

Police Chaplain's Provide a Valuable Service

The Tullahoma Police Department partners with area Ministers to provide for a Police Chaplain program. Now in its twenty-ninth year, this group of volunteer ministers desire to provide a spiritual service to the community and the employees of the Department. The program and the participants provide for a Chaplain to be available 24 hours, 7 days a week to respond to the request for assistance by the Police Department. Two of the original organizing Ministers, Baylon Hilliard and Don Dixon, still selflessly serve as active members. The program operates under the auspices of the Tullahoma Police Department and the services are in a voluntary basis without compensation, benefits, or other association with the City of Tullahoma.

The services include spiritual comfort to community members at the Hospital emergency room; spiritual assistance at the scene of an accident or fire; comfort and assistance to department members during critical situations; and assistance to City Hall. The Police Chaplains also provide assistance to the Hospital Chaplains as they minister to the patients and staff at the Hospital.

Captain Scott Jackson is the Chaplain's Liaison for the Department. Jackson works closely with the program Coordinator, Baylon Hilliard, and the Deputy Coordinator, Elbert Smith. Jackson attends the monthly meetings and ensures the Police Chaplains have the proper identification and are known to officers in the event they are called to a scene. The coordinator and deputy coordinator oversee the monthly Chaplain meeting and training sessions. The Chaplains come from a variety of churches and denominations, but all desire to serve the Tullahoma community. The program provides for twelve (12) ministers, and permits only one from a given church. The Chaplains provide a valuable service in situations where a counseling and spiritual background provides for comfort in very intense situations. The availability of these dedicated ministers is an integral part of the Department's service to this community. We thank them for their service to our community. All eligible ministers of any faith can participate in the program. If additional information is needed, please contact Captain Scott Jackson at (931) 455-0530 or tpd@tullahomatn.gov . Should you have additional questions about Police operations, I can be reached at pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov .