

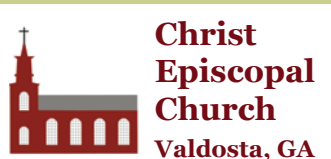
The background image shows a church building with a prominent white steeple topped with a cross. The church has red brick walls and white trim. In the foreground, there are several trees, including a large one with vibrant red autumn leaves. A small white statue stands in the garden area. The sky is clear and blue.

Parish Profile

Christ Episcopal Church

Valdosta, Georgia

MAY 2025



**Christ
Episcopal
Church**
Valdosta, GA

Vision

God's
Love
for
All

Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus,
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we share God's love, grace,
and mercy through worship,
prayer and service,
respecting the dignity
of all.



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Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church Valdosta!

We happily present to you our Christ Episcopal Church Valdosta Parish Profile. This document is the result of six consultant-led parish meetings, input from the Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, and guidance from our supply priest. We hope it will assist you in your discernment process of finding a new church home.

We desire a dynamic leader to shepherd us in this next season of the life of the parish. We are excited for what God has in store for our parish, and we thank you for prayerfully considering if God is calling you here.

Christ Church at a Glance

- Christ Episcopal Church Valdosta is a vibrant, diverse parish with parishioners from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and walks of life; we welcome all. What unites our church family is a shared commitment to living out our faith in worship and service to our community and each other.
- Worship is rich and varied at Christ Church, ranging from the sacred stillness of our early morning spoken Rite I services to the pipe organ, St. Gregory Choir, and robust hymns of our 10 am Rite II services. At Christ Church, we recognize the Book of Common Prayer and our liturgical heritage for the treasures they are.
- 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. Multiple parishioners have gone on to serve as priests and deacons.

■ Christ Church has a broad reach. Many of our parishioners are leaders in local non-profits and civic groups. As a parish we are active in the Diocese of Georgia and the National Church.

■ Education and Christian formation are important at Christ Church. We offer children's Sunday School and adult Christian education on Sunday mornings and at several weekday Bible studies.

■ Christ Episcopal Preschool has served the community for decades. It is housed in the modern, multifunctional Gabard Building complete with classrooms, a small library, and play areas.

■ The middle and high school youth of Christ Church are active at diocesan summer camps, with several taking leadership roles.

■ Christ Church Valdosta is located directly adjacent to Valdosta State University. Valdosta is also home to two additional post-secondary schools: Wiregrass Technical College and Georgia Military College. The historic Louttit Hall on the Christ Church campus houses Grace Café, a ministry to local college students providing activities, study space, meals, and a food pantry.

■ 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! Highlights include our annual Oktoberfest, Lenten Fish Fry, and church picnic, plus many more.

■ The Christ Church campus is in the historic heart of Valdosta. Our facilities include the sanctuary building with annex and parish hall attached, a detached administration suite, the Gabard Education Building, and three historic houses including Louttit Hall, Tomberlin House, and the magnificent rectory. The beautiful grounds feature moss-draped live oak trees, towering pines, and a multitude of flowers.



The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue



Episcopal Center
in Savannah



Clergy Conference

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 that time, he had already served two decades in the Diocese as first a church planter and then as the Canon to the Ordinary 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 66 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.

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, the diocese has ministries as well. The ministries of the diocese are those best tackled together, relying on the strength of our 66 congregations working united in mission. Some of the ministries include:

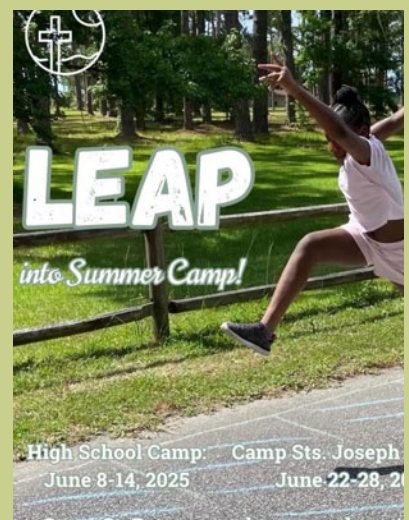
- **Chaplains** - Serving in schools, universities and hospital settings around the Diocese of Georgia.
- **Companion Diocese** - The Diocese of Georgia has an ongoing relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.
- **Cursillo** - From the Spanish word, meaning "short course," a Cursillo weekend 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 seek 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, America, and the world.
- **Episcopal Youth and Children Services** - The Episcopal Youth and Children Services of the 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.



Chapel at Honey Creek



Episcopal Youth Event



Summer Camp at
Honey Creek



New Beginnings
Youth Event



Bishop of Dominican
Republic with Bishop Logue



Inside the chapel
at Honey Creek

■ **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 Simons 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 with a variety of sessions for children from 3rd through 12th grades.

■ **Youth Programs** - The purpose of the diocesan 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.



Clergy of the Diocese of Georgia in November 2024

What do we Want in a New Rector?

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

- Be a preacher who delivers scripture-based sermons that inspire self-examination and foster spiritual growth.
- Demonstrate strong administrative skills; be well-organized and communicate effectively with both staff and the parish.
- Someone who believes pastoral care is a vital and central part of our church's ministry.
- Demonstrate strong strategic leadership, build consensus, delegate effectively, and guide change through incremental progress.
- Possess a warm sense of humor and a personable demeanor.
- Be spirit-filled and earnestly seek God's will to guide and lead us.
- Recognize the gifts of all members and actively engage them in the life and ministry of the church.
- Be warm and approachable - personally engaging with members of the congregation, the local community, and the diocese.
- Serve as an advocate for and actively engage with youth, college students, young adults, and older members of the congregation.
- Be an effective planner who follows through on plans for worship, seasonal activities, education, and the financial well-being of the church.
- Promote Christ Church's visibility by being active in the local community.





Adult Education



Stitches of Love



Verger and Acolytes

Christ Episcopal Church Ministries

At Christ Church there are many ways not only to be fed but to serve others by using your gifts.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our congregation has many members that have attended Cursillo. Reunion groups play a special part in keeping these experiences and personal growth alive.

We have several Bible study groups that meet in homes. All are invited and welcome.

Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 to discuss the readings and Gospel of the day.

Education for Ministry (EFM) is a 4-year comprehensive study of the Bible and religious history.

CARING MINISTRIES

Christ Church has several licensed Eucharistic Visitors who deliver Communion to homebound parishioners and hospital patients.

The Stitches of Love is a loving and caring group of people who come together to knit, sew, crochet and stitch for those in need. They have knitted and sewn bunnies for the Children's Advocacy Program, knitted hats and scarves for the people at the community soup kitchen, and supplied the hospital with blankets and hats for newborns.

CHURCH SERVICE MINISTRIES

Acolytes serve at the altar for Sunday services and other services as requested. We currently have acolytes of all ages (10 and up).

Lay readers are volunteers who read the lessons, Psalm and Prayers of the People at services.

Licensed Eucharistic Ministers help serve the wine at the Communion services.

The choir, along with our exceptional organist, provides beautiful service music.

The Altar Guild has several teams that prepare the altar for services and maintain the serving pieces.

The ushers are always at the entrances on Sunday morning to share a friendly smile and a church bulletin. We also have a team of greeters that make sure all visitors are welcomed and integrated into the service.

Christ Church is blessed to have a verger. Her responsibility is to assist the rector with any duties he or she deems necessary. She presently makes sure our services run smoothly.

Our main service on Sunday is live-streamed by a team of videographers, which allows parishioners and visitors to participate in worship regardless of their location.



Children Ringing the Bell



Lay Reader and
Eucharistic Minister



Altar Guild

HOSPITALITY AND CHURCH MINISTRIES

When the Men In Blue, who usually wear blue t-shirts and aprons, cook for the parish, there is always a huge crowd. There is a special bond among this group. They enjoy great fellowship while cooking for their church family. Whether it be a fish fry, bar-b-que or sausage, they are always ready to serve.

Foyer Groups are made up of 8-10 people who meet (preferably) every month. The purpose of these groups is to get to know one another better, and to meet new people in the church. The groups can meet in different houses, or restaurants, and any night of the week they decide on. All are encouraged to participate.

The Happy Episcopal People parties are held several times a year in different parishioner's homes to encourage fellowship and Christian community. All are invited and welcome.

The Hospitality Committee plans, prepares, and organizes most of our events that provide meals.

Coffee Hour Hosts provide refreshments after Sunday services by serving on teams that rotate.

Oktoberfest Is held annually to enjoy food, libations and hospitality in an authentic atmosphere.





The Church Picnic is held annually to provide a family friendly environment and pot luck meal.

Thanksgiving Meal is held annually on Thanksgiving Day for any parishioners and guests who enjoy sharing this holiday meal with fellow parishioners.

Garden Guild is a group of parishioners that meet weekly (except during the summer months) to take care of our grounds and beautiful landscaping.

HOSPITALITY AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The Grace Café/College Ministry is an internship program for college students at Valdosta State University, Georgia Military College, and Wiregrass Technical College. Interns provide 20 hours per week to the church or Grace Café or a combination of the two.

Grace Café is a college outreach ministry that provides free coffee, tea, snacks, and Wi-Fi to college students from all three local colleges. The café, located across from the VSU front lawn, offers a place to study, congregate, and relax. It usually sees about 300 students a week. Twice a month the interns offer a free meal to college students, and Grace Café always has a free food pantry.

Lunch Bunch is a team of volunteers who meet every other week to prepare a brown bag lunch and deliver them to underprivileged children. This committee usually feeds about 90 children each time.



Christ Church provides a rehearsal and performance space for the Valdosta State Choral group, as needed.

The Daughters of the King pray daily for anyone who has asked for prayer. The prayer list is confidential and kept current.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) is very active for the middle and high school age youth.

Christ Episcopal Preschool is well known in the community for its excellent educational program which serves children from 2-4 years old.

Parents Morning Out offers temporary daycare for children from 4 months old to 4 years old, two mornings a week. Hours are 8:45-11:45 Monday - Thursday. The Rooster Club is available at 7:45, for an additional fee.

Each Sunday morning the church provides a nursery for infants and children through 5 years of age as well as Sunday School for all school children.

Each summer Vacation Bible School allows us to share God's love with our youth and others.



The Facilities of Christ Episcopal Church

The Christ Episcopal Church campus boundaries encompass approximately five acres. Located in Valdosta, Georgia, directly across the street from Valdosta State University, the church property includes 650 feet of frontage on North Patterson Street. On this street there are many examples of old southern architecture and style. Magnificent magnolias, giant longleaf pines, subtle white dogwood trees, and camellias 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 altar flooring is covered in red carpet. Brass candelabra chandeliers light the 20-foot-tall ceiling. Seating for 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 installed by Robert I. Coulter – Organ builders of Atlanta, Georgia. A media booth with new equipment was added to the sanctuary in 2023. New and improved audio systems now allow for active

management of audio from the booth during services when desired (muting/unmuting, volume adjustments). Hearing assistance is now available via WIFI using a free smart phone app. Construction of the media booth also coincided with new livestreaming equipment including two permanently mounted PTZ cameras, a dedicated laptop and other related equipment.

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 can be used for one to three separate meeting rooms or one large sit-down dinner for approximately 125 guests. It often is used for wedding receptions, Bible study classes, committee meetings, and church socials, all having ready access to a commercial kitchen and walk-in pantry. The parish 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, clergy offices, acolyte vesting room, a small conference room for up to 14 people, restrooms, small kitchen and choir room. The choir room contains a piano and room for 20 members to practice, and a 144-square-foot dressing room. There are four large offices for staff and clergy. One contains a private bath and closet. The church administrator has a reception area, office machines, computer and copy equipment.

The Gabard Education Building

The building is named after the late Dr. William Montgomery Gabard, a former member of the faculty at Valdosta State University where he served as professor, Department Head of History and founding director of International Studies. He and his wife Lougenia Gillis Gabard were faithful leaders of Christ Church for many years. His dedication to children and education led the Vestry to name our new 9,500-square-foot education building to honor him. It is the home of our



church preschool with five age-specific classrooms and special children's bathrooms. The entire building is equipped with wi-fi. The multi-purpose room is suited for all ages and equipped with a large, motorized video screen

and a movie projector. The building also includes a small kitchen, a nursery, infant rooms and four adult bathrooms, two with walk-in showers. The Senior EYC group has a large, dedicated room with a kitchen, ping-pong table and television. New outdoor playground equipment has been added to complete the children's learning center. The cloister is lined with cathedral windows and floored with limestone tiles that lead to a vestibule where small groups can meet in front of the huge picture window.

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 families and friends and has a central courtyard of stone pavers, with four 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, and the names of those who are memorialized. It is common to find members of our church and community quietly sitting in our memorial garden.



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. It is also easy walking distance to VSU's Whitehead Auditorium and Sawyer Theatre, home of the Valdosta Symphony, Theatre and Dance, and Peach State Summer Theatre. 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 and in pristine condition. The floor plan has nine-foot ceilings, four bedrooms and two and one-half baths. The recently renovated kitchen features granite countertops, new appliances and an island with additional countertop space. The home also has a large screened-in porch. The side yard is the Sarah Oliver Garden.



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 Café. The

original building 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

This house is named for the Right Reverend Henry I. Louttit, the 9th Bishop of Georgia, who was the rector at Christ Church for 27 years. This two-story country-style home with 2,800 square feet of interior space serves the college ministry, Grace Café. The building has a working kitchen, and a typical family home floor plan which lends itself to small group gatherings. It also houses our male college interns working with Grace Café.

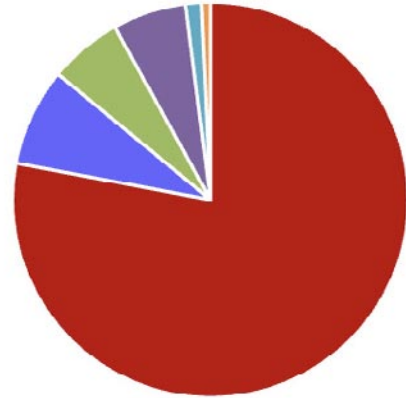




Financial Status

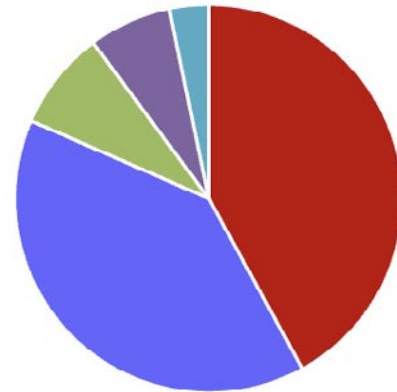
2024 Income \$630,751

- Pledges
- PMO/Preschool
- Other
- Non-pledged
- Diocesan College
- Youth Fundraiser



2024 Expenses \$687,275

- Operations
- Personnel
- Diocesan Pledge
- PMO/Preschool
- Programs



2024 Income

Pledges	\$491,747.80
PMO/Preschool	\$50,560.41
Other	\$37,633.43
Non-pledged	\$37,904.19
Diocesan College	\$8,257.63
Youth Fundraiser	\$4,647.35
Total	\$630,750.81

2024 Expenses

Operations	\$288,578.19
Personnel	\$271,936.12
Diocesan Pledge	\$56,776.00
PMO/Preschool	\$47,297.72
Programs	\$22,687.01
Total	\$687,275.04

Financial Status

The parishioners of Christ Church currently number 326 active members with over 142 households. Pledges for Fiscal Year 2025 included 5 new givers with nearly 50% of existing pledges remaining at their current levels. 35% of givers increased their pledges by an aggregate of 13%. As of March 2025, actual income has exceeded budget for both Pledged and Non-Pledged giving.

Hurricanes Idalia and Helene related insurance claims covered all expenses related to repairs, with remaining funds allocated to a Building Repair Reserve. This reserve, along with other cash and cash equivalents, are held locally by community banks and investment advisors who in turn reinvest in the Valdosta-Lowndes community at large. In late 2024, the parish received a generous bequest which came without restrictions. The Finance Committee and Vestry have allocated a portion of the funds to be used to cover certain one-time extraordinary expenses, such as a refurbishment of the pipe organ, with the remainder to be combined with previous memorial gifts and bequests to seed the newly established Christ Church Endowment Fund. It is the goal of the Finance Committee to provide lasting financial security for generations of parishioners to come.

The Stewardship Committee will conduct the annual pledge drive beginning in September 2025 with a goal of meeting the needs of the proposed 2026 annual budget and increasing pledges to further fund outreach opportunities as well as other parish-driven priorities.



Parochial Statistics

Average Sunday Attendance

2019 - 190
2020 - 41
2021 - 78
2022 - 116
2023 - 148
2024 - 126

Revenue

2020 - \$678,123
2021 - \$534,630
2022 - \$605,713
2023 - \$656,958
2024 - \$630,751

Pledges

2019 - 128
2020 - 132
2021 - 137
2022 - 115
2023 - 102
2024 - 98

Communicants in Good Standing

2022 - 334

2023 - 307

2024 - 326







Azaleas in bloom



Peach State
Summer Theatre

Community: Valdosta and Lowndes County

Valdosta is the county seat of Lowndes County and is the 17th largest city in Georgia. It is situated in South Georgia along Interstate 75, the major north-south artery between Atlanta and Tampa, Florida. 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 Valdosta Metropolitan Statistical Area includes a population of 151,118 as reported in 2023. Valdosta's population according to the 2020 U.S. Census is 55,378. Valdosta is called the Azalea City because the plant grows in profusion here; the city hosts an annual Azalea Festival in March. Valdosta has one of the highest retail pull factors in the state, attracting consumers from 15-17 counties in South Georgia and North Florida.

What Does Our Community Have to Offer?

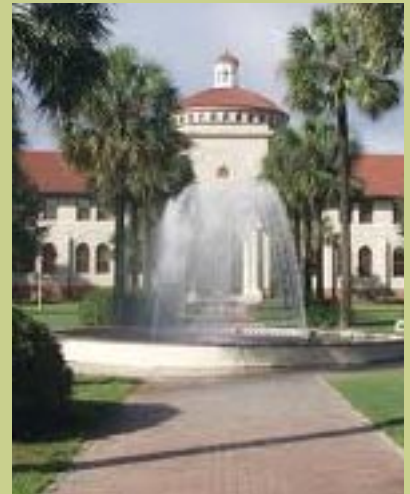
Education

Valdosta State University, founded in 1906, is located directly across from Christ Church. VSU is a regional comprehensive university in the University System of Georgia with over 10,305 students enrolled this year. VSU is a fully accredited university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in a wide range of fields. VSU is a Division II school, boasting a national championship in football, baseball, men's tennis and softball.

Wiregrass Technical College is a top-rated technical college in Georgia offering various technical degrees with a history of high employment placement after graduation. Georgia Military College has a satellite location in Valdosta, which offers students the opportunity to earn associate degrees.

The Lowndes County School System supports seven elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school with a total enrollment of 10,243. The high school ranks in the top 30% of schools in Georgia for the highest test scores and offers Advanced Placement classes. The band program at Lowndes High School, The Georgia Bridgemen, is the largest marching band in Georgia, including colleges, and has won many competitions.

The Valdosta City School System supports five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school with a total enrollment of 8,291. The high school offers Advanced Placement along with the International Baccalaureate Program. The football program at Valdosta High School is known as the "Winningest High School Football Team" in the country. 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 by college and K-12 schools. Every year, the annual Winnersville game is hosted for both LHS and VHS, warranting sold out stadiums, each holding approximately 12,000 fans.



Valdosta State University



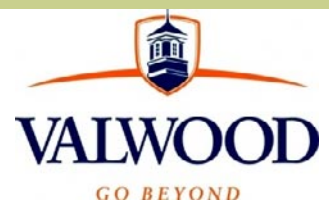
Wiregrass Technical College



Lowndes County Schools



Valdosta City Schools



Valwood School



**South Georgia
Medical Center**



Valdosta City Park



Moody Air Force Base

Scintilla Charter Academy is a K-11 public school that hosts 721 students. Scintilla is open to anyone living within the country or city limits through a lottery system.

Valwood School is a top-rated private K-12 independent college preparatory school offering various sports and the AP program for high school students. In addition, many private/Christian schools operate in or near Valdosta.

Moody Air Force Base

Moody Air Force Base has two wings, the 23rd Wing and the 93rd Air Ground Operations Wing. The 23rd is the "host" wing so a majority of the personnel at the base are associated with it. The 93rd is a "tenant" wing with its headquarters and one of its groups, the 820th Base Defense Group located on Moody. The rest of the units associated with the 93rd are located elsewhere. The 23rd Wing employs combat-ready A-10C, HC-130J, HH-60W, and the Guardian Angel Weapons System and is home to the Air Force's legendary "Flying Tigers," consisting of five groups, with 21 squadrons comprised of more than 4,000 Airmen, over 700 civilian employees, and over 71 aircraft.

Valdosta Regional Airport

Delta provides three flights per day going to and from Atlanta. Other conveniences include free short and long-term parking and complimentary Wi-Fi. Valdosta Regional also hosts a robust general aviation community with over 80 locally based aircraft. The airport has aircraft rentals, flight training, and maintenance capability.

Health & Wellness

SGMC Health is the most comprehensive not-for-profit medical system in South Georgia. Supported by a workforce of more than 3,100 who care for 400,000 patients annually across 15 counties, SGMC Health operates 4 hospitals (Main, Smith Northview, Berrien, and Lanier), a network of primary care and specialty locations. Service lines with regional prominence include heart and vascular, stroke, trauma, cancer, orthopedics, surgery, and women and infants. SGMC Health's system yields an annual economic impact of \$1 billion and results in 10,000 jobs throughout the communities it serves. SGMC Health is dedicated to the continued development of its workforce, programs, services and facilities to fulfill its mission of improving the lives of all it serves.

Southwell Medical-Adel is located a short 20 miles from Valdosta, Georgia. Southwell Medical is a 120,000-square-foot campus that hosts an array of medical services to meet the various needs of the community. Additionally, Valdosta is conveniently located within a 2-hour drive to several research hospitals and specialized medical facilities. UF Health Shands Hospital located in Gainesville, FL and Mayo Clinic located in Jacksonville, FL along with numerous other hospitals are conveniently located near Valdosta-Lowndes County.

The Center for Exercise Medicine and Rehabilitation: Wellness and Fitness Clinic is a supervised exercise facility coordinated by the faculty and students of the Exercise Physiology Program at Valdosta State



Southwell Medical



Valdosta Symphony Orchestra



Grand Bay
Wetland Education Center



Turner Center for the Arts



Theme park



Lowndes County
Historic Courthouse

University. This Clinic works with many people who have cardiovascular, pulmonary or metabolic disease or those who want a higher level of exercise instruction.

Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Recreation and Leisure

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is a premier regional arts center located in downtown Valdosta named after a long-time parishioner of Christ Church. 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. Coming in 2025 is the Children's Imagination Station which will house a variety of art and STEAM activities for youth. Turner Center for the Arts holds events which include outdoor concerts in the "Art Park" and the Presenter 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 artists, faculty and students, talented community performers and selected professionals from a five-state region. It also attracts highly qualified national and internationally renowned

soloists. The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra offers six concerts yearly at Valdosta State University.

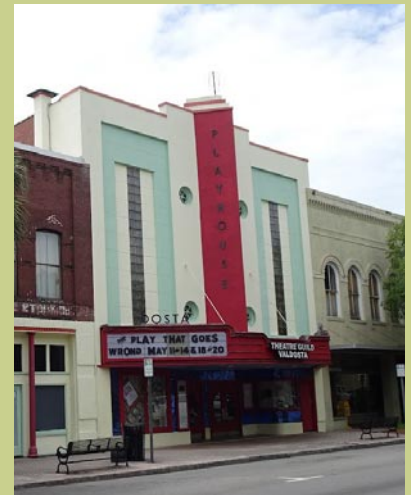
Peach State Summer Theatre is Georgia's premiere professional summer stock theatre. Each summer, a company of some 60 actor-singers, dancers, technicians, managers, and creators will reside in Valdosta for a ten-week season. During that time, they will rehearse, build, and present three musicals in rotating repertory. Valdosta State University has produced professional summer musical theatre since 1990.

Theatre Guild Valdosta, a local amateur theatre group, performs plays throughout the year in the 'Dosta Playhouse, a former movie theater located downtown that opened in 1941.

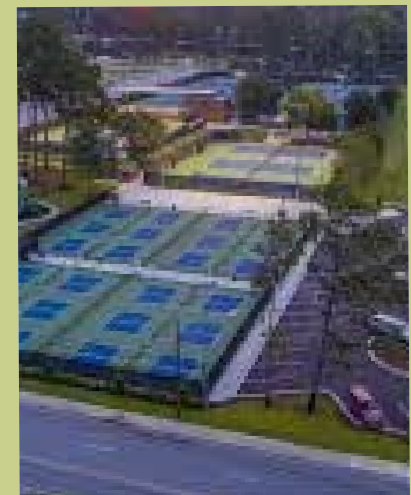
Valdosta Main Street program provides monthly events in our historic downtown. The premier event is Valdosta's Bluesberry Festival held in April throughout downtown, featuring everything blueberries, brews and blues. Enjoy live blues performances at Unity Park's main stage and at several other smaller stages.

Wild Adventures Theme Park is located south of Valdosta. It offers fun for the entire family with thrill rides, a large water park, and exotic wildlife exhibits. The 2025 season line-up has 28 special events and concerts included in the Park Pass.

Recoil Trampoline Park is a locally owned indoor activity center for families and kids. The 30,000-square-foot indoor family playground has everything to keep your family bouncing, jumping, and flying with wall-to-wall action – rain or shine.



Theatre Guild Valdosta



Valdosta Outdoor Pickleball Courts



Recoil Trampoline Park



Lowndes County Judicial
& Administrative Complex



Several Golf Courses



YMCA

Georgia Beer Co. is the southernmost micro-brewery in Georgia. Its taproom is in the 100-year-old Waterworks Building and focuses on using Georgia Grown ingredients. Georgia Beer hosts many food truck nights and holds an Oktoberfest celebration every October.

A foodie's paradise, Valdosta-Lowndes County has delectable choices to tempt your taste buds from smokin' hot barbeque to savory shrimp and grits or maybe a home-style country menu. Valdosta-Lowndes has many locally owned fine dining venues along with many chain restaurants. From the downtown districts in Valdosta and Hahira to the Valdosta Mall and scattered shops throughout, Valdosta-Lowndes offers an assortment of options. Take a stroll through boutiques featuring casual to upscale fashions to curated home décor, antiques, gift shops, and more.

Golf is abundant in Valdosta-Lowndes County with 5 courses to choose from. Valdosta Country Club features 18 holes, a driving range and two practice greens. Stone Creek subdivision is the home of a golfing community featuring an 18-hole course. Designed by PGA Pro Davis Love, Kinderlou Forest is an 18-hole course with a 60-tee driving range. Moody Quiet Pines is a 9-hole course that has recently had a management change to the VLPRA. Our southernmost course is Francis Lake - located in Lake Park, Georgia - a welcoming 18-hole public course.

Pickleball Valdosta is where the love for pickleball meets the rich history of Valdosta, Georgia. This charming city is now also a hub for pickleball

enthusiasts. With a history dating back to the late 1800's, Valdosta has long been a center of culture and commerce in South Georgia. Today, it's serving up a new tradition with the sport of pickleball. Outdoor courts are located at the Harry B. Anderson Tennis facility, and indoor courts are located at the YMCA and Winnersville Pickleball.

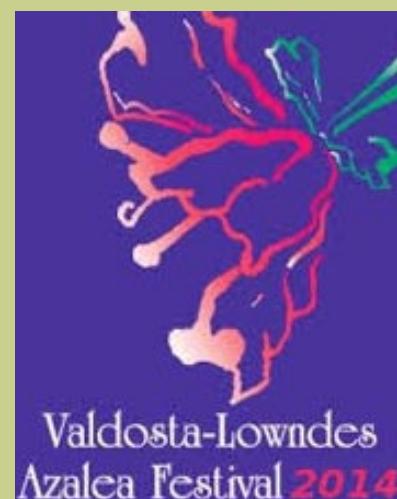
When it comes to the great outdoors, Valdosta-Lowndes County is a natural treasure with lakes offering swimming, boating, wakeboarding, water skiing and trophy-worthy fishing. The Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area provides an eco-friendly outdoor educational experience. Additionally, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is in Southeast Georgia, encompassing 353,981 acres. It is the headwaters for the Suwanee and St. Mary's Rivers. These and other nearby parks provide plenty of outdoor options with hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. Valdosta-Lowndes County is also home to more than 40 local designated public parks.

Hahira (10 miles north of Valdosta)

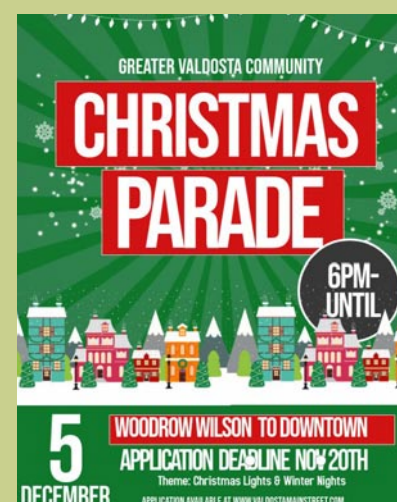
Hahira is a city nearing 2,500 citizens located in South Georgia along I-75. The city is the northern entrance into Lowndes County. Over 40 businesses are located in the downtown area, ranging from boutiques, restaurants, professional services, arts, and more. One can find a variety of special events that are family-friendly throughout the year including a Farmers Market, Senior Art Classes, Independence Day Celebration, Honeybee Festival, Small Business Saturday, Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade, and more.



Honey Bee Festival



Azalea City Festival



Christmas Parade



Valdosta Regional Airport



I-75



Lakes in Lowndes County

Links to Some of the Resources Mentioned in this Section

Valdosta Mainstreet

<https://www.valdostamainstreet.com/>

Turner Center for the Arts

<https://turnercenter.org/>

Hahira Mainstreet

<https://www.hahiramainstreet.com/>

Moody Air Force Base

<https://www.moody.af.mil/>

South Georgia Medical Center

<https://www.sgmc.org/>

Lowndes County School System

<https://www.lowndes.k12.ga.us/>

Valdosta City School System

<https://www.gocats.org/>

Valdosta State University

<https://www.valdosta.edu/>

Valdosta, Georgia Wikipedia Article

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valdosta%2C_Georgia

Georgia Encyclopedia - Valdosta

<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/valdosta/>

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 were called to the diaconate: Deacon Stella Clark, Deacon Patricia Marks, Deacon Karyl Miller, and Deacon Nancy Sartin. Three others with secular careers who attended our church have become priests: the Rev. Jim Elliott, the Rev. Walter Hobgood, and the Rev. Lee Shafer. That's a total of sixteen since 1990.

Asked what makes Christ Church special, the Rev. Sonia Clifton said: "genuine love and care for the other. Teens and young adults are regarded as real members of the church. They are challenged to think on their own and to discover their gifts."

The Rev. Charles Davis said, "Christ Church is special because you see the Christ in others more than they can ever see in themselves. It was the gift you gave me."



The Rev. Peter Ingeman and
The Rev. Leslie Chadwick



The Rev. Lonnie Lacy



The Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton



Sartin



Lutsko



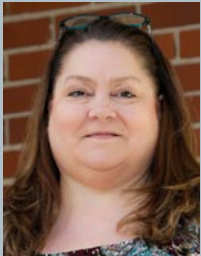
Sandbach



K. Creasy



Baer



A. Creasy



Flowers



Rumstay



Young

*Reserved
for our
New
Rector*

Your Name

Staffing

Currently serving as supply priests for our parish are the Rev. Walter Hobgood and the Rev. Bob Carr. Deacon Nancy Sartin also volunteers her time and ministry. Nancy Lutsko is our volunteer verger.

The Christ Church preschool is housed in the Gabard building and is led by director of preschool, Elise Sandbach. Also housed in the Gabard building is the children's ministry, led by Kylee Creasy.

Peggy Baer, the parish administrator, oversees the daily functions of the church office. Her duties range from answering phone calls and keeping official church records to emailing *The Vineyard* to every member weekly.

Amy Creasy, the bookkeeper, manages the daily financial responsibilities of the church. Her duties include accounts payable, recording tithes and other monetary gifts to the church as well as preparing payroll for the staff.

Jeri-Lyn Tyson Flowers is the director of college ministry. She oversees twelve interns that run and host student functions at Grace Café.

In addition, we employ a director of music and organist Sue Ellen Rumstay along with choir master, Issa Young, who both coordinate and prepare music for weekly services and special events.

The 2025 Vestry



Front row from left: Kelli Prevost, Phyllis Holland, Steve Honeycutt, Mike Tanner, Molly Stevenson, Lauren Darby. Back row, l-r: Becky Meadors, Ed Mistick, Bobby Yarbrough, Tim Hood, Cliff Baker, Louisa Beckett.

The Search Committee



From left, Shelley Greneker, Julie Reynolds, Bobby Yarbrough, Elizabeth Wisenbaker, Chris Rutland, Jeani Synyard, Stephen Sandbach, Robin Coleman, and Delrick Bradley.

The 2025 Vestry

Cliff Baker (2026)
 Louisa Beckett (2027)
 Lauren Darby (2027)
 Phyllis Holland (2025)
 Steve Honeycutt (2025)
 Tim Hood (2027)
 Becky Meadors (2026)
 Ed Mistick (2026)
 Kelli Prevost (2027)

Molly Stevenson (2025)
 Senior Warden

Mike Tanner (2025)
 Junior Warden

Bobby Yarbrough (2026)
 Secretary

Stefani Carroll
 Vestry Treasurer

Three-year term expires December 31
 of year in parentheses

The Search Committee

Delrick Bradley
 Robin Coleman
 co-chairs

Shelley Greneker
 Julie Reynolds
 Chris Rutland

Stephen Sandbach
 Jeani Synyard

Elizabeth Wisenbaker
 Bobby Yarbrough

A 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 Glynnedale Drive from Dr. S. H. Story in December 1963 . The Glynnedale Rectory served through 1994, when the Rev. Henry I. Louttit, Jr. moved to Savannah to become Bishop of Georgia.



Central Avenue location

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.

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 Womans College. Vestry soon sold the old church to Christian Scientists for



Patterson Street location

\$12,500. John Courtenay Le Bay, 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 it is 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. 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.



The Rt. Rev. Henry Louttit

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



The Rev. Peter Ingeman

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.

Father David Perkins served as interim Rector of Christ Church from September 20, 2021 to January 19, 2023. Although only serving as interim rector, Father Perkins left a lasting impression on Christ Church that will be forever cherished. He continued the legacy of outreach that our prior rectors have embodied.

In 2021, all three local Episcopal churches celebrated the 150 years of the Episcopal Church in Valdosta (1871-2021). The celebration was organized by Dr. Michael Black, a member of Christ Church. On Saturday, November 13, 2021, over 120 guests enjoyed a celebratory cookout at Christ Church and received a proclamation from the City of Valdosta commemorating Episcopal Church Day. The Rt. Rev. Frank S. Logue, Eleventh Bishop of Georgia, delivered a homily to parishioners and guests. Posters displaying historical items were set out for visitors to view.

The Reverend Hal Weidman was called to serve at Christ Church from February 2023 to February 2025. Hal brought a perspective to Christ Church from a different background since he had served many years in North Dakota. Although only serving at Christ Church for a short time, he continued our traditions while adding a new perspective to our services.



Celebration of 150 Years of Episcopalians in Valdosta







Welcome Bags are available for visitors. Please pick one up when you visit our church!



**Christ
Episcopal
Church**
Valdosta, GA

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Valdosta, Georgia 31602

229-242-5115

Email - office@christchurchvaldosta.org

Website - www.christchurchvaldosta.org