



PARISH PROFILE

2022

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Valdosta, GA



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WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH VALDOSTA!



WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH VALDOSTA

We are happy to present to you our Christ Church Valdosta Parish Profile. We hope it will assist your discernment process to find a new home. This document is the result of six consultant-led weekly meetings, a parish survey, input from our survey consultant, the Diocesan Canon, and our Interim Priest.

Christ Church Valdosta has a legacy of providing leadership in the Diocese of Georgia and in the National Church. We had a priest on the Liturgical Commission that created the 1979 Prayer Book and the 1982 Hymnal. We happily tried new liturgies and new songs all the way in the process. We have raised up many Priests and Deacons.

We do not wish to become set in our ways. We desire a leader to help negotiate our way forward from where the pandemic has put us.

We thank you for prayerfully discerning a call to Christ Church Valdosta by continuing to read our profile.



WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT US?

- Christ Church Valdosta has a high level of spiritual vitality. We welcome a diversity of different theological perspectives. We are a very welcoming church.
- Worship is important to Christ Church. We have developed three different styles of worship. One service uses Rite I with no music. The largest service uses Rite II with choir and organ. Another service, geared more toward the college age, uses Rite II and other approved liturgies along with contemporary and folk guitar music.
- Christ Episcopal Preschool has been an important ministry for decades. Classes run M-F from 9am – 12pm for ages 2 ½ - 4. It is housed in a modern education building, the Gabard Building, with dedicated rooms, with a secure and padded outdoor play area. The Gabard Building also houses Sunday school rooms, nurseries for both infants and toddlers, and our small library and reading room.
- Parents Morning Out provides play fun for children Tuesday and Thursday.
- Christ Church Valdosta is located directly across the street from Valdosta State University. Six college interns live on church grounds and keep the doors open for students providing Internet, video games, refreshments, and quiet spaces. The front porch of Grace Cafe is shaded by a gigantic Live Oak tree and has a variety of seating. The rear deck has tables and chairs overlooking our Camellia Garden filled with rare varieties grown by a late parishioner whose own garden was nationally acclaimed.
- Christ Church has had the four-year Education for Ministry continuously running since 1986 through the University of the South at Sewanee, some taking the course several times.
- Our Daughters of the King ministry prays and serves with 30+ members.
- Parishioners have consistently held leadership roles within the community, within the Diocese of Georgia and within the National Church. On the Diocesan level, parishioners serve on the Constitution and Canons Committee, the Honey Creek Commission and the Cursillo Secretariat. We have a Deputy to the General Convention.
- Our youth are active in New Beginnings and Happenings at the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center at Honey Creek on the coast. Many of our youth have served on staff and as rectors of special events. We also provide summer camp counselors.
- At Christ Church Valdosta, we love to worship AND we love to socialize. The opportunities for large and small social gatherings are many and well attended!

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA



The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia is one of two in the state of Georgia. Our current Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue began his ministry as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia on May 30th, 2020. At this time, he had already served two decades in the Diocese as first a church planter and then as the assistant to the previous Bishop. Approximately 150 clergy are canonically resident in the Diocese of Georgia at any given time. Included in the active clergy are more than 30 non-stipendiary vocational deacons, who serve in the Diocese under the guidance of the Bishop. Most of the clergy in the Diocese serve in the parishes; some serve as school, hospital and hospice chaplains or in other non-parochial ministries expressing their special gifts.

As 14,000 followers of Jesus in Central and South Georgia, the 69 diverse parishes of the Diocese of Georgia seek to live in the love God has shown for all of us through worship together and ministry to and for others. The Seal of the Diocese says we are, "always ready to worship and serve" The Diocese of Georgia covers the southeastern 32,994 square miles of the state of Georgia, all under the leadership of The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue.



BISHOP FRANK LOGUE

Priests in the Diocese of Georgia are expected to participate in monthly convocational clericus meetings, semi-annual clergy conferences, and the annual diocesan conventions. Clergy are also called to serve on various diocesan boards, committees, and commissions as part of their service to the church.

While much of the work of the Diocese of Georgia takes place at the local level, there are diocesan ministries as well. The ministries of the diocese are those best tackled together, relying on the strength of our 69 congregations working united in mission.

Some of the ministries include:

Chaplains

Serving in school, university and hospitals setting around the Diocese of Georgia.

Companion Diocese

The Diocese of Georgia has an ongoing relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

Cursillo

From the Spanish word, meaning “short course,” a Cursillo weekend offers a short course in Christianity. It provides an environment in which God can give appropriate gifts to the unique individuals who attend.

Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Georgia seeks to unite the women of the diocese through a program of worship, study, and service which will deepen and strengthen their spiritual lives and lead them into Christian service in the parish, the community, the diocese, and the world.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF GEORGIA

Episcopal Youth and Children Services

The Episcopal Youth and Children Services of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia provides needs-based assistance towards college scholarships, medical assistance and camp scholarships for an individual 22 years of age or younger who are members or whose parents or legal guardians are members of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, irrespective of race or sex.

Honey Creek

This is our camp and conference center of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. Since the 1950's when the camp was created to replace the previous Camp Reese on Saint Simmons Island. Honey Creek has offered a unique place for retreats and other events. Our 100-acre grounds on a tidal creek look across the marsh to Jekyll Island on Georgia's coast. The conference center also hosts a summer camp program each summer in a variety of sessions for children from 3rd through 12th grade.

Youth Programs

The purpose of the diocese Youth Programs is to build a community of Christian friends. We strengthen our relationships with God through the community we build when we are together, and we take this strengthened faith into our daily lives. All the youth events are designed by youth, planned by youth, and led by youth. We have a variety of events throughout the year for various age groups and interests.



WHAT DO WE WANT IN A NEW RECTOR?

To best serve Christ Church and the Diocese of Georgia, the new rector should:

- Be spirit-filled and a seeker of God's will to lead us.
- Be a shepherd, recognizing and embracing the need to make pastoral care a priority.
- Be strong in strategic leadership, a good negotiator, a strong delegator, and leader of change in incremental stages.
- Be a good administrator; be well-organized and able to communicate effectively with the staff and parish.
- Be an effective planner – one who follows through with plans – for worship, seasonal activities, education, and the financial welfare of the church.
- Be a preacher who delivers sermons that are based strongly on the scriptures and will lead us to self-examination and growth.
- Be an advocate for and involved with youth, college age, young adults, and older adults.
- Be warm and outgoing to personally engage people in the congregation, the community, and the diocese.
- Be strong at recognizing and encouraging the spiritual gifts of parishioners.
- Possess a strong intelligence and exhibit a good sense of humor.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

WAYS TO CONNECT AND SERVE AT CHRIST CHURCH

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

ADULT EDUCATION

Cursillo, Ultreya and Reunion Groups

Lead and support lay persons in a closer walk with Christ.

EfM (Education for Ministry):

EfM invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. EfM seminar groups meet in local settings and online and provide a four-year curriculum that develops a theologically informed, reflective, and articulate laity.

Home Study Groups:

Borders, Valencia, Grenaker home study groups. All are invited and welcome.

CARING MINISTRIES

Licensed Eucharistic Visitors:

Deliver Communion to homebound parishioners and hospital patients.

Flower Guild:

Deliver Sunday service flowers to homebound parishioners.

St. Francis Ministry to Animals:

Provide assistance in fundraising for animals in crisis.

Stitchers of Love:

Create needlework for individuals in need of a tangible reminder of God's love. Most items are knitted or crocheted but other types of needlework are welcome.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

WAYS TO CONNECT AND SERVE AT CHRIST CHURCH

United Thank Offering

Assist with the gathering of UTO blue boxes for loose change which provides funding for projects that meet compelling human needs and expand the mission and ministry of the church.

CHURCH SERVICE MINISTRIES

Acolytes:

Serve at the altar for Sunday services and other services as requested. Teams are scheduled on rotation.

Altar Guild:

Serve on teams to prepare church and altar for services; clean and maintain serving pieces; arrange flowers on a five week rotation.

Choir:

Provide service music and a joyful noise.

Lay Readers

Read scripture at services.

Licensed Eucharistic Ministers:

Assist in serving communion.

Ushers

Welcome visitors, provide structure for movement of parishioners for all services; greet, distribute bulletin, and Quiet Books; and direct traffic flow for communion.

Service videographers:

Assist in the live streaming of the 10:00 Sunday service





CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

HOSPITALITY & CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Foyer Groups:

Encourage and engage in Christian community.

Happy Episcopal People (HEP):

Encourage and enjoy Christian community, and volunteer to host.

Hospitality Committee/Coffee Hour Hosts:

Coordinate refreshments for special events in the church's life.

Manna Ministry:

Provide a meal for a family in event of illness, birth, or death.

Men in Blue:

Prepare food for special events.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

WAYS TO CONNECT AND SERVE AT CHRIST CHURCH

HOSPITALITY & CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Grace Cafe/College Ministry:

Christ Church has 6 interns and a college ministry director who reach out on campus. On church grounds is Grace Café where students gather for coffee and snacks, study, and play video games. We prepare a Thursday dinner that feeds an average of 150 students. Volunteers are needed to cook on Thursdays, to interact with the students, and to donate to the college student food pantry.

Lunch Bunch

Make brown bag lunches and deliver to underprivileged children in our community twice a month.

Hungry at Home & Jammin' for Jesus:

To work with the school systems to provide food for children and seniors who are hungry at home by packing backpacks one day a week in Lake Park Community.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Daughters of the King

Pray daily and other services as directed by the Rector

YOUTH

Christ Episcopal Church College Ministry

Support our college ministry in various ways, as needed, including Thursday Night Dinners, and donate to the college student food pantry.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

EYC is our youth program for 6th-12th graders, and provides community and discipleship. Teach, lead projects, chaperone trips, and provide food.

Nursery:

Care for children aged infants-5 years old during church services when paid staff is unavailable or as an adjunct to paid staff.

Children's Church

Share God's word and Christ's teaching to children ages 3yrs - 5th grade during a portion of the 10:00 Sunday service.

Parents Morning Out

A non-profit within Christ Church to provide temporary daycare for children up to two days a week while parents run errands (volunteers not needed)

Christ Episcopal Preschool

A non-profit within Christ Church to provide a preschool experience for children (volunteers not needed)

Sunday School - Youth

Share God's word and Christ's teaching. Teachers, assistants and floaters needed.

Vacation Bible School:

Share God's word with children in the summer, teach, bake, and donate.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Habitat for Humanity Ministry:

Work with other organizations and churches to eliminate substandard housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. This ecumenical group encourages volunteers from all walks and all ages to build houses in partnership with needy families.

The Haven:

Work with the professional staff at the shelter for abused women and children donating time, talent and treasure as needed

Second Harvest Food Bank of Valdosta:

Combat hunger by providing food to non-profit agencies in the area.

Soup Kitchen:

Serve lunch to the hungry at The Community Soup Kitchen.



THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Christ Episcopal Church boundaries encompass approximately five acres. Located in Valdosta, Georgia, directly across the street from Valdosta State University, the church has 650 feet facing North Patterson Street. On this street are many examples of old Southern architecture and style.

Magnificent magnolias, giant longleaf pines, and subtle white dogwood trees surround the Church's six main buildings. Between 1983 and the present, the Church leadership had a vision for the future and aggressively purchased the properties surrounding the sanctuary and offices. The appearance of the Church campus has a simple grace that houses the people of God.

The Sanctuary - A Bruton Parish Design

The main worship building is a design copy of Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, Virginia. The cathedral windows and brick construction adjoin the front bell tower, a landmark architectural characteristic of Bruton Parish churches. Inside are the traditional wood church pews with a center aisle leading to the raised altar and a pipe organ.

THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The altar flooring is covered in red carpet. Brass candelabra chandeliers light up the 20-foot-tall ceiling. Overall seating for about 200 includes 4,000 square feet within the L-shaped nave area. The 1974 pipe organ, purchased from All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta and dedicated in 2004, is in excellent condition. It has 47 ranks, was manufactured by The Shantz Organ Company, and was installed by Robert I. Coulter- Organbuilders of Atlanta, Georgia.

The Parish Hall and Kitchen

Separated from the sanctuary by accordion doors, the Parish Hall is the center of social life for the Church. A multi-purpose room with 3,400 square feet that can be used for one to three separate meeting rooms or one large sit-down dinner for approximately 125 guests, it is often used for wedding receptions, Bible study classes, committee meetings, and church socials- all having ready access to a moderate-sized kitchen and walk-in pantry. The Hall is connected to the Gabard Education Building by a covered walkway.

The Administration Building

The administrative offices are connected to the sanctuary by a covered walkway and small porch. This 3,180 square-foot building houses the parish administrator and bookkeeper, priests' offices, acolyte vesting room, a small conference room for up to 14 people, restrooms, and two choir rooms. The choir room closest to the main church contains a piano, a 144-square-foot dressing room, and music room for 20 members. There are four large offices for staff and clergy. Two contain private baths and closets. The church administrator has a reception area, office machines, computer, and copy equipment.



Sanctuary



Parish Hall Kitchen

THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Gabard Building

This 9,500-square-foot building is named for the late Dr. William Montgomery Gabard. He and his wife Lougenia Gillis Gabard were faithful leaders of Christ Church for many years. The building is equipped with modern education equipment and supports small group meetings. It can also serve as a hurricane shelter. During spring break, it is used by college students who come to Valdosta to work for Habitat for Humanity.



Preschool Classroom



Gabard Exterior

THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rectory

One of the finest examples of colonial revival architecture on North Patterson Street, the Christ Church Rectory is known as the Carroll House, named for the late Jamie and Frances Carroll, lay leaders and benefactors of Christ Church. Set on a corner lot overlooking the main entrance to Valdosta State University, the rectory is two buildings away from the City of Valdosta's premier park and one block from the most complete library in South Georgia, the Odum Library at VSU. The rectory is 3,200 square feet of red brick, solid construction. The home even has a basement for all the mechanical equipment. The hardwood floors are original. The floor plan has nine-foot ceilings, four bedrooms, and two and one-half baths. The kitchen features granite countertops and an island with additional countertop space. The home also has a large screened-in porch. The side yard is the Sarah Oliver Garden.

Memorial Garden

Christ Church's Memorial Garden is a lovely area next to the main church. The garden is consecrated and dedicated to former members by their family and friends and has a central courtyard of stone pavers with two benches and two wrought iron trellises as entrances. Memorial plaques are mounted on the south wall of the sanctuary with the names of all who are interred.



THE FACILITIES OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Norma Tomberlin House

This building is named for the teacher who led our very successful preschool program for 29 years, Norma Tomberlin. This craftsman-style bungalow was home to our preschool program for over 20 years and now houses our female college interns working with Grace Cafe'. The original building still has 2,562 square feet with three baths and four bedrooms, a meeting room and small kitchen. The preschool program moved to the new Gabard Education Building in the Fall of 2012.

Louttit Hall

Named for the Right Reverend Henry I. Louttit, the 9th Bishop of Georgia, who was the rector at Christ Church for 28 years. This two-story country-style home with 2,800 square feet of interior space serves the college ministry, Grace Cafe. The building has a working kitchen, and a typical family home floorplan which lends itself to small group gatherings. It also houses our male college interns working with Grace Cafe.



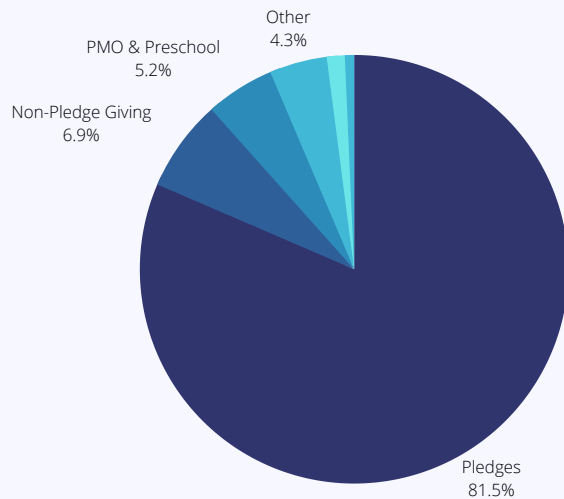
Tomberlin House



Louttit Hall

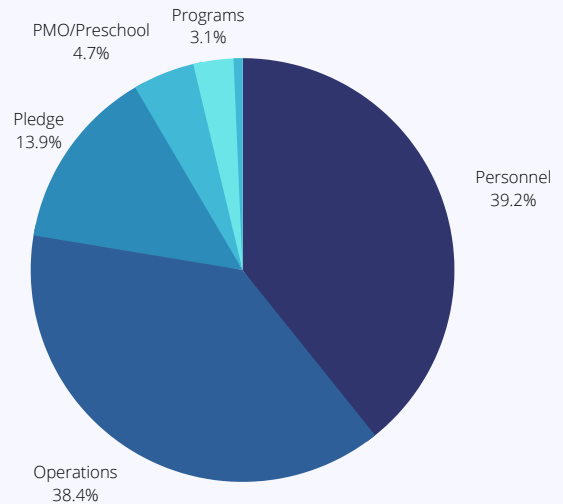
FINANCIAL STATUS

2021 INCOME SOURCES (\$550,066)



Pledges	\$448,149
Non-Pledge Giving	\$38,109
PMO & Preschool	\$28,610
Preschool/Other	\$23,911
Diocese College Reimb.	\$7,467
Money Raised by Youth	\$3,820

2021 TOTAL EXPENSES (\$556,430)



Personnel	\$219,833
Operations	\$214,983
Diocese of GA Pledge	\$78,000
PMO/Preschool	\$26,443
Programs	\$17,171

Christ Church currently has **632 members** among **224 households**. The average **household income is \$137,340**. In 2022, we have **115 pledging units**.

The six-member Stewardship Committee will conduct the annual pledge drive beginning in September 2022 with a goal of meeting the needs of the proposed 2023 annual budget. The committee seeks to increase pledges to support competitive salaries for our new rector, full-time assistant rector, and full-time youth director for Christian education.

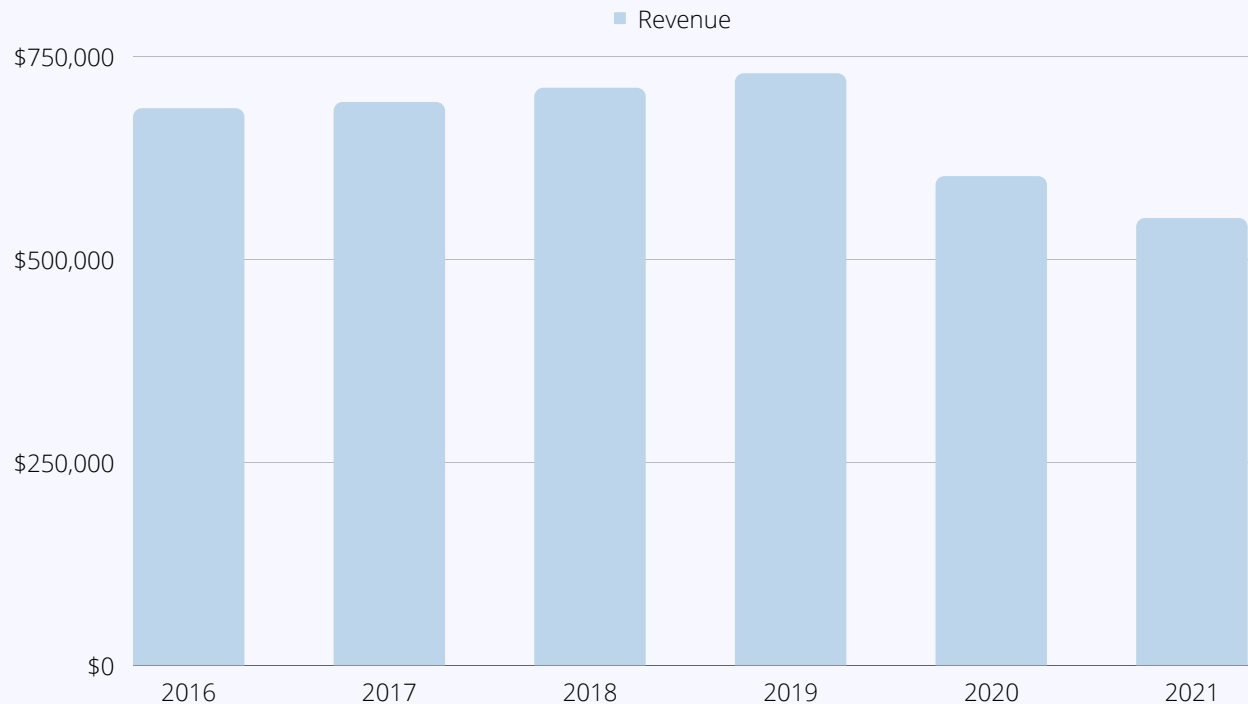
PAROCHIAL REPORT STATISTICS

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	
2016	170
2017	179
2018	185
2019	190
2020	41*
2021	78*

PLEDGES	
2019	128
2020	132
2021	137
2022	115

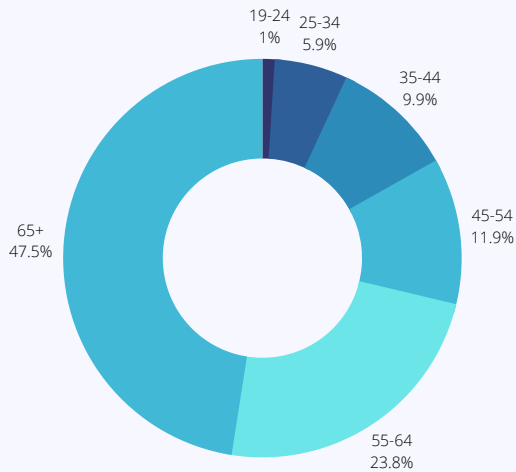
COMMUNICANTS IN GOOD STANDING	
2016	557
2017	578
2018	596
2019	631
2020	635
2021	632

*Online attendance not included

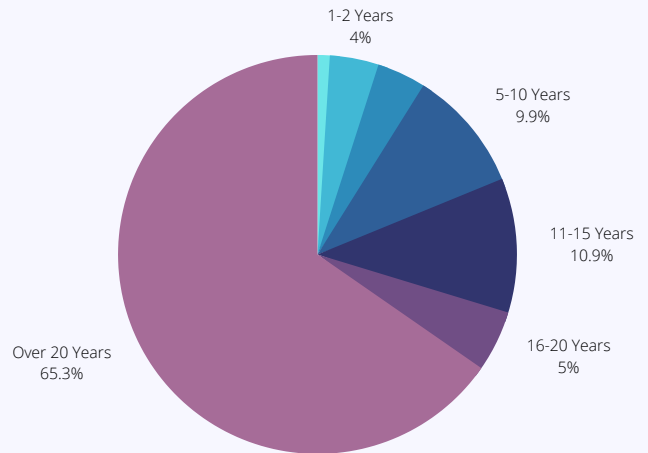


SURVEY RESULTS: JUNE 2022

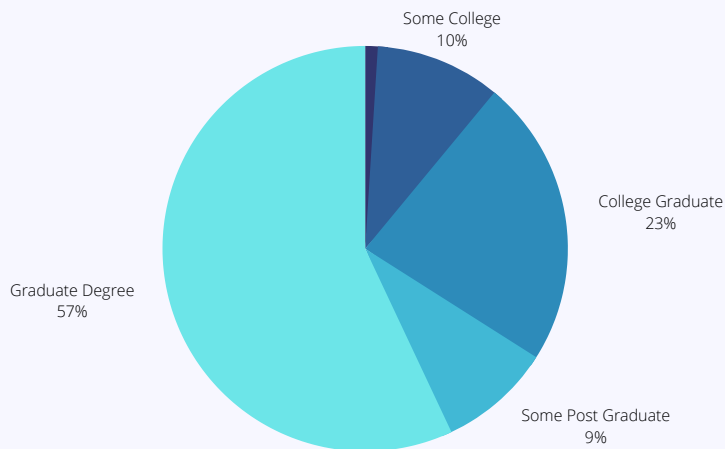
AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



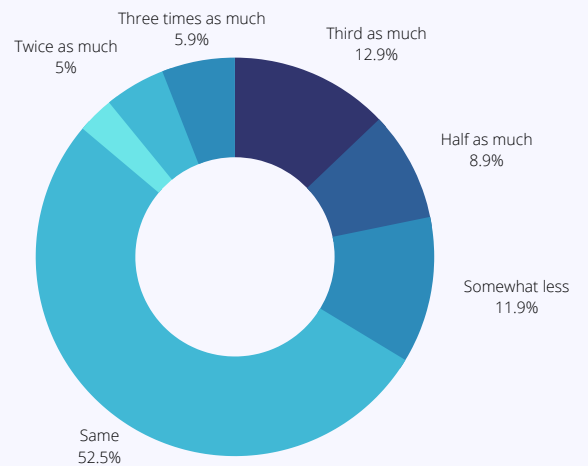
LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP



EDUCATION



ATTENDANCE TREND



70% FEMALE
30% MALE

COMMUNITY: VALDOSTA AND LOWNDES COUNTY

Valdosta is a large “small” town. It is located on I-75 near the Florida border. Christ Episcopal Church mirrors the City of Valdosta, in that not only do we serve the residents of Valdosta, but also serve all of Lowndes County and neighboring counties. Based on the 2020 Census, Lowndes had an estimated population of 119,276, with Valdosta at 55,378.

What Does Our Community Have to Offer?

Education

Valdosta State University, founded in 1906, is located directly across from Christ Church. This year, it has 11,270 students enrolled with most students being from Georgia. VSU is a fully accredited university offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in a wide variety of fields. VSU is a Division II school, boasting 8 national championships in football, baseball, men's tennis, and softball.



Education (continued)

Wiregrass Technical College is a top-rated technical college in Georgia offering various technical degrees with a history of high employment placement after graduation.

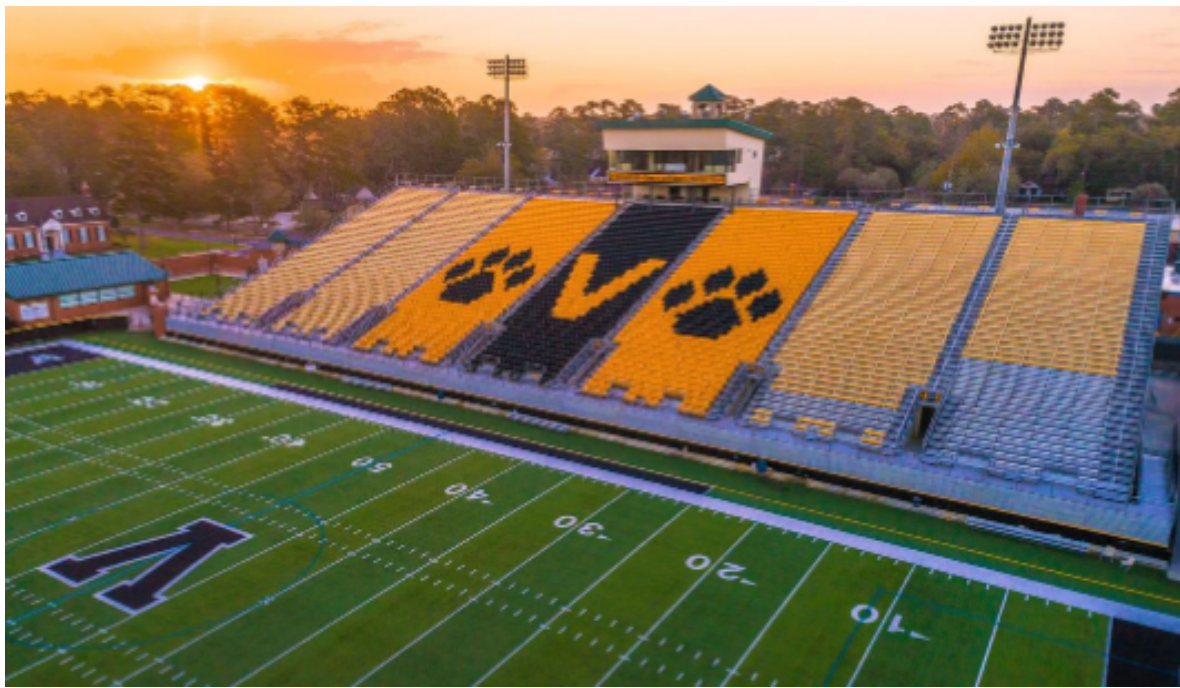


The Lowndes County School System services over 10,500 students and encompasses 11 schools with 3 middle schools and one high school. The high school ranks in the top 30% of schools in Georgia for the highest test scores and offers Advanced Placement classes. The system as a whole has a 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio. The band program at LHS, The Georgia Bridgemen, is the largest marching band in Georgia, including colleges, and has won many competitions.



Valdosta City Schools services over 8,000 students and encompasses 8 schools, which includes two middle schools and one high school. The high schools offers Advanced Placement along with the International Baccalaureate Program. The system as a whole has a 17:1 student-to-teacher ratio.

In South Georgia, sports, especially football, are a big deal. Valdosta is labeled "Title Town USA" because of its 450 plus titles won in sporting events including public , private college and K-12 schools. The Valdosta High School football team specifically is the most winningest team in the nation. Every year, the annual Winnersville game is hosted for both LHS and VHS, warranting sold out stadiums each holding approximately 12,000 fans.



Scintilla Charter Academy is a K-6 public school that hosts 500 students. Scintilla has a 14:1 student-teacher ratio and is open to anyone living within county or city limits.

Valwood School is a top-rated private K-12 school with a 5:1 student-teacher ratio. Valwood offers various sports and the AP program for high school students.

Many private/Christian schools operate in Lowndes County. [See a full list here.](#)



Scintilla Charter Academy

Hahira (10 miles north of Valdosta)

- Honeybee Festival: The Honeybee Festival is an annual event held the first weekend of October. It has been held for 41 years and includes various local vendors, games, and one of the largest parades in South Georgia.
- Every Saturday Hahira hosts a farmer's market with local produce, meats, flower, and crafts.
- Hahira also hosts an annual music festival, The Great Hahira Pickin. This annual music tradition features live music from various performers from throughout the southeast.



Other Points of Interest

South Georgia Medical Center is a nonprofit, licensed, 418-bed hospital servicing across 15 counties and is fully accredited by the DNV. SGMC has over 600 providers and 2,900 employees. SGMC has qualified and well-established surgeons and physicians and specialty centers in Cancer, Heart and Vascular, Orthopedics, and Women's.



Moody Air Force Base has been in Valdosta since September 15th, 1941 and has a population of roughly 5,500 military and civilian employees. Approximately 650 family members reside in base family housing. Moody Air Force base has been essential to the growth and development of Lowndes County throughout the years. Every year, Moody hosts "Thunder over South Georgia." This air show is open to the public and showcases various military aircraft displays and aerial demonstrations.



Wild Adventures Theme Park is located south of Valdosta. It offers fun for the entire family with thrill rides, a large water park, exotic wildlife exhibits, as well as entertainment by various musical and entertainment artists.



The Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) totals 2,623 acres of state-owned land and 5,874 acres of land from the U.S. Air Force. It includes close to 6,000 acres of wetlands. Grand bay offers hunting opportunities, canoeing, fishing, nature trails, and picnic areas.

Reed Bingham is a state park located in Adel, GA just 30 minutes North of Valdosta. including a total of 1,600 acres and a 375-acre lake. It offers hiking trails, camping, boating, canoeing, and great fishing





The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is a premier regional arts center located in downtown Valdosta. The seven light-filled galleries offer a diverse selection of works by regional and national artists in approximately 30 exhibits annually. With its state-of-the-art kitchen, the Center is available for private rental for events such as wedding receptions and business gatherings. The Center also features a gift shop with one-of-a-kind items created by local artists. Events include concerts and the Presenters Series, which brings nationally recognized musicals to the area. Many members of Christ Church are actively involved and engaged in the art center.

The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra performs at Whitehead Auditorium located on VSU's campus. The orchestra's membership is a unique blend of resident artist, faculty and students, talented community performers, and select professionals from a five-state region. It also attracts highly qualified national and internationally renowned soloists.

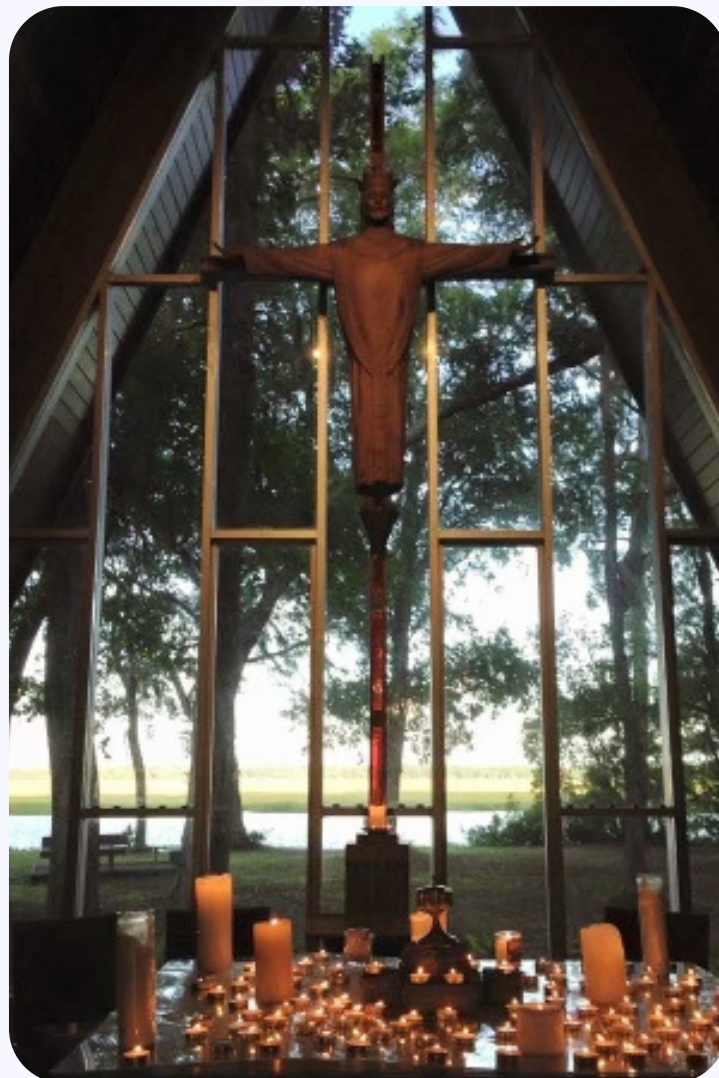
Valdosta has produced several local restaurants over the years known for their food and uniqueness such as the Salty Snapper, Friends Grille and Bar, Smokin' Pig, Woodstack, 306 North, Mom and Dad's (Italian cuisine) and Jack's Chophouse.

Georgia Beer Co. is the southernmost micro-brewery in Georgia. Its taproom is located in the 100-year-old Waterworks Building and focuses on using Georgia Grown Ingredients.



Valdosta is conveniently located off of I-75 which means you can travel to nearby locations easily. Cities such as Tallahassee, Atlanta and Savannah are only a 2-to-4-hour drive. While Atlantic and Gulf Coast locations such as Jekyll Island, St. Simons Island, Jacksonville, Panama City Beach, Mexico Beach, Destin, and Ft. Walton Beach are similar distances.

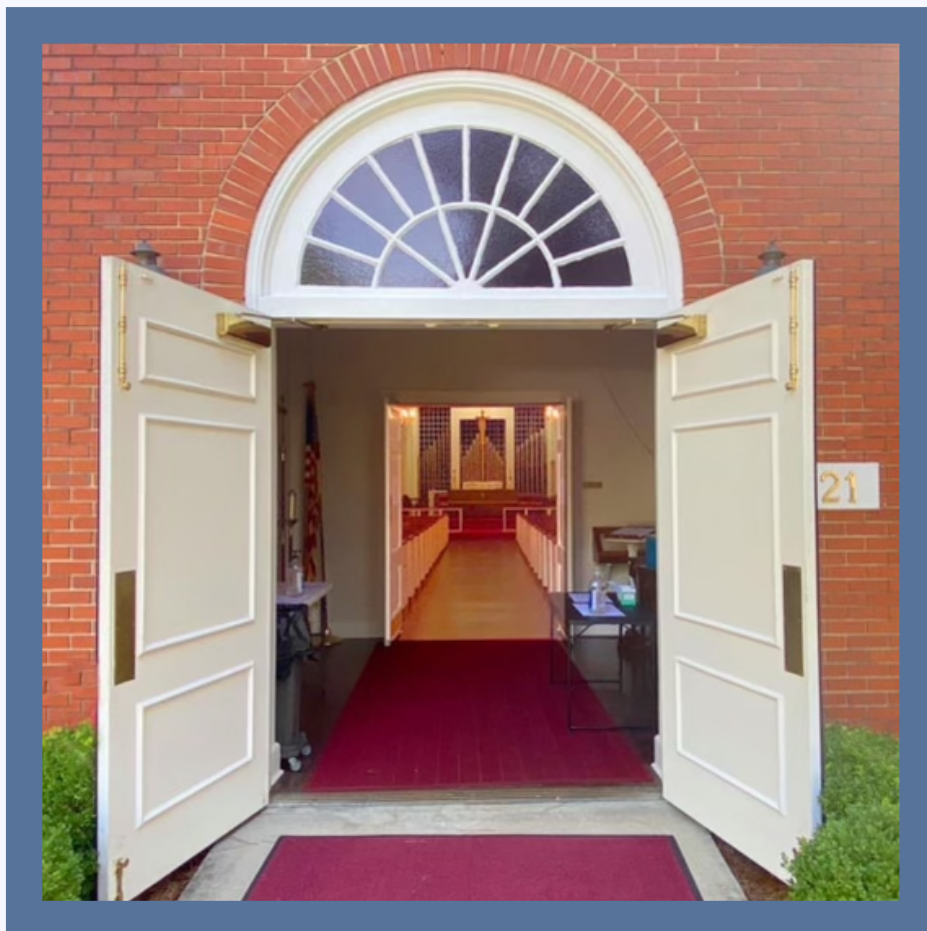
The Diocese of Georgia owns Honey Creek, a camp and conference center located on the marshes of Georgia near Saint Simons and Jekyll Islands. Honey Creek is a focal point to all Episcopalians in the Diocese of Georgia. It hosts youth overnight summer camps, youth weekend events, parish retreats, and many other events! The facility has 40 lodge rooms, multiple cottages, and three dorms that sleep 100 collectively. At Honey Creek, you can fish, play disc golf, kayak the river, engage in ropes courses (low and high), swim, and explore the outdoors. Honey Creek is a very special place to many members of our congregation.



CHRIST CHURCH: AN INCUBATOR FOR CLERGY

In 2011-12 our Vineyard newsletter featured a series of articles on priests who grew up at Christ Episcopal Church: the Rev. Leslie Hiers Chadwick, the Rev. Susan Louttit Hardaway, the Rev. Kevin Kelly, the Rev. Lonnie Lacy and the Rev. Reggie Payne-Wiens. There were others who went to college at Valdosta State University, attended Christ Church during their stay, then went to seminary: the Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton, the Rev. Charles Davis, the Rev. Tar Drazdowski, and the Rev. Jim Hines.

Four members with secular careers who attended Christ Church decided to become deacons: Deacon Stella Clark, Deacon Patricia Marks, Deacon Karyl Miller and Deacon Nancy Sartin. Two others with secular careers who attended our church have become priests: the Rev. Jim Elliott and the Rev. Walter Hobgood. That's a total of fifteen since 1990.



CHRIST CHURCH STAFF



Rev. David W. Perkins is serving as our full-time interim rector.



Kim Dudley, our Parish Administrator, provides oversight to the daily administration and communication activities of the Parish. Her responsibilities include a wide range of duties in support of the church. She records membership roles for the congregation, prepares, files and preserves all Parish documents and parochial reports. Kim maintains schedules and communication with other staff members involved in weekly services and church ministries.



Amy Creasy, is the Parish Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper. She is responsible for the daily management of the church's accounting business office. She provides financial services to church staff, accounting firm, and church members. Amy maintains all church accounts, ledgers, journals, reconciliations, statements and reports. She works closely with the Vestry to draft annual budgets and prepare monthly and annual financial reports, as well as process financial income and disbursements for the church.



Charles Whiting, the Parish Director of College Ministry, is the Parish liaison with Valdosta State University. He maintains and promotes interaction with the VSU community about church events by both in-person and social media interactions. Charles develops college ministry activities to foster a strong faith based connection with the student population. He monitors the daily operation of Grace Cafe and manages the college interns residing in the Louttiit and Tomberlin houses. Charles maintains an office in Louttit Hall.

CHRIST CHURCH STAFF



The Christ Church Preschool is housed in the Gabard building and is staffed by two teachers and two paraprofessionals. **Elise Sandbach** is the lead teacher and teaches our four-year-old classes and is assisted by Barbara Selph. She has 36 years of teaching experience and has been with the preschool since 1992. Jacquie Thigpen teaches our two and three-year-olds and is assisted by Honey Kendrick.

In addition to our Preschool program, the Parish operates a program that provides parents with younger children an opportunity to run personal errands without their children. The Parent's Morning Our program employs one teacher and one assistant. It provides a safe environment with activities for the children while their parents conduct their errands.



Sue Ellen
Rumstay



Issa
Young

In addition, we employ a Director of Music and organist, **Sue Ellen Rumstay** and a Choir Master, **Issa Young**. Working together they coordinate and prepare music for weekly services and special events.



Keri Wilkin is the Children's Ministry Director. She oversees the spiritual formation of the Pre-K to sixth-grade children through planning and structuring age-appropriate Sunday School curriculums used in the classrooms. She works to connect with and empower parents to be the primary agents of faith formation for their children. She also recruits and schedules teachers and nursery attendants to assist in these efforts.



Molly Stevenson, as the Youth Ministry Director, develops programs and events to reach out to our Middle and High School youth to help them strengthen their faith and grow in their relationship with Christ. She plans and conducts activities that foster open and honest communication to create a strong bond of fellowship among our youth, their parents, and other members of the congregation. This position fosters connection with the church and provides opportunities for mission and service.

VESTRY & SEARCH COMMITTEE



Seated (L-R): Dottie Pitts, Patricia Tyson, Jeani Synyard, Nancy Lutsko (Senior Warden), Bonnie Hanson; Standing (L-R): Al Turner, Alex Alvarez (Junior Warden), Larry Wisenbaker, Brad Burnette, Joel Williams

THE 2022 VESTRY

2022

Senior Warden - Nancy Lutsko
Junior Warden - Alex Alvarez
Treasurer - Stefani Carroll
Secretary - Bonnie Hanson

2023

Dottie Pitts
Brad Burnette
Sandra Fletcher
Al Turner

2024

Patricia Tyson
Jeani Synyard
Joel Williams
Larry Wisenbaker

THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER OF YEAR NOTED ABOVE

The Search Committee

Seated (L-R): Anne Shenton, Frances Guice (Co-Chair), Katie Tanner
Standing (L-R): Len Carter, Ed Mistick, Cliff Baker, Steve Honeycutt (Chairperson)



HISTORY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VALDOSTA

Episcopalians lived in Valdosta from the 1860's on, worshiping in private homes or the Lowndes County courthouse before construction of Christ Church at 309 East Central Avenue in 1885. The cornerstone was laid in November 1885, and Bishop Edwin Gardner Weed of the Diocese of Florida consecrated the building in 1887. Until deconsecration on December 7, 1947, the original Christ Church was home to local Episcopalians. From 1885 to May 11, 1954, it also was a mission church dependent upon the Diocese of Georgia for financial support.

Among significant developments at old Christ Church was the Rev. Gilbert A. Ottman's founding the first Vestry in 1900, with J.L. Staton as Senior Warden and Charles Thompson as Junior Warden. The choir originated in 1901, and at the same time, Charles Thompson, the organist for fifty years, sold the old reed organ and purchased a new one. In 1910, Christ Church built the first vicarage, often called the "Rectory," at 115 West North Street. The "Rectory" housed the Church's priests until the Vestry obtained 2200 Glynndale Drive from Dr. S.H. Story in December 1963. The Glynndale Rectory served through 1994, when the Rev. Henry I. Louttit, Jr. moved to Savannah to become Bishop of Georgia.

Communicants made many improvements to the old church building, including enlarging the structure twice, in 1912 and 1940. Other changes included installing electric lights in 1901, putting in another new organ in 1911 that lasted until 1940, and placing gas heaters in the church in 1935. A reredos went up behind the altar in 1938, and new electric lights replaced the old ones at that time. Vestry bought carpet for the floors in 1940 and acquired another organ that later went into the new church during its 1948-1949 construction.

Between 1885 and 1917, Christ Church had nineteen short-term vicars. The Rev. Joseph J. Cornish arrived as Vicar in March 1917 and remained fifteen years until retiring in 1932. Since the start of Fr. Cornish's tenure, Christ Church has had only nine full-time ministers. The first home-grown priest was the Rev. Clifton Huntington White, a professor at Georgia State Womans College. The nature of his clerical training is now unknown, but Vestry recommended him for ordination as transitional deacon on March 4, 1945, and he was ordained on April 29, 1945. Ordained priest on March 16, 1946, he succeeded the Rev. Thomas G. Mundy as Vicar on June 26, 1946. The last Vicar and first Rector was the Rev. Michael Joseph Kippenbrock, who was at Christ Church from May 1, 1953, until September 30, 1963. The Rev. Henry I. Louttit, Jr. had the longest tenure, from April 1, 1967, to December 31, 1994, when he became the Ninth Bishop of Georgia.

HISTORY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VALDOSTA

Christ Church was land-locked on East Central Avenue, and during World War II, Vestry tried to prepare for post-war expansion by acquiring an adjacent lot and agreeing to pay the landowner's asking price. The transaction apparently failed, so, after the war, Vestry decided to find "a new site for the Church itself." The outcome was the purchase from the J.F. Holmes family of a North Patterson Street lot directly across from Georgia State Woman's College. Vestry soon sold the old church to Christian Scientists for \$12,500. John Courtenay LeBay, eminent Savannah architect, planned the new structure, incorporating elements of Bruton Parish Church below the tower and basing the tower on a seventeenth century design by Sir Christopher Wren. Tinker Concrete Company of Macon, did the construction work and finished in time for the first service to be held on February 20, 1949.

To complete the project, Vestry borrowed \$15,000 from a Mrs. Simpson to pay for the Parish Hall, also erected by Tinker Concrete. The structure was smaller than presently and did not have the area now containing the kitchen, serving area, and first row of tables. In 1953-1954 Vestry borrowed \$9,000.00 from the American Church Building Fund Commission to construct a "Sunday School Annex" attached to the rear of the Parish Hall. Completed in 1954 and named Barnwell Hall by Vestry in December 1960, the Annex contained six rooms for Sunday School classes until major renovations in 1980-1981. The "new kitchen" then replaced Barnwell Hall and still serves.

The Rev. Michael J. Kippenbrock became Vicar on May 1, 1953, and led Christ Church through the Barnwell Hall project and through the process of reaching parish status in 1954. The request to become a parish was to be considered by the Diocesan Convention in May 1954 and, expecting its approval, Vestry voted to call Fr. Kippenbrock as the first Rector. He accepted by letter on May 15, and confirmed that Convention had consented to parish status on May 11, 1954. Later, again needing Sunday School space, Vestry purchased 103 East College Street in December 1958.

Named Stuart Hall by Vestry in December 1960, the building accommodated both a kindergarten and Sunday School rooms. In 1968, early in the term of the Rev. Henry I. Louttit, Jr., Stuart Hall underwent an extensive revamp, costing \$56,000, to create office space, new classrooms, and a cloister walk to connect the building to the Church. The last major development of Fr. Kippenbrock's tenure was renovation of the church itself in 1963 that gave the building the appearance that endured until the major alterations of 1980-1981. Soon after, Kippenbrock resigned and became Vicar of All Saints Church, Enterprise, Florida.

After a long search, the Rev. Brevard Williams became Rector on August 1, 1964, but remained only until September 1, 1966. Henry Louttit, formerly Vicar of Trinity Church, Statesboro, Georgia, began his long ministry at Christ Church on April 1, 1967. Louttit was deeply interested in "liturgical renewal" and was associated with the creation of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

HISTORY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VALDOSTA

Christ Church, during the 1970's, participated widely in using the trial services that preceded the introduction of the new prayer book. He was involved in the arrival of Cursillo in the Diocese of Georgia. In addition, Fr. Louttit saw considerable potential for a new Episcopal church to be established on the north side of Valdosta. To that end, he played a major role in founding St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in 1982, and many of its original members were previously communicants of Christ Church. Fr. Louttit was also instrumental in the move of an Assembly of God congregation in Valdosta, now Christ the King, to the Episcopal Church in 1989. After the closing of the original Christ Church Preschool program, he re-established the Preschool in 1983 and placed it in the Irene Miller House, bought in 1979 along with the Thomas Bray House (to add Sunday School rooms) and other space on North Patterson for parking. In 1976, Christ Church had also acquired property on East College Street east of Stuart Hall. A major event was the 1980-1981 reconstruction that notably altered the appearance of the Church itself, opened new seating space on the south side of the Church, built a new kitchen in what had been Carswell Hall, and made various improvements to the Parish Hall. Also, the Sarah Oliver house on North Patterson Street became Christ Church's property, and while initially used as office space, it is now the Rectory.

Following Fr. Louttit's election as Bishop of Georgia and his consecration on January 21, 1995, a search for a new Rector brought the Rev. David Francoeur to Christ Church, but he stayed with us only a short time. The Rev. William Harris from Tallahassee served as Interim Rector, and a new search re-introduced the Rev. Peter Lyle Ingeman to Christ Church as Rector on June 1, 2000.

Fr. Ingeman already was known here, having served as Assistant Rector in 1987-1989. He also had been ordained priest at Christ Church on June 6, 1987, by the Right Reverend Harry W. Shipps, Eighth Bishop of Georgia. During Fr. Ingeman's twelve years and two months as Rector, Christ Church acquired the house on North Patterson Street that is now Louttit Hall. An important administrative reform was the introduction of a new bookkeeping system and a new bookkeeper and the establishment of strong financial controls and safeguards. Fortuitously, an opportunity arose to purchase a great organ from All Saints Church, Atlanta, at a bargain price. This acquisition also required physical expansion of the Church eastward to make room for the pipes, which was done.

Significantly, a Vestry retreat on March 17, 2007, established a Facilities Planning Committee that worked for five years on expansion of the physical plant, which resulted in construction of the William M. Gabard Education Building. This magnificent structure was dedicated on the last Sunday in July 2012, Fr. Ingeman's final Sunday, providing a glorious climax to Fr. Ingeman's productive dozen years as Rector.

The Rev. Dr. Dave Johnson was called to Christ Church in the summer of 2014 and continued his ministry until summer 2021. Our parish was prepared and ready for growth and change and had a very successful stewardship drive as a show of our faith. Under Fr. Johnson's leadership, Christ Church membership and stewardship saw unprecedented growth. Grace Café and the college intern program were a direct result of his leadership and vision.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for getting to know Christ Episcopal Church Valdosta through our Parish Profile. Whether you are discerning a call to our church, or just visiting our profile, we thank you and pray for you as God leads you in your walk in Christ.

