

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Profile



Believe, Become, Belong

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Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church!

"A Place to Believe, Become, Belong!"

Belonging is what we were made to do. We were not created to live life in isolation. We were created to live in community and experience life with others. Belonging means being a part of a community whose life is enriched because we are there.

As members of the Episcopalian faith, it is our mission to lovingly serve God through worship, fellowship, education, and ministry, and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ whose life, death and resurrection saved the world.

In partnership with the Diocese of North Carolina, the Bishop, our vestry and on behalf of our fellow parishioners we welcome your interest in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Our search team, blessed with a variety of talents has developed a bond as we have compiled the following profile of our worship community. We feel we have been guided by the Holy Spirit to assist with replacement of our prior rector as he seeks rest in retirement after 18 years of service at St. Andrew's.



Mission Statement and Parish Goals

Our mission at St. Andrew's Episcopal church is to lovingly serve God through worship, fellowship, education, and ministry.

Our Parish Goals are to:

1. Provide a nurturing environment where individuals and families can deepen their relationship with God, experience the sacraments, grow spiritually, and find guidance for their faith journey through meaningful and transformative worship experiences
2. Provide opportunities for members of all ages to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and be good stewards of their time, talent, and resources to support the operations of the church, outreach activities, and further the mission of St. Andrew's.
3. Actively engage with the local community in diverse, meaningful ways to support those in need, expand membership and ensure continued financial growth and stability.
4. Cultivate a lifelong sense of belonging by fostering genuine relationships among congregants through Christian study, social events, special groups, workshops, retreats, and partnerships with other organizations.



Who We Are

“..... St. Andrew’s is the warmest Episcopal church I have ever known.”

A former rector

St. Andrew’s is a vibrant community of genuine, kind, relaxed, and peaceful people who come together in the unity of God’s love. We strive to create a warm, inviting physical and spiritual atmosphere where all feel valued and included. “A place where our members can believe, become, belong”!

Our average weekly physical attendance is approximately 80 persons, split between two services at 8:00 and 10:30am. However, due to installment of our state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment which enables live stream on social media we estimate that an additional 90-100 individuals are engaging weekly in our service outside of conventional attendance.

St. Andrew’s congregation is comprised of long-time parishioners. According to The Congregational Assessment Tool response in July 2023, most [54%] have attended for over 20 years and live within 3-9 miles [56%].

While the pandemic may have had an impact on our membership, the past two years have seen an increase by 14 members. We are keenly aware of the need to engage and attract families with children, expand our youth development programs as well as reach new people in the community to incorporate them into the life of the church.

Other pertinent demographics include:

150 members

69% of our members are over the age of 65

22% of our members are between the ages of 45-64

8% of members are between ages of 25-44

84% of our members attend at least two services per month with 69% reporting consistently greater monthly and/or yearly attendance

Race white [98%]

Level of Education [48% bachelor’s degree, 34% graduates degrees].



You are good stewards of the Gospel of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ. He is with you in Spirit. You are Gems. You are precious in God’s sight. You care for each other and for the community and beyond, and for God’s holy and good creation. May God continue to bless you so that you will be an even better fuller blessing to others.”

.....A recent long term supply priest

Our Worship



Members of St. Andrew's value the traditions of our liturgy and believe that a good sermon:

"produces a desire within me to follow Jesus and do God's work"

"is based on the truth of God's word applied to everyday life"

"translates what may be happening in the world around us to the Gospel lesson for that day"

"speaks to many in theme so they are called to action or are comforted".

"pulls me in, makes me want to listen then feel the message, and leaves me thinking long after"

Regular Worship Services:

Sunday:

January to May, September to December

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:15am Adult Christian Education

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Church School for Youth

June, July, August

9:30am Holy Eucharist Rite I or Rite II

Wednesday:

January to May, September to December

10:30am Holy Eucharist and Litany of Healing



Our 278-seat sanctuary blends modern style and traditional forms. The spacious Commons greets members and guests as they enter a space of spiritual nourishment ripe for contemplation and reflection.

The Adult Choir along with our A.E. Schleuter pipe organ situated at the rear of the sanctuary offer a variety of music at the 10:30am service. We are open to suggestions and opportunities to enhance the musical programs within our church to deepen the worship experience of our members.

Our Worship Committee assists the rector in planning and evaluating our services. Recent feedback has indicated the desire for expansion in opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation within every age. and stage of life.



Christian Education

Christian Education at St Andrew's takes a variety of approaches and formats. Each Sunday throughout the regular school year, Adult Education is held between the two services. The focus is usually a discussion of one or two of the Lessons from the Lectionary for the week. Often, a reference from "Bible Studies that Work" on the Episcopal Church Website is used as a framework for discussion. During special seasons a relevant book or study guide may be utilized for study. A special evening Lenten series is conducted over a meal during the Lenten Season.

Children's Sunday School is held for the first 45 minutes of the 10:30am service using the *Sparks* curriculum. Classes include preschool age to 5th grade.

Vacation Bible School is conducted each summer in conjunction with 5 other churches in the community. Adult and Children representatives from St Andrew's participate in the program.

We recognize all aspects of Christian Education are important, and we hope to find a rector who can guide us to deepen and expand our programs.

St. Andrew's Preschool and Kindergarten

St Andrew's sponsors an accredited early childhood program which provides a safe and nurturing environment for young children. Our Mother's Morning Out program and our Pre-school serve approximately 50 children from six months to five years old.

St. Andrew's Schools stays busy through the year! We begin with a summer social to introduce the children to their teachers and classmates. This year, we had a foam party! The church puts together welcome bags for all our incoming preschoolers filled with things they will use in the classroom, fun toys for home, and of course information about St. Andrew's. We have a Parent Orientation and Open House, and then our year officially begins!



Episcopal Youth Community

The EYC's Mission Statement— Here at St. Andrew's, The EYC Mission is to serve the Lord, make friends, give to the community, and serve our neighbors with kindness and respect, in a Christian Environment.

Meetings— The EYC meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11am to 1pm (at present). Lunch is included.

Giving to the Community:

The EYC at St. Andrew's gives to the Rocky Mount community in several ways:

- United Christian Ministries
- Gatekeepers
- Food Pantry Bags
- Writing letters to the elderly
- Seasonal gift bags and signing for nursing homes
- Cleaning the church property
- Seasonal Advent wreath Creations for the church and grandparents
- Songs for the graduating seniors
- Helping with Children's Daycare
- Blessing the Schools



EYC Activities include:

- Messy Games
- Ping Pong
- Uno Attack, Twister and other board games
- Trips to the mountains (Tubing skating, Game nights, and more)
- Roller Skating
- Trips to the River
- Growing a victory Garden (over Covid-19)



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. "

-Romans 12:12



Parish Life

The heart and soul of the parish community within St. Andrew's is our parish life which revolves around fellowship enrichment activities.

Activities Committee- responsible for special events including Lenten program and supper, outdoor services and picnics, Preschool Sunday, and Bishop's reception on Confirmation Sunday.



Lenten Supper



Confirmation Sunday



Outdoor Service

Membership Committee- welcomes all visitors and reaches out to potential new members to encourage their full incorporation into the our parish family.

Men of St. Andrew's- sponsor a number of activities including Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, shrimparoo, Oktoberfest, and Brunch for all planned or special parish events.



Men's Club



Shrove Tuesday Supper



Oktoberfest



Sunday Brunch

Ladies of St. Andrew's- promote sociability via St. Elizabeth's Guild. They make shawls, scarves, lap robes, and hats for those in need as the Warm-up Guild.



St. Elizabeth's Guild



Book Club



Holy Folders

AltarGuild-54 members



Outreach

Through the Outreach Committee we strive to act as God's instruments in our continued effort and dedication to the community beyond St. Andrew's.

United Community Ministries—Homeless Shelter

Meals on Wheels

The children of Carriage Court Apartments-Angel Tree, Back to school

The Food Pantry—Open 3 mornings a week

The Episcopal Farm Workers at Newton Grove—Clothes, School Supplies, Assistance with buildings

The Back Pack Ministry with Winstead Elementary School- (60 food bags distributed weekly)

St. Andrew's Preschool— Average of 50 students ranging from 6 months in Mother's Morning Out through Kindergarten

Gatekeepers— Community Wide Youth Mission



The common thread that links both the internal and external community of St. Andrew's is our members enthusiasm and dedication to hospitality.



"Friendships" and "Closeness"

"Tremendous support for each other" and "ministering to those who are sick or grieving."

"Belonging" and "Food!"

"Someone is always ready to help you in a time of need".

"Fellowship, Faith, Fun!"

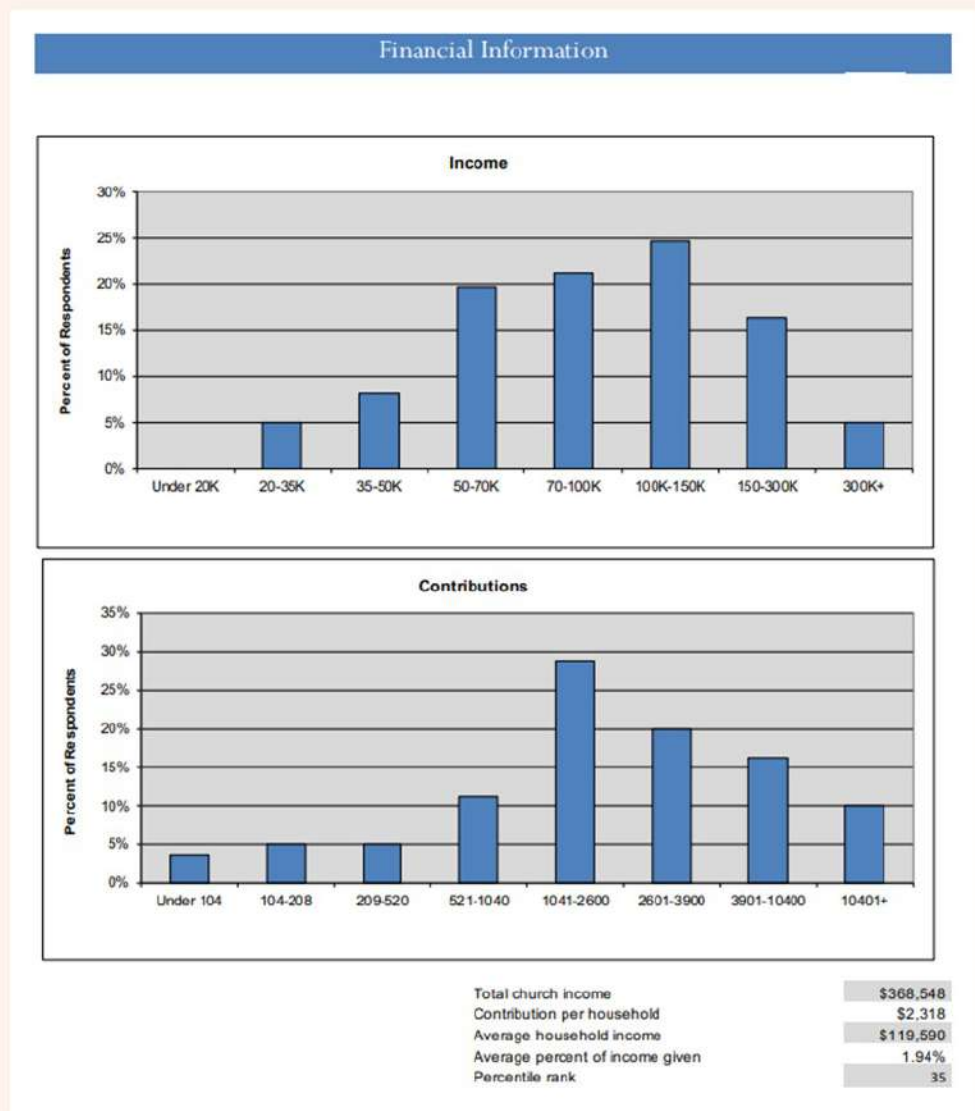


Stewardship and Finances

Our stewardship program is grounded in biblical teachings about stewardship emphasizing key passages that highlight the importance of using one's time, talents, and treasures wisely to further God's kingdom.

Our financial matters are transparent in how the church utilizes the contributions it receives, as well as ensuring the responsible handling of funds. St Andrew's has an operating budget of \$327,000 for 2023, which is overseen by the Finance Committee. Pledged contributions plus loose offerings and special fund-raising efforts make up this amount. There are three restricted endowment funds which total \$368,000. **The parish debt stands at \$0.**

Given the resources of our parish family, we have a tremendous opportunity for growth in annual stewardship giving. With enhanced leadership from within the church and with the inspiration, guidance, and support of our new rector we can succeed.



WE SEEK A RECTOR TO LEAD US

Our parish would like our new Rector to have the following characteristics:

Be a person:

.... of deep faith and spirituality, capable of providing Spiritual leadership to the congregation.

.... Whose sermons are hopeful, insightful, biblically grounded, and relevant to today's world.

.... Who possesses excellent pastoral skills and is compassionate, empathetic, and approachable. provides care and support to individuals and families in times of need and crisis.

.... Who encourages spiritual growth through teaching and who values Christian education as a priority for all.

.... Who will work collaboratively with the vestry and other church leaders and should be skilled in facilitating decision making processes and building consensus within the congregation.

... Who exhibits a sense of humor in dealing with life's challenges.

...Who helps develop wider links in the community through outreach, community worship, and music.

...Who is energetic and receptive to new ideas and will work with the people of St Andrew's to develop a clear vision of God's future for us.



Our Search Process

Reverend George Greer announced his retirement in February of 2023. After 18 years of faithful and spiritual leadership, he served his last worship service in April. After conferring with the Diocese of North Carolina, we determined to follow a traditional approach in searching for a new Rector. We began with the selection and commissioning of a search committee by the Vestry. A potential timeline was drafted and we began a parish-wide discernment process.

The first part of that process included a “Transition Workshop” led by the Rev Cathy Deats and Catherine Massey, Canon for Transition Ministry. During the workshop the parish answered 4 key questions in groups and reported back to the entire parish. The 5 questions were as follows:

- Describe a time when you felt you were doing God’s work at St. Andrew’s.
- Identify 3 things you love about St Andrew’s?
- Describe the characteristics of a priest who helped/supported you in a time of need.
- Imagine it is 3 years into a new Rector’s term. What is happening at St Andrew’s?
- What makes a good sermon?



The answers were insightful, informative and have been used in our search documents.

The second part of our discernment process was the parish-wide completion of The Congregational Assessment Tool developed and implemented by the “Holy Cow” consulting organization. This survey has given us a solid picture of our strengths but also has given us a clear picture of the direction we need to go in to fulfill our mission and goals. (Results can be viewed in an Appendix document.)

The search committee feels confident that St Andrew’s is well positioned to move forward to welcome a new Rector and will work with the Diocese of North Carolina to achieve that goal.

*See page 13 for Performance Dashboard

“Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St Andrew’s and so hear the prayers of the parish family as we look to you for guidance and spiritual direction as we seek the next rector for our church. We pray that you will lead us to an upright and faithful pastor, who will care for us and equip us for our ministries. Give us strength and courage to respond and act as you lead us; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Opportunities for Growth

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in our church. 223 persons were invited to participate; of these, 109 persons responded. Overall, approximately 59% of our members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. The indication is that our church has options which include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact.

Top 3 Priorities based on Survey Results

Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

Create and provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.



Areas of Focus for Improved Satisfaction and Energy

Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships.

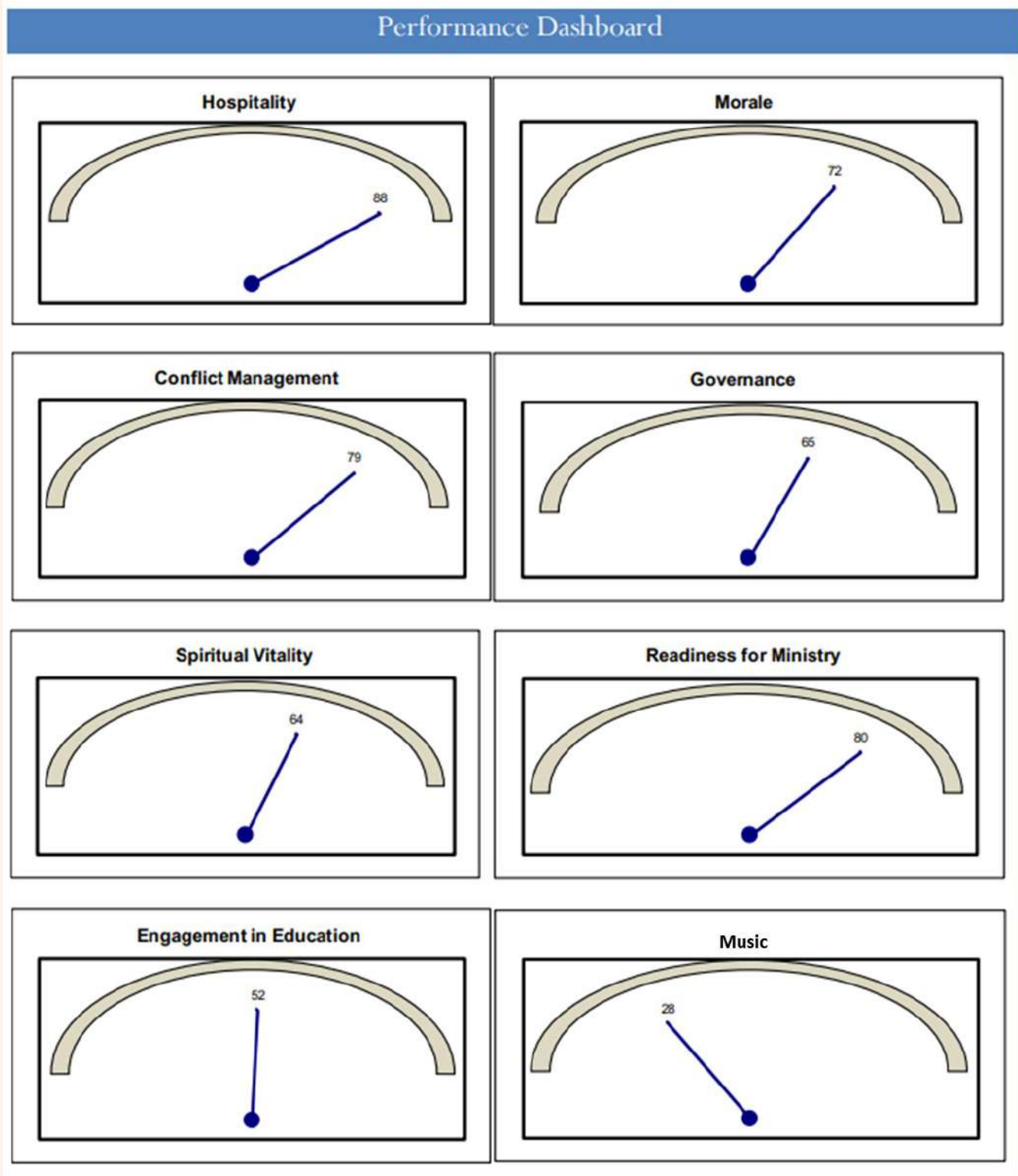
Diversify leadership responsibility for accomplishing the mission of the church among congregants and allow additional time for decision making and consideration of different approaches.

Prepare congregants for shared pastoral response and impact consistent with which prior rector had on accomplishing the mission of the church, articulating a clear vision, and making things happen.



Appendix

As part of our discernment process, St. Andrew's participated in a church survey conducted by Holy Cow Consulting. The assessment was designed to help us determine the internal health of our congregation. The following performance dashboard provides a good picture of where we stand in terms of our current health. It also provides us with guidance to identify where we need to improve in the future.



Parish Structure

The Rector of St Andrew's works in partnership with the Wardens and Vestry. The Vestry is comprised of twelve men and women who serve staggered three-year terms. They provide leadership for parish governance and oversee the following committees:

Hospitality and Events
Worship

Christian Education
Communications

Finance
Buildings and Grounds

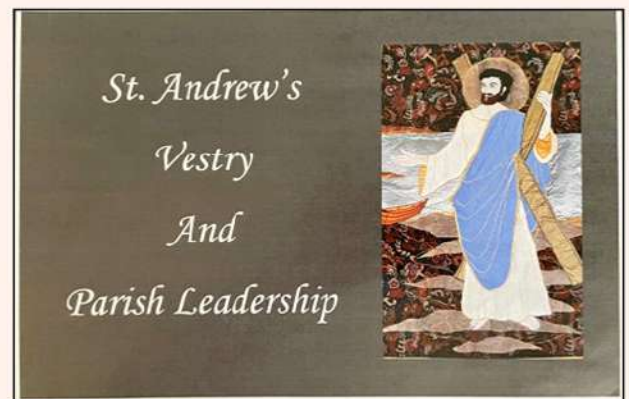
Outreach

Vestry Members: Senior Warden- Pete Armstrong
Junior Warden –Tommy Parker

Rosemary Clark
Jon Renck
Rita Coggins
Sissy Dunton

Martha Gallop
John Tharin
Elizabeth Hunter
Ashley Newcomb

Dan Melnyk
Lori Joyner
Dotsy Royal
Ramona Orzell



Ex-Officio Members:

Vestry Clerk-Linda Hutcheson
Church Bookkeeper- Rosemary Clark
Parish Administrator- Sarah Katherine Rollings
Volunteer Coordinator-Ramona Orzell

Church Organist- Ruff Creech
Treasurer- George Vargha
Preschool Director- Tara Vester

Paid Staff includes supply Priests, a part-time organist, part-time Parish Administrator, part-time bookkeeper, and a Preschool Director with a paid staff of 12 teachers.

This group of dedicated members has met the challenge of leading our church in this interim year!

Search Committee Members:

Chairman—Leslie Hall

Sissy Dunton	Tim Knapp
M.H. Pridgen	Catherine Jancso
Jon Renck	Rees Lea
Alana Wells	Wes Strandberg
Landon Newcomb	Martha Lamm
Sheryl Love-Johnson	Wes Strandberg



Our History

“69 years of worship and service”

St. Andrew's was organized as a mission in 1954 sponsored by The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a layman's organization at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount. Our first service was held in a rented clubhouse on December 19, 1954. In May of 1955, land was acquired on circle Drive and construction began on our initial facility which was a combination parish hall/ worship space, kitchen, office, and classrooms.



Following a successful \$1,250,000 capital campaign in 2000, additional land was acquired. A new worship center, commons, sacristy, choir room, offices, and a memorial garden were added. New facilities were joined to the existing building, and the former worship space became a large parish hall-multipurpose room connected to a renovated kitchen. The new facilities were dedicated on September 12, 2001.



The pictures above show St. Andrew's prior to the year 2000. Top left shows the outside of the church and the top right was the old worship space in what is now the Parish Hall. The bottom left picture is during the construction of the new Sanctuary and front of the church. The bottom right is a current image of the worship space that was added on. Stain glass windows and the new pipe organ were dedicated in 2008.



Spaces and Grounds Around St. Andrew's

Our 2.5 acre beautifully landscaped property enjoys frontage on three streets and is situated to the east and south of the primary residential growth in Rocky Mount. It is clearly visible from Sunset Avenue, a major East/West thoroughfare and conveniently accessible to a large portion of the town's population.



Picture of the grounds from inside the Sanctuary



St. Andrew's Playground



Stone Cottage



Library



Conference Room



We are currently in the process of adding a labyrinth in our side yard and a new shelter located in the yard near our playground.



Dedication and Blessing of the Columbarium took place on October 4, 2009.



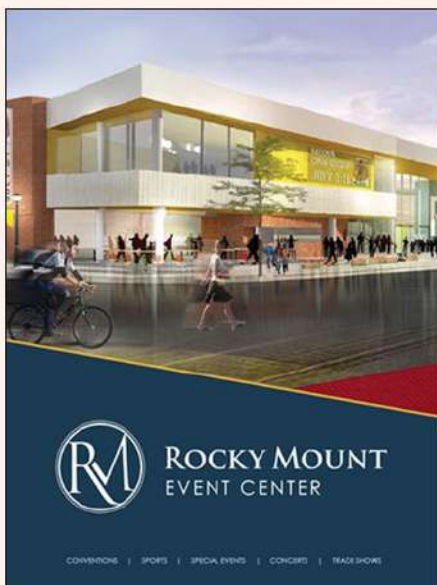
Memorial Garden

Our Community

Rocky Mount is located within the coastal plain in the northeastern part of North Carolina. It is fifty-eight miles east of Raleigh, the state capital, and is situated at the intersection of I-95 and US 64- corridors halfway between New York and Florida.

The Nash Public School and the Edgecombe County school systems serve the twin-county area. Additional schools include a charter school, several private schools, Nash Community College, Edgecombe Community College, and North Carolina Wesleyan University which is the home of the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts. Nearby are well-known liberal arts, engineering, and research universities such as The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, Duke University, and East Carolina University. Local medical facilities include UNC Nash Health Care System comprising UNC Nash Hospital, UNC Nash Day Hospital, Bryant Aldridge Rehabilitation Center, Coastal Plain Hospital for psychiatric care. The Boice-Willis Clinic and the UNC Physicians group are major contributors to our local medical needs.

Rocky Mount enjoys a mild climate lending itself to leisure activities. Boating and fishing on the reservoir, golfing, tennis, and enjoying our city parks are some of the opportunities available. A cultural center downtown, the Imperial Centre houses our Children's Museum, Rocky Mount Arts Center, and our community Playhouse. The Tar River Orchestra and Choral Society is a group of local musicians known for its concerts given throughout the year. Two blocks away is the Braswell Memorial Library, a state-of-the-art library. Across the railroad track is the Rocky Mount event Center. It is a 165,000 square foot multipurpose facility for entertainment and indoor athletic events seating 5,000. Up North Church Street you can find The Sports Complex. There are 143 acres containing baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, disc golf course, outdoor basketball courts, picnic shelters, walking trails, and a football stadium. Just beyond the Sport Complex is our state-of-the-art YMCA.





Heavenly Father, we ask that you be with St. Andrew's as we search for a new rector. Keep us ever mindful that we can ask, receive, and accept your constant guidance and daily help to be diligent in prayer and reason as we consider the candidates. O God, grant us the strength and patience to persevere and remain steady during the search. Bless us now and forever. Amen.