of life. Prayer? Sacraments? Worship services? Bible study and/or reading? God-centered conversations? All of this helps us determine how to best support each resident’s unique spiritual journey.*

*“However,” continues Chaplain Kay, “we respect each individual’s right to decline sharing such information or to have no religious identity.”*

At this point, Lynn Dosch, our Spiritual Life Assistant, chimes in: *“While it’s true that we are not here to*

Accordingly, Chaplain Kay, Lynn and a small army of Spiritual Life volunteers keep the Church Home’s chapel humming with full schedule of inclusive religious services

and programs, including Holy Eucharist every Friday (with in-room communions for non-mobile residents following the service), plus weekly Roman Catholic Communion and Rosary, and monthly Roman Catholic Mass. In the course of a year, there are more than 380 services of over a dozen different kinds – and that’s not counting the daily one-to-one spiritual life work that’s done with many residents



Friday Eucharist in the Church Home’s chapel

in the privacy of their rooms.

*“Our hope,” concludes Chaplain Kay, “is that we can help each individual feel that his or her life has been worthwhile, and that it still is. We are all children of God, and we all matter.”*

**Chaplain Kay Provine** has three grown sons, all married, and one grand-daughter. She worked as a senior prevention trainer at Hazelden for 13 years. The deeply spiritual nature of recovery called Kay to study for the priesthood in New York. She served her diaconate at St. Christopher’s in Roseville, was ordained at St. Mark’s Cathedral, and is a member of St. Clement’s in Saint Paul.

**Lynn Dosch**, a Roman Catholic, came to us eight years ago. She brought with her a decade of pastoral care experience from the hospice at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Lynn has also been a storyteller for 20 years, in a 12-step ministry, and is licensed to serve as a Eucharistic Minister.



◀ Lynn Dosch, Spiritual Life Assistant, at one of her Thursday Storytelling services.