

## 2017 PARISH PROFILE

THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF  
**SAINT GEORGE**  
ARDMORE, PENNSYLVANIA





*St. George's mission is to share together  
God's work in our lives  
through liturgy and sacrament,  
through joyous and caring fellowship,  
and through courageous and compassionate  
engagement with the world.*

# Welcome to St. George's

## CONTENTS

Overview of St. George's .....	2
The Nevil Memorial Church of St. George .....	3
Where We Live .....	4
Our Congregation .....	5
Children and Youth .....	6
Spiritual Life .....	7
Music .....	8
Community Service .....	9
Fellowship .....	10
Finance and Administration .....	11
Five-Year Financial Summary .....	12
What We Seek in Our Rector .....	13
Parish Survey Highlights .....	14



# OVERVIEW OF ST. GEORGE'S

"A welcoming sense of community." That's the phrase so often repeated when parishioners of St. George's are asked about our church's greatest strength. Our sense of community binds us together as we worship, study, serve, and socialize. Our beautiful church is blessed with a remarkable history, a strong liturgical tradition and a highly visible location in a family-oriented neighborhood in the suburbs of a major metropolitan area. However, it is the "welcoming sense of community" that best defines us, and it is what makes St. George's such a special place—to share in friendship and faith.

Our parishioners come from a variety of backgrounds, with all age groups represented, and in recent years we have been blessed with a dramatic growth in the number of families with young children. About a third of our members are cradle Episcopalians; a near equal number came to St. George's from a Roman Catholic background, and the remainder make up a mix of other denominations and faiths. All are welcome here and will find our church family intellectually open, accepting of diverse viewpoints and respectful of every individual's faith journey.

In our worship, our community is united by our deeply held belief that the Holy Eucharist is central to our liturgy and our spiritual life. Our form of worship is rich in symbolism and ceremony, and continues to attract congregants who share these sensibilities. St. George's offers many worship opportunities including spoken Rite I, and sung Rite II Sunday services, and several special services throughout the year. Lay volunteers, both youth and adult, serve regularly as acolytes, ushers, lectors, and chalice bearers. Christian education, both for children and adults, is an important part of St. George's, with a children's Sunday school and special adult classes offered throughout the year.

*"A welcoming sense of community."*



St. George's parishioners place a high value on music and our music program is a ministry that achieves an impressive level of professionalism for a congregation of our size.

Though the people of St. George's by and large prefer a formal style of worship, this does not mean that we are reserved in our interactions with each other. One of our distinctions is that we are just as connected with each other in the sanctuary as we are at coffee hour and at our social events.

Our full roster of social activities and outreach events foster our sense of community. There is something for everyone here, from our family oriented Fall Feast and Easter Egg Hunt to our adults-only semi-formal Holiday Gala. Parishioners also participate in outreach activities, which include Good Works days, Aid for Friends, and support of the St. James School. These events are enthusiastically

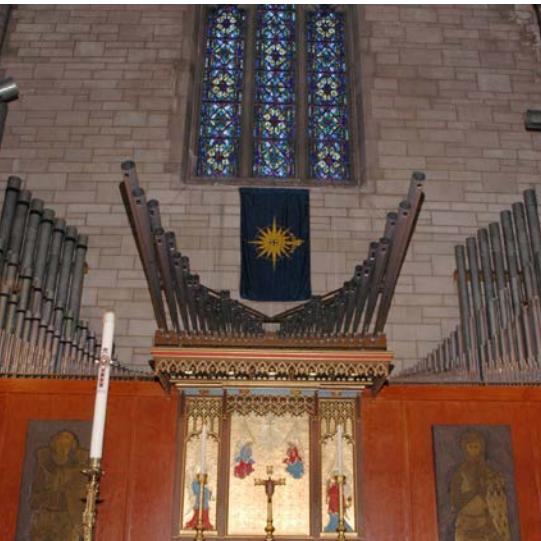
supported. Our social life contributes greatly to the feeling of community here at St. George's. This is a place where friendships are made and a sense of family develops.

At St. George's we look forward to growing our membership and at the same time to maintaining our sense of community. We wish to be known as a church family; open to everyone, regardless of race, age, economic status or sexual orientation. With the example of our Savior as our guide, we strive to increase our awareness of the needs of others and our participation in community service.



# THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

George Washington Nevil was a Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with a family estate in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. When he died in 1929, his will included a bequest to build a church as a memorial to his parents. The church, parish house and rectory were erected at the corner of Ardmore Avenue and Darby Road and consecrated by Bishop Francis Tate in 1932. An endowment from Nevil's estate has provided income to keep the church in good repair.



The architectural style of St. George's is Gothic Revival with English influence described as "a miracle in stone" and lit by Tiffany windows throughout the church. The nave is 120-feet long with two side-chapels (St. George's Chapel and the Lady Chapel). The 88-foot tower rings a carillon of 17 bells. A magnificent Austin Organ and perfect acoustics contribute to the impressive church building. The parish house includes the comfortable meeting and social space of Jerusalem Hall and a state-of-the-art kitchen (renovated in 2017). The large rectory offers generous living spaces which include a library, living and dining rooms plus 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, a single garage, and storage space.

In the beginning the bishops of the diocese served as Rectors of St. George's while the Ministers in charge served as Vicars. As the town grew so did the parish.

In 1952 Vicar Peter C. Van de Hiel became the first Rector, serving until his retirement in 1974. The church was enlarged and the parish house extended in 1956.

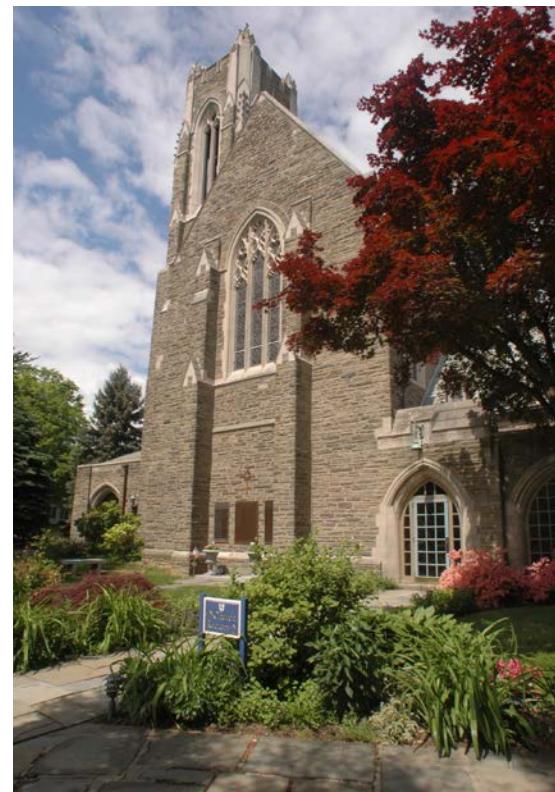
Father James F. McKendrick served as Rector from 1975-1994 when family services and Sunday Eucharist were added that led to the current schedule of 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services.

During a two-year interim period the Children's Ark at St. George's, a comprehensive day-care facility, was added. It remains an important source of church revenue and a draw for young families to this church community.

*"a sacred space filled  
with the glory of  
our worship"*

Father William Duffey served as Rector from 1996-2007. His tenure produced strong growth in ministries and membership. In 2007, St. George's celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.

Most recently, Father Ryan Whitley served as Rector from 2010-2017. During his 7-year tenure, St. George's experienced growth in membership, outreach ministries, fellowship activities and fundraising projects. Deacon Toneh Williams joined St. George's in 2016 as a Deacon in Formation, adding a new voice to church leadership. She was ordained as a Deacon in 2017. St. George's financial position improved and a successful capital campaign was conducted.



# WHERE WE LIVE

## Our Local Community

St. George's is a prominent architectural landmark located at the corner of Ardmore Avenue and Darby Road in Haverford Township, Delaware County, on the edge of Philadelphia's Main Line suburbs.

The population, within a three-mile radius of the church, is 122,239 according to the 2016 U.S. Census update and is projected to increase slightly over the next five years. The area includes middle income and affluent families with many households of two wage-earners. Average household income surpasses the national average. The educational level of area residents is greater than the state level by a considerable margin. Currently the population is 84% Caucasian, 6% African American, 5% Asian, 3% Hispanic and 2% other groups. These percentages are projected to be stable over the next five years.

Many Christian churches, mainly Roman Catholic and mainstream Protestant, and a robust Jewish community serve the local population. There are five Episcopal churches within a three-mile radius from St. George's.

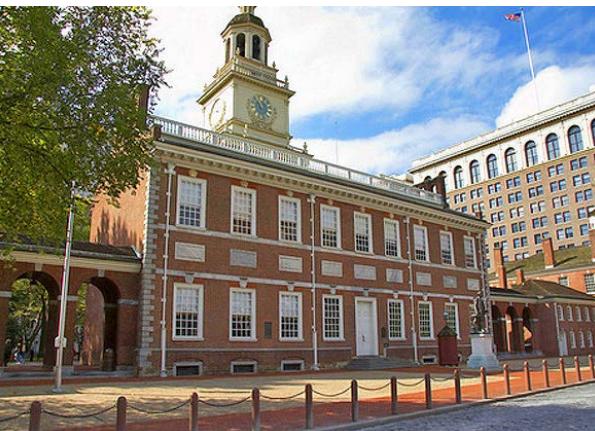
The church is located in the highly ranked Haverford School District, which is the local public school system. In addition there are fine private schools. The area is home to active college communities including Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges and Villanova University. The community enjoys many diverse commercial and recreational areas.



## Our Larger Community

St. George's is located a short 30-minute drive, bus or train to downtown Philadelphia with its varied cultural and historic resources, including:

- Independence Hall, the new National Constitution Center, and the newer Museum of the American Revolution
- The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Pennsylvania Ballet
- The Philadelphia Phillies, Flyers, Eagles, and 76ers for the sports fan
- Fairmount Park, Longwood Gardens, and Valley Forge National Historical Park



## Our Church Community

St. George's is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the ninth largest Episcopal diocese in the United States. Established in 1789 the diocese of more than 50,000 members is one of four dioceses in Pennsylvania. St. George's is part of the Merion Deanery, one of 11 deaneries in the diocese. Visit the diocesan website at <http://www.diopa.org>.

# OUR CONGREGATION

The congregation of St. George's reflects the community around it. As an inclusive community, St. George's reflects the largely middle-class professional population of this area of Philadelphia's "Main Line".

The congregation of St. George's is very stable. The church serves Ardmore, Pennsylvania and its neighboring townships. Approximately 83% of parishioners live within 5 miles of the church. While 53% have been members between 6 and 20 years, slightly more than 18% have been members more than 20 years. Just over 80% of our parishioners are married and 70% have children of high school age or younger.

*"our deeply committed parishioners are living what we believe"*

Our parishioners bring a variety of religious traditions to St. George's. Nearly 32% of the congregation grew up in an Episcopalian church, while another 35% were raised as Roman Catholic. Roughly 33% come from other Christian traditions.

Regular church attendance is strong, with over 85% of parishioners attending at least twice each month.

Our membership of 125 active families includes 266 communicants in good standing of which 23% are under 16 years of age. The congregation is truly inter-generational where those who come from other religious traditions find warm and open acceptance where everyone can feel welcome as they explore their spiritual journey and grow in faith with us.



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

St. George's is blessed with an abundance of young parishioners. This group is critical to the future of St. George's. In a few years we will have well over twenty middle school and high school children who regularly attend services with their families. Strong leadership and continuing involvement of our new Rector is vital in the development and overseeing of a new and vibrant youth program. The guidance of our Rector will help in recruiting, electing and guiding new leaders of the youth group.

St. George's has Children's Bible Study on Sundays during the 10 AM service, which is led by trained volunteers. The children leave for Sunday School after the Gloria and return prior to communion. During Sunday School, the children learn the Gospel lesson and often participate in activities or create artwork related to the Gospel or special days being celebrated. There is also infant day care available during the 10:00 AM service to parents of babies and toddlers.

Currently we have middle school and high school aged parishioners, who are eager to participate in community service which is often required for merit based scholarships and college admission. A successful youth group will include events which allow the children to forge new friendships, develop their own relationship with Christ, see the value of helping others and look forward to being at St. George's.

*"A circle of friends growing in their relationship with God through fun, fellowship, and service"*



# SPIRITUAL LIFE

## Worship

St. George's worship centers on the Eucharist, with services scheduled each Sunday at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Both services follow the Book of Common Prayer. The 8:00 AM service is a said Eucharist (Rite I) with the sermon offered in St. George's Chapel; the 10:00 AM service is a sung Eucharist (Rite II), which includes choir-led music in the Nave.

Christmas is celebrated with two Eucharistic services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day.

A full Holy Week schedule begins on Palm Sunday and includes special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a celebration of the Great Vigil of Easter that includes Stations of the Cross, Kindling the New Fire, Lighting the Paschal Candle, Liturgy of the Word, a Passover Feast for parishioners and the First Mass of Easter. An Easter morning Eucharist is followed by an outdoor Easter egg hunt for our youngest parishioners.

In addition to Christmas and Easter, special celebrations of the Eucharist help parishioners observe other holy days in the church calendar.



Parishioner involvement as acolytes, lectors, intercessors, choir members, bell ringers, and musicians is highly valued by the parish and is intrinsic to all of our worship services.

## Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament is an Anglican devotional society organized to honor our Lord in his real presence in the Eucharist. The Blessed Constance and Her Companions chapter of the Confraternity was established at St. George's in 2000.

## Adult Education

Regular adult education classes are held on Wednesday nights. The classes cover a variety of subjects from Bible study and current books regarding spirituality.

A day-long "quiet day" of prayer and meditation is also observed one Saturday during Lent.

During the summer months, a Wednesday night service (Adore Before the Shore) is held for parishioners who will be away for the Sunday services.



# MUSIC

Music is an integral and deeply appreciated part of worship at St. George's. Our sanctuary, which features an Austin pipe organ, has wonderful acoustics and has played host to numerous community concerts over the years. St. George's long history of commitment to fine music dates to 1932 with the appointment of Merton Frye, an organist and choirmaster.

We have been fortunate to have had three excellent choir directors over the last few decades: Cynthia Pound, Jason Bizich and our present director, Lou Carol Fix. Cynthia Pound's legacy includes the creation of the St. Francis Children's Choir, the Jubilation Ringers hand bell choir, and the incorporation of a dedicated music ensemble into our Taizé performances.

Our present choir director, Lou Carol Fix, has been with St. George's for eight years and leads the music program as well as accompanying on the organ and various other instruments. She has 40 years' experience with a Masters Degree in Organ Musicology. She has created the St. George's Band which plays at Christmas and Easter and the Blue Grass Revival Band, which plays several times a year.

The Adult Choir numbers about 15 volunteer and paid singers including various soloists. The choir rehearses one evening each week and sings at the 10:00 AM service and at special services such as Christmas and Easter. The choir sings the liturgy each week with music chosen from traditional hymns and other appropriate worship music from different sources and cultures.

The St. Francis Children's Choir numbers about 6-12 children and performs seasonally.

The Jubilation Ringers lead by Cynthia Pound comprises about 10 members and rehearses once each week. They ring at the 10:00 AM service about every six weeks.



*"The recently sung Evensong Service was a powerful performance by our choir."*



# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service at St. George's includes more than a dozen ministries that focus on helping others. The wide-ranging set of outreach programs addresses needs in our immediate community, in the greater Philadelphia area, across the country and around the globe.

There is a dedicated community of volunteers who respond quickly to serve the needs of the St. George's congregation in two ways. The primary charge is to respond quickly to requests for help by parishioners dealing with new babies, illness, grief, and other life-affecting situations, and to less critical requests such as the need for transportation.

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an especially important function of the Rector of St. George's. Pastoral care reaches out to members of St. George's who are not typically able to come to the church as well as to those who are experiencing health, grief or other personal challenges. For example, should someone be hospitalized for an extended period or become homebound, visits are made to keep them in touch with activities taking place at the church. If desired, a Eucharistic Minister brings the sacrament to them.

## Outreach Committee

St. George's Outreach Committee provides diverse paths for parishioners to respond to needs outside our congregation. Locally, the Outreach Committee makes donations to organizations such as the Career Wardrobe, knitting for the Seamen's Church Institute, and Torrey House.

Parishioners prepare meals for the homebound about four times a year. The committee also collects food for St. Barnabas Mission and organizes Lenten and Advent service projects for the congregation such as items for St. James School. The annual Chicken BBQ has recently benefited IMPACT, a veterans' organization in Philadelphia. All year long Manna Bags of personal care items are prepared for parishioners to give to the homeless through the metropolitan area. Outreach extends beyond our borders to Central America where St. George's sponsors a child in our companion diocese of Guatemala through Plan USA.



# FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship includes everyone at St. George's—clergy, parishioners, friends, adults and children. Social activity is an important part of church life at St. George's. We believe we are a warm fun-loving community, where lifelong friendships are born and flourish. We welcome visitors, introduce new members and strengthen friendships that can last a lifetime. While some events are fundraisers for St. George's or designated charities, every event enhances parish life for parishioners who truly enjoy getting together either at St. George's or out in the wider community.

Some of our popular events include Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Easter Egg Hunt, Chicken BBQ, Bring Your Own Meal (BYOM), Fall Feast, The Haverford Township Day Parade, Trunk or Treat, Holiday Gala and Breakfast with Santa.

Our weekly electronic newsletter, the E-Tale, keeps parishioners and friends up-to-date on upcoming worship services, outreach projects, social events, parishioner news and other information of interest to the community of St. George's.

Fellowship at St. George's is integral to our worship as well. The exchange of the Peace during the service is an opportunity for parishioners to warmly greet each other and welcome visitors. This experience continues in the coffee hour where refreshments are provided for the congregation.

At St. George's we know that it is not by luck that friendship and fellowship thrive, but by the grace of God in all his people. We are blessed by the friendship and fellowship we enjoy here.

It is important to our parishioners that our Rector participate in these events.



*"Ours is a shared experience in both fellowship and in worship"*



# FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

St. George's is a financially stable church that currently enjoys a positive balance between revenues and expenditures. The revenue stream of St. George's is diversified.

The majority of our revenue comes from two main sources:

1. Parishioner contributions (pledges, plate collections, special gifts, and events)
2. Rental payments from the property (Children's Ark, event rental, and cell tower)

St. George's has an endowment as an additional source of income. Fortunately, our financial situation is currently healthy and this past year we were able to reduce the amount we withdraw from our endowment to cover operating expenses.

## Stewardship

Our fiscal year is the calendar year. The annual stewardship campaign is conducted in the fall for the fiscal year that begins the following January.

## Parish Administration

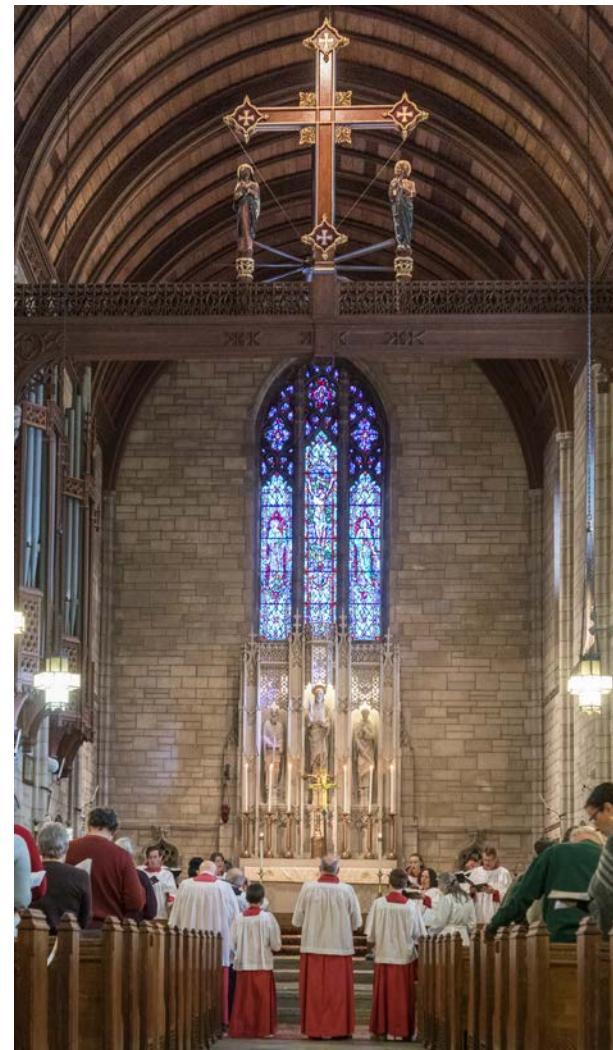
At St. George's we are fortunate to have a parish administrator who handles the day-to-day operations of the church. We also have a part-time staff member who maintains the church's physical facilities. There is an outside accounting firm that provides bookkeeping and payroll services.

## Capital Campaign

In 2015 St. George's launched a capital campaign, *Growing Together*, to fund significant repairs and renovations to the facility. The goal was to establish a campaign fund of \$220,000 and by summer of 2017 we had committed pledges exceeding our goal. Some of the major improvements funded by the campaign are repairs to the Children's Ark, renovations to Fellowship Hall, a complete remodel of the kitchen and the repayment of a loan from the Diocese for boiler replacement. In addition, a percentage of the campaign funds are designated to support outreach efforts.

## Endowments & Investments

An Investment Committee, which reports to the Vestry, oversees our investment advisors. The committee establishes allocations that are intended to provide for growth in the endowment while allowing for a withdrawal for operating expenses.



# FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## The Nevil Church of St. George Five-year Financial Summary

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pledges	87	81	82	85	92
Pledged Revenue	\$141,751	\$153,955	\$160,681	\$160,099	\$168,540
Average Pledge	\$1,629	\$1,900	\$1,960	\$1,884	\$1,832
% of Operating Revenue	41.5%	40.70%	41.40%	43.70%	45.50%
Total Operating Revenue	\$341,401	\$378,006	\$387,868	\$366,548	\$370,169
Total Operating Expense	\$341,664	\$347,577	\$364,935	\$361,024	\$360,045
Net Operating Revenue	(\$263)	\$30,429	\$22,933	\$5,524	\$10,124
Capital Revenue*	-	-	-	\$102,995	\$51,732
Capital Expense **	\$21,760	-	\$67,020	\$50,772	\$49,208
Endowment Value	\$575,245	\$670,076	\$667,527	\$624,367	\$600,474

\* Capital Revenue in 2015-2016 from Capital Campaign

\*\*Capital Expenses in 2012-2014 paid from Endowment



# WHAT WE SEEK IN OUR RECTOR

At the Nevil Memorial Church of St. George we offer a strong and inclusive spiritual family. As our parish continues to grow, many members of our congregation generously offer their skills and experience to meet parish needs. We seek a Rector who will guide us and lead us forward in our faith journey, celebrating the strengths of our parish and helping us to meet future challenges. As an energetic and outgoing leader, we look to our Rector to partner with and lead us toward continued growth in our membership, in service to our church and in outreach to our larger community. It is important to us that our Rector be welcoming and respectful of all people, regardless of gender, race, age, income, sexual orientation and education in an open atmosphere.

Our foremost concern is that our new Rector be a shepherd for our members, with a life-affirming spirit of real care and compassion for our people and their life situations. We seek a Rector with documented training and experience who will respond to parishioners' needs with sensitivity and empathy. Regular contact with our Rector, both formally and informally, is vital to our parish whether in joy or sorrow.

Strong communication skills, both written and spoken, are important to our parishioners. The quality and creativity of sermons should engage us with scripture as it relates to the wider world. Our Rector should seek to demonstrate teaching that will inspire and challenge us both spiritually and intellectually. It matters that our Rector will lead us in liturgy in a way that reverently communicates our devotion to a loving God.

Our parishioners have strongly expressed the importance of continuing the formal liturgical tradition that we practice currently. Other elements of worship consistent with our Anglican tradition would be welcome with active involvement and communication with the congregation.

Because St. George's enjoys an active calendar of fellowship activities, it is essential that our Rector join us as an active and enthusiastic participant, getting to know us and our families. Involvement in the Children's Ark, providing children with a friendly connection to the church and its teachings, is important. It is our hope that we build a thoughtful community for our young people where they are engaged, involved and thrive.

We expect that our new Rector will have considerable skill in managing the administrative tasks of a pastoral size church. The Rector will provide guidance for staff and volunteers to plan and maintain the fiscal stability of a busy parish. Our Rector's thoughtful, regular and responsible collaboration with the Vestry is vital as our leaders seek effective and realistic solutions for continued parish growth. There are many administrative duties required of our Rector, which are routine and time-consuming but are important to a successful parish.



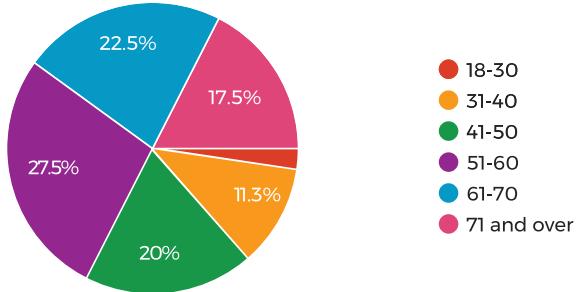
# PARISH SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The first step in our process of searching for our new Rector was to conduct a comprehensive parish survey. Our survey had a response rate over 60% that asked questions covering demographics, ministry, worship, the youth program, capital campaign, education and connection to our community. The questions below are a sampling of items taken from the actual survey. The full survey can be furnished upon request.

## Demographics

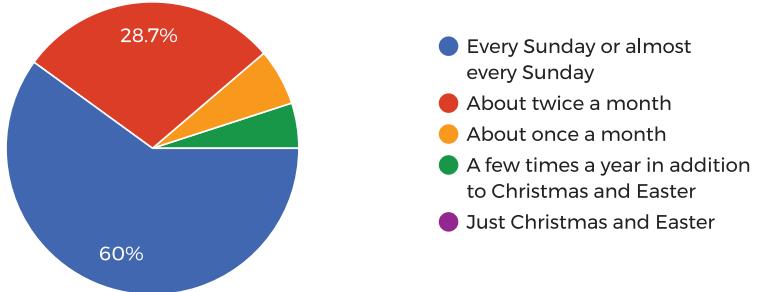
Based on the survey responses that did not include the young children of St. George's the age distribution of parishioners is evenly distributed.

What is your age group?

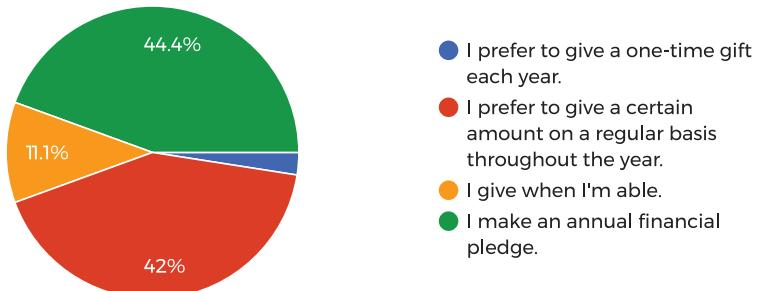


When asked about attendance the results showed a significant majority of respondents regularly attend Sunday services.

How frequently do you attend services at St. George's?



The Annual Stewardship Campaign is vital to the successful operation and preservation of St. George's. Please select the option that best describes your giving practice.



# PARISH SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

## About St. George's

Parishioners expressed the qualities that attracted them to the parish. In general, parishioners responded that the strength and warmth of the congregation welcomed them to the church. Other positive comments included the beauty of the historic buildings and grounds, the formal liturgical tradition, the child and family friendly atmosphere and the variety of outreach and social events.

The comments regarding the strengths of the St. George's community echoed the strong sense of an invested community. Our church is a sacred space open to all, where social and fellowship activities contribute to the church's financial stability.

The majority of the congregation feels that St. George's reflects the community where the church is located. Most parishioners would like to see the church seek more diversity and interact with other denominations.

The redevelopment of the St. George's Youth Group (for middle and high school youth) is a critical component for the growth of the parish. A program of regular meetings led by the Rector and trained youth leaders should focus on spiritual education, appropriate service projects and social activities designed by the group's members. There is interest in being involved with youth groups from other churches.

## Liturgy and Worship

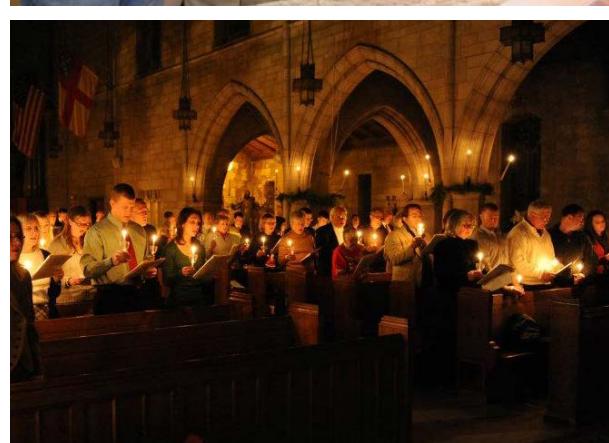
The majority of the parish prefers the formality of worship with Eucharist and respect for the dignity of the liturgy. The involvement of the laity as lectors, intercessors, chalice bearers and acolytes is important.

## Music

Music is very important at St. George's. Most parishioners prefer traditional hymns with organ music, Choir and congregational singing with the Bell Choir, folk groups and Children's Choir added on special occasions. Visits by other choirs and choral groups are popular.

## Christian Education

The majority of our congregation feels that regular Christian education is very important for adults, youth and children. Most of the children who are old enough attend the Sunday School programs.



# PARISH SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

## Outreach and Community Connection

While half of the congregation is involved in service projects, another significant group would like to participate. There is a need for more information about the various outreach activities at St. George's. In addition to the local support St. George's provides, nearly half the congregation would like to broaden our outreach to the region and state.

## Important Characteristics of our Priest

Our parishioners feel that the most important ministry skills of our next Rector include pastoral care, spiritual guidance, strong preaching, communication skills, teaching and Christian education.

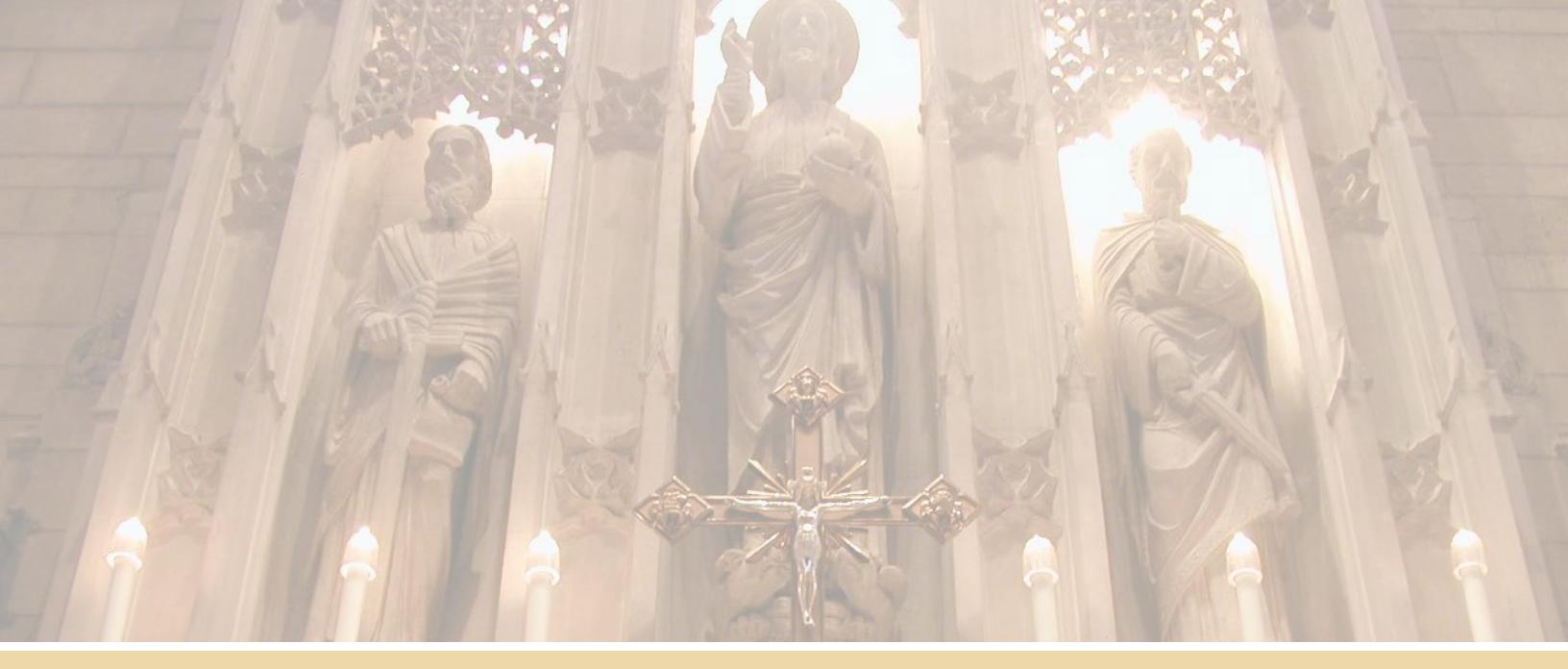
The personal characteristics that parishioners feel are most important include strong leadership, outgoing social skills, a sense of humor, with an approachable and open personal style.



If you are interested in the position of  
**Rector of the Nevil Memorial Church of St. George,**  
please email your resume along with a cover letter to  
[discernment@stgeorgeschurch.org](mailto:discernment@stgeorgeschurch.org).

Other materials may be mailed by post to:

Discernment Committee Co-Chairs  
The Nevil Memorial Church of St. George  
1 West Ardmore Avenue  
Ardmore, PA 19003

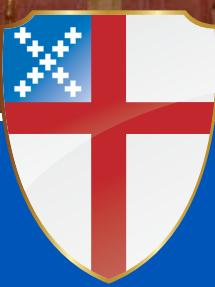


*Almighty God, giver of every good gift:  
Look graciously upon St. George's, your Church.*

*Preserve the health of her congregation during the search for a new Rector.  
During this transition, help our parish to be prayerful,  
to be patient and to participate fully in the life of the church.*

*So guide the minds of those who will call a new Rector for the parish,  
that St. George's may receive a faithful Rector,  
who will care for your people and equip them for their ministries,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Amen.*



THE NEVIL MEMORIAL CHURCH OF  
**SAINT GEORGE**

1 West Ardmore Avenue  
Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003

610.642.3500

[www.stgeorgeschurch.org](http://www.stgeorgeschurch.org)