

Church Profile

Christ Episcopal Church



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Profile of Christ Episcopal Church

PARISH HISTORY, BUILDING & GROUNDS

Christ Church, Dublin, is a parish of the Diocese of Georgia. It began as a small group of people in the 1890's who dreamed of having an Episcopal church in Dublin, Georgia. The present building was constructed, in 1898, of heart pine in the shape of a cross. It is the oldest standing public building in Laurens County and the community's only Episcopal Church.

The Church is complemented by the parish hall, which provides a large commercial-style kitchen, open meeting space, upstairs offices, a children's room, and small chapel.

The garden behind the church was added in 1994, with a Columbarium dedicated in 2012. The garden connects the Parish Hall to the Episcopal Center, a Victorian-style home built in approximately 1905. The Episcopal Center offers space for meetings and mission work. The church grounds are located in the downtown Dublin historic district.



DUBLIN, GEORGIA COMMUNITY

Dublin is a small town located half-way between Atlanta and Savannah, along the Interstate 16 corridor. With approximately 16,000 living in the city, and 50,000 in the

surrounding area of Laurens County, Dublin is large enough to host familiar national brands, such as Kroger, Starbucks, and a full complement of chain restaurants, but small enough to take pride in its many acclaimed local businesses and restaurants. Dublin's central location allows access to the Atlanta metro area, the mountains, and Georgia beaches within a two hour drive.

Over the last ten years, Dublin's downtown area has undergone extensive historic renovations, and Christ Church, with its central location, is surrounded by a pedestrian plaza, civic center, historic Theatre, farmer's market, and community garden.

Population

Dublin's population has been stable over many decades. The in-town population is approximately 63% black, 35% white, while the city and county's combined population is approximately 60% white and 35% black. A quarter of the population is under age 18, while over 16% are over age 65.

Economy

Dublin's economy is diversified among healthcare (including a 148-bed HCA-hospital and a regional Veterans Administration hospital), international industry (YKK and Saint-Gobain, for example), distribution centers (which take advantage of Dublin's location on I-16 and Highway 441) and numerous thriving small businesses. Although the local economy is overall strong, vast poverty persists, especially among the urban black community, and, less visibly, among rural white residents. Somewhat apart from the internal Dublin economy, is the large number of hotels and fast food restaurants supporting travelers along I-16.

Quality of Life

Dublin is well-known for its family-friendly St. Patrick's festival, which includes dozens of events over the month of March. In addition, the town and county jointly operate a large recreation complex with a waterpark, walking trail, and numerous softball, soccer, and football fields. Downtown venues host a continuous itinerary of festivals and events, including outdoor concerts, BBQ contests, farmers' market, kids events, and cultural events.

For outdoor enthusiasts, the central Georgia area abounds in hunting and fishing opportunities. Residents enjoy the Gillis Public Fishing Area, boating and fishing along the Oconee river, thousands of acres of Wildlife Management Areas that are open to hunting, hiking, cycling, and kayaking, and several private hunting lodges.

Education

The City of Dublin operates a municipal school system, with options for a Gifted Academy for younger students and the International Baccalaureate program for high school students. Additionally, Laurens County operates a separate school system, with Trinity Christian Academy offering a private school option.

Georgia Military College and Middle Georgia State University operate campuses in Dublin, providing opportunities for associates degrees and dual enrollment programs for the local high schools. The Oconee Fall-Line Technical College offers 100+ instructional programs for diplomas & technical certifications. Finally, local homeschool families have formed joint education sessions through the Classical Conversations program.

Religion

Sometimes it appears that there is a church on every corner and at the end of every dirt road in Laurens County. Approximately two-thirds of Dublin-Laurens citizens regularly attend church services, with the largest group, by far, attending Baptist and other evangelical protestant churches. Mainline Protestants, primarily Methodist, but also including a small number of Episcopalians and Presbyterians, comprise approximately 10% of the population.

THE PARISH FAMILY

Vision and Mission

Our Mission is to make Christ known through our Episcopal tradition and to share God's love in the lives of our neighbors.

Parish Life

The Parish Life Committee is open to any member of Christ Church. The Committee's work revolves around fellowship, food, and social activities. The goal is to bring church members together in ways that will entertain, strengthen and unite.

Projects include:

- Monthly Potlucks
- Blessing of the Animals
- Annual GA-FL football game & pig roast
- Jingle & Mingle
- Greening of the Church
- Valentine's Sweet Treat Sunday

- Lenten Soup Suppers
- Irish Music Night
- Parish Picnic
- Mother's Day Celebration
- Father's Day Remembrance

Missions

Food Pantry - The Food Pantry is Christ Church's largest outreach program. Open the second Tuesday of every month, the Food Pantry prepares 300 bags of food for members of the community. In 2020, with the help of federal grants, local businesses, and donations from the congregation, the Pantry served 1,000 local families.

Men's Group - The Men's Group meets once a month for fellowship and activities. Often with the help of food and drink, they tackle projects on church grounds and gather together for ministry.

ECW - The ECW is the women's group that plans meals after funerals, sick visits, and social services for members of the congregation.

Memorial Garden - In the early 1990's, a vacant lot behind the Parish Hall was purchased, and the Memorial Garden was built. A part of the Garden has been set aside as a Columbarium, a place for the interment of ashes. Presently, there are thirty niches for parishioners who choose to have their ashes placed here. The Columbarium was dedicated in 2012.

Demographics

As of 2020, there are 73 members of Christ Episcopal Church. The average Sunday attendance is 44. The church congregation is largely, but not entirely, white, middle class and over the age of 60. Many members are not originally from Dublin, or even Georgia, but have arrived in the community after living in places all across the United States.

Stewardship & Finances

In 2020, out of 73 members, 42 pledge cards were received for a total of \$66,150 in pledges. Combined with over \$102,000 in appreciation from stock investments and other miscellaneous gifts, Christ Church reports a total revenue of \$164,409, with total operating expenses around \$80,000. As detailed in the financial report, Christ Church's investment portfolio has experienced excellent growth, so that, together with recurring revenue, the Church is well-equipped to hire at least a part time rector.

RECTOR PROFILE

Christ Church is looking for a good shepherd of its flock, a balanced leader who is empathetic, steady and wise. The Church seeks a priest who is able to inspire the long standing members of the congregation and enrich the spiritual life of the younger ones as well. The church needs a rector who is humble enough to be a good listener and confident enough to harmonize the various strong-willed personalities in the church. The rector should be comfortable with hospital visits, healing services, and counseling to meet the needs of the congregation.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE PARISH - TWO TO FOUR YEARS

The Church would like to provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life - including Children's Church, Bible Study, Sunday School, and Book Clubs. Christ Church would like to move forward with consistent leadership so that the congregation, with strong faith and well-fed spirits, can serve the larger community and welcome new members.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

Among the settlers arriving with Georgia founder James Edward Oglethorpe in 1733 was a clergyman from the Church of England. The Diocese of Georgia was established in 1823 and by 1907 had grown so much that it was divided geographically and the Diocese of Atlanta was created. Today, the Diocese of Georgia, with its Diocesan office located in Savannah, Georgia, spans the southern portion of the state from the rolling farms and piney woodlands in the west to the marshes and coastlands in the east. The Diocese is home to seventy parishes and missions diverse in size, theology, liturgical style, wealth and race. Forty-one congregations hold parish status, and the remaining twenty-nine are missions. In addition, several chapels are maintained throughout the Diocese. Thirty congregations are located within twenty miles of cities with populations of 40,000 or more, and the other forty congregations are situated in suburbs, county seats, and rural towns. Approximately one hundred fifty clergy are canonically resident in the Diocese of Georgia at any given time. Included in the active clergy are more than thirty non-stipendiary vocational deacons, who serve in the Diocese under the guidance of the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Frank Logue. Most of the clergy in the Diocese serve in parishes and missions; some serve as school, hospital and hospice chaplains or in other non-parochial ministries expressing their special gifts. Priests of the Diocese of Georgia are expected to participate in convocational clericus meetings (monthly through most of the year), clergy conferences and the diocesan convention. Clergy are also called upon to serve on various diocesan boards, committees and commissions as part of their service to the larger church.