



PARISH PROFILE 2019

THE POSITION

TITLE:	Rector
ORGANIZATION:	St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church
LOCATION:	Arlington, TX
WEBSITE:	www.stp2.org

ORGANIZATION

The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul is an Anglican church in Arlington, Texas, centrally located within the Episcopal Diocese of Ft. Worth (ACNA). In 1981 St Peter & St Paul's roots were set by a handful of people going door-to-door conducting a church plant survey. Soon that same group was holding St. Peter & St. Paul's first services at St. Barnabas Methodist Church. Within a few months, the current 4.5-acre lot was purchased, which included an old pink brick farmhouse. From the humble setting of a farmhouse and 12 members, the church outgrew the home and soon purchased a double wide trailer. Father Chris Colby was the first priest of the parish, serving from 1981-1984. Fr. Thomas Hightower and his family arrived in 1984 at the call of Bishop Davies. In 9 months, the double wide was modified to increase seating capacity. At the time, the need for even more space was recognized and construction began on a new church building. The double wide was expanded twice more and four temporary classrooms were built. Church construction was completed in 1987. In the late 90's, the parish undertook to build a large, multiuse Parish Hall. This facility was dedicated in 1999.

St. Peter & St. Paul has been guided by God's hand from its very beginning. This was never more true than in the mid-2000's, when we went through one of the most taxing and difficult periods in the history of our parish and our diocese. The Diocese of Fort Worth came to the painful decision to separate from its parent denomination, The Episcopal Church. The Vestry, clergy, and laity of St. Peter & St. Paul voted to remain with the Diocese of Fort Worth, as did the vast majority of the parishes in the diocese. The Diocese of Fort Worth then became members of the Province of the Southern Cone. Within the next few years St. Peter & St. Paul would become one of the founding congregations of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). The Diocese of Fort Worth held the inaugural mass of the ACNA.

Our congregation is fully Anglican, multigenerational, and strives to reflect the changing demographics of the communities, cultures, and ethnicities within the southern Tarrant County area. The church building itself emanates a small-town church feel, but is large in capacity. The current membership is approximately 485, with median Sunday attendance of 202. The average current parishioner lives within a 15-minute drive, and has attended for over 10 years. The primary reasons for attendance cited by current parishioners (in sequential order) are: to worship, pray, receive the sacraments, fellowship, raise children, hear the Gospel preached, receive Christian education, and to understand and become a better Christian.

Throughout its 38-year history of service and ministry, St. Peter & St. Paul can trace God's hand of faithfulness and His provisions of grace. From our modest start, to the taxing and painful decision to separate from TEC, to the current momentum of moving forward in faith, God has carried His Church through these times and we will continue to trust Him with our future.

In the Diocese of Fort Worth, St. Peter & St. Paul is considered a flagship church. Through its Vestry, St. Peter & St. Paul applied, and was accepted, to be a pilot church in the ACNA-supported Evergreen Project, which leads churches into a deeper understanding of stewardship and generosity. The parish has one of the largest chapters of The Brother of St. Andrew (BOSA) in the nation. In 2006, the BOSA group established a diocesan, 2-day workshop created to disciple and grow men spiritually. Thirteen years later, The Men's Conference has become an interdenominational event, leading and teaching men throughout the diocese and beyond. Being blessed with a spacious Parish Hall, we are frequently asked to host our diocesan convention. Additionally, as a foundation church of the Ulster Project, each year we host youth events

designed to break down denominational barriers which divide the body of Christ. Finally, we have one of the largest chapters of The Daughters of the King in the diocese.

The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul is in full faith moving forward. We will go where the Lord leads and calls, regardless of legal decisions and human judgements that are not yet resolved. This Church is built and stands firm on the foundation that is Jesus Christ. A bright and successful future of St. Peter & St. Paul is the responsibility of our church's entire body of believers. St. Peter & St. Paul church members desire to bring glory to God by continuing to invest whatever it takes, despite the variables we encounter.

Information about the Diocese of Fort Worth can be found at: fwepiscopal.org

Information about the ACNA can be found at: www.anglicanchurch.net

MISSION, VALUES, AND BELIEFS

OUR MISSION

“Worship God, Spread the Gospel of Jesus, and Serve the Lord”

The mission statement of St. Peter & St. Paul is embodied by its members each Sunday as they come to praise God, then depart from the church grounds to enter the mission field. The congregation is mission-focused, embracing and supporting all who go forth from our church to spread the Gospel. The sending and financial support of missionaries is held as one of the core values and major purpose of the congregation.

OUR VALUES

The primary focus of St. Peter & St. Paul is WORSHIP. From this primary focus, all other values flow. In worship and from worship come the second and third values, EVANGELISM and DISCIPLESHIP. Our commitment towards evangelism, especially serving in the mission field, is widely known. We believe evangelism is the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel as often as possible, through preaching, teaching, invitation, outreach ministry, hospitality, and authentic community and friendship. Through the ministries of discipleship, St. Peter & St. Paul teaches and trains people of all ages to follow Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

St. Peter & St. Paul is a GENEROUS church. Its members see themselves as blessed recipients of God's great bounty and commit themselves to be good stewards of what God has given them. Its members are generous in tithes and offerings not only to the church, but to individual needs as they arise. St. Peter & St. Paul has always held the importance of NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL ministries. Its commitment to the diocese and the denomination has been in the forefront of its witness over the past 38 years. We provide additional resources for outreach and mission both locally and globally as opportunities arise.

OUR BELIEFS

St. Peter & St. Paul has a strong and unwavering commitment to proclaim and teach the Gospel to an unbelieving and needy world. The witness of this church over the years has been clear: Jesus Christ saves lives; He is the way, the truth and the life, all who believe in Him will have eternal life. All are welcome at the Lamb's table.

Through the Sacraments of the church we can be made strong in that witness. A true relationship with Christ develops faith; faith naturally generates fruits of the Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit we can grow in faith, hope, charity, and love. The Gospel calls us to live our faith within the life of a local church and to the Glory of God. The ministries of St. Peter & St. Paul are for the purposes of explaining, deepening, studying, and learning how to live out this life in Christ and to welcome those who wish to explore the truths found in God's Word.

MINISTRY PROCLAIMING AT ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

Specific detail of the ministries at St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church can be found at: <http://www.stp2.org>. Click on the Ministries link.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

ADULT MINISTRY

St. Peter & St. Paul has a vibrant adult ministry. Many are eager to learn, grow in their faith and to serve within our church community, in Arlington, and in the world. St. Peter & St. Paul offers many opportunities to learn and grow together. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a national men's group devoted to prayer and service; and in The Order of the Daughters of the King, the women of our parish vow to know Jesus Christ and make Him known to others. We host a chapter of the Order of St. Luke, have an active Stephen Ministry, and care for the health of our congregation with a Parish Nurse program. Many participate in the 40 Days for Life prayer ministry and the Tarrant County mobile food pantry program. There are weekly Bible studies for men, women, and youth, and gatherings for fellowship. A significant number of our congregation participate in bringing the Alpha program and Financial Peace University to Union Gospel Mission, and in preparing monthly meals for the occupants of the Arlington Life Shelter. A growing group of senior adults have found their way to the "Senior Saints", an active group of senior adults.

The courses, groups and events offered at St. Peter & St. Paul are lay-driven ministries, providing a way for members to show care and love for others, to grow in their faith, and to encourage one another in the love of Christ.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Peter & St. Paul has a significant investment in the Children's and Youth ministries. That investment has developed a dynamic youth program. Summer missions are a part of spiritual formation and service to the Lord and His sheep. Sunday School, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, children and youth midweek programming, summer camps, retreats, VBS, Trunk-or-Treat, and other specialized youth activities have always been an essential part of what St. Peter & St. Paul offers its youngest members. A great number of our children have grown up in the church and continue into adult life as followers of Jesus Christ.

GLOBAL MISSIONS AND LOCAL OUTREACH

Having a presence in global missions and local outreach has always been significantly important to the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul. It has been a major part of who we are for a very long time. The congregation has a heart for service and for sending out missionaries. St. Peter & St. Paul supports two Centurion Priests in Northern Malawi, and long term missionaries overseas. We have commissioned many short-term mission teams, sending them into the world to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to show love to the lost, and to care for the homeless. St. Peter & St. Paul members serve regularly at the Arlington Life Shelter, Green Oaks Nursing and Rehab Center, Mission Arlington, and Union Gospel Mission, serving meals to the homeless and bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those on the fringe.

MINISTRY TO THE CHURCH

St. Peter & St. Paul has active and dedicated ministries to the church. A large Altar Guild cares for the needs on the high altar and Acolytes and Servers support the celebrant at each service. The Flower Guild adds beauty to the church, the chapel, and special events in the parish hall. St. Peter & St. Paul has a robust and energetic music program. At the 9:00 service, contemporary music is performed supported by the piano, organ and stringed instruments. At 11:15, traditional music is sung with the piano and organ. We are fortunate to have a bell choir that performs throughout the year. We also have an active Parish Nurse program to assist members to live healthy lives.

COMMUNITY

Arlington continues to be a sought-after location for families. It is nestled between Fort Worth to the west, Dallas to the east, and DFW Airport to the north. Arlington is a dynamically growing city. Because of its location at the center of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, the expansion of the University of Texas at Arlington, and the city's status as home of the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers, Arlington will continue to grow, creating ministry opportunities for churches of all denominations.

Several employers call Arlington home, such as the University of Texas at Arlington, Six Flags Over Texas, The Parks Mall, GM Financial, and the Texas Rangers, to name a few. Did we mention it is also the home of the Dallas Cowboys? The city is the 7th most populous in Texas, with estimates showing the population at 392,772. Our water quality is rated one of the best in the country. The city has a total area of nearly 100 square miles. Arlington has received multiple awards for its parks and recreation centers.

Statistics from: Arlington Population. (2019-07-11).

Retrieved 2019-08-20, from <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/arlington/>

THE ROLE OF RECTOR AT ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

The Rector of St. Peter & St. Paul bears a significant spiritual responsibility as the chief visionary, preacher, teacher, and pastor for the people of St. Peter & St. Paul. The prayers for this new Rector have already been lifted up; the congregation is praying diligently for the person who will be our new leader. The book of Common Prayer (1979) proclaims that as a priest "it will be your task to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion your life in accordance with its precepts. You are to love and serve the people among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing..." As Rector, you are to devote yourself, body, soul, and spirit; to have memory of God's mighty works; be enlightened by the Holy Spirit; to be a faithful administrator of the Holy Sacraments, and by life and teaching set forth the true and living Word of God. The new Rector of St. Peter & St. Paul will be dependent upon God to fulfill this role; he may also be assured of the prayers and support of the people of St. Peter & St. Paul.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

St. Peter & St. Paul is a healthy population with a long history of spreading the Gospel message in the local and international communities. Like many churches, it is routinely met with challenges that must be considered and addressed. The following are items which are recognized by leadership and the congregation as current and future challenges.

- Father Thomas Hightower had a 25-year ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul. A new Rector was installed nine months after Fr. Hightower's retirement, but he departed after only two years. Following the departure of our most recent rector we have gone through Conflict Mediation to reconcile our loss. The congregation and the staff have experienced grief with each of those departures. The new Rector should be a visionary leader who has the pastoral skills to guide the church and staff through this new period in our life together.
- Since our congregation has gone through a period of hurt and grief, it will be important for the new Rector to realize this in the people of God and intentionally work to bring them all together to move as one body into the future. Wide-spread and regular communications will be of the utmost importance.
- The congregation is aging and the growth of our younger adult members, while increasing, has not caught up. Currently 74 percent of the adult population is 55 or older, with 26 percent below that age. Although we have experienced a slight increase in new families in 2019, there is still a sizable age gap. The new Rector will be tasked with the awesome opportunity to close the gap between the aging and younger adult members, and to grow the church congregation while maintaining scripture and true church teaching.

- A lawsuit filed against the Diocese of Fort Worth by TEC is still pending in the courts. A verdict in favor of TEC could have drastic effects on the churches of the Diocese of Fort Worth, including St. Peter & St. Paul. Our new Rector should be aware of the challenges a negative verdict may have on the congregation, our property, and potential limitations to our future growth.

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

- To know and understand the people of St. Peter & St. Paul. As Jesus was the Good Shepherd and knew each one of His flock intimately by name, so too the new Rector will take the first step to know each member by name.
- To recruit, train, develop and lead the clergy and staff of the church; to replace staff positions as needed with qualified persons.
- To provide direction and clarity for the mission and ministry of the congregation in its commitment to make disciples and teach them to obey the commands of Christ.
- To deliver biblical messages that are relevant and clear in the presentation of the Gospel, and to lead liturgical worship services that are filled with hope and inspiration, and honor God's presence in Word and Sacrament.
- To support us in the Evergreen Project as we develop our principles of financial generosity.
- To seek to enhance the demographics of St. Peter & St. Paul to reflect the neighboring community, while lowering the average age of the attendees/members of St. Peter & St. Paul.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

EXPERIENCE/SKILLS

- A life of prayer and personal devotion to Christ; a lifelong student of God's Word.
- An entrepreneurial temperament marked by an energetic work ethic and deep personal calling to ministry.
- A scholar in the knowledge of God and His Word; an ability to interpret and apply God's Word in a variety of life situations.
- An ability to grow and expand the body of Christ both numerically and spiritually; reaching the un-churched, new and younger members.
- A proven track record of working with teams of people to accomplish agreed-upon plans and objectives, including a staff composed of two or more clergy.
- Demonstrated ability to teach biblical stewardship and raise necessary financial resources for God's church.
- Positive, optimistic problem solver with a sense of humor and an ability to rely on biblical principles and wisdom to solve challenges.
- A passionate love and heart to mentor and guide prospective ordinands and future leaders.
- Personal charisma to lead large public worship services with a style of reverence and simplicity.
- A solid understanding of traditional Anglicanism and to be the principal theological and canonical expert for St. Peter & St. Paul.
- A demonstrated record of collaboration with Vestry and Staff Leaders.
- Experience with managing a staff and working with multiple clergy is a major asset.
- Although prior experience in the position of a Rector is not a requirement, meaningful leadership experience is essential.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

The new Rector should:

- Be a visionary leader who has the pastoral skills to guide the church and staff.
- Have the ability to clearly articulate and deliver a Christian worldview from the pulpit.
- Display a high level of maturity, intelligence, accessibility, transparency, and an intuitive disposition.
- Have an upstanding character of integrity and credibility, guided by a sound set of values and ethical principles.
- Be a visionary who can set a long-term success plan for St. Peter & St. Paul and lead with personal conviction and the ability to make difficult decisions. At the same time, he should be a leader with awareness of his limitations who will leverage the talents of his team.
- Be a loving husband who holds a biblical view of marriage and whose own marriage is a wholesome example to the Body of Christ.
- Have a heart for discipleship across all age groups.

EDUCATION

- A Master of Divinity is required for this position, with preference of an advanced degree.
- Ordination with the Anglican Church or any jurisdiction within the Anglican Communion is a necessary requirement for this position.

COMMITMENT OF VESTRY/LAY LEADERSHIP

The lay leadership of St. Peter & St. Paul commits to be a loving and prayerful partner to our new Rector. We will provide our support in the areas of time, resources, and spiritual gifts as he leads our congregation into the future. Our staff is extremely skilled and qualified; they are eager to work with the new leadership as he transitions into this role.

We pray for God's will to be evident in our hearts and the heart of the Rector candidate during this process. We press ahead with confidence that God will direct our steps.

For more information, contact:

Larry Bailey, Senior Warden

Email: lbailey1258@aol.com

St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church

3900 Morris Lane

Arlington, Texas 76016

817-496-6747

www.stp2.org

"As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

