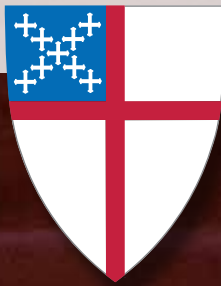




ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Profile 2024



*We will share the good news of Jesus Christ
through our love, joy and care of one another.*

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St. George's Episcopal Church

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Bishop, Clergy and Wardens

The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols - Bishop
The Rev. George Grubb - Interim Rector
Bruce Browne - Sr. Warden
Anne O'Donnell - Jr. Warden
Polly Ranson - Treasurer
Janet Schroeder- Parish Administrator/bookkeeper
Diane Doll - Sexton

Vestry Members

Andrew Miller, Bruce Browne, Joan Goodwin, Anne O'Donnell,
AnneMarie Iorio, Bill Frey, Judy Salvaggio, Polly Ranson, Alison Horn

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



ST. GEORGE'S PARISH



St George's is a small congregation of 30 pledging families in search for a part time minister. We are a friendly informal church made up of people of all ages. Our congregation has 18 successful, fulfilling years working with a part time rector. In 2008 we celebrated our 100th anniversary. We hope and pray that you will join us at St George's Episcopal Church so we will be around and contributing for our 200th.

Worship

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer is our worship guide. Weekly service of the Holy Eucharist Rite II is celebrated Sundays at 9:30am.

Other services we are familiar with are Healing Services and the Services of Lessons and Carols. Christmas pageants, Lenten and Holy Week services and Pentecost celebrations have found a place in the hearts of many.

Parish Structure

Our Vestry has defined our parish organization into three major groups. Christian Nurture, Christian Inreach and Outreach, Property /Finance and Organization. The following descriptions of the various committees provide basic facts about each group and some insight into our successes, shortcomings and expectations as we go forth to serve the Lord.

Christian Nurture

Christian Education

Godly Play, which is our main method of Christian education, is a form of Montessori religious education with a hands on and intentional approach where we enter into parables, silence, sacred stories and sacred liturgy in order to discover God, ourselves, and the world around us. In addition to Godly Play we supplement with seasonal teachings and activities such as Christmas Pageants, Youth Stations of The Cross and many other activities throughout the church year.

We also incorporate the youth in our first Sunday of the month services with “Youth Sunday” where they are involved in as many roles as possible throughout the service. The priest then presents a children’s sermon for this service.

We have an active Youth Group for ages 12 and up which meets once a month and participates in various outreach services.

We are very blessed to have many children and youth and we are looking for a pastor who embraces them wholeheartedly.

Adult Forum

Adult forum is inactive at this time but we look forward to future classes with the Rector’s direction that will allow parishioners to continue their education and enhance their journey to become closer to God.

Music and Choir

As supplements to the regular church hymnal, we use “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and “With One Voice” hymnals. We have a wonderful organ which we can record and play music in our worship service.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is comprised of parishioners appointed by the rector. This committee is under

the direction of the rector. Together, with input from parishioners, the committee strives to plan meaningful worship services that will bring our members closer in their communion with God.

Lectors and Worship Leader

Lectors are responsible for the reading of the Lectionary, Scriptures, Psalms and Prayers of the People at worship services. Worship Leaders, licensed by the Bishop, are available to lead Morning Prayer on occasion. Their willingness to share their voice with us is appreciated.

Ushers and Greeters

We have a large enthusiastic group of ushers and greeters. They welcome worshipers and guests to our church service. They are responsible for passing out the bulletins, ringing the bells, presenting the elements and offering.

Acolytes

We have a small group of acolytes who perform a special ministry to serve at the Altar of God. Youth and adults are welcome to serve as acolytes. Instructional sessions are conducted periodically through the year following Sunday services.

Chalice Bearers

Our chalice bearers devoutly administer the chalice at the Eucharist. They serve on a rotating schedule. They are trained by the Rector, licensed by the Bishop.

Altar Guild

This dedicated group is responsible for preparing the altar for our Lord’s supper. This includes Sunday services, special services, weddings and funerals. They order supplies, clean the altar linens and polish the silver. They have made the lovely banners hanging on the church walls.

Christian Inreach/Outreach

Prayer Chain

St. George's prayer chain is made up of caring parishioners who receive a specific request for prayer, spread the request through the chain and pray daily for that person. The chain communicate regularly to update their prayer lists.

Pastoral Care and Lay Eucharist Minister

This ministry which carries the Word and Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ to parishioners who cannot attend services in person, enables people to feel... that they are still a real and important part of the congregation. Our Rector maintains a regular visitation schedule. We also recognize the importance of lay visitation. In the past, attempts have been informal and infrequent, although sincere. We have two Lay Eucharist Minister volunteers waiting to be trained.

Stewardship

October/November is our stewardship season. Tithing is accepted as a biblical guideline and is encouraged. We also recognize time and talent as a very important contribution in stewardship.

Food pantry

On the third Sunday of the month the parishioners drop off cans or other food items. These donations are then taken to the local food bank or dropped off in the numerous food boxes in the area.

Outreach

The most beautiful part of outreach is the act of giving which as Christians striving to live as Jesus instructed we are honored to follow. Our outreach committee provides quarterly meals for Victory House, a halfway house program for homeless men. During Advent, we collect hats, gloves and scarves for our mitten tree. For Life House, a home for pregnant unwed women, we collect diapers, wipes, and infant items.

Loose offerings on designated Sundays go to the Parish Discretionary Fund and the Outreach Fund. The committee also supervises the spending of outreach proceeds of the Mission Endowment Fund.

United Thank Offering

Yearly we participate in the UTO by offering thanks and prayers by dropping a coin in the UTO box or envelop.

Youth Group delivering Christmas gift bags to our shut ins



Property, Finance and Organization

Vestry

Our Vestry consists of 6-9 parish members who are elected at our Annual Meeting, which is held in January. Members serve three year terms and meet monthly to conduct the business of the parish.

Finance and Budget

We are a self supporting parish with a total budget of \$86,000 for the fiscal year of 2024, of which \$62,209 is raised by pledges. We spend approximately 86% of this budget for operating expenses. Our goal is to provide at least 10% of our spending on Outreach but we have fallen short of that in the years since the start of the Covid epidemic. We are planning more fundraising events this year and the coming years to increase our outreach dollars and for additional support to the parish activities. We are currently using ACS/Realm as our accounting program and to track pledges.

Property Committee

Our property committee oversees the repair and maintenance of the church building and the grounds surrounding the building. Also, they are involved and participate in the planning of future projects. The committee members try to practice preventive maintenance. Snow and lawn services are contracted throughout the year.

Lay Employees

A part-time sexton and part-time Administrator/Book-keeper are our current employees. We hope a part-time organist is in our future.

Mission Endowment Fund

We have a Mission Endowment Fund which was created in January 1989. The purpose of the fund is to expend the mission/ outreach activities of St. George's and monies are received through bequests in wills, trust, gift annuities, etc. The interest from this fund is distributed annually to support local charities voted on by the parishioners at the annual meeting. Also, we use the cash (loose proceeds) second Sunday of the month to support outreach projects. Those funds are spent by the Outreach Committee.

Parish Endowment Fund

The Parish Endowment Fund was established in 1989 though an endowment from a deceased parishioner. Money may continue to be added to this fund through gifts, bequests in wills, trusts, etc. Interest from this fund is included in the operating budget to be used toward property expenses. At the approval of the congregation, the principal of this fund may be used for capital improvement expenses.





Bishop Kevin joins the newest members of the St. George's congregation

Property, Finance and Organization Continued

Building Use

We allow groups to use our parish hall for meetings and services. This money is used to support these facilities.

Twice a year (primary day and election day), the Board of Elections uses the parish hall as a polling place. One

Girl Scout troop uses our facility and another troop is interested. Chair yoga is offered Tuesday and Thursdays.

We upgraded our facility to include a power generator which has the potential to serve as a temporary shelter to the community.



ST. GEORGE'S PARISH HISTORY



St. George's Celeboreum

St. George's Episcopal Mission began in November, 1908. With a starting boost from personnel from the Diocese of Bethlehem, the members met in a second floor storage area of the borough high school.

The church grew steadily in baptized adults as a mission. In 1926, both income and enthusiasm led to construction of a small church on the North side of the borough. The mortgage for this church was burned in 1945.

During all of this time our Priests were provided by personnel from the Diocese. Many Seminarians and interns contributed to our spiritual growth. All of our Vicars were part time until 1951.

In 1949, under the leadership of the Very Rev. Dean Stevenson, we broke ground for our present church. Construction was completed in 1950. The mortgage was burned in 1966. In 1966 the Very Rev. Dean Stevenson become bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania serving until 1982.

In 1952 we hired our first full-time Vicar. In 1966, we added a large office and class room expansion to our parish house. In 1979 we became a self supporting parish with full time Rector.

During this time a memorial garden was erected on the parish grounds. The St. George's Memorial Garden is the final resting place for many of our members. It is a beautiful space to bring peace and calm when visiting a loved one.

Due to faithful and loving members, as well as managed, debt-free finances, we have kept the parish in basically good health. We believe there is good growth potential in Hellertown and the Lehigh Valley.



OUR COMMUNITY

Hellertown is a family oriented residential community with tree-lined streets, nestled in the many picturesque hills of the Lehigh Valley, along the Saucon Creek in Northampton County.

The borough rests on the land that was originally settled by Christopher Heller and his sons, beginning in September of 1742. The Heller Family was instrumental in the purchase and development of the area which today includes Seidersville, Wassergass, Polk Valley and Saucon Valley, as well as the Borough itself.

Hellertown, once a town with several mills and foundries, lies in close proximity to the City of Bethlehem. Hellertown's major artery is Route 412, which connects to Bethlehem to the north and Springtown to the south.

Hellertown was incorporated as a borough on March 26th, 1872. New homes and businesses are still being built within the boundaries and surrounding environs of the area. Facilities for senior citizens are located in the borough.

Hellertown is well situated for travel to Allentown (10 miles), Easton, the county seat (7 miles), New York city (90 miles), Philadelphia, (54 miles) and the scenic Pocono Area (40 miles). It is convenient to the Lehigh Valley International Airport (20 minutes), the Lehigh Valley's major travel facility.

Medical Services

Our community is served by two major not-for-profit hospitals. St. Luke's and Lehigh Valley Hospital, as well as Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center. A Medi-vac unit, operating out of Lehigh Valley Hospital serves the entire Lehigh Valley with emergency helicopter transport. Family medical practices, dentist, convalescent home, assisted living facilities, optometrist, podiatrist, chiropractor, St. Luke's Hospice in Lower Saucon, fitness centers, and St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center are all located within the vicinity.

Education

Our community has numerous Nursery /Pre-schools, children's daycare centers and a Roman Catholic Pre-school. In 1999 Saucon Valley School District dedicated a new campus serving grades K-12. A Vocational-Technical School is located in Bethlehem. There are also private Christian Schools in the nearby area.

Many higher education facilities are located in the Lehigh Valley. These include Lehigh University, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Moravian University, Moravian Theological Seminary, DeSales University, Muhlenberg College, Cedar Crest College, Northampton Community College, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Lafayette College and St. Luke's School of Nursing. There are business colleges and trade schools throughout the Lehigh Valley.



Our Community Continued

Churches

Within the borough, the religious community is made up of our Episcopal church, numerous Protestant churches, and one Roman Catholic church. St. George's is involved with the Hellertown Area Ministerium. The ministerium maintains a emergency outreach fund.

Civic Organizations

There are a number of civic organizations: The American Legion, V.F.W, Lions, Chamber of Commerce, a large volunteer ambulance fire company which includes a-paramedic unit. The Hellertown Boy Scouts are affiliated with the Minsi Trail Council, and the Girl Scouts are affiliated with the Great Valley Council. The Bethlehem based Meals-On-Wheels serves our community residents. There are active historical societies in both Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township. Hellertown currently has a wonderful library that boasts programs for toddlers through adults.

Businesses

The Borough itself has quite a few businesses supplying day to day necessities and services, including grocery store, banks, car dealers, pharmacies, hardware store, and several convenience stores. We have The Promenade Shops at Saucon Valley featuring IMAX movie theater, fashion stores, boutiques and a mix of restaurants.

Recreation

The Borough offers various youth sports including Little League baseball, football, cheerleading, wrestling, basketball, softball and soccer. There are numerous public neighborhood playgrounds where young children can play while parents socialize. A playground on Water Street has bocce, volleyball, a toddler playground and picnic areas. The Borough operates a beautiful community park (Dimmick Park) and swimming pool within walking distance of St. George's Church. Located within Dimmick Park is the Park Pavilion used for summer concerts, and a pavilion with kitchen and tables for large events.

The Saucon Valley High School has tennis courts and offers swimming and adult exercise classes. The Community Center offers senior citizen lunches, exercise and other classes.

The main tourist attractions are Lost River Caverns, located in the borough and the pro-baseball team called the Iron Pigs (AAA) at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. Another attraction is the Rails for Trails walkway which begins in Hellertown and ends in Coopersburg. There are plans in process to expands the walkway.

Some other tourist attractions include Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom (an amusement park), Historic Bethlehem, Musikfest (a summertime 10 day festival of music on the streets of downtown Bethlehem) and Lehigh University's Stabler Arena (site of major events). The area is also great for outdoor activities such as bird watching, fishing, hiking, bicycling, canoeing and white water rafting. The Pocono Mountains and New Jersey seashore are close enough for day trips.

Our parishioners feel that Hellertown and the surrounding area is an excellent place to live and raise a family. We are a church made up of many generations of Hellertown residents and we are blessed to live in this community.

Websites for Reference

Hellertown Borough Website: hellertownborough.org

Saucon Valley School District: svpanthers.org

Bethlehem Informational Website: bethlehempa.org

Lower Saucon Township: lowersauconvalley.org

Hellertown Library: hellertownlibrary.org



DESIRED QUALITIES and RESPONSIBILITIES for our FUTURE RECTOR

(Ranked by Order of Importance)

St George's Vestry fully understands this is a part time position. Our various committees, Vestry and congregation are prepared to work, assist and support our part time minister.

As a small church an important quality is someone who shares our enthusiasm to nurture our children and share the values that bring us together as a family church. We would like a rector who loves us, and cares for us through happiness and sadness. Someone who is outgoing and personable who will share our enthusiasm in being a welcoming church, spreading the joy and love of God.

Preaching /Liturgy

We would like our Rector to be a creative and able preacher, with the ability to energize our congregation so that we can reflect on Christ's life and teachings, and how we can bring our personal translation of these lessons into our daily lives. Our preferred candidate would have the knowledge of, and be able to convey to parishioners how to relate to these issues in our personal lives in our community. Our Rector would wisely defer from comments on partisan issues, but would be able to show us how actions of our leaders can influence the future. We would like that our rector have experience with both formal and informal styles of worship, and include our children in worship activities through Youth Sundays, our Godly Play program and any other innovations.

We hope our rector would appreciate the importance of music in our worship, and would help guide our congregation in our search for an organist and/or use of alternate forms of music. Our rector would also be open to allowing alternative ways to show our love for God, by acts of charity and other activities.

Pastoral Care

The Rector is primarily responsible for the pastoral care of the parish which includes timely visits to hospitalized, visits to shut-in members and spiritual counseling. However, they will be assisted by the Lay Eucharistic Visitor and is encouraged to train other lay persons to assist in the ministry as well.

Christian Education

The Rector works closely with the Sunday School Teachers and supports Youth Sunday which is the 1st Sunday of the month. The Rector provides instruction for Confirmation and new members.

Worship

The Rector should train and guide the Worship Committee and other groups such as: The Altar Guild, the Acolytes, the Lectors, the Worship Readers, the Chalice Bearers and the Ushers/Greeters to enable effective worship that inspires personal and spiritual growth. Music is an important part of our Sunday worship as it lifts our hearts and spirit.



Leadership Development

The Rector and Vestry have the primary responsibility for the development of leadership in the parish. The Rector acts as a spiritual leader, pastor, teacher and chief executive of the parish and is responsible for the overall leadership of the congregation in the areas of worship, spirituality, pastoral care and fellowship.

Mission Outreach

The Rector may work with the Outreach Committee to develop a vision of how the parish can best meet the needs of the community beyond the parish.

Administration/ Finance

The Rector is the chief executive of the parish. The Rector presides at the annual meeting of the congregation as well as at the monthly meeting of the Vestry. The salaried people in the parish (the parish administrator/bookkeeper and the sexton) are hired, supervised and dismissed by the Rector. The Rector works with the Finance Committee and Treasurer as necessary to manage the financial needs of the parish.

The Community/Diocese

The Rector is expected to serve the community in a responsible manner. The Rector should represent the interest of the parish in the general community and in the Hellertown Area Ministerium. The Rector and the elected representatives of the parish will represent the congregation at the Diocesan Convention and on other committees and while they may be called to share specific talents on diocesan committees, is encouraged not to overextend themselves or neglect parish responsibilities.

Spiritual/Personal Growth

The Rector is encouraged to advance their personal growth and spiritual development by exercising a continuing education plan that is shared with the Vestry. Such a plan can emerge from the experience and learning of the annual ministry reviews as well as consultation with the Bishop and Archdeacon. The Rector is also encouraged to seek spiritual guidance and make use of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Renewal and Evangelism

The Rector should encourage and lead all active group members to engage in a process of evaluation leading to renewal and evangelism growing out of a shared vision of our mission. A specific committee or multiple committees may also need to be created to coordinate and spearhead these initiatives.

Stewardship

The Rector will work with the stewardship committee to support and encourage this ministry. The committee will be responsible for the annual stewardship campaign and the rector will support that function through preaching, personal witness and actions.

OUR FUTURE



As we look for the future of Saint George's, we are very excited for a new Rector to share our hopes and dreams. We're looking forward to working together to fulfill our purpose, to grow and develop into faithful servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is calling us to prosper and grow in our spiritual life and worship. To spread his words, to bring others to know his love. Share his good news to all. For God is life. God is love. God is alive within us.