



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Darien, Georgia

Parish Profile

## WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are glad you are considering joining us in the worship of our Lord and hope you will make St. Andrew's Episcopal Church your church home. We have compiled these pages to share with you some important aspects of our faith community and to invite you to become involved in our parish life. The vision of St. Andrew's is captured in our Mission Statement:

The (Proposed) Mission of St. Andrew's is to live by faith, serve with love, and be a beacon of hope within our community.

The (Proposed) Vision of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is to rejoice in the transformative love of Jesus Christ and to foster belonging, healing and hope through worship, parish life, and service.

### Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 am Holy Eucharist at St. Cyprian's (401 Fort King George Drive)

9:30 am Coffee Hour and Fellowship in the Parish House (106 Rittenhouse Street)

10:00 am Children's Sunday School in the Parish House

10:15 am Adult Bible Study in the Parish House

11:15 am Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's (Vernon Square)

### Weekday Services:

Mon-Sat, 7:30 am Morning Prayer

Wed, 10 am North End Service held at home of Jon and Kaye Traer

Wed, 6 pm Evening Prayer at St. Cyprian's

Thurs, 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing

**ALL SERVICES ARE VIRTUAL AT THIS TIME**

### Clergy:

Bishop: The Right Reverend Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia

Interim: The Reverend William Barton

**Vestry:**

The Vestry consists of nine elected members who serve three-year terms and rotate off in groups of three each year. The Vestry, with the Rector presiding as ex-officio chairman, meets once a month to attend to the administration of the parish. Elections are held at our annual meeting in January.

**Current Vestry Members:**

Dan White, Sr. Warden	Tom Gore
Kevin McAuliffe, Jr. Warden	Suzanne Forsyth
Mary Sawyer	Mary Sue Murray
Meg Wallace	Meta Willis
Tom Draffin	Wynnette Brimer, Clerk
Latrelle Gore, Treasurer	

**Our church history:**

St. Andrew's was organized in 1841. On February 17, 1843, the cornerstone for the first church building, located about 200 feet north of the present building, was laid by Bishop Elliot, the first Bishop of Georgia. In the War between the States, Colonel Montgomery and his troops burned the church along with the rest of Darien. After the war, the mother of Colonel Shaw, an officer under the command of Col. Montgomery, sent one thousand dollars which was used to build the church three miles away at the Ridge in 1869.

In 1872, an English architect provided plans copying a 13<sup>th</sup> century village Gothic stone church near Manchester, England, to be built on the site of the old Bank of Darien. In 1876, construction on the new church commenced and services began on December 7, 1879. We feel so richly blessed to worship in a building that has for over 100 years provided shelter during worship for so many Christians before us.

**Our community history:**

On behalf of the British Empire, this area was settled by Scots with the establishment of Fort King George in 1721. Our town was laid out in 1736 by General Oglethorpe in the same gridded system of squares as Savannah, and Darien is the second oldest planned town in Georgia after Savannah. Historically, the port of Darien shipped cotton, rice, and lumber. The town was burned during the War Between the States. A boom in the timber industry in the interior of Georgia resurrected the port of Darien, and this resource fueled Darien's economy for about 20 years until that industry waned in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Then the oystering and shrimping industries became prominent for several decades. Forestry and shrimping continue to augment our economy, while retirees have found the striking

coastline, marshes, and abundant wildlife a reason to relocate here. There are several festivals each year, most notably the Blessing of the Fleet Festival.

### St. Andrews Cemetery

At Ashantilly, just outside of Darien, is St. Andrew's Cemetery, originally the Spalding family plot with burials dating back to 1818. In April 1870, this land was given by Charles Harris Spalding to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Darien with the provision that it serve as a community burial ground. The following were the Vestrymen of the Church: Robert Gignilliat, Elihu S. Barclay, Isaac M. Aiken, Richard L. Morris, William C. Clark, James Walker, Thomas Spalding, James Holmes and William W. Churchill. Five of these men are buried within. The Church acquired the Southern portion around 1940. The Western 5-acre tract on the opposite side of Bond Road was given to the Church, by Robert A. Young, Jr. and John Pack both members of the church. St. Andrew's remains to this day the largest single active cemetery in McIntosh County. Current Cemetery Board: Dan White, Ruby White, Tom Gore, Lawrence Jacobs, and John Sawyer.

Currently, the board is working on the addition of a Memorial Garden for the disposition of ashes to be in the Western annex. Options for memorial bricks also under consideration.

### Demographics:

McIntosh County and the City of Darien are located on the Georgia coast about an hour south of Savannah and an hour north of Jacksonville, Fla. The population of McIntosh is approximately 14,378 while the City of Darien boasts approximately 2200 residents.

Before the pandemic began, St. Andrew's had an average of 60-70 persons in attendance every Sunday while St. Cyprian's averaged about 35-45 weekly. Most of these attendees are from McIntosh County but some come from neighboring Glynn and Liberty Counties.

### Ministries:

*Some of our ministries have been paused due to the pandemic.*

#### 1. Acolytes:

The acolytes are the youth and adults serving as Crucifer, Torch Bearers, carrying the Gospel Book, and assisting with Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. If you have children interested in serving as acolytes or if you yourself would like to serve or just learn more of what acolytes are about, please call Amy Pontello, director of scheduling and current ECW president. *(mostly suspended during the pandemic)*

## 2. Altar Guild:

The Altar Guild provides a behind the scenes service. Guild members care for all the linens and vessels used for Holy Communion, prepare the altar for all services, maintain the supplies of candles, communion wafers, wine, etc. Ruby White serves as the Chair of this Guild.

## 3. Christian Education and Youth Programs:

St. Andrew's provides Christian Education for adults, children, and youth in the form of Sunday School, Children's Church, and summer Vacation Bible School. Our Youth Director, Laura Evans, tutors fourth grade students twice weekly at the local middle school. She also has after-school youth group programs separately for fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth graders. Laura would be glad to have your assistance both in planning and in service as a tutor, music assistant, or any other talent you may bring. *(mostly virtual contact during the pandemic)*

## 4. Christian Men's Fellowship:

This group of men and women, although sponsored by St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's, has participation from several other churches in the community, including Mormons, Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Their ministry is to build home access ramps for persons who are physically challenged. They enjoy great fellowship while helping with light construction projects and serving the needs of others. The CMF coordinators are Peyton Lingle and Pete Durand. *(suspended during the pandemic)*

## 5. Cursillo:

Cursillo is a Spanish word that literally means "a short course". It is the official name of an international Episcopal Church program of evangelism and renewal. Cursillo in Georgia is a diocesan (regional) program that sponsors special weekends at our Episcopal Camp and Conference Center at Honey Creek (30 minutes south of Darien). During these Cursillo weekends, persons have the opportunity for spiritual growth and alternative worship experiences in an environment of supportive Christian Community.

St. Andrew's has an active Cursillo fellowship that meets the first Thursday evening of each month in the Parish House at 6:00 pm. We bring a covered dish, celebrate the Holy Eucharist in an informal setting, often hear from one of our fellow lay people, and enjoy a variety of music. If you have been to Cursillo, if you would like to attend a Cursillo Weekend, if you are curious or if you like to sing or play an instrument, join us. If you would simply like to meet new people and be part of a fun group of folks, you are welcome. *(in-person gatherings were suspended during the pandemic)*

#### 6. Daughters of the King:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Two Saints Chapter of the Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. Our mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

#### 7. Diaconate Program, Support of:

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Episcopal Church with a special ministry of servant hood directly under the bishop. Their ministry is outside the church in service to the poor, the needy and the oppressed. They can identify these needs and bring them back to the members of the church family. Deacons also have specific parts in the ceremony of worship.

St. Andrew's has had one ordained deacon. There is a second in process. We are considered a host church.

#### 8. Education for Ministry (EFM):

EFM is a program of study offered at St. Andrew's through the School of Theology, The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. Latrelle Gore is our local mentor who facilitates this four-year course for lay persons. EFM provides a supportive group setting for the study of Scripture, Christian Theology, Church History and related areas. We also engage in Theological Reflection of events and aspects of everyday life. We meet each Monday evening from 7 to 9 pm in the Parish House from mid-September through May. Speak with Latrelle for more information.

#### 9. Empty Stocking Fund:

Each year at Christmas this ministry provides Christmas presents to many children and their families who would otherwise do without. This past year, 176 families were served and approximately 217 children. While this is not an official ministry of the church, parishioner Sandy McDonald operates the community-sponsored Empty Stocking Fund (ESF) and distributes the bounty through the St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's Parish House.

#### 10. Episcopal Church Women:

The women's groups at St. Andrew's have had several different names over the decades with records indicating a group as early as 1886 where Diocesan Journals report bazaars helping with the finances of the church. St. Andrew's Parish has an active ECW that includes ladies from our sister church, St. Cyprians with Amy Pontello as the current Chair. Each year we send a number of children to church camp in large part from the fundraising efforts of our annual shrimp creole dinner usually in conjunction with the Annual Blessing of the Fleet weekend. In addition, we provide a significant outreach ministry to our local community including but not limited to holiday food baskets, book-bags for students returning

to school, sea farers ministry, and assistance to burned out or displaced individuals and families. The Thrift Shop, located next to the Parish House, is also operated by the ECW.

#### 11. Evangelism:

As St. Andrew's grows, so does our commitment to evangelism. Our present focus within the church is on Newcomers, Youth, and Young Adults. The gospel is witnessed by exhibiting Jesus' way of love, through our food, thrift shop, financial assistance, and youth outreach ministries, in communion with our community of Darien and McIntosh County. (Chad) *(these ministries continued with masking and social distancing, for the most part)*

#### 12. 5 Loaves and 2 Fishes Food Pantry:

The food pantry is located at 405 Greene Street, beside the Parish House. Bags of food are handed out on a weekly basis where we attempt to serve each person or household once a month. Operations are enabled through grants, monetary donations and with help from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Chairman Mary Sawyer reported that last year the pantry served 779 families plus 20 Easter food baskets, 22 Thanksgiving food baskets and 30 Christmas food baskets. *(Masking and social distancing allowed this to continue during the pandemic)*

#### 13. Good Samaritan Ministry:

Functions to assist local area homeless and mental health population. Amy Pontello is serving as Chair. This ministry is currently in the rejuvenation process. The Ministry originally reached out to the less fortunate within our local communities. Currently, working to provide personal hygiene kits to the homeless and mental health populations. Approximately 25 bags were given out over December – January. Kits have been supplied to Gateway Behavioral Health to distribute as needed. There has also been acquisition of kits containing Narcan that can be distributed to family members that may need to have a supply on hand for emergency use.

#### 14. Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

Each Sunday morning and some weekdays when we have Morning Prayer Services, some of our communicants assist in the service or hold one of the Morning Prayer Services. These LEM's have completed a short instructional course and have read, studied and passed a required test on the Book of Common Prayer and service in the Episcopal Church.

#### 15. Lectors:

Each Sunday morning a parishioner reads the Old Testament and New Testament lessons and leads the saying of the appointed Psalm. They also lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People. They must be able to read with understanding, good diction and voice.

#### 16. Music:

Our church choir welcomes new members. We practice every Tuesday night at 6:00 pm under the direction of Diane McAuliffe, Music Director and our organist, Wayne Tate. St. Andrew's also sponsors the Darien Community Choir which is composed of members of McIntosh County area churches to perform a Christmas Cantata and, sometimes, an Easter Cantata. *(all singing suspended during the pandemic)*

#### 17. Newcomers and Guests:

Once a quarter, we host a casual supper and social gathering for our new attendees or guests to our parish. A few vestry members and parishioners join with our latest newcomers to get acquainted and learn about each other. We are always open to new ideas to make these events comfortable and fun for everyone. *(suspended during the pandemic)*

#### 18. Outreach:

St. Andrew's Outreach program offers financial assistance to those in the community with demonstrated needs. We work closely with Georgia Power and the Department of Family and Children Services to meet the needs of those less fortunate in our community. This program has been budgeted \$10,000 each of the past several years. The majority of those funds paid utility bills, but some money helped with rent and medications. When special needs come to the attention of our clergy or lay persons, we strive to attend to them as best we can. Needs are also addressed directly by the rector through the Discretionary Fund.

#### 19. Prayer Shawl Ministry:

The Prayer Shawl Ministry, also known as the Knitting Group, began under the umbrella of the ECW. This group meets weekly to knit prayer shawls. Currently, the knitters meet in the home of a parishioner, observing social distancing practices while they knit. The completed shawls are blessed by the rector at offertory and are then kept in the rectory. Anyone from the parish may request a prayer shawl for someone in need of prayer. New knitters/crafters are always welcome, the point of contact for this ministry is Lila Eshliman,



## 20. Thrift Shop:

For the past 70 years St. Andrew's has operated a thrift shop to serve those in need in our community. This is primarily a not-for-profit ministry, but any net gains benefit the ECW to further their projects. This shop is a valued community resource for both emergency and routine needs of clothing and household items. To meet the growing community demand, our Thrift Shop recently expanded within our new parish house complex.

## 21. Two Saints Café:

Every Thursday a hot meal is provided in the Parish House free of charge to all. This ministry is sponsored by St. Andrew's and is supported by donations and grant funding. One hundred plus meals are typically served every week. Latrelle Gore is the Chair for this ministry and has the support of a dedicated crew of cooks, bottlewashers, and facilitators each week. *(This ministry kept going during the pandemic with masking and social distancing)*

## 22. Ushers and Greeters:

Adult and teen ushers hand out bulletins and welcome everyone to church services. They assist with the collection of the offertory and assist with seating whenever necessary. Greeters personally welcome newcomers, distribute church materials to them, and answer questions about our style of worship. *(both of these ministries were paused during the pandemic)*

## **Pastoral Care and Counseling:**

As a faith community, we at St. Andrew's are concerned about maintaining the spiritual, emotional and physical health of our parishioners. Our pastoral care team sends birthday cards monthly and supports members in need through the Prayer Chain and by sending condolences, get-well and special event cards and letters. LEM's assist the Clergy in providing weekly Holy Communion to homebound or hospitalized members. Fr. Bill is available for professional pastoral consultation as well as hospital and home visitation upon request.

## **Our Interim Rector:**

Father Bill Barton retired and moved to Darien from Tennessee. He bought a house next door to St. Andrew's and has been with us for the past several years. He has officially been our Interim Rector since December 2020. Fr. Bill's vast knowledge as well as his peaceful, cheerful and calm demeanor have been a comfort to us all at St. Andrew's.

### **Publicity:**

The St. Andrew's monthly newsletter is compiled by our Parish Secretary, Aimee Gaddis. It contains articles of interest in the life of our church members as well as a calendar of events for the month. Additionally, a mid-week report is prepared by a parishioner and sent via email on Wednesdays to update members on changes or happenings.

Our website of <https://standrewsandstcyprians.org> is our virtual signpost, sharing service information and church matters for members, visitors, and the general public.

Our Facebook page of <https://www.facebook.com/standrewsstcypriansepiscopalchurches> serves a broader community with over 400 people who "like" or "follow" this in the social media realm. Admins share our online services, church life events, and faith-centered graphics and prayers.

In addition, our YouTube channel is currently listed under "St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Churches," and it's where our services are hosted online.

### **Stewardship:**

As Christians, we believe our time, our talents, and our treasure, are gifts from God. Once a year we are asked to pledge our financial support of the church. The 4-week stewardship drives ends in November, with 3 Sundays of parishioner witnessing and 1 Sunday of a guest minister rallying everyone to give.

### **Supplemental Grounds and Building Maintenance:**

While we have a sexton and a ground maintenance service contracted, before the pandemic we occasionally had fellowship opportunities to add value to these services. Our Jr. Warden planned a Saturday morning workday where we all work together to spruce up our grounds, wash our windows and show pride in our Church building and grounds.

### **Parish House:**

Construction of our new parish house facility was completed in 2019. It holds a fellowship hall, large enough to comfortably seat members of both St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's at the same time, two large classrooms, a meeting room, a nursery and a state-of-the-art kitchen. This new facility also houses our thrift shop which has enabled us to double the size of that ministry and to better meet the needs of the community. This \$900,000 facility is on track to be completely paid for by 2022.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

*Worship:* When possible, safely return to in-person worship in our church sanctuary to enhance worship and fellowship for our members and visitors. Meanwhile, provide worship services online and keep the

lines of communications open to all parishioners to nurture our flock. Once in-person worship resumes, continue providing services online for those who are unable to attend.

*Ministries:* Using prudent safety measures, continue our current ministries to our parishioners and to our greater community. Expand our outreach to include laity and clergy visits to parishioners in nursing homes, retirement homes, and shut-ins. Continue our involvement in external community activities, such as Blessing of the Fleet, Habitat for Humanity, Keep McIntosh Beautiful, Empty Stocking, Family Connection, etc.

*Parish Life:* Encourage spiritual growth through offering small group interactions, extra programming, and/or curriculum-guided groups.

*Re-connection:* Select a way to safely approach each church member to encourage participation in worship and church activities. One means used in other churches is to apply the buddy system, where an active member is paired with an inactive member for weekly communication (in person, text message, phone call, or video chat). They both encourage each other in Christ and in the church.

#### **Financial History and Current Budget:**

The operating budget for St. Andrew's is funded through contributions from parishioners (pledges), a monthly contribution from St. Cyprian's toward the rector's compensation, and a monthly disbursement from an endowment (see the Black Fund below). Our current operating budget is approximately \$300,000. In addition to budgeting for a full-time rector, we employ a parish secretary/administrator, financial secretary, and Youth Ministries Director as part-time employees. As "contract" employees (1099) we have a choir director, organist, sexton, and landscaping/groundskeeper. We maintain 5 buildings: the church itself, an annex building, the Rectory (Church Office), the Food Pantry (ECW budget), and the Parish House building (which also houses our Thrift Store).

St. Andrew's maintains 3 checking accounts at Southeastern Bank: The St. Andrew's Episcopal Church account, St. Andrew's Cemetery Account, and the Episcopal Church Women's account. Currently there are several investment accounts held through Edward Jones that includes a primary Investment Account, Building Fund Account (from Capital Campaign), and the Cemetery Investment Account.

St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's launched a capital campaign in 2016 to raise funds for the renovation and expansion of our Parish House. The campaign is scheduled to end in at the end of 2021. This campaign resulted in \$663,691.85 pledged and donated income for the project along with over \$50,000 in unpledged donations. Currently the balance remaining on pledges is \$86,904.

The Robert and Clara Black Fund is an endowment, established by George Robinson Black in memory of his parents, the income from the fund to be used first to ensure that there will be adequately paid clergy, and second for maintenance and capital improvements. The initial payment into the fund was \$360,000 on December 20, 1985. Annually, St. Andrew's receives approximately \$65,000 towards budget. As such, the fund is managed by the Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Georgia. The rules surrounding disbursements allow the fund to maintain a balance in excess of \$1 million.

**Search Committee Members:**

Tom Draffin, Chair, St. Andrew's

Kate Pontello, Secretary, St. Andrew's

Suzanne Forsyth, St. Andrew's

Chad Simpson, St. Andrew's

Maggie Toussaint, St. Andrew's

Selwyn Nelson, St. Cyprian's

Laura Durand, St. Cyprian's

Dr. Ed Blackburn, St. Cyprian's