

Security Team Update

You may have noticed over the past couple of months the presence of our Security Team members during Sunday morning services. We thought this might be a good time to introduce our security plan to the congregation and give you some background on what we are doing to enhance your safety and security while you, your children and our guests attend Sunday morning services at St. Mark's.

The primary purpose of our security teams is to protect the congregation, Sunday School and nursery from a variety of threats and emergencies during Sunday morning services. Our goal is to provide this enhanced level of security in such a way that we do not detract from the church's traditionally warm and welcoming environment for our members and guests.

This is a focused ministry at St. Mark's whose duties and responsibilities are unique and separate from our ushers, greeters and other volunteer groups.

The members of this team, recruited from our membership, have undergone background checks by the Virginia State Police, 4 hours of in house security training and certification in CPR/AED. Sunday morning teams are equipped with walkie talkies, cell phones, a cordless church phone, all to facilitate communications with other team members, 911 and our nursery and Sunday School classrooms. In addition, they carry a complete set of keys for all outside doors and selected inside doors.

Some of our routine functions on Sunday's include –

- Observing those entering our parking lot to detect potential problems (suspicious activity, weapons, medical emergencies, domestic situations) before they enter our buildings
- Observing those entering our secondary doors
- Control lockdown and/or evacuation procedures for our nursery and children's Sunday School classrooms in the event of an emergency
- Provide an outward focused over watch for congregation during worship services in the Sanctuary and CLC
- Manage the number of access points to the building by locking and unlocking certain doors before and during various services
- Provide a level of security assistance for minister if needed
- Coordinate 911 services if required
- Locking down the building after Sunday services

If you see something suspicious, especially in our parking lots, please say something to one of our security team members. Look for the yellow **Security Team** name tags.

Inquiries about serving on our security team and any questions, concerns, suggestions and comments can be directed to Herb Coen at 804 347 5883 or hocoen14@gmail.com.