



Alzheimer's Orange County Interfaith Outreach Patty Barnett Mouton

CARE 1-844-373-4400
SUPPORT www.alzoc.org
CURE

Program origins and development

- Conceptualized by former CEO about 2000
- Examined an unmet need among constituents
- Recruited a volunteer advisory group & working committee
- 3 pillars of the program:
 - ❖ Interfaith Services monthly
 - ❖ Community participation & education
 - ❖ Active volunteers and Liaisons at congregations

Spiritual support is an important component of “person-centered” dementia care

- The benefits of spiritual care and participation are well-documented in the literature and anecdotally
- *In vivo*, there is solid experiential evidence to support that this is a really good thing
 - “Are you the Lord God?”
 - “They gave me a mug and made me feel like myself....good”

**We are more than just who we know and what we know.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.**

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON GOD

Brain scans of people lost in prayer or deep in meditation have revealed the neurological underpinnings of religious states such as transcendence, visions, enlightenment and feelings of awe.



Cosmic unity

When the parietal lobes quiet down, a person can feel at one with the universe

Parietal lobe

Right lateral view of the brain

Frontal lobe

Temporal lobe

Occipital lobe

Cerebellum



Response to religious words

At the juncture of three lobes, this region governs reaction to language



Sacred images

The lower temporal lobe is involved in the process by which images, such as candles or crosses, facilitate prayer and meditation



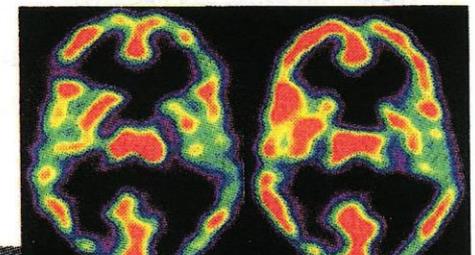
Religious emotions The middle temporal lobe is linked to emotional aspects of religious experience, such as joy and awe



Attention Linked to concentration, the frontal lobe lights up (red at top in scans) during meditation

Before

During



Keys to success

- Make a commitment to support the activity for at least 2 – 3 years, or don't bother
- Engage the faith community in the planning process
- Budget for at least 8 hours a week of staff time, choosing the right staff member to support the volunteers

- Usually 1 service per month
- Approximately 40 – 75 guests each month
- Special seasonal programs, e.g. pre-school carolers at Christmas
- Meticulous attention to logistics, e.g. who will call which Assisted Living buildings, who will confirm attendance for lunches, etc.
- Where do shuttles park?
- Is there room for walkers and wheelchairs?
- RESTROOMS
- Plenty of volunteers at the house of worship who understand dementia



Short,
simple,
familiar,
EASY to
participate

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.**

Keys to success

- **Short services 20 – 30 minutes**
- **Familiar versions of scriptures**
- **Familiar, “old” hymns, first verse only**
- **Make things very easy and relaxed – no “tight” scheduling at the church**
- **Prep and support the minister**
- **No “fire & brimstone” sermon**
- **No altar calls, conversions or salvation**

Keys to success

- **Planning! Publish the calendar 12 months in advance if possible**
- **Spread services throughout your geography**
- **Be sure to be ecumenically diverse**
- **Calling Calling Calling! Then call again.**
- **Have a congregation champion “liaison”**
- **Engage and recognized the STAFF from Assisted Living buildings**
- **Engage and recognize the clergy who participate**

**Promotion:
US Mail
Social
Media
E-mail
Phone
calls
Health-
fairs
Bulletins
Personal**

**over-
communicate!**



Congregation B'nai Tzedek and Alzheimer's Orange County

****Location Change****

Invite you to:

**A special interfaith religious service for individuals with
Alzheimer's disease or related disorders
and their families & caregivers**

- Enjoy messages of hope and comfort
- An opportunity for spiritual expression regardless of cognitive ability
- Bringing unity and serenity in a divine place with short, familiar scripture readings and music

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

**Congregation B'nai Tzedek
9669 Talbert Ave
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
714.963.4611**

Directions

From the south:

Take Interstate 405 north.
Take the Brookhurst St toward Fountain Valley
Keep left at the fork; follow signs for Brookhurst St S
and merge onto Brookhurst St
Merge on Brookhurst St.
Make a right at Talbert Ave
Destination on the right side

**Reception following
service**

**Please RSVP to Joan
at 714.292.6148**

From the north:

Take Interstate 405 south.
Take exit 14 for Brookhurst St toward Fountain Valley
Keep right at the fork; follow signs for Brookhurst St
S and merge onto Brookhurst St
Merge onto Brookhurst St
Make a right at Talbert Ave
Destination on the right side

*The Alzheimer's Orange County is a non-denominational organization;
its events are open to all faith centers.*

Alzheimer's Orange County | Helpline 844-373-4400 | www.alzoc.org

Volunteer
driven with
appropriate
staff
support

Advisory Members:

- Rabbi Steve Einstein
- Rev. Bill Bennett
- Rev. Gary Tucker
- Rev. Gil Moore
- Fr. Phil Smith
- Rabbi David Young

Committee Members:

- Bev Harrison
- Carol Cox
- Heather Shelly
- Jacque Schweppe
- Joan Walker
- Therese Pekala

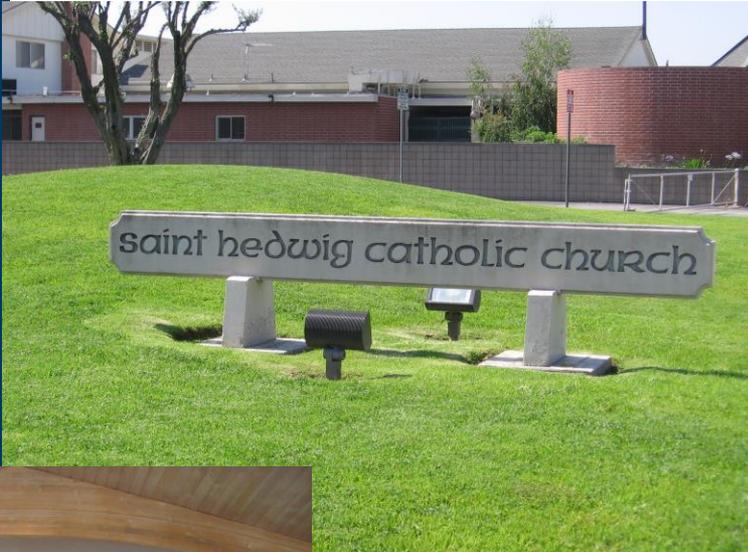


Interfaith
Services
volunteers

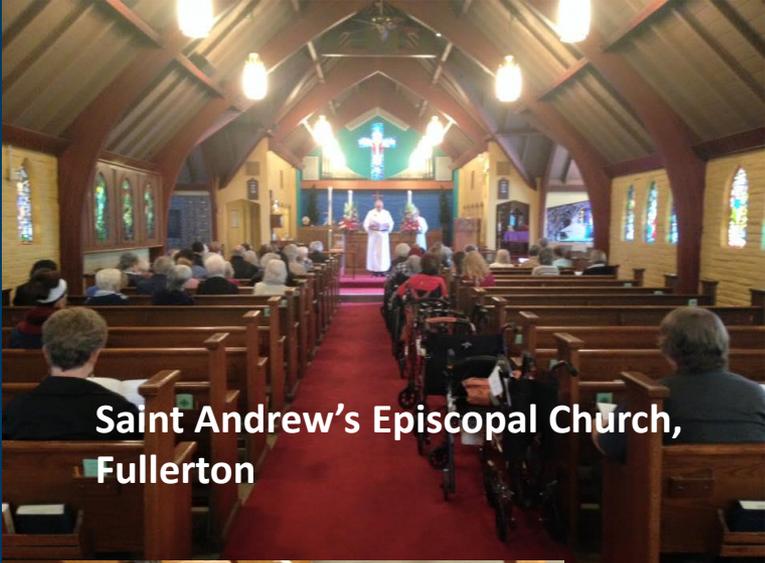


RE
SUPPORT
RE

Diversity of denominations



Interfaith Services



**Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church,
Fullerton**



**First Presbyterian Church of
Garden Grove**



Good Shepherd Presbyterian, Los Alamitos



**University Synagogue,
Irvine**





Interfaith Services

University Synagogue,
Irvine



St. Vincent de Paul,
Huntington Beach



The “church ladies” in every congregation are critical!



CARE
SUPPORT
CURE



Enticing
the
Assisted
Living
buildings
to
participate



CARE
SUPPORT
CURE

Recognition
of STAFF
from the
Assisted
Living
buildings for
participating
at services



Do
good,
do
well



