

All Saints' Episcopal Church Corpus Christi, Texas

When construction began on the present Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi in 1949, the former church building, known as “the little white church,” which had been erected downtown in 1878, was taken outside the city limits and set down in a barren landscape of cotton fields and given the name All Saints'. One year later, All Saints', a new mission, was admitted to the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas as a self-supporting parish. The first service was held on February 19, 1949. The church continued to grow in faith and numbers, and on November 5, 1964, the “little white church” was replaced by our present structure. In 1969 a new day school, David Wicks School, was created and served many children in our community from the late 1960s to the mid 1990s.

In 1995 the building was renovated and expanded to meet new emerging needs. Additions included: the labyrinth and parish hall, the Chapel of the Good Shepherd

(Oratory), a new kitchen, newly redesigned classrooms, nurseries, and a new entrance.

At All Saints', we are on a journey to our spiritual origins, a rediscovery. It is a journey of transformation, a reunion with the truth of God that speaks and has always spoken to and within the depths of our being. The journey is eternal and continually changing. We have been blessed with gifted priests and lay leaders in this community to guide us on this journey. All Saints' is a symbol of the constancy of God. There will always be an empty seat here for all who search for God.

In 2009, the parish experienced the fallout from the revelation of clergy sexual misconduct in earlier years. The congregation has spent the last two and a half years in intentional work on this issue and has shown remarkable recovery under the capable and compassionate leadership of the most recent rector.



ALL SAINTS'
episcopal church



A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

Who We Are

All Saints' Episcopal Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, is a congregation that is "committed to embracing the Divine in all through experiencing and sharing the compassionate story of Jesus Christ." These words from our mission statement are an accurate reflection of what is most important to us as a family of God.

Likewise, our *Core Values* express what we hold to be true:

- Tradition: We are deeply rooted in Episcopal tradition.
- Innovation: We are committed to finding innovative ways of experiencing God's presence in all sacred traditions.
- Prayer and Action: We are committed to assisting each individual in his or her search for intimacy with God and compassionate engagement with the world.
- Spiritual Formation: We are committed to spiritual formation in all levels of our parish life.
- Inclusion: We are committed to the spirit of inclusion.



We are a family committed to embracing the Divine in all through experiencing and sharing the compassionate story of Jesus Christ.



As part of our search process for a new rector, we gathered in June of 2011 for a parish wide workshop to discern our strengths as a congregation and to look at the challenges we face at this time in our life together. We have already begun to address some of our challenges.

The following statements about our strengths and challenges are a composite of individual reflections from our workshop.

Our Strengths

Inclusion

We are an inclusive community, very accepting of others. Everyone is welcome to enter our doors regardless of one's faith background. We are a loving family, and this church feels like home to many of our members. Our respect and communal love for each other can be witnessed in many ways. For instance, we take communion to the sick; we nurture the bereaved; we joyfully share the Peace with our fellow congregants on Sunday mornings.

Spiritual Formation

We have a variety of classes for intentional spiritual formation, which quenches our thirst for depth and knowledge. All Saints' is a place where we are free to inquire, express doubt, and ask questions; we respect the right to do so. The participation in the educational programs brings energy to the church.

Outreach

We are a servant community with a passion for outreach. We are proud of our relationship with Cliff Maus Village, a low-income housing complex. We actively participate in our regular, ongoing food pantry serving our neighborhood. We support a local case-worker three times per year to assist needy children and families. Our commitment to volunteering in the community, both individually and as a parish, is strong and healthy.

Beauty of Worship

We feel a uniting presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst, which draws us together as one congregation. From the quietness of our 8:00 a.m. service to the welcoming in-

novation of our "family friendly" 9:00 a.m. service, there is an individual beauty to our three diverse forms of worship. Our "cathedral" choir and the beauty of our sanctuary create a powerful and moving worship experience. For the more contemplative, our warm and inviting Oratory and labyrinth provide opportunities to go quietly within.

Finance

We established an endowment fund two years ago. We have reduced our debt significantly. We operate on a balanced and transparent budget.



Our Challenges

Time on Sunday Mornings

There is a lack of time for social interaction on Sunday mornings among those who attend our three services. When a 5th Sunday occurs, we combine all three services. We would appreciate more opportunities to interact with each other in fellowship, yet we don't want to risk timing conflicts for Spiritual Formation. We hold these two needs in tension. With three vibrant services on Sundays, we worry about the weight on the rector; we strive to fund an associate rector who would provide needed assistance.

Physical Facilities

Our physical facilities are in need of improved maintenance. As with many older facilities built in the 1960's, we face normal struggles and challenges. We have issues with lighting, acoustics, and air conditioning. Our kitchen needs updating.

Year-Round Stewardship

We need a fruitful and thoughtful effort put toward year-round stewardship education. The financial support of the church is adequate; however, we need to understand and continue to educate the congregation on spiritual giving and tithing to achieve financial stability. We need additional resources to maintain our buildings and support an associate rector.

Youth Formation

We need to continue to involve the parish to successfully integrate our children, youth, and adult formation in a way that engages adults into the youth programs (financially, leading, volunteering, and mentoring). All Saints' has invested energy in our youth. We continually strive to integrate new families and parishioners into our youth programs. We need to better communicate the strengths of the youth and the various ongoing activities they are involved in at All Saints'.

Our Family's Needs

This is God's church, "a house of prayer for all God's people." We need a priest who has a heart for God, who will find and nurture, inspire and encourage people who hunger for ideas and enlightenment and mature Christian faith and service. We need someone with whom we can grow in Christ. We are a community seeking to further our outreach and strengthen our relationships with our city, our bishops, and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. We are a diverse family, a strong and loving parish that is looking to move forward with education and service.



Ministries & Outreach

Mutual Ministry Cycle

We are in the process of moving the parish ministries into a “mutual ministry cycle,” where we intentionally rotate through three different cycles or phases of lay ministry, Doing, Reviewing, and Planning. Oftentimes we become so caught up in our doing that we don’t take the time to review or assess and plan. We anticipate that the “mutual ministry cycle” will assist the ministry process.

Ministries

Worship

The Worship Commission is an umbrella for all aspects of ministries that support and enhance our worship together. It encompasses the Altar Guild, Flower Arrangers, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Home Eucharistic Visitors, Lit 6 (worship planning group), Choir, and LifeStreams Band.

Spiritual Formation and Prayer

Adult Formation: This ministry leads, designs, develops, and presents spiritual formation classes. Recent and current offerings include Entering (a series of classes centered on the Episcopal tradition for those looking for a spiritual community and for those who want to become members or be more involved at All Saints’ new to the Episcopal Church and All Saints’), Wisdom Classes (studies of various spiritual writings and how they inform our own lives), Sunday Morning Adult Formation Classes, Special Academies, Education for Ministry (EFM), Christ Centered Prayer (meditation), and Labyrinth Walks.

Children’s Ministry: Children’s Ministry serves children from pre-school to the 5th grade. It includes a nursery, children’s room with age-appropriate learning centers, and Godly Play© classes.

Youth Ministry: Youth Ministry gives Jr. and Sr. High School youth a firm foundation for their Christian formation and faith. It includes Rite 13 (assisting youth in their passage away from their families and into their own lives), Confirm not Conform (prepara-

tion for confirmation), and Journey to Adulthood (J2A, blending action and contemplation in teaching young people faithful living.)

Newcomers

The Newcomers Commission seeks to welcome new members and help them find a home at All Saints’.

Stewardship

Stewardship works to help the congregation strengthen individual relationships with God through speakers, the annual celebration Sunday luncheon, and the recognition that “all we have is His.” The parish has utilized the “Consecration Sunday” program for the last four years.

Creative Expressions

Our core value of innovation is expressed through our Creative Expressions commission. We live in an abundance of creative energy at All Saints’, with many creative individuals who share their gifts with the congregation via the “Labyrinth Art Wall Display,” “Hall Gallery Exhibits,” and “Quarterly Creativity Crowd Gathering”.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

This ministry encompasses the Parish Life Commission, Bereavement Team, Supper Club, and Daughters of the King.

Communications

The Communication Commission keeps the parish and community informed of events at All Saints’ through weekly E-Blasts, the church web page, the church newsletter, and online audio and/or video postings of sermons and various classes.

Ministries & Outreach

Discernment

The Discernment Commission's purpose is to encourage a culture of spiritual discernment for the work and formation of the All Saints' community. In particular the commission helps parishioners discern a call to parish leadership including vestry, commissions, and other areas of ministry.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning's goal is to help our parish family find creative ways of living into our Core Values and to plan for future ministries consistent with our mission: "We are a family committed to embracing the Divine in all through experiencing and sharing the compassionate story of Jesus Christ." Beginning early in 2012 commission members will come together to have an initial visioning meeting, and then report that vision back to the parish, inviting responses at one or more town hall meetings, until we have the vision refined to a point where it is embraced by the parish at large. Once a vision is in place, the commission will begin work on developing a plan for realizing the vision, short-term and long-term.

Building and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Commission fosters the care and use of our facilities.

Outreach

Compassionate Living Commission

This commission aims to assist others in becoming centers of healing through service to humankind. It oversees volunteers and monetary support for various outreach programs, including: Adopt-A-Caseworker Program, Alternative Gift Fair, Cliff Maus Housing Program, Habitat for Humanity, and the All Saints' Terri Marie Lee Food Pantry (twice monthly food assistance for low income people). A percentage of the pledge money as well as individual gifts received through the year go directly to support the work of the commission.



Parish Life and Worship

Our worship, expressing our core values of Tradition, Innovation, Prayer and Action, Spiritual Formation and Inclusion, is both traditionally Episcopalian and open to new forms of expression. Our liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer according to the use of the Episcopal Church, the culmination of centuries of history and liturgical reform.

Our Sunday worship consists of an 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I service, a 9:00 a.m. LifeStreams service on the Labyrinth, and an 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II service.

The casual, family friendly LifeStreams liturgy is centered on the gospel and on the celebration of the Eucharist. It is presented through a combination of spoken readings and prayers, contemporary musical praise, multi-media presentations, and, occasionally, by creative congregational responses to the scriptural lesson and gospel readings. We offer a mid-week Eucharist service on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. with optional anointing, and we have a weekly Labyrinth Walk and Icon Sit from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Our youth worship in the Oratory every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

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Congregations typically look for potential rectors who have skill sets and/or experiences in specific areas of ministry. At the parish profile workshop, 56 people prioritized a list of 18 skills or experiences. A questionnaire with the same items was mailed to each home in the congregation. 79 questionnaires were returned. The following table indicates the ranking of these items by each group, at the workshop and those mailed to homes.

Skill/Experience	Workshop Rank	Mail-in Rank
Good pastoral skills	1	1
Effective preaching skills	2	2
Adult Christian Education	5 Tie	6 Tie
Openness in sharing his/ her personal faith	5 Tie	4
Stewardship education skills	10	12
Youth ministry	7	6 Tie
Good administrative skills	4	5 Tie
Interest in various expressions of worship	6 Tie	5 Tie
Ministry to the elderly	11	15
Active ministry in dealing with social action issues	12 Tie	10
Active support of outreach programs	9 Tie	9
Renewal ministries	13	16
Collaboration with other denominations in community ministry	14	13
Active ministry in evangelism	9 Tie	11
Strong children's Sunday school program	12 Tie	7
Encourage and enable lay leadership	3	3
Good counseling skills	6 Tie	5 Tie
Ministry to families	8	8

"Intentional in spiritual growth" was written in and would have ranked 14th on questionnaires.

Parochial Statistics
(from 2010 Parochial Report)

Baptized members	346	Stewardship for 2010	
Average Sunday attendance	143	126 pledge units	\$464,136
Total Operating Revenues (2010)	\$497,377	Stewardship for 2011	
Total Operating Expenses (2010)	\$493,389	119 pledge units	\$459,042

Opportunity

The City of Corpus Christi is “a great place to live, work, and play.” On the Texas Gulf Coast, Corpus Christi boasts a beautiful bayfront and first-class marina, arts and museum districts, mild temperatures and lots of sunshine, and the sixth largest port in the nation.

Five school districts provide primary and secondary education for area residents: Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD), Calallen ISD, Flour Bluff ISD, Tuloso-Midway ISD, and West Oso ISD. Corpus Christi is home to several institutions of higher learning: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC); Del Mar College; and numerous vocational schools. There are a variety of primary and secondary private schools in Corpus Christi, including St. James Episcopal School, which serves students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and several parochial high schools.

The city’s location beside Corpus Christi Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and Laguna Madre, has turned it into a booming economy for birding, fishing and research of marine biology, including the Harte Institute of TAMUCC. The city has one of the highest average wind speeds of coastal cities in North America. This makes Corpus Christi one of the premiere destinations for wind sports such as kite boarding, wind surfing, and kite flying. Corpus Christi boasts fun family activities, such as the Texas State Aquarium’s SeaLab Programs and a new Splash Park for kids, art activities at the Corpus Christi Art Center and Art Museum of South Texas, the Hooks minor league baseball games, and a skateboarding park and Kids-Place playground at Cole Park. The city enjoys numerous sophisticated arts programs. The



renowned Performing Arts Center at TAMUCC is home to the Corpus Christi Symphony, in its 66th year. The Corpus Christi Chamber Music Society presents a world-class season, now celebrating its 30th anniversary. Other cultural opportunities include the Sparkling City Light Opera, The Corpus Christi Ballet, the Harbor Playhouse, the Texas Jazz Festival Society, the Art Museum of South Texas, the Corpus Christi Chorale, the Ballet Nacional, and the Cathedral Concert Series, to name only a few. The Diocese of West Texas’ Mustang Island Conference Center with its summer Family Camp is right on our doorstep. Corpus Christi is home to the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station with a long history of military presence. The city is known for its oil and gas industry and becoming known for wind and solar power. The city is also well known for having one of the best bays in the country for sailing.

The Diocese of West Texas

The DWTX comprises 90 congregations spread over 60 counties in South Central Texas. Bishop is the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, and Bishop Suffragan is the Rt. Rev. David Reed. Headquarters for the diocese are in San Antonio.