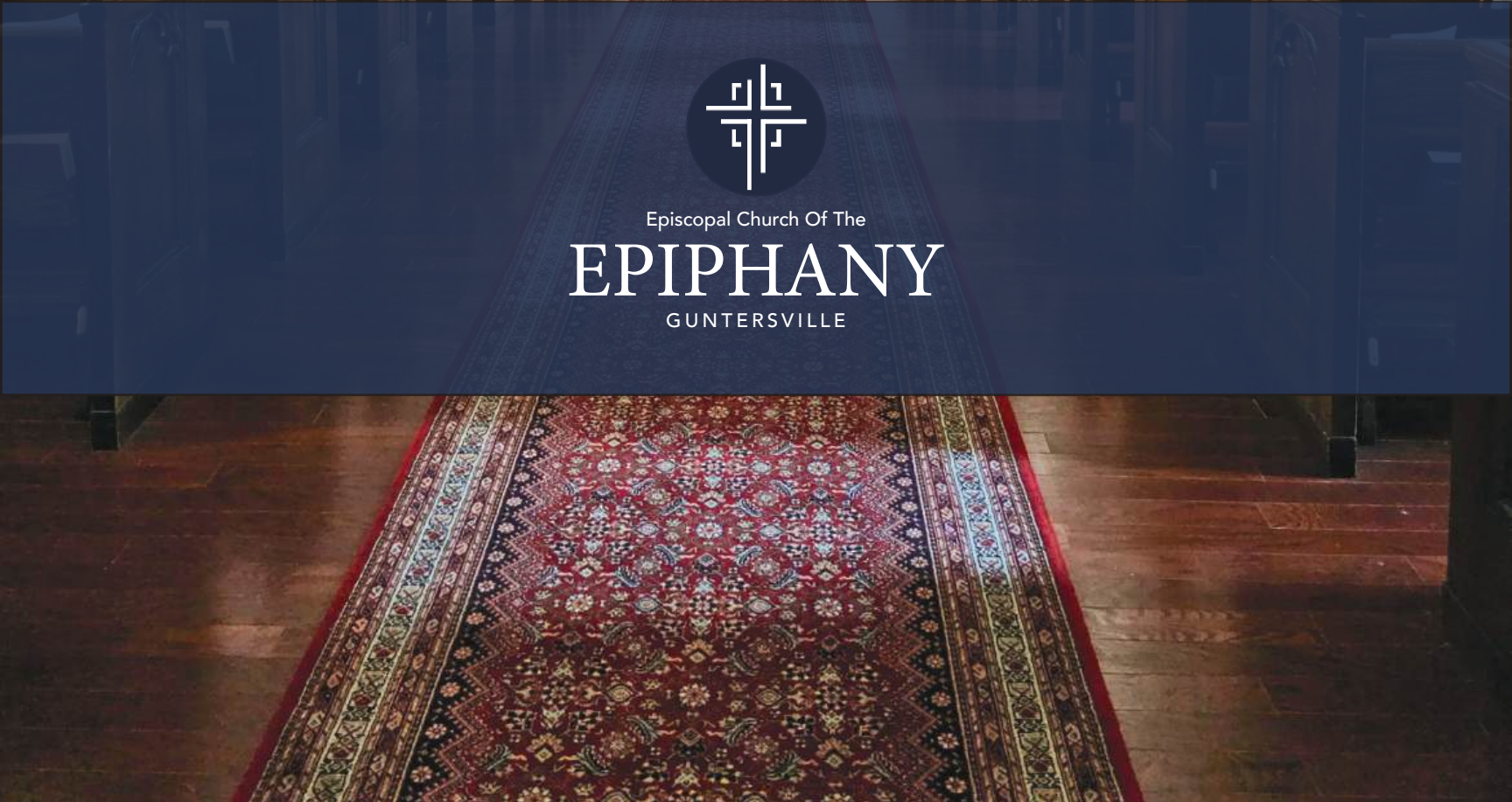




Episcopal Church Of The

EPIPHANY

GUNTERSVILLE



Welcome Home

Located in the heart of beautiful Guntersville, Alabama, our vibrant and dynamic Episcopal church is seeking a devoted and service-oriented Rector to join our faith community. With our historic church set on a picturesque campus overlooking Guntersville Lake, we are a congregation filled with warmth, hope, humor, and a vision for spiritual growth and outreach.







On June 7, 1870, Judge Louis Wyeth generously deeded four lots in Guntersville, Alabama to the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches.

On September 11, 1905, Bishop Charles Beckwith came to Guntersville to create interest in the Episcopal Church. At that time the Methodists had the only church in town. The only Episcopalians in Guntersville belonged to the Albert Ayres family but several families expressed interest. The first meetings were held on Sunday afternoons in an old wooden schoolhouse. Even though only two to three families might attend, Mr. Ayres regularly lead services. The priest in charge was a Reverend Claybrook from Huntsville. Later, the meeting place was a room over the Citizens Bank in the very heart of town.

As attendance and interest grew, it was decided that a church building was needed. In 1917, the members began to make preparations for a new building. The valuable downtown lot given by Judge Wyeth was sold and a less expensive one further south of town was purchased. The church was built in 1918 at a cost of \$1,000.

Perhaps the ladies provided the impetus needed to build the church. The "Guild," which they organized on January 21, 1918, had four members including, Mrs. Bessie Samuels, Mrs. Margaret Farrow, Mrs. Lane Moss and Mrs. Hodge Alves.

The congregation was not financially able to have a resident minister. Until 1931, the need was supplied by lay readers and visiting priests. In 1931, Captain Charles Conder of the Church Army was sent to work in Jackson and Marshall County. After Captain Conder, other Church Army men worked in Guntersville until 1939. Under this group the church began its active growth. By 1938 there were 46 confirmed members. Still, the Episcopalians could not be called well-to-do by any stretch of the imagination.

By 1941, the church was strong enough to take steps toward becoming an Organized Mission under the leadership of Reverend Robert Marlow of Gadsden, Alabama. For the next ten years, the pulpit was filled by lay readers, visiting ministers, and many students from Sewanee Theological Seminary, Sewanee.

In 1952, the Reverend Allen Sykes, who had been the student minister, became the church's first resident minister. In the same year, a pipe organ was purchased and installed in the church.

Under the leadership of Reverend Allen Sykes, plans were made for the building of a parish house. The parish house was finished and formally dedicated by the Right Reverend George M. Murray, Suffragan Bishop of Alabama.

In 1957, the church had taken a big step and applied for Parish Status and it was approved and granted by the Diocesan Convention meeting in Birmingham on January 12, 1958. The Reverend Charles K. Horn was our first official parish priest.

In 1976, Epiphany witnessed the departure of the Sand Mountain Episcopalians to their

anticipated Christ Church located in Albertville.

In 1980, Epiphany thankfully and joyously celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Due to growing anticipation of needing a new church, a three-acre site at the corner of Sunset Drive and Lusk Street was donated by the Alves family in 1984. This property overlooks beautiful Lake Guntersville and its shoreline park.

In 1990, ground was broken on Palm Sunday and the new building was complete the following December. In 1998, Epiphany completed the second phase of the building project and we have since continued substantial investments in our facilities and continued to grow as a parish family. We give thanks to God for this amazing parish, and will forever continue to be committed to this community.

I was glad when they said to me, *"Let us go to the house of the Lord"*

PSALM 122:1



Who We Are Today Blessings Continue To Abound

We are a diverse church family, encompassing a broad spectrum of ages, perspectives, and life experiences. Our growing youth group reflects the vitality of our congregation, and we offer many opportunities for education, growth and service to all ages in our parish family. We are committed to fostering a spirit of inclusivity, community engagement, and spiritual enrichment.



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

PROVERBS 22:6

Our Children and Youth Lots of Love and Laughter

We are seeing a youth program that is vibrant and growing again due to several amazing leaders who have reinstated Vacation Bible School. We have bible studies for boys and girls along with weekly youth activities, including "Cherokee Chicks," a newly formed group. We have a fully furnished and comfortable nursery for all of our parishioners to use during services and special

events. We have a youth "loft" where pre-teens and teens can hang out, play games and watch movies. We hope to increase participation and involvement throughout the parish, and we currently have quite a number of brand-new members (infants) who have arrived and who will be arriving soon. Epiphany is blessed to have a congregation that invests time with our youth.





Amazing Outreach

This ministry seeks to serve in Jesus's footsteps through hunger and humanitarian services. We provide a pantry, "God's Little Pantry," at the north end of the parking lot. It is stocked with non-perishable food and hygiene products every day by volunteers and the community at large. We assist people with rent, utilities and medical needs as they become known. Beans and rice are given out monthly along with hosting our Epiphany Café, a free community breakfast where people can meet and share the love of Jesus through communion. Under this ministry we

have also instituted semiannual appreciation breakfasts for those in our community who help others through service.

Room in the Inn: Under the auspices of our Outreach Ministry, Epiphany is one of many churches in our area who open their doors to the homeless in months of extreme weather. We welcome our neighbors on our appointed day of the month with a hot meal (often catered by a local restaurant), a warm place to sleep, breakfast in the morning and a sack lunch to take.



Altar Guild

With prayerful attention to our worship environment, dedicated members of our Altar Guild keep the church in season by caring for the altar, linens, vestments, and vessels between services.

We are proud to include youth in our worship services serving as crucifers and torch bearers.

Education

We currently offer weekly womens and mens bible studies, a book study group and a Lectionary Study every Sunday morning. Other offerings in the past have included Meditation, Centering Prayer, and a Study of Christianity that was presented by our current interim rector. Confirmation classes are held annually in preparation for the ritual of welcoming folks into the fellowship.

Kitchen

Dedicated and cheerful parishioners host weekly dinners and cater to the celebratory and funeral needs of the parish. Like any home, the kitchen is the place we all love to come together and share the warmth of the table.

We are blessed with many hands in the kitchen and we love to share the bounty with our community.



Cursillo Movement

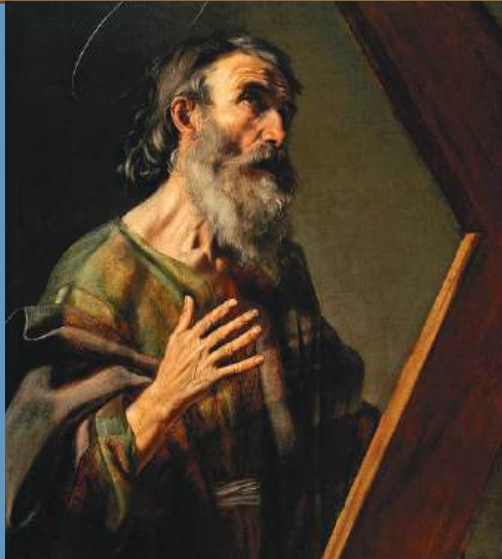
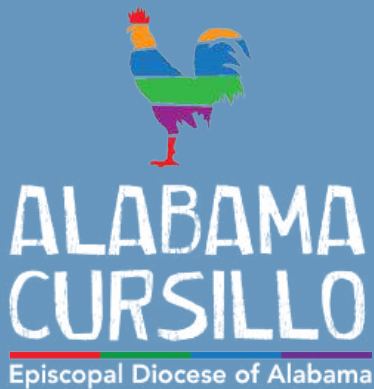
Cursillo is an opportunity to grow in faith and in spirituality. Cursillo in the Diocese of Alabama begins with a three day weekend at our Camp McDowell. During these three days, lay people and clergy share their experiences on a variety of topics related to the love of God, the Christian life, and Christian community. We share God's love and encourage each other.

Daughters of the King

The Epiphany Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King follows the Rule of the Order of Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. These women meet twice a month and encourage any woman to discern her calling to this Order. We participate in the Diocesan Spring and Fall Assemblies.

Do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart. for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity.

PROVERBS 3:1-2



Brothers of Saint Andrew

Epiphany's chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew has existed for many years. We are a group of men who gather together twice a month for breakfast, fellowship, and prayer. There are several service activities that the Brotherhood is involved in with two main events. Our July Fourth gathering, which brings neighbors from far and wide who enjoy a picnic atmosphere and fireworks on the lawn by the lake. The Thanksgiving feast

is a ministry that the Methodist Church hosts every Thanksgiving and feeds over 2000 meals for homebound, the local jail, first responders, and anyone who needs a Thanksgiving meal. The Brotherhood gathers on Wednesday to begin Thanksgiving preparations and then regroups at the church at 4:00 am on Thanksgiving Day to complete and deliver Thanksgiving meals.

Building Community



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

ACTS 2:42

When our search committee set out to learn what our parishioners here at Epiphany love the most about our parish, we were overwhelmed with lovely sentiments. Out of all the things that have drawn us to this church and kept us here there were two that repeatedly stood out. One was the thankfulness of a strong community as a church family and the other was the love of our worship services.

A Strong Community

Parishioners often express deep joy and fulfillment in being a part of our church family, appreciating the strong sense of belonging that it provides. Whether through worship, fellowship or service, members feel a deep connection not only with God but also with one another. The community's warmth and welcoming spirit make newcomers feel at home, and long-time members find it to be a place where relationships are nurtured and spiritual growth is encouraged.

Our church offers a variety of activities and ministries that help parishioners connect on a deeper level. From prayer groups and Bible studies to volunteer opportunities, there are so many ways to get involved. Many parishioners find these gatherings to be life-changing, as they allow for meaningful conversations, shared experiences, and opportunities for personal reflection. The church is seen as a space where each voice is valued, and there is an great sense of support, especially during times of personal struggle or celebration.

For many, the sense of community extends beyond Sunday services. Parishioners often form lifelong friendships, offering each other support in all aspects of life - whether it's lending a helping hand during tough times or celebrating milestones together. Through the church, they not only grow in their faith but also feel very empowered to reach out and serve others, embracing a mission that extends beyond the walls of the building.

Being a part of the Epiphany community is seen not just as membership but as a shared journey of faith, love, and service.

Love Of Our Worship Services

The parishioners of Epiphany are deeply devoted to our style of worship services, which has a sense of reverence, tradition, and spirituality. For them, the liturgy from the *Book of Common Prayer* offers a timeless structure that elevates our worship experience. The words of the prayers, hymns and creeds are familiar and comforting, creating a sense of continuity with centuries of Christian practice. There is a profound beauty in the cadence of the service, with its carefully prescribed movements and responses, that draws the faithful in a deeper connection with God.

Traditional music plays a central role in our church services, with hymns and anthems sung with passion and precision. Whether the organ swells

through the soaring walls of the church or the choir lifts their voices in harmony, the music serves as a conduit to the divine. We often express how much we treasure these familiar tunes, whether they are ancient hymns or classical compositions, all of which reflect the majesty and grandeur of the liturgy.

Taking communion is perhaps the most cherished moment in our services. The act of receiving the Eucharist brings a sense of unity, not only with Christ but with the broader community of believers. It is a sacred, intimate moment, made all the more meaningful by the solemnity and reverence surrounding it. Our church worship service, with its richness in liturgical elements and deep spiritual tradition, provides us with a space where we can experience the fullness of God's presence and grace. These services are more than just routine; they are vital part of our faith and spiritual lives, offering nourishment for the soul.



Epiphany By The Numbers

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baptized Members	285	268	264	268	266
Average Sunday Attendance	89	50	63	89	88
Number of Pledge Units	82	72	67	74	74
Total Income	272,124	252,244	268,920	295,448	297,868
Annual Expense Budget	334,136	304,979	341,951	372,526	399,723

Note. Income comes from pledges, plate offerings, grants and other sources.

Desires for A New Leader

We seek a leader who embodies Christ centered love and humility while demonstrating the organizational skills and strategic vision needed to shepherd a thriving parish. The ideal candidate will bring energy and openness to our community while cultivating relationships across all generations.

Although we understand that no one human being can be totally proficient in every one of these areas, the key attributes we are searching for in a candidate are:

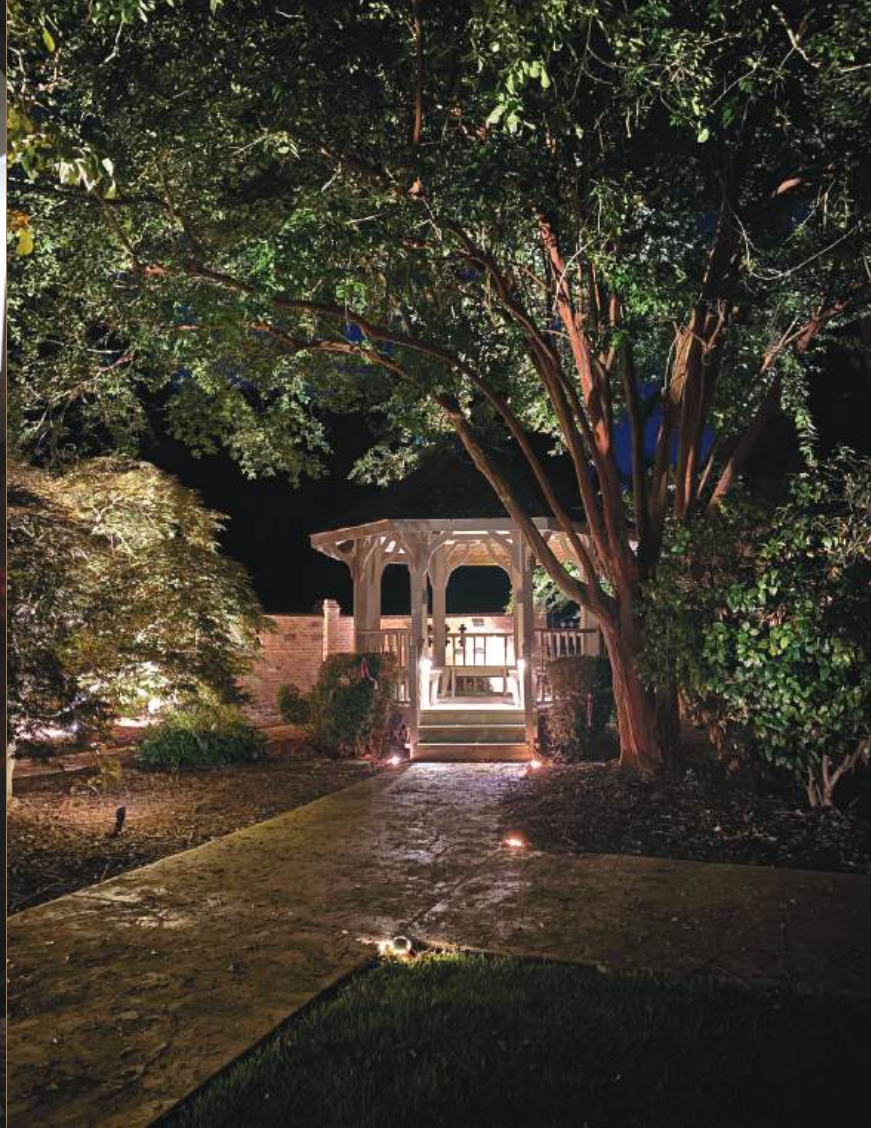
- **Service-Oriented Pastoral Care:** A heart for pastoral care, attentively ministering to the needs of individuals and the congregation. The capacity to care for all, including those who are questioning, those who have not officially joined the church, and our neighbors in need.
- **Leadership:** A dynamic leader with the ability to

guide us as we grow and deepen our ministries, particularly in youth engagement and outreach.

- **Relational and Sociable:** A warm, approachable personality that fosters connection and a sense of belonging among parishioners of all ages.
- **Christian Education:** A commitment to teaching and nurturing spiritual growth through thoughtful preaching, programs, and discipleship.
- **Community Engagement:** A strong desire to work collaboratively with the broader Gunterville community, sharing the love of Christ through outreach and partnership.
- **Organizational Skills:** Understand how to manage the complexities of parish life, with the ability to balance pastoral care, administrative responsibilities, and growth initiatives.

Prayers for New Rector





What Epiphany Guntersville Offers

We offer the opportunity to lead a committed and loving congregation with a dedicated staff and supportive vestry. Our church campus provides a peaceful and inspiring backdrop for ministry, and we are excited to work with a rector who will grow with us in faith and mission.

If you feel called to explore this opportunity, please send your resume to and cover letter to the email below. We look forward to hearing your story and discerning together how God may be leading us forward.

epiphanyguntersvillesearch@gmail.com



Lake Guntersville, Alabama

Lake Guntersville is a wonderful place to live and work. We are located in Marshall County where quite a few of our parishioners live and is the county seat. Situated on a peninsula in the lower bend of the Tennessee River, a view of the lake is available at nearly every turn and water activities abound.

Cultural activities are also on the menu for this scenic town. We have a vibrant and talented theater, an active Arts Council, a well-rounded library and a very interesting museum and cultural center where the history of Guntersville is told by exhibit and entertaining videos.

Schools are consistently rated near the top of the state. We have a brand-new high school and a modern middle school, both equipped with science, art and technical labs. Teachers are top-notch, accessible and work for their students tirelessly.

Dining out used to entail a trip to Huntsville, 37 miles away and our nearest large city, but great

options are now available throughout our county, including many with a lake view. Steaks, seafood, ethnic fare are all available within a few minutes drive.

The peninsula is surrounded by beautiful walking trails, with picnic and beach areas. A seasonal farmers' market is where you can purchase organic or truck vegetables, flowers and crafts. Our Senior Center is also located by the lake and serves as an event venue. Next door is a large Recreation Center featuring two pools and a splash pad for summer fun.

Downtown Guntersville is a vibrant place with shops, boutiques, a coffee house and other amenities, including a park where concerts are held in autumn months.

Guntersville has been listed many times in various publications as a fine place to live and retire. You will find people from all areas of the country living here, so we like to think we're quite cosmopolitan.

Our Thriving Diocese of Alabama

Welcome to the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. Whether you came to this parish profile via a web search, a mailing, or a personal invitation, I am glad that you are here. As you read through these pages prepared by a congregation who is seeking a new leadership, I hope that you will sense the warmth of our diocese, the imaginations of our congregations to envision God's dream for themselves and for their neighbors, and the desire to live faithfully into the call of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our diocese stretches north to the banks of the fertile Tennessee River Valley, south to the state capital of Montgomery, west to historic rivers and farms of the Blackbelt and east to the booming Wiregrass Region. Our common life

is enriched by a wide diversity of parishes who are drawn together in common prayer, worship, and service. Our history is deep and rich, but we are also boldly leading toward the future as our churches seek to preach the Gospel, welcome the stranger and care for the neighbor in ways both new and old. As you are discerning the next step in your ministry, know that we are praying for you. If the diocesan office can be of help to you as you look toward the future, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry, Ph.D.



The Episcopal
Church
in Alabama



Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

COLOSSIANS 3:16



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