

VIRTUES OF THE MONTH

2022-2023

Interconnected character traits that form aspirational goals for the development of the whole person ethically, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

This year, Stemmons Family Senior Chaplain The Reverend Nate Boston launched a nine-month series of ethical values and spiritual practices following the acronym E.P.I.S.C.O.P.A.L. as a foundation for ESD's Virtue of the Month. Each virtue includes a description, a list of associated values, and a Scripture passage as "a theme verse" for each month.

"As an Episcopal school, we welcome all faiths, so it was important to select ideals that resonate with all denominations and spiritual practices," said Father Nate. "We also wanted values we could build upon. Every virtue can be used multiple years and be taken in different directions related to our relationship with ourselves, others, and the wider world. Finally, the acronym helps us remember."

Every year, it is our goal for E.P.I.S.C.O.P.A.L. virtues to ignite lives of purpose and develop educated consciences!

SEPTEMBER

E

Empathy

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
(John 15.12)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO loving every person as a child of God, by seeing ourselves in each other and treating others as we want to be treated to create an environment in which we respect the dignity of every person, with fairness and equitable treatment for all.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
hospitality, fairness, equity, reciprocity, justice, dignity, and respect



OCTOBER

P

Peacemaking

Offer prayers and thanksgivings for everyone, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all reverence and dignity.
(1 Timothy 2.1-2)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO becoming calm and mindful so we may create peace and forgiveness in our community and work toward harmony and reconciliation in our world.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
calmness, mindfulness, peace, harmony, forgiveness, and reconciliation



NOVEMBER

I

Integrity

Good people bring good things out of the good stored up in their heart: Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
(Luke 6.45)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO becoming people of character and virtue, who are trustworthy, honest, and reliable, but when we fall short of being our best selves, we admit it and make restitution for our wrongdoings.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
righteousness, honor, virtue, character, goodness, honesty, humility, and repentance



DECEMBER

S

Service

Jesus said: I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.
(John 13.15)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO becoming servant leaders who have compassion and mercy for others, which leads us to use our blessings to bless others and manage our resources as faithful stewards of God's gifts to us.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
stewardship, charity, generosity, compassion, kindness, mercy, and leadership



JANUARY

C

Creativity

God has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen and as designers.
(Exodus 35.35)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO living as creative children of our creative Creator who use our vision to imagine new possibilities for the future and use our gifts and talents to turn these dreams into reality to heal the world and bring hope to our communities.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
imagination, vision, innovation, artistry, inspiration, resourcefulness, and hope



STRIVING VIRTUES
Character traits that help us love ourselves by seeking to become our best self.



SERVING VIRTUES
Character traits that help us love our neighbors by giving ourselves for their good.



SEEKING VIRTUES
Character traits that help us receive Divine Love by searching for purpose and meaning.

FEBRUARY

O

Openness

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds.
(Romans 12.2)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO the pursuit of understanding, knowledge, and wisdom, through curiosity and questioning, by exploring the wonders of our world and listening to a diversity of voices to gain insight into who we are and why we exist.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
learning, wisdom, understanding, curiosity, diversity, exploration, mindfulness, and listening



MARCH

P

Perseverance

I can do all things through the One who strengthens me.
(Philippians 4.13)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO becoming our best selves through hard work and self-discipline, as we continually strive to overcome challenges and achieve excellence and encourage one another in our struggles and successes.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
discipline, hard work, self-control, patience, resilience, commitment, excellence, and encouragement



APRIL

A

Appreciation

This is the day that the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
(Psalm 118.24)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO an attitude of gratitude for every aspect of life, with wonder and delight in the world around us and joyful hearts for the blessings we experience, which lead us to worship God and give thanks to one another.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
joy, wonder, awe, worship, thanksgiving, gratitude, and mindfulness



MAY

L

Love

Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.
(Mark 12.30-31)

WE ARE COMMITTED TO letting God's Love shine through us as we love others as God has loved us, in healthy and life-giving relationships, as well as in inclusive and caring communities, so we ignite a life of purpose as we develop an educated conscience, to share God's Light and Love and Life with our world.

ASSOCIATED VALUES
inclusion, unity, healthy relationships, mission, passion, purpose, and vocation

