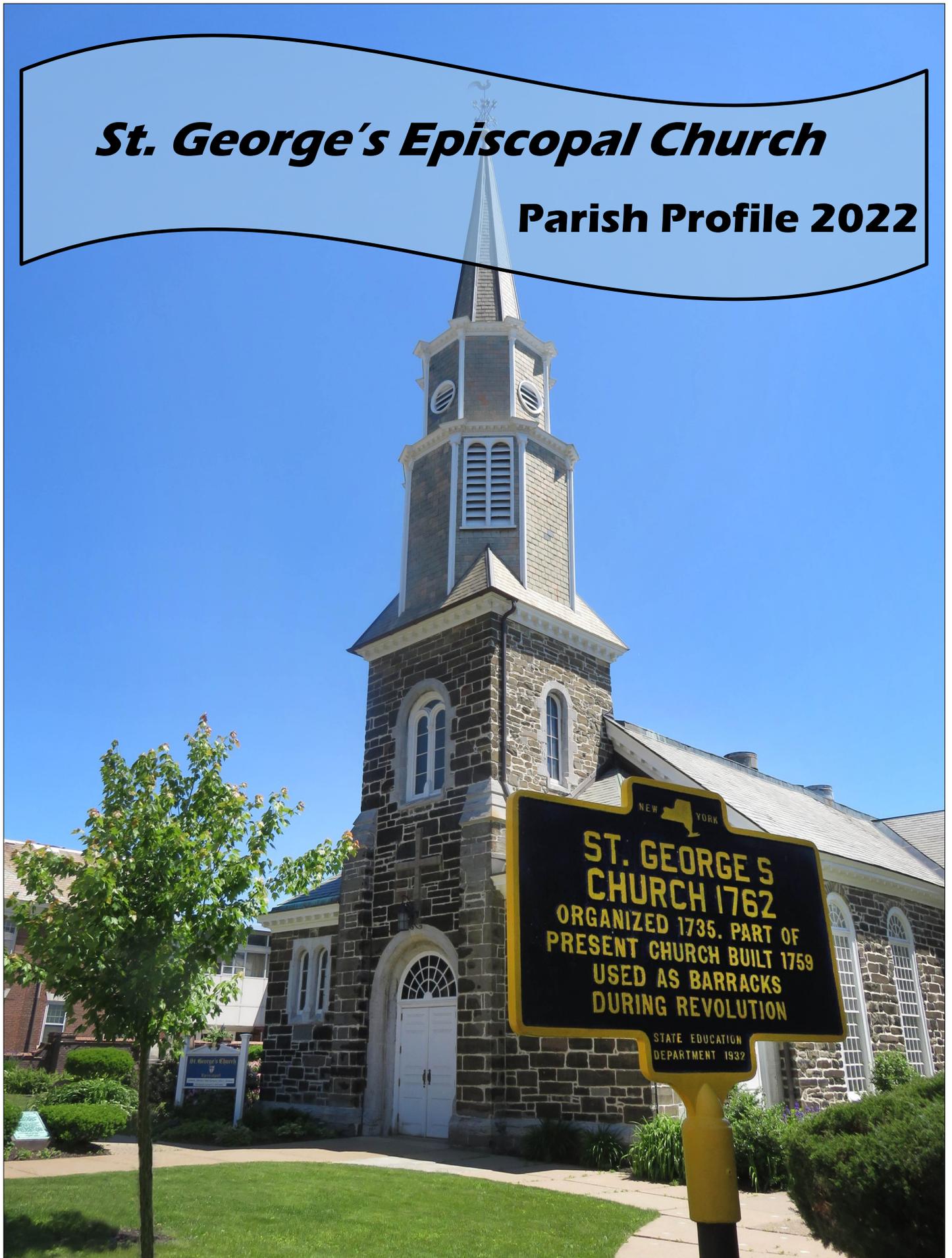


St. George's Episcopal Church

Parish Profile 2022





MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. George's is to bring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

As we worship and serve Christ, we come to know Him and make Him known through the Sacraments and through study of Holy Scripture.

Nurtured by scripture, tradition, and reason; through prayer, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the people of St. George's know the church of Jesus Christ to be local, universal, and inclusive.

We accomplish this mission through prayer and worship, proclamation of the Gospel, and by promoting peace, justice and love.

The Mass is at the heart of our life and ministry as the chief act of praise and thanksgiving. We offer ourselves to Almighty God through devotion to the fullness of catholic faith and the beauty of the Anglican tradition.

St. George's teaches biblical and theological literacy, Christian charity, love and acceptance of all people, and faithful stewardship of our parish and our community.

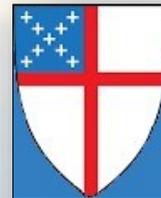
Our mission involves the ministry of all its members.

St. George's is a vibrant and joyous Christian community of love and grace with a historic past reaching back to colonial America, with a deep commitment to living the faith in new and exciting ways each day.

St. George's is faithful to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church, as well as its comprehensiveness, diversity, and the middle way of tolerance and understanding.

All people are welcome to worship with us and encouraged to participate fully in the ministry of our church.

CATEGORIES AND CREDITS



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ST. GEORGE'S AND ITS COMMUNITY

(from its auspicious beginning to the present)

With a rich background beginning in the late 17th century, St. George's was first established by British missionaries as early as 1695 with an Anglican Parish under the patronage of King George organized in 1735. Part of the church was built in 1759 and by 1773 the Vestry was vested in raising funds for the construction of a church and the young parish was able to support and maintain a resident clergyman. We have had nineteen rectors in our auspicious history.

We are proud to be a part of the Stockade District, a community known for its architectural treasure and the largest collection of pre-revolutionary buildings in



the country. This area constitutes the original Dutch settlement of some 350 years ago, retaining its village-like atmosphere. Two of its famous landmarks are the statue Lawrence the Indian, and Arthur's, a local meeting and greeting place serving light fare and selling groceries.

St. George's is recognized as the Mother Church of the Mohawk Valley and is the oldest of a network of Episcopal churches in Schenectady County. We are under the jurisdiction of the Albany Diocese, with the seat of our Bishop only 15 miles away at Albany's Cathedral of All Saints.

This part of Upstate New York is known as the Tri-Cities (Albany, Schenectady, Troy.) We are in close proximity to numerous educational, employment, and entertainment opportunities in Schenectady: within walking distance to Union College and Schenectady Community College; General Electric Company; Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady Civic Theatre, Schenectady Symphony, and Schenectady Light Opera. It's a short drive to Albany and the State University of New York, the College of St. Rose, Maria College, and Siena College in Loudonville, which is in Albany County; the Empire State complex with its state offices, museums and performing arts venue, the Palace Theatre, Capital Repertory, and the MVP Arena (formerly the Knickerbocker Arena, Pepsi Arena, and Times Union Center)...and to Troy with Russell Sage Colleges and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the RPI Fieldhouse. If you happen to need a hospital, we have excellent ones: Schenectady – Ellis, Bellevue Women's, Sunnyview Rehabilitation; Albany – St. Peter's, Albany Medical Center, Veterans; Troy – Samaritan. Little further away, but less than an hour's drive, are Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls and Lake George in the Adirondacks, a vacation mecca, offering everything you can find in the Tri-Cities proper.

PARISH OVERVIEW

- PARISH ADMINISTRATION -

St. George's has an active Vestry of 9 members, each elected for a 3-year term (with a second term optional); a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden, each elected for a 2-year term, a second term also optional. There is also a Church Treasurer. Vestry meetings are held once a month on Thursday evenings. Vestry sub-committees primarily deal with parish life, finances, stewardship, buildings & grounds, outreach, and communications. Other than the vacant Rector position, the staff at St. George's includes a part-time Administrative Assistant, a part-time Financial Secretary, and a Sexton.

- PARISH FINANCES -

The annual operating budget of St. George's is approximately \$250,000. About \$100,000 comes from pledges. The remainder comes from earnings on the church's endowment.

Our annual expenses are roughly broken down into Administrative costs (salaries, benefits, pensions) 62% (\$155,000) and Facility costs (utilities, building maintenance, office, etc.) 30% (\$75,000). The remainder goes to various parish ministries, mission, diocesan assessment, and liturgical costs.

We carefully control costs and try to not use any of the endowment principal but in times of extraordinary need, some principal has been withdrawn. That has not affected the financial position of the endowment or the parish since the national economy has enjoyed a lengthy period of economic growth and this has compensated for any endowment usage. That will not always be the case, so we need to improve our long-term financial strategy by increasing our pledging and increasing our endowment via planned legacies.

- MUSIC MINISTRY -

Our St. Cecilia Choir is a crucial part of our history as the musical liturgy of St. George's continues to shine as one of the few churches maintaining a traditional, classical, sacred repertoire as well as compositions from serious composers. Led by Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, this adult choir has an astounding range of musical abilities.



The Organ of St. George's was built and installed in 1982, providing the accompaniment to the choir and congregation. Situated in the choir loft directly above the West Doors of the Church, the Organ is housed in three separate chambers and features a striking silver façade crowned with a powerful Trompette-en-chamade. The 3-manual console is built from hand-rubbed mahogany and features an unusual configuration of two separate Swell divisions, each controlled from the Swell keyboard. It is an M.P.

Moller, Opus 11589, with 44 speaking stops and nearly 2,500 pipes.

- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION -

Due to COVID 19, our Christian Education for Children has temporarily ceased its Sunday School program. We have continued with limited Adult Education Programs (adult forums and bible study) whenever possible.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



THE CHURCH

St. George's Church is constructed of hand-laid bluestone in the Georgian colonial style of the late 18th century. Bays of arched windows paned in clear glass are illuminated by the sun's light; Venetian chandeliers wired for electricity supplement the natural light. Two main aisles with a central block of seating, transept pews facing inward toward the altar, and box-pews with pegged doors offer seating for 520 parishioners. There is also a west end gallery for the choir, accommodations in the Lady Chapel for smaller Masses, and the Chapel of All Souls containing the Parish Columbarium.



THE PARISH HOUSE

Located to the north of the church is the Parish House and its adjacent parking lot. Since 1958, it has been the focal point of parish activities with formal receptions in the Shaw Lounge; gatherings and Sunday coffee hour after Mass in the Great Hall; both with access to a spacious and fully-equipped kitchen. Five rooms on the 2nd level are utilized for various activities including classrooms and rentals.



ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE

Attached to the Parish House is St. George's House, a three-bedroom home that is currently being utilized by our Music Director. There is also a spacious dormitory on the 3rd floor that had been used in the past but is presently unoccupied.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



CRANMER HOUSE

Facing the west doors of the church, to the right, is the two-story brick building that houses the parish offices. The main level has several rooms including offices for the rector and staff, conference room, reception area, small lounge and galley kitchen, with a separate entrance that for years was a money-making Consignment Shop open to the public on Saturdays and for special sales. The second level is a huge room for choir rehearsals with anterooms for the music director, music library, and parish hall archives.

THE RECTORY

St. George's Rectory is a gracious 18th century residence in the historic Stockade Area of Schenectady with a full attic and basement plus two floors of spacious living including 3 bedrooms, 3 and ½ updated bathrooms, modern kitchen, large ground floor reception rooms, pristine wood floors, and several fireplaces. The long, terraced, fenced-in backyard slopes down to an impressive view of the Mohawk River. With luxury of an attached garage, the Rectory is located within ½ block of easy walking to the church.



GROUNDS

Our church is surrounded by a lawn and graveyard dating back to the 18th century, with a large Memorial Garden planted next to Cranmer House. An enthusiastic group of parishioner volunteers have toiled countless hours resurrecting the beautiful landscaped grounds with flower beds full of colorful annuals and perennials. A Glastonbury thorn tree, imported from a sacred abbey in England, has a place of honor in its midst.



AN ACTIVE PARISH LIFE FOR ALL AGES

Spiritual enrichment is encouraged through regular attendance at Mass. Personal and community enrichment are realized through fellowship and outreach. We pray together, we socialize together, we work together for the betterment of our community.

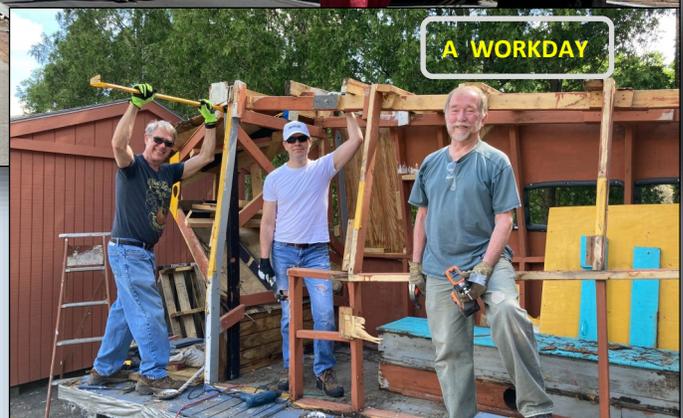
We support the Stockade Area Walkabout. Our St. George's Café is open during the fall Stockade Association's Art show. We contribute to SICM, the Schenectady inner City Mission, as well as other organizations in Schenectady. An Assisted Living Ministry (ALM) that visits area nursing homes is on hold until the pandemic recedes. We have a Pastoral Care team that ministers to our elderly and visits those that are housebound or in nursing care facilities. We are in the midst of upgrading our outreach commitments.

We have Coffee Hour after Sunday Mass, receptions after special Masses like Christmas Eve; the Easter Vigil; St. George's Day; and a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that in 2022 became a Sunday After-Mass Pancake Breakfast, and brought our Parish family together.

We have an Intercessory prayer list for the sick and those with special needs that is updated every three months. We acknowledge weekly birthdays, anniversaries, and remember the newly departed. These names are printed in our Sunday bulletins. We have an active Garden Ministry, Book Club, and Work Days that encourage participation with a variety of blood, sweat, tears, and talents.

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

EVERYONE PARTICIPATES IN SOME WAY!

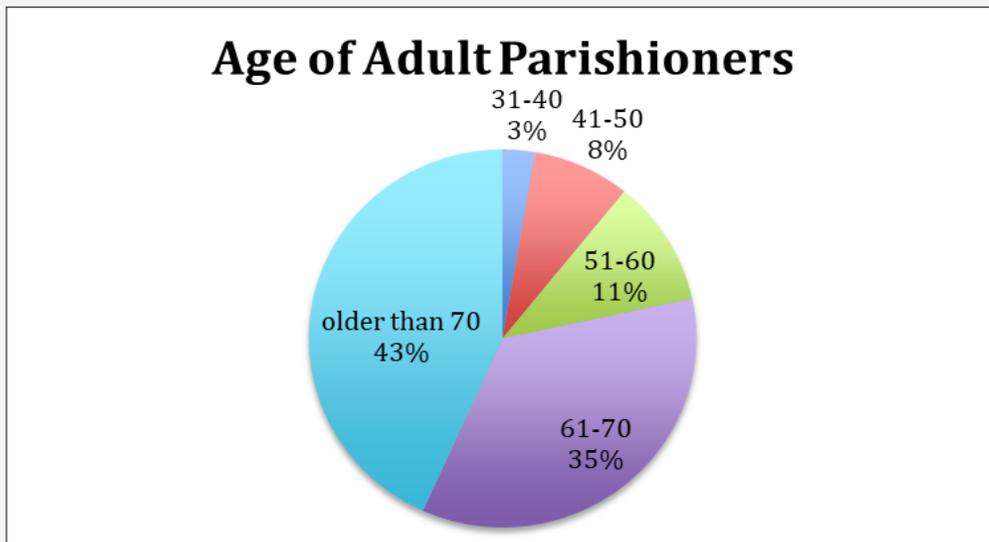


A Snapshot of St. George's Episcopal Church

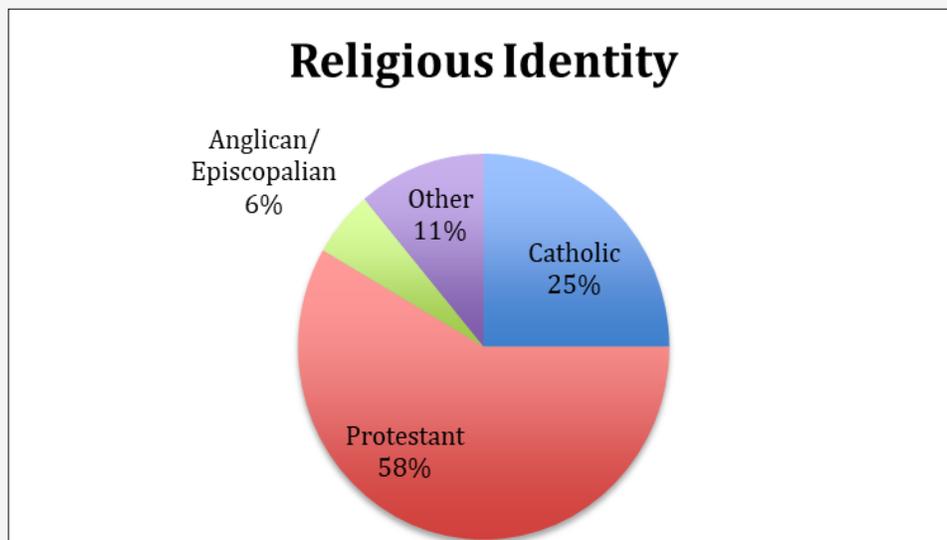
St. George's Vestry conducted a parish-wide survey in May 2022, receiving 37 completed questionnaires. The survey focused on four specific areas: 1. Who we are demographically; 2. Who we are spiritually; 3. Who we want as a rector; and 4. Key attributes we would like to see in a rector.

Our Demographics

- Our parishioners are generally mature, older adults who have been attending St. George's for an average of 25 years.
- We have two families with children under 18 years who attend regularly.
- Most of us are married, partnered, or widowed, and with only a few exceptions, our spouses attend church with us.



- We are a church of volunteers. 26 of us replied that we volunteer on a regular basis.
- We faithfully attend three or four Sunday Masses per month. Online worship is another option, but few parishioners reported viewing services from home.
- As an Episcopal church that celebrates in a high church, Anglo Catholic style, we identify with varying religious categories, as follows:

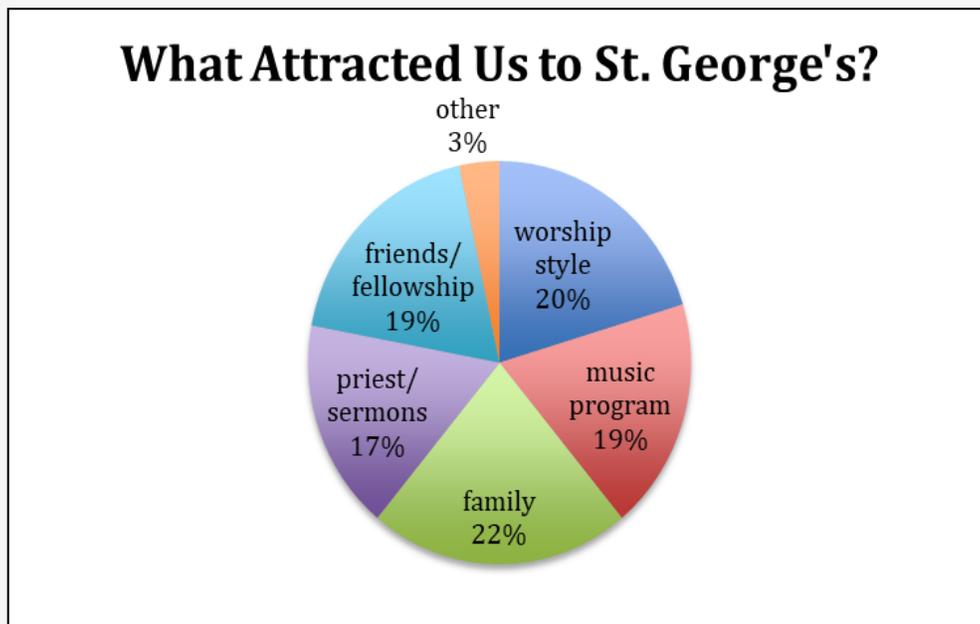


Summary of our Parish Profile

Our survey highlighted the following strengths at St. George's (in order of the highest number of votes):

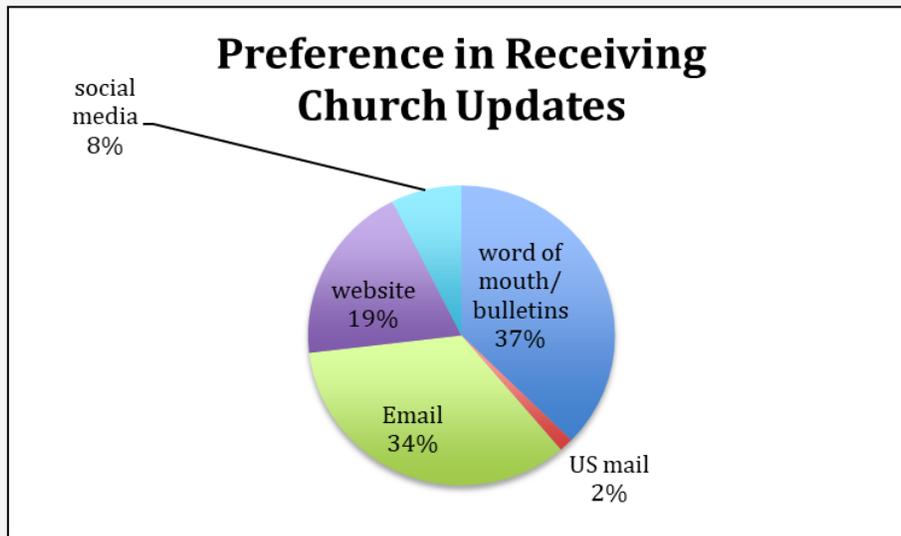
- Music program (100%)
- Anglo-Catholic worship style (92%)
- Responsible financial management (89%)
- Strong Vestry leadership (82%)
- Sermons relevant to the Bible (78%)
- Importance of, and participation in lay ministries (78%)
- Visitation of the sick and seniors (69%)

Georgians reported being first attracted to St. George's Church for the following reasons, which also indicate many of our strengths:



Parishioners were also frank about what they perceived as the church's shortcomings: The following areas were recognized as strengths by relatively few parishioners (% who noted as a strength):

- Outreach beyond the Stockade and Schenectady (10%)
- Diversity within our congregation (20%)
- Variety in liturgical styles (9%)
- Youth, teen, and church school ministries (3%)
- No featured speakers, "quiet days," or other such programs (9%)



What Qualities Do We Want in a Rector?

Our survey results indicate that we are seeking a new rector with the following capabilities (in order of the highest number of votes):

- Ability to grow our parish - 34 votes
- Effective administration skills - 31 votes
- Maintaining our music program - 35 votes
- Demonstrating personal faith - 30 votes
- Maintaining effective use of social media - 29 votes
- Working with laity to delegate ministries - 27 votes
- Committed to our buildings and grounds - 28 votes
- Leading ministries to the sick, shut-ins, and seniors - 28 votes
- Promoting outreach - 27 votes
- Conforming to national Episcopal Church canons - 27 votes

Key Attributes We Would Like in a Rector

Finally, we asked our survey participants to list three keys that we want to see in a rector. This was an open forum request. There were many interesting comments, too many to list. However, the top keys mentioned most frequently were:

- Promote growth (reflective of our community) -13 votes
- Strong personal faith -10 votes
- Strong administrator - 9 votes
- Experience - 9 votes
- Contacts senior, shut-ins, new, and lapsed parishioners -8 votes
- Mature - 6 votes
- Leadership -5 votes
- Charismatic, humor, personable - 5 votes
- Drive and energy - 5 votes
- Competent with Anglo Catholic liturgy and music - 4 votes
- Good communication skills - 4 votes

MASS AT SAINT GEORGE'S

WORSHIP & LITURGY – The parishioners of St. George's worship in the traditional Anglo-Catholic ceremony that has been a mainstay in the church for over half a century. We adopted the theme, "We are the Church," reflecting the Catechism's ministry of the laity and our solidarity as a congregation. Our Parish Mass is a Rite I Mass at 10AM on Sunday morning, either a Missa Cantata (sung mass) or Solemn High Mass with a sermon by the Rector. We have an assigned MC, Thurifer, Crucifer, and Acolytes to assist the Rector at each Mass. An active Altar Guild devotes many hours caring for vestments, altar linens and sacred vestments, arranging flowers, and preparing for each Mass. Additional members of the congregation serve as Lay Readers, Greeters, and Counters.



FEASTS & HOLY DAYS – St. George's pays special attention to Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, the Annunciation, and other feast days of the church. Incense is present at all Masses (other than weekdays). Solemn Evensong and Benediction are celebrated at special times. The Feast of St. George, our patron saint, is held in May with parishioners accompanied by the St. Andrew's Society and the Schenectady Pipe Band marching in procession through the Stockade Area.

CHRISTMAS – Carols and readings are featured on Christmas Eve, followed by a Solemn High Mass. Congregants gather in the Great Hall afterwards for a reception and fellowship. Christmas Day is gloriously celebrated with a Mass at 10AM.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS – Additional devotions taking place during Lent include: two Masses on Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes; a solemn High Mass on Maundy Thursday with the washing of the feet and the Blessed Sacrament and brought in solemn procession to the Altar of Repose, where parishioners keep vigil throughout the night; the Mass of the Presanctified and Veneration of the Cross noontime Friday. The Great Vigil on Holy Saturday includes the Lighting of the New Fire, Liturgy of the Word, Baptism, and a Solemn High Mass. This is followed by a reception in the Great Hall. The week culminates in a beautiful Easter Morning Mass at 10AM on Sunday.

WEEKDAY SERVICES – We offer spiritual refreshment and prayer with the *Liturgy of the Word* on Wednesdays at 9AM and, again, on Fridays at Noon. Upon the calling of a rector, we expect this will be directly replaced by weekday Masses.