

The Basilica's Caring Ministries

How can we help?

If you ever find yourself in a season of hardship, you might want to connect with Wendy Cichanski Caduff. Wendy joined The Basilica last summer as the Coordinator of Caring Ministries. Her work centers around meeting the pastoral needs of our faith community, which includes funerals and grief support, communion for homebound parishioners, and the Emmaus Ministry.

"I offer people the spiritual support they need as they are journeying through life," she shares. "For example, if someone gets a cancer diagnosis, I'm often the first person from The Basilica calling to see how they are coping and to connect them to additional support from our faith community."

Caduff worked at two other parishes before coming to The Basilica, where she was responsible for faith formation and pastoral care. "At small parishes, you wear a lot of hats," she said with a smile. "In my previous position, I coordinated marriage preparation, taught RCIA, led adult bible studies, and served as a liturgical coordinator in addition to my pastoral care role."

Her work at The Basilica focuses on pastoral care for people going through difficult times such as illness, grief, or loss. Wendy appreciates The Basilica's "outward-focused vision," seeking the well-being of the city. "This community serves the needs of anyone and everyone who approaches us."

She appreciates that The Basilica is "very intentional about everything it does, from creating strategic plans to sorting its trash; I love that intentionality." She also notes efforts "to be inclusive of the entire Body of Christ, having courageous conversations about race, homelessness, immigrants and refugees, and the sex abuse crisis." Caduff finds it "refreshing to be in a community that is actively discussing and working on the important issues of our day and drawing on the social teachings of our Church. I just see so much right relationship here at The Basilica, right relationship with God, with others, and with all of creation."



PHOTO/ELYSE RETHLAKE

She enjoys reading and being outdoors to find God in the beauty of the natural world and creation. Wendy's husband, Ben, also works at The Basilica. "I really, really treasure my two kids and my husband. Both of our children are adopted and they are just such gifts. I didn't think I'd be able to become a mother, and by the sheer grace of God these kids were placed into my life and into my care and I couldn't love them more." ✚

Rachel Newman been an active volunteer and parishioner since 2017.

BY RACHEL NEWMAN