

Partner Spotlights 2023

Our annual Partner Spotlights are a way of showcasing what's going on in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. They also serve as a thank you to our Partner organizations, which serve THE LIVING CHURCH faithfully with their financial support. Each year we give them the opportunity to write a brief story for us that spotlights the life of their community.

If your parish, diocese, or organization would like to explore becoming a LIVING CHURCH Partner, please write our new executive director, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Olver, at matthew.olver@livingchurch.org.



All Saints Church

Chevy Chase, Maryland

Parishioners and visitors can hear classic choral and organ pieces in our beautiful and historic nave, which has a full pipe organ, newly refurbished by Lewis and Hitchcock, and a full choir led by our minister of music, who has been with All Saints for more than 30 years. Down the hall, a worship band, featuring guitar and percussion, offers more contemporary praise. The band is a bit newer, leading worship for our Family Table Service, which is now almost four years old. The biggest compliment that we hear? Some parishioners go back and forth between the services — fed by two musical traditions that bring us closer to Christ.



Parish of Calvary-St. George's

New York

The collect for young people prays, “God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world.” This has always been the case; in response, Calvary-St. George’s encourages children to know and “remember your Creator in the days of your youth.” This year we hosted the StoryMakers’ Sparks Conference, inviting youth and family directors from across the country to come learn about the importance of introducing children to a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. And our amazing Creative Arts Camp saw children from New York City get immersed in the story of Noah and the Flood.



All Souls’ Episcopal Church

Oklahoma City

This past year at All Souls’ our theme was “The Life of Faith: Telling the story of Christ’s work in our lives.” We spent the year meditating on how God has acted in our lives. We heard the story of a Mennonite who embarked upon the Canterbury Trail in college, and an auto mechanic whose faith was born through the works of St. Augustine. We heard about a young girl growing up in the Middle East and becoming captivated by Jesus. We were moved by God’s work in Alcoholics Anonymous and by those liberated from addiction. We found that there is no greater witness to Jesus than a transformed life.



Christ and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

Norfolk, Virginia

This year during Pride Month, Christ and St. Luke’s welcomed the Rev. Dr. Patrick S. Cheng for a one-day retreat on queer theology. We welcomed nearly 50 guests to explore conversations about Christianity, queer identity, and the Episcopal Church. It was an honor to be a safe and welcoming space for people to learn, ask questions, and celebrate one another. At the end of the month, our Pub Theology Club staffed our booth at Ghent Pride, making clear to our Norfolk community that there is a place of welcome and love where we can genuinely affirm, “You Belong.”



Christ Episcopal Church

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

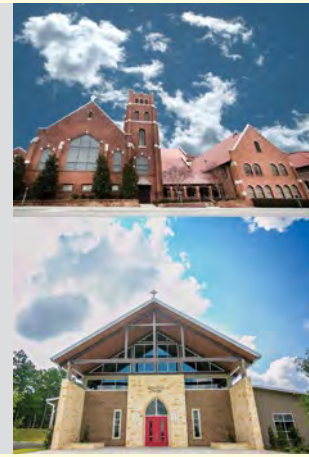
Last year, we were presented with the opportunity to replace our failing Austin pipe organ with a Hook and Hastings instrument, salvaged from a closed Reformed Episcopal Church parish nearby. We've been supported by generous gifts and a matching grant, but what's really made this possible has been drawing from the extensive skills and dedication of parishioners committed to doing the bulk of the work. It's become a real, hands-on, parishwide project, run out of our makeshift workshop in the undercroft, reflecting the congregation's considerable gifts, ingenuity, and expertise. We're on track to finish by Christmas 2023.



Christ Episcopal Church

San Antonio

Seventeen lively children, mostly first-graders, participated in our annual Communion class this April. The class is designed to explain the deeply profound gift of Holy Communion in a simple way, using Scripture and our own Anglican traditions to enrich the children's understanding of the elements of their faith. Beautiful relationships blossomed among the children during the 12 weeks of the class as they shared and learned together. Many parent volunteers helped guide the children in furthering their Christian education. We pray the Holy Spirit will shine forth from them as the light of Christ as they grow into the future leaders of our parish.



Christ Church Episcopal

Tyler, Texas

Christ Church is a multi-site church with a historic downtown campus, featuring a 26-member choir. Christ Church Downtown has seen increased demand for ministries to the homeless in 2023. Christ Church South, a contemporary building and service that opened in 2016, has continued to welcome more families in 2023. In response, this summer, Christ Church launched the Hallelujah Campaign, a building project to develop a new children's ministry center at the South Campus, and to redevelop the children's ministry center at our downtown campus. Completion expected in 2024!



Church of Our Saviour

Atlanta

What is better than free lemonade? Parishioners young and old of our historic midtown church handed out free dog treats, lip balm, lemonade, and water to folks attending the two major summer festivals in our neighborhood: Porchfest on May 21 and Summerfest on June 10. Our kids had a great time peeking out from our sandwich board to invite passersby to enjoy a cooling beverage. We also opened the church to anyone who wanted to drop in. We want our community to know we care about them, and that we are here for them.



Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province

Greenwich, New York

The Sisters of St. Mary in New York and Malawi rejoice in serving the poor and orphans near the Luwanga Convent by sharing food, giving scholarships for higher education, and forming St. Tereza's Choir, which teaches the faith in an African way. In 20 years, the sisters have built an ecclesiastical tailoring shop, Holy Innocents' Pre-School, and have now begun a new convent for 30 sisters with a chapel to seat 100 guests. Join us in prayer and gifts to realize the fellowship of Christ among the lost and poor in Malawi.



Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee

In 2023, we announced the opening of a new retreat village at Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center. This facility, a concept since 2018, was made possible by many generous gifts from across the East Tennessee Episcopal family. Consisting of seven cottages with capacity to sleep 42 or more persons and a lodge with offices and a kitchen, the facility allows our diocesan camp to fulfill the other part of its mission to serve as a place of leadership, discipleship, spiritual, and educational formation. You can find out more about the camp at gracepointcamp.org.



Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

Our revitalized youth programming brought joy to our diocese. At Camp All Saints, more than 200 campers hiked, swam, sang, danced, cycled, and grew their relationship with the Lord. The three-week camp taught our recently ordained clergy advisers the nuances of pastoral leadership and showed our youth how to build relationships with each other as followers of Jesus. Our young people also embraced activities throughout the year such as the Acolyte Festival, a summer mission trip to Tennessee, confirmation weekend, and Leadership Day. It's exciting to see the spiritual growth of these children throughout the year as they become mature in their faith.



Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Like many dioceses, nearly half of our congregations do not have or cannot afford dedicated clergy, but that has not kept them from thriving. These congregations are uniquely tuned into the needs of their usually small communities and work to meet those needs. From running a community health fund to providing a monthly meat giveaway, they are the hands and feet of Jesus. Deacon Tommy Drake, with our Small Church Leadership Project, has been identifying how these small churches are agents of change and transformation in their communities and has brought their leaders together to facilitate sharing ideas.



Episcopal Diocese of Lexington

We want to highlight St. John’s Episcopal Church, a parish in Corbin, Kentucky (the birthplace of Kentucky Fried Chicken!). Their gifts of welcome and unconditional love for their community are inspirational. Belonging often precedes believing. They welcome strangers and care for the homeless and feed the hungry. And they are growing — many new visitors hear about them just by word of mouth. Many in the LGBTQ community find a supportive worshiping home here. Two parishioners have responded to the call of God and are now being prepared for ordination. St. John’s seeks to be the presence of Jesus in its neighborhood.



Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

This year we broadened the great work of Becoming Beloved Community to expand into all of God’s creation through creation care ministry. We focused on educating Mississippi Episcopalians through newsletters, speakers, and activities, like Sustain Island Home and the Episcopal Carbon Tracker. Creation Walk was a unique activity that saw 20 folks enjoying the beautiful Noxubee Refuge. “Creation is a testament to the living God. Creation shows us that the gospel surrounds us and that no matter where we are, what sins we have committed, God is with us and loves us,” said Creation Walk leader Quinn Boccaleri, forestry major and member of Canterbury College Ministry.



Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

The “Uncovering Parish Histories” initiative led by historian in residence, the Rev. Craig Townsend, continues to unfold. The project provides clergy and volunteers with the opportunity to discover and grapple with their parishes’ involvement with slavery. A difficult truth came to light at Zion in Queens: most of the church’s founders once enslaved people. A previously rediscovered slave cemetery at St. John’s in Cold Spring Harbor catalyzed research into the identities of those laid to rest. Bishop Lawrence Provenzano said, “Only when we understand our past can we pave a way toward dismantling these unjust systems and forging a brighter future.”



Episcopal Diocese of Nevada

Being the church on the frontier requires innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit. Two Las Vegas churches are combining their strengths to plant a third church in a growing section of the city. Grace in the Desert and Epiphany are sharing their gifts with one another in a collaboration called Simunye, which means “we are one” in Zulu. We are also listening to the people of Mesquite, who have been asking for a church. By partnering with other mainline denominations, we will offer a progressive sacramental presence for the people in this lovely and growing city. Innovative? Yes. Complicated? Yes. Exciting? Absolutely!



Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

All seven of the new priests ordained in June in the Diocese of Oklahoma will serve bivocationally. The diocese embraces this new trend as part of a major congregational vitality effort, alongside training lay leaders and deacons. As Bishop Poulson Reed said in his ordination sermon: “This is not really a new model of ministry, for it is the model of the early Church in the days of Saints Peter and Paul. A diversity of God-given gifts in the service of God’s kingdom. A vital Church, alive with God’s mission.”



Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

We are back! Billed as a startup plan, Casting Nets is the diocese’s process for re-envisioning church. This need became even more critical after the pandemic. In 2023, churches started with a deep dive into dreaming. “Alive” is how one church member described the exercise, which has participants take a look inside their churches and themselves before venturing out into the community to realize their true potential. Eleven churches have engaged in this discernment, seeking to become more vital communities of faith.



Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

In south central Ohio, four small, rural parishes — St. Philip’s in Circleville, St. Paul’s in Chillicothe, St. John’s in Lancaster, and St. Paul’s in Logan — are finding new energy for ministry by sharing a team of priests and deacons who work together on liturgy, formation, pastoral care, parish administration, and governance. Lay leaders say that the effort has made their congregations stronger, and the Rev. Canon David Getreu, who leads the collaboration, reports, “The benefit for clergy is they’re not working in isolation anymore. They are working together, and it’s rejuvenating their priesthood.”



Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Water and the Word Conference brought us together to explore the future of the Church. Bishop Doug Scharf’s plenary, “Marked as Christ’s Own: Baptism in the Present Tense,” set the tone for a weekend of transformative discussions. We delved into workshops covering formation, evangelism, ministry, and discipleship. Jerusalem Greer captivated us with the Church’s potential role in combating loneliness, while John Roberto urged a shift in our perspectives to build community beyond church walls. The closing and commissioning service sent us out into the world inspired and equipped to engage our communities, foster new connections, and envision a vibrant future.



Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee

Good things are happening in the Diocese of Tennessee! A new ministry of campus engagement began at the Historic Black Universities and Colleges in Nashville, based at St. Anselm's Church. Our curacy program is being revived to equip newly ordained clergy for future ministries of leadership in our congregations. And we ordained three vocational deacons and two transitional deacons this past June. Several more are either in a program of study or discerning a call to ordained ministry.



Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

The Rt. Rev. David M. Reed said during his final Council address, "We're called to start right where we are, stepping outward and outside ourselves, confident that Jesus' love is for everyone." After Bishop Reed announced retirement plans, the Rev. Dr. David G. Read was elected bishop coadjutor in February. The Diocese of West Texas gives thanks for Bishop Reed's 40 years of ordained service and prepares for its 150th anniversary in 2024. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the World Missions Department and the 20th anniversary of Mustang Island Conference Center.



Episcopal Church in Minnesota

In the last 18 months, lay-led teams from 13 congregations (and counting!) have been engaging in a process called Faithful Innovation. Participants are encouraged to ask "God questions" rather than "church questions." Working with a coach, teams learn simple spiritual practices, share them with their faith communities, and carry out small experiments to find out what the Holy Spirit might be up to in the lives of their neighbors. This process has brought vitality, regular engagement with spiritual practices, energy, and hope to the diocese, and more faith communities are undergoing this process every day.



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Austin, Texas

The Good Shepherd Farmers Market has brought members from across the city of Austin to our campus. We have grown our market this year, averaging 25 or more vendors each week, who share a variety of vegetables, eggs, meats, bread, cooked hot dishes, and crafts from across the city and surrounding areas. Guests to our campus tell us that the vendors are community-focused, and that they really help each other, share resources, and enjoy being together. They have become familiar faces to the life and community of Good Shepherd and the reason our neighbors and parishioners enjoy spending their Saturday mornings with us.



Church of the Good Shepherd

Corpus Christi, Texas

We are blessed with a growing children's choir, bringing joy to our congregation. These talented children, ages 6 to 12, gather weekly to learn music and the Episcopal liturgy. Through teamwork, they understand the importance of contributing to the group's success. These young musicians lead worship once a month, spreading their love for God. Their dedication extends beyond the church, as when they performed Christmas carols to raise funds for a children's cancer hospital. The children's choir is truly inspiring, encouraging us all to embrace the joy of music and faith.



Church of the Holy Apostles

Katy, Texas

We are located in the suburbs of Houston, one of the most diverse cities in America. Our prayer book worship with contemporary music projected on screens has become a convenient on-ramp for new members from different churches. We are also proud to have parishioners from many different countries, which we celebrate on Pentecost with a Taste of the Nations. Parishioners from Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and El Salvador prepare home-cooked food from their native lands for a special potluck. We also launched Sunday family fun activities, including flag football, soccer, and parish hall dodgeball.



Church of the Holy Faith

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Holy Faith is strengthening its ministries with children and families. Because of growing numbers, we added a children's chapel to both of the later Masses. We also called an enthusiastic coordinator for these ministries. We embarked on a "Christians Near and Far" summertime exploratory program for all ages. We made a pilgrimage to the Santuario de Chimayo in northern New Mexico, a destination for pilgrims over many generations. We learned about pilgrimage, enjoyed prayer and story time, and filled our scallop shell necklaces with holy dirt from the santuario. We were blessed and hope we blessed others.



Church of the Redeemer

Sarasota, Florida

Redeemer's welcome team has blossomed under the leadership of coordinator Anne Ayres. Every Sunday, the team puts up a table in front of the church with a candle, brochures, and a welcome banner. Volunteers meet visitors with smiling faces and are happy to tell them all about Redeemer. They hand out gift bags with the latest issue of our newsletter, a packet of trail mix, a water bottle, and a few other treats. As both visitors and parishioners walk by the table, they get a good helping of one of the most important ingredients in parish life: friendliness.



Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Longwood, Florida

How eager were you as a 7-year-old kid to speak in front of people, let alone sing, act, or dance? Imagine nearly 90 kids from your church and community doing exactly that. In spring 2023, over a thousand people attended inspiring performances of *The Wizard of Oz*, Disney's *Descendants*, and *Frozen* by the Resurrection Players, a children's musical theater ministry at our church. Led by director of music and fine arts, Tim Hanes, the positive ripple effects of this ministry will continue for many years in the lives of these talented kids and our church and community.



Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

New York

Saint Mary's founders were inspired by the Oxford Movement. The building is beautiful, and was designed to facilitate the worship of God "in the beauty of holiness," but the church has also become an oasis in a decidedly noisy neighborhood. The Mission House hosts 12-step groups and Neighbors in Need, which distributes clothing and personal hygiene items to the unsheltered in Times Square. Growing out of the parish's response to the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, we've participated in AIDS Walk New York City since 2006. This year the Saint Mary's team raised the second-highest funds of any team on the walk.



San Jose Episcopal Church

Jacksonville, Florida

There's always a lot of activity at San Jose, especially on school days. But one thing that has been especially joyful is that we have just graduated our third class of "Bible in 90 Days" participants. Our first class read the Scriptures cover to cover right through the COVID pandemic. Since then, we have had two more groups complete the entire Bible. As one B90 student put it, "There are plenty of people that want to tell you what the Bible says, but now I can honestly say that I have read the whole thing for myself."



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Waco, Texas

In 2023, we continued to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors. We welcomed Opal Lee ("Grandmother of Juneteenth"), shared God's love with over 50 children at Vacation Bible Camp, hosted major events to promote foster care, and offered a stirring performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Currently, four members are in the discernment process for holy orders. Hundreds of people attended our four-week Theology on Tap series, "God in Public," at a local pub. We've also seen major growth in our youth program. In the fall, we hope to start a new worship service and launch a college ministry.



St. Anne's Parish

Annapolis, Maryland

This year St. Anne's took on The Bible Challenge and started reading through the Scriptures. Sunday after Sunday, as many as 60 people gathered for inspired, thoughtful conversation. Laughter and difficult questions filled the parish hall as we wrestled with God's Word. Presentations by Christian, Jewish, and Islamic scholars brought new insights into challenging stories, such as that of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar. The experience has given many parishioners a renewed sense of community. Already we're looking forward to continuing our study in the coming year under the theme "The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me."



St. Augustine's Oak Cliff

Dallas

St. Augustine's hosted its first-ever Trunk-or-Treat for the neighborhood in 2022, and it was a raging success! Over 200 families made their way to our parking lot to partake of the gracious hospitality that St. A's is known for on Sunday mornings. Spider-Men and Disney princesses received loads of candy from Darth Vader (our Junior Warden) and Richard Nixon (our Senior Warden), in what is surely an image of kingdom reconciliation if there ever was one. This is just one example of the ways we're seeking to plant seeds of renewal in Oak Cliff and beyond.



St. David's Episcopal Church

Wayne, Pennsylvania

St. David's Episcopal Day School students celebrate Rogation Day with a parade and blessing of the grounds and nature center through which they grow and explore all year. The students are connected to Episcopal tradition at this event, which includes a bagpiper, clergy in full vestments, and incense from the thurible. This tradition brings attention to the changing seasons and reminds the children of our call to care for creation. The students plant flowers around the school each Earth Day, and they also maintain a plot in our Good News Garden, growing fresh food for a local food pantry.



St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church

Ridgewood, New Jersey

The motto of the congregation is "Welcome home," and that's how we hope everyone feels when they walk through the doors of the church, whether they are coming for services, for Scout meetings, to the "free store" in support of Ukrainian refugees, or just passing through. St. Elizabeth's is committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and has a great love of the Anglican tradition. In 2023, we celebrated 100 years of ministry in northeast New Jersey. What started out as a small chapel of a nearby Episcopal Church very quickly grew and became one of the strongest parishes in the Diocese of Newark.



St. Francis in the Fields

Louisville, Kentucky

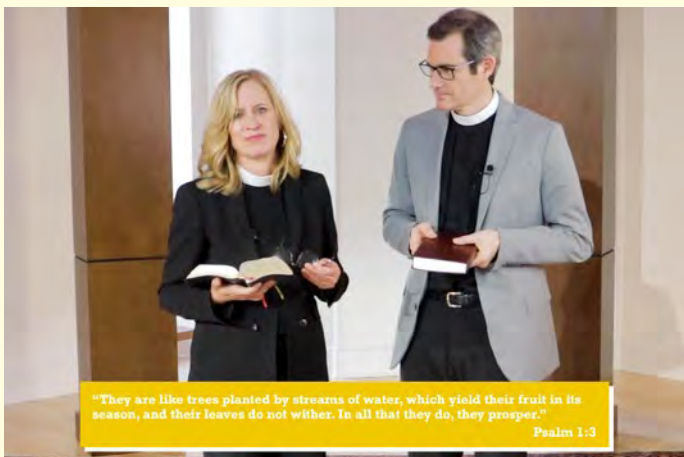
Every June for three decades, St. Francis in the Fields has been sending teams for one week to David, Kentucky, a former coal-mining town, to serve the small but mighty community there and uplift the David School, an alternative high school for struggling students seeking an education in a non-traditional setting. This summer, 27 youth and adults once again held a Vacation Bible School for the local children of David, cleaned up the David School grounds, drank in the beauty of the old Smoky Mountains, and marveled at the miles-long and irresistible reach of God’s loving embrace.



St. Francis Episcopal Church

Potomac, Maryland

We are a warm and faithful Christian community near Washington, D.C., that equips leaders for service in our nation’s capital. The rhythms of grace and the liturgical year sustain us at Saint Francis, and have provided the backdrop for a year of truly exciting growth and answered prayers. An influx of infants and energetic preschoolers is keeping the baptismal font in near-continuous use. It is challenging to raise children to know Christ and his love in our own day, but what a joy it is to partner with families and members of the body of Christ who wish more than anything to give that gift to the youngest members of our community.



St. George’s Episcopal Church

Nashville, Tennessee

Essentials Small Groups have become a central place of connection and hospitality for members of St. George’s. Launched three years ago in the wake of the pandemic, these 10-week Bible studies on the essential elements of our faith have brought together and ministered to more than 300 people each semester. The best part? These unique studies created by our clergy include introductory videos and participant guides, which are available to all through our website at stgeorgesnashville.org/essentials. We pray that what began as a small seed of faith in our community may grow and expand to bless many more.



St. John’s Episcopal Church

Lynchburg, Virginia

We are a church fully committed to “Becoming Beloved Community.” Recognizing that true reconciliation begins with relationship, we continue to forge intimate and meaningful partnerships. Three successful cohorts of Sacred Ground have opened eyes and hearts. After a successful dialogue sermon with a regional Baptist leader, we developed a podcast to address issues of racial injustice and history through storytelling and friendship. And collaboration with our Native American neighbors is inviting us into a Land Acknowledgment statement. The painful history of racism in our community is slowly being addressed, acknowledged, and absolved as we grow together in Christ’s love.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Oklahoma City

We are a vibrant mission committed to our historic love of the Anglican liturgy, held together with a focus on worship and outreach within our neighborhood. We have a vibrant choir and acolyte ministry, host a music school for 50 young students, and provide a sacred space for neighbors to walk, bring their dogs to our new dog park, and play on our playground. We also conduct pet blessings following Eucharist on Sundays for everyone interested. In a recent email, a neighbor said, "I just wanted to say thank you. You all are making community, creating empathy, and making the world better."



St. John's Church

Savannah, Georgia

The historic church of St. John's is the home base of the Prayer Book Society USA and its important work of Anglican *ressourcement*, holding on to Anglican distinctives in worship and doctrine. But along with old roots the church is also nurturing new shoots, extending the good news of God's grace to the people of Savannah. In the beauty of the historic liturgy, as well as in its Arts & Faith offerings — Faith+Fiction, Faith+Film, Summer Concert Series, and outdoor art installations — St. John's is connecting Savannah's vibrant arts community, its book- and music-lovers, with the abiding truth, beauty, and goodness of the gospel.



St. John's Church

Tampa, Florida

Offering an open, loving invitation to visitors and new members is a hallmark of the St. John's style. We are thrilled to have had 40 new members join us in the last six months alone! Our vibrant ministries, exciting programming for youth and children, and numerous opportunities for fellowship and faith formation in groups both large and small have drawn many to join our parish family. We are excited to be in a period of growth as we seek to make Jesus Christ known, worshiped, and adored in our part of Tampa.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have proudly unveiled our new school and church administration buildings, in renewed commitment to mission and ministry post-COVID. We are honored to dedicate the church office in loving memory of Dennis Edmon, a dedicated servant who devoted more than 50 years of his life to our church and school. Additionally, the youth room is named in honor and memory of the young Eli Palmer, a cherished lifelong parishioner whose remarkable life serves as a guiding light for the youth. These dedications celebrate legacy and devotion and inspire our community to continue to grow in faith and service.



Cathedral Church of St. Luke

Orlando, Florida

Dr. Marianne DiQuattro recounts, “Our Cathedral community, full of wonderful parishioners with a true zeal for the Lord’s house,” was the perfect audience for Dorothy L. Sayers’s play, *The Zeal of Thy House*, presented May 12 and 13. The cast, all members of the cathedral, offered polished performances following 16 rehearsals over eight weeks. Dr. DiQuattro, professor of theater at Rollins College, selected the play, an account of the Canterbury Cathedral fire in 1174 and subsequent rebuilding, because the cathedral had just finished an extensive capital campaign to refurbish the church’s stained-glass windows.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Berkeley, California

This spring we undertook a long-anticipated capital campaign to repair roofs and deteriorating paint and plaster, upgrade seismic preparedness, restore historic stained glass, build a columbarium, upgrade lighting systems, and increase the parish’s capacity for prayer and hospitality through chapel, kitchen, hall, and other public space enhancements. It was a lot to ask at a time when St. Mark’s is still recovering from pandemic-related changes and effects. But the parish rose to the challenge and surpassed every goal set, while growing in its sense of mission and identity, to bear credible, joyful witness to the kingdom of God in Berkeley, California.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Academy

Cocoa, Florida

Every day our church and school work together, hand in hand, inspiring lifelong learners from many faith traditions. All our students learn to appreciate Episcopal traditions such as inclusiveness, a graceful relationship with science, a love of music, and caring for God’s creation. In the past two years we have had 14 baptisms, three weddings, and are coming up on our fourth First Communion. This picture shows a family that has come back to St. Mark’s for a second generation of baptism. We are blessed to be living in a time of renewal and transformation.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Venice, Florida

Nine parishioners attended the It’s All About Love Festival in Baltimore this summer. Some came to hear Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preach, some to have their faith renewed in the Church, and others to find inspiration for learning and action. One vestry member is freshly motivated to prioritize creation care and social justice as part of our strategic plan. “I love that St. Mark’s is a congregation full of energized and motivated people who want to spread the good news,” said our rector, Mike Rau. “I couldn’t be more hopeful for St. Mark’s and the Episcopal Church as a whole.”



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Houston

Parishioners at St. Martin's faithfully minister to the homeless in downtown Houston through Church in the Field each month, worshiping in the heart of the city and sharing a meal after the service ends. St. Martin's provides the worship song leader to lead the choir, the priest to officiate the service, including Communion, and prayer warriors who pray with congregants. Faithful volunteers serve the meal made by the church and those in its Dessert Ministry. This marks the 23rd year St. Martin's has taken part, and those involved know firsthand how God is using them to minister to his people.



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Richmond, Virginia

Celebrating our 75th anniversary as a church plant in Richmond's West End, St. Matthew's is a sign to all church planters and evangelists that all things are possible, and that some church plants do endure. Some planted, some watered, and this community continues to bear good fruit, in the lives of its parishioners and in the lives of our neighbors, especially those in (and in and out of) the recovery community. Walking beside them, we are discovering our own deepest needs, how the Lord meets them, and the way that leads to life.



St. Michael and All Angels

Tucson, Arizona

At St. Michael's we are celebrating new and old this year. We have a new music director, Dr. Chris Fresolone. Bp. Jennifer Reddall came to ordain a new priest, Fr. Donald Bebbler, for a rural mission in our diocese. We are celebrating our first summer with modern air conditioning in the church after decades of evaporative cooling. And this fall we will look back to our founding as our bishop returns to celebrate with us the 70th anniversary of the dedication of our parish church. Whether looking back or forward, we are grateful to God for all his gifts!



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Beaufort, North Carolina

Saint Paul's has been making a joyful noise since 1867. The Cullman Music Scholars Program continues that tradition by inviting high school and college students to partner with us in providing musical enrichment for liturgy and worship. Scholars participate in weekly voice and music theory lessons through the RSCM's Voice for Life curriculum, sing with our choir, and receive a scholarship for higher education. What we celebrate most is their becoming part of our church family. One scholar remarked, "I once saw church as a place of judgment; now I see it as a place of love."



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

In 2023, we welcomed an additional priest to St. Timothy's. This addition has enabled us to logistically do what our hearts have been wanting. Between daily Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, weekly Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and rosary, we are able to offer 22 services a week. This rhythm of prayer has fueled our commitment to formation and mission, grounding our work in the Holy Eucharist.



Trinity Parish

St. Augustine, Florida

Along with the enormous population growth in Northeast Florida, Trinity Parish, Florida's oldest Protestant church, is experiencing kingdom growth. We baptized 25 people in Eastertide, including infants, children, and adult converts. We also broke ground on a second campus of our church and preschool 15 miles northwest of our historic downtown campus in order to share the good news of Jesus with the thousands of new residents moving to our county.



Trinity Episcopal Church

Upperville, Virginia

Last year we began a new Sunday service: Celtic Evening Prayer with Eucharist. We had a sense that God was calling us to do something new, and especially to broaden our "worship menu" with a completely different style of liturgy and music in a new time slot. And God showed up! We've been blessed with many people who just found us and walked in; with new, talented, young musicians; and with people who had previously been hurt badly by the Church, and who feel that they have found a safe space to return. We shouldn't be surprised to be surprised by God.



Washington National Cathedral

Washington, D.C.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed our doors for nearly 18 months, every piece of cathedral life was upended. What we didn't expect were the thousands who joined us faithfully each week for online worship. Suddenly, digital ministry came to define this Cathedral without walls. We're hiring a pastor for digital ministry to help shepherd faithful souls from every corner of the globe. Here's what we learned: there is grace to be found in all things; we must never be afraid to fail; and we must always be willing to answer the call to minister wherever the needs are. When we followed the Spirit's calling, we found once again that God is always faithful.