

Revised June 25 2020

Servant Song-
Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let you be my servant too.
Richard Gillard, c1977

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Mission and Vision Statements

Mission:

To be a community where all persons will encounter the power and love of the Living God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Vision:

All Saints Episcopal Church is called by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to...

Worship Jesus Christ
Learn and Teach His Word
Minister in His Name
Proclaim Him and Share the Blessing of His Love

Introduction:

All Saints is a God-centered church with a passion for outreach in ministry and lay programs. We have a modern take on discipleship that is inclusive and welcoming to all. Our family of disciples strive to follow God's word and help those in our community, as well as, the community of the world through outreach programs. We also support our church members with personal care and service. Our philosophy is defined by the Bible and the strong belief that we are the body of Christ; his hands and feet. We strive to be the embodiment of Christ's love in

everything from liturgy and rites to our interaction with those around us. Our strengths are seen most when we are in service to others and each other. At All Saints, we are willing and ready for a strong leader to step in who will help guide our church into the future.

We find identity in traditional liturgy, rites and music, but embrace the occasion to worship by the waterside at Rankin Lake Park or add new songs to our communion. Our blend of new parishioners and those who have been at All Saints for years, gives us unique and varied experiences from which to draw in times of struggle or renewal. The generosity in time, talent and funds of those in our parish has created a wonderful environment for spiritual growth, both physical space and programming. We have shown tremendous flexibility during our time of transition in the Church, as well as, during the Coronavirus pandemic. Our Vestry and volunteers have managed our challenges with compassion, leadership and patience, having stepped in to ensure our day-to-day operations run smoothly and our church member's needs are being met.

Letter from the Bishop

The Diocese of Western North Carolina

Welcome to the **Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina** which is currently led by Bishop José McLoughlin. The diocese consists of twenty-eight counties in western North Carolina. In 1894, a resolution was adopted in the Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina that the Western part of the State be set off and offered to the General Church as a Missionary District. The following year, in November 1895, the first Convention of the District of Asheville was held at Trinity Church in Asheville. In 1922, after all the requirements had been fulfilled, a petition from the Jurisdiction of Asheville to become the Diocese of Western North Carolina was presented at the General Convention of The Episcopal Church: it was accepted on September 12, 1922. Currently the diocese consists of twenty-eight counties in western North Carolina.

The diocese contains sixty-three parishes, six summer chapels, a diocesan School - Christ School, Asheville; a retirement community, Deerfield, Asheville; two conference centers - Lake Logan, and Valle Crucis; a thriving summer camp, Camp Henry, and over 15,000 members. The diocese is divided into six deaneries. We observe faithful worship that is both liturgical and Eucharistic-centered.

The diocese is notable for two small mountain parishes that contain frescoes created by Ben Long, an Italian-trained artist: the fresco of the *Last Supper* at Holy Trinity church in Glendale Springs and *Mary Great with Child* and *John the Baptist* at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Beaver Creek, both part of the Holy Communion Parish of Ashe County. In another, much larger parish, St. Paul's Episcopal located in the foothills of Wilkesboro, two recent Long frescoes can be seen. These frescoes depict Paul the Apostle in prison and his conversion of the Damascan Road. They were completed in 2003. Our cathedral, the Cathedral of All Souls is located in Asheville at Biltmore Village

The diocese is a proponent of social justice, especially in issues concerning immigration, poverty and the marginalized. We are a people who practice servant ministry and we believe God's passion extends to all people. Our ministries reflect our commitment to youth and children,

outreach and congregational development, Christian formation for all ages, hospitality, ecumenical collaboration with other communions. The diocese believes we are partners in God's mission to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." (Book of Common Prayer, page 855.)

You can learn more about the Diocese of Western North Carolina by following this link:

<https://www.diocesewnc.org>

History

In December of 1961, several residents of Gastonia, North Carolina met to discuss the possibility of establishing a new parish in the eastern part of town. This initiative was led by The Rt. Rev. Matthew George Henry, Jim Perry and Roland Whitemire. After meeting with twelve local families and discussing that the focus of this new church would be missionary work, the group recruited The Rev. Robert E. Johnson to be their priest. A site for the future church was determined to be at the corner of New Hope Road and Robinwood Road. Subsequently, their first worship service was held in an old house located on the property in February of 1962. Seeking to be officially recognized by the Western Diocese of North Carolina, the now twenty-member congregation petitioned Bishop Henry for acceptance. On March 4, 1962, All Saints Episcopal Church was officially recognized by the diocese. By May of 1962 a temporary chapel was erected and by 1968 a parish house was completed.

The Rev. Robin Johnson worked tirelessly for twenty-four years to bring into fruition, the concept of a missionary driven church. During his tenure he established outreach ministries such as Alcoholic Anonymous and the Hospice program in its infancy. He provided pastoral care to both members of the church and to the wider community of Gaston County.

To assist us through a transitional period, The Rev. Stephen Stanley was called to be our rector in June of 1987. Father Stanley served in this capacity until June of 1990.

In March 1991, The Rev. J. Houston Matthews, III was called to be the third rector of All Saints. He served from June 1991 until his retirement in January of 2005. Under Father Matthew's leadership, the sanctuary underwent a major renovation, a new parish hall was constructed, and a fifty-five-niche columbarium was built under the oak trees in the parish yard. Continuing with our goal to be a mission driven church, All Saints became actively involved in Family Promise, a program where area churches house the homeless for a week. Additionally, the Towel Ministry and the Order of St. Luke were introduced into our parish community.

After Father Matthew's retirement, The Rev. Ben G. Robertson, IV, became our priest. While at All Saints, he encouraged Christian youth education. The Godly Play Curriculum was adopted and the senior high school youth group became very active: traveling to many conferences. Under his sponsorship, Anita Ware was ordained as a Deacon. Working as a team, Deacon Anita and Father Ben, created the Ecclesiastical Garden which continues to provide vegetables for the Salvation Army Kitchen. To promote social gatherings within the church family, the Foyers Dinner Groups began. Father Robertson served All Saints until September 2010.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Butterworth answered God's call to become our fifth priest in the summer of 2012. Recognizing the importance of community outreach, Father Butterworth supported our

participation in the Back Pack Weekend Food Program of Gaston County and a local food pantry was established at the church. To honor the lives lost in the Sandy Hook shooting, a labyrinth prayer walk was built. Christian education of the youth was encouraged through the implementation of the Children's Word during Sunday morning worship services. To also promote community partnerships, Father Butterworth extended an invitation to the Metropolitan Community Church and our Spanish speaking community to share our church space. In 2018, Father Butterworth accepted the position of an interim priest as a first step toward retirement in the mountains of North Carolina.

Over the course of our history, we have been extremely supportive of members who were called to the ministry. All Saints has sponsored several people to be ordained.

We continue to introduce new programs and worship experiences to meet the needs of a changing world. We are also committed to outreach, both within and outside the church. We are open and accepting of all who wish to worship with us. With God's blessing, All Saints will continue to be a strong light of hope for our world.

Where We Live

Gastonia, once famous as a textile-manufacturing giant, is positioned in one of the most rapidly growing and diversified areas in the southeastern United States. Located a mere 22 miles west of Charlotte, NC, Gastonia is strategically positioned with easy connections to Interstates 85, 77, 485, and 40. The proximity to Charlotte Douglas International Airport offers Gastonia residents easy access to national and international destinations. Regionally, Gaston County is second to Mecklenburg County in population with over 222,000 residents. The city of Gastonia has a population of more than 76,000. Gastonia has been designated an All American City in 1963, 2000, and 2010.

As neighbors of Charlotte, the nation's second largest banking center, after New York City, we also find it easy to take advantage of all that a big city offers. Area residents enjoy major league sports with the Carolina Panthers, the Charlotte Hornets and soon, Major League Soccer. For baseball fans, we have minor league baseball with the Charlotte Knights. NASCAR fans can cheer to their heart's content at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. The art lovers will enjoy world class theater, ballet, opera and symphony performances at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and Knight Theater. Higher education can be pursued at The University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Wingate University, Winthrop University, Johnson and Wales University, and Belmont Abbey College.

Our health care facilities are rapidly expanding. CaroMont Health is an independent, not-for-profit health care system that includes nine affiliate companies anchored by Gaston Memorial Hospital, a 435-bed acute-care facility. CaroMont Health recently announced the approval to build a new hospital facility in neighboring Belmont which will open in 2023 and the expansion of a new tower at the Gastonia location.

The Schiele Museum of Natural History and The Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden draw visitors from around the state and country. The City of Gastonia has announced a redevelopment plan which includes the construction of a multi-use facility for sports, concerts and entertainment called FUSE. Construction of this new facility has continued to make progress.

Outdoor recreational opportunities abound in the area including hiking, white water rafting at the U.S. National Whitewater Center, canoeing, kayaking, watersports on the Catawba River and Lake Wylie. Crowder's Mountain State Park and linked Kings Mountain National Battleground Park have over 20 miles of hiking trails. Crowder's Mountain offers some of the best rock climbing opportunities anywhere in the region for the experienced climber. The Carolina Thread Trail is part of the regional trail network, connecting 15 counties and 2 states with 260 miles of trails. Gastonia is less than 2 hours away from the Blue Ridge Mountains and 3 hours from the beach.

For additional information about our city and region we suggest a visit to the following websites: visitgaston.org, www.gastonchamber.org, [Schiele Museum](http://www.schielemuseum.org), [Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden](http://www.danielstowebotanicalgarden.org), <http://www.gaston.k12.nc.us>, [CaroMont Health](http://www.caromonthealth.com), www.gastongazette.com/, www.hellocharlotte.com, www.gastontogogether.org. [City of Gastonia](http://www.cityofgastonia.com)

Outreach and Fellowship

Outreach and Fellowship

All Saints Parish is deeply committed to serving God and community by offering outreach and in reach ministries.

Worship and Music Ministries

Acolyte, Altar Guild, Chalice Bearer/Lay Readers, Voice Choirs, and Lectors

Christian Education

Adult Bible Classes featuring Great Courses, Adult book study and Family, Children, and Youth Group programs with a dedicated youth director: Ronnie Jolley

Renewal Programs

Daughters of The King, Order of Saint Luke Healing Ministry, and Intercessory Prayer

Parishioner Outreach Ministries

Bereavement, Birthday Card, Lay Eucharist, Lay-Pastoral Care, weekly email of All Saints Messenger and The Good Shepherd Program

Community Outreach Ministries

Services for the Morningside Assisted Living Center in Gastonia, Towel Ministry (construction of ramps for handicapped), Ecclesiastical Garden, Back Pack Weekend Food Program and Angel Tree

Gaston County Outreach Ministries

Salvation Army, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Gaston County Family YMCA Resource Connections Gateway and Family Promise

Fellowship/Newcomers Ministries

Bread delivery to Newcomers, Coffee Hour, Foyer Groups, Parade of Tables, Oyster Roast, Parish Breakfast, Vestry Sunday Lunch, Newcomers, Parish Cooks and Pacesetters (seniors group), Episcopal 101, the newly formed Corona Task Force

Who We Are and Who We Seek to Become

All Saints is a welcoming and inclusive parish that can be described as a “family of disciples.” Relationships are highly valued and cultivated, creating moments that allow the Holy Spirit to shine. Building relationships is at the heart of our church because that is God’s work: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Our parish community is a microcosm of our society; embracing diversity in all forms, fully entrenched in the belief that God loves us all. We are a mission driven church, partnering with community entities to bridge the social, financial, and spiritual gaps in people’s lives. Not only is pastoral care a huge component of our mission, we take great pride in supporting each other in times of joy and sorrow. We are a willing group of parishioners; however, we need a priest to enhance our talents and nudge us to explore and expand our efforts in spreading God’s love. We can be described as a moderately progressive church; we know our actions matter. We are a community of people that actively contribute, participate and embrace the mission and ministry of All Saints. We believe in God’s living presence in the world to love and serve all.

At times we are reluctant to embrace change, however we are well aware that change is inevitable and it can spur spiritual and physical growth. As Roy Bennett, author of the book, **The Light in the Heart**, once wrote, “It’s only after you’ve stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.” When pressed with a critical situation, our church rises to the occasion. We are seeking a priest who can cultivate this phenomenon at all times.

We embrace our time-honored liturgy, but we would also like to complement our services with fresh worship experiences that meet the needs of those who prefer a less formal service. We more fully recognize that “church” (God’s love) is in our “hearts.” Church extends well beyond a parish hall; the Corona Virus has reinforced this sentiment at All Saints. We have developed alternatives to “in-person” worship such as ZOOM Meetings, weekly check-in calls with every parishioner, virtual children’s events and the distribution of communion kits.

We are generous within the Church. Whenever there is a whispered need, our Church family is there, be it delivering a meal, repairing the roof or buying a new sound system for the Sanctuary.

We are a church that “dreams big,” but we recognize that we need to pause, recharge our batteries, renew our faith, evaluate our work, and spend the time seeing the good things happening around us. We are excited to take the next step in our journey as we continue to serve Christ and our community.

From Our Holy Conversations and the Congregation Assessment Tool, we identified several areas in which we need to expand and/or improve our ministries:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church, especially youth and families with children.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people through time and finances to support the ministry of the church
- Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people with special needs
- Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership

Financials

2020 Budget at a Glance

INCOME			
Stewardship 2019 Pledges	\$170,164 (Goal)		\$149,920 (Collected)
Stewardship 2020 Pledges	\$201,166		
Regular Support, Non-Pledged	\$30,000		
Other Income	\$17, 820.00		
EXPENSES			
Salaries	\$106,600.00-Clergy		\$42, 737.00- Staff
Outreach	\$20,000- Diocesan Pledge		\$9,600.00- Other
Building, Grounds, Maintenance	\$44, 180.00		
Utilities	\$21, 210.00		
Other	\$49, 710.00		
Total Expenses	\$293, 947.00		

**Important to note that there are always church members who do not officially pledge, but do make substantial contributions to the church.

During the Pandemic, members of the All Saints Parish continued to tithe, prepare meals for Salvation Army, Prepared and distributed food bags from our food pantry, prepared and distributed “blessings bags” to the area homeless and continued to participate in the Weekend Back Pack Food Program meal distribution.

Key Statistics

Membership - #####

Sunday Services - 2 Eucharist,
communion service at Morningside Assisted Living
Attendance

Average Sunday - 67

Morningside Assisted Living - 19

How to Apply

We invite you to peruse our profile and after prayerful consideration you feel called to join our church family, please email Canon Augusta Anderson at canonaugusta@diocesewnc.org with the following items:

- Letter of Interest expressing how you feel called to All Saints (Please address your letter to the Discernment Committee but mailed to Canon Anderson.)
- Resume
- OTM Portfolio