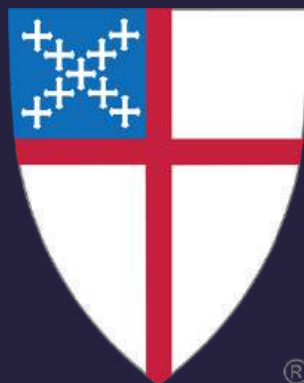




The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection



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is best described as “open-armed,” which encompasses every quality associated with the image. It is warm, welcoming, immediately inclusive, supportive, and nurturing of anyone and everyone who walks through its traditional red doors. And the connection only grows stronger because the pilgrim sees that it’s not only sincere but will be there both in the light and in the dark as we journey together. People call it a family for good reason:

The love is palpable.
Always.



History of the Church of the Resurrection

The Church of the Resurrection was commissioned as a mission on December 12, 1971, by Bishop Furman Stough. Parishioner Lois Beck suggested the church's name. The first service was held on Christmas Eve 1971 at St. James Catholic School with The Reverend Ed Lakeman as celebrant.

In its early years, the congregation met at the Lamplighter mobile home park where parishioner Josie Forman generously offered the recreation room for worship. These formative years, marked by shared responsibilities and perseverance, fostered a strong spirit of lay ministry and community involvement that remains a hallmark of the parish. The land for the church was donated by Steve and Katherine Rowe. Parishioner Jean Atkins designed the building, while two other parishioners Jim Christopher and Gary Jordan, oversaw its construction. Many furnishings were gifted from other parishes including items from the historic church of George Washington Carver in Tuskegee. The altar was a gift from The Reverend Hugh Wilmer Agricola and his wife Elsie. Soon after, a small brick house across the street was purchased for use as the parish house.



Following a period served by supply clergy the Reverend Ed Campbell became Vicar-in-Charge in 1972 and served until 1975. The Reverend Hugh Wilmer Agricola and Deacon Charles Johnson led services until the completion of the church building. The first service in the new church was held on May 23, 1976. Charles Johnson, later ordained to the priesthood in 1977, served as Deacon-in-Charge.

The Reverend Bob Smith served as rector from 1978 to 1981, followed by interim leadership from The Reverend Jack Bush. In July 1983, The Reverend Jim Wallace became rector and served for eight years. During his tenure, the parish deepened its understanding of liturgy and church history and expanded its outreach efforts. Ministries to the homeless, newborns in need, and shut-ins were established, along with local initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity and MANNA. Cursillo, Kairos, and an active Episcopal Church Women (ECW) group also took root.

By 1990, the parish house had been extensively renovated. This included the addition of the Parish Hall which continues to serve as a vibrant gathering space for parish life and hosts many events as well as community use beyond the parish. In 1991, seminarian Pat Wingo was called as Deacon-in-Charge and was ordained to the priesthood in 1992. Under his leadership, the parish experienced growth in membership and programming and further strengthened its outreach and music ministries.

Following his departure in 1996, the parish was served by The Reverend Brad Page who brought more emphasis on the liturgy. His exceptional job with pastoral care helped our parish through one of the hardest losses we have ever experienced. Jim McConnell came in 2000. Though his time at Resurrection was short, his focus on youth was a hallmark of his tenure.



The Reverend David Hall became rector in 2002. At this time the need for expanded space became evident. After his resignation in 2007, The Reverend Dr. Barry Vaughn served as interim priest. While at our Parish, he wrote and presented to the church a song entitled Rainbow City. A copy is framed and still hangs on the wall of our choir room. The Reverend Van Forman was called as rector in January 2008. His tenure saw growth in the music program, including concerts hosted for the community on Sunday afternoons. With his extensive background in music, he brought an accomplished musician and pianist as our choir director. He was also instrumental in expanding our church's gardens.

In 2009, Bishop Kee Sloan dedicated a second addition to the parish house designed by parishioner Patricia Sherman. This expansion included a renovated kitchen, additional classrooms, a nursery, and a choir room.

Deacon Kim Beckett joined the parish in 2012 and faithfully served until her departure due to family obligations. We remain grateful for her ministry and would warmly welcome another deacon to our parish. Following the retirement of The Reverend Forman, Deacon Michael Goldsmith became Deacon-in-Charge in 2013 and was ordained later that year.



During his tenure, Michael Goldsmith not only expanded youth ministry and outreach efforts but also helped grow and strengthen the overall life of the parish. A youth director position was added during this period—currently unfilled but supported in the budget. His background in music further enriched the choir, and his connection to Camp McDowell inspired the creation of a basketball court at Bethany Village.

Reverend Richelle Thompson joined us in 2020 during the challenging times of COVID . Despite the difficulties, we gathered in the garden so we could continue praying together as a community. She led an outstanding weekly Bible study, offering guidance and encouragement that helped deepen our faith. During her time with us, we purchased Christopher Commons, a house located directly beside the Parish Hall. This acquisition provides important space and flexibility for future expansion and ministry development.

As the Church of the Resurrection looks ahead to new leadership, its story continues to unfold. With a blend of long-time Episcopalians and newer members, the parish draws on a rich diversity of experience, positioning it for a vibrant and faithful future.



LITURGY

The Church of the Resurrection is worship-centered and generally prefers Rite II liturgies, except in Advent and Lent when Rite I is often used. Historically, Holy Eucharist has been 10:00 am on Sunday mornings and at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings. At times, we observe both Morning and Evening Prayer.

In years past, young children attend Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall. They then join the congregation for communion.

Music is very important in the life of Resurrection. The choir works hard to present songs, anthems, and at times special programs appropriate to the liturgical calendar and significant to the spiritual atmosphere of the service. The annual service of Lessons and Carols has been enjoyed by our parish and the larger community for over twenty years.

Over the years, The Church of the Resurrection has adopted different mottos. Presently, "Choose Love" appears on bumper stickers and coffee mugs.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

At the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Sunday School is offered for all ages. Once a week, Bible study is offered and led by the clergy. Seasonal groups meet during Advent and Lent. Groups like ECW, Daughters of the King, men's groups and reunion groups help members receive encouragement in their life journey. We also offer Bible School each summer for our younger members and their friends in our community. Christian Formation is empowering all to love and serve God.





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- We believe the children are the future of our church. We hope to grow our youth ministries to serve ECR's young minds and hearts and to attract even more young families to our fellowship.
- The music ministry is a vital part of our worship at ECR. We are committed to expanding our adult choir and establishing a youth choir to sing at designated services and participate in special events.
- ECR strives to increase financial and stewardship opportunities as we anticipate growth. More resources would give us the opportunity to increase service to our church family and the community beyond.
- ECR is home to a broad age span of parishioners, which fosters openness and understanding of different perspectives across the generations. The new rector will recognize the strength of this diversity but will also understand that it carries a corresponding challenge to encourage a sense of community and shared vision in an ever-changing world.



ECR STRENGTHS AND CHARACTER

- Our church enjoys a rich prayer life and a strong desire to deepen our spirituality through connection with each other and with those whom Christ seeks and who seek him in return.
- ECR has a very strong outreach program. We wish to keep those strong and reach out further into our community to minister to those in need.
- If we are known for anything, it is for our welcoming, nurturing, family-like nature, which relies on a basic good sense of humor, the ability to laugh at ourselves, and a strong commitment to inclusivity.
- The Church of the Resurrection is a financially healthy parish with no debt.



RESURRECTION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Back-to-School Supplies and Clothes

The committee contacts the administration at four area elementary schools for needed supplies such as paper towels, hand sanitizers, socks, and belts. A group from the committee then shops and delivers before the start of the school year. In addition, clothes are provided throughout the year for students whose day might be interrupted if they needed a change of clothing.

Rice and Beans

ECR's food pantry program is held the third Saturday of each month. In addition to prayer, we share two pounds of rice and two pounds of uncooked beans, along with a recipe, with each of the 90-100 families who come each week. Other items like canned soup, macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter are also offered. Although a line item in our budget, Rice and Beans is also a ministry to which our parishioners freely "give to overflowing."



Christmas Families

ECR provides gifts for two or three anonymous families each Christmas. The committee receives a profile including the children's ages and any requests they may have. Since last year's budget was small, the committee reached out to the parish for monetary donations. As usual, the members were generous and we were able to fill an extra stocking or two.

Way of the Cross

Way of the Cross is a well-established ministry in Gadsden that supports individuals experiencing homelessness or hardship by offering meals, showers, and essential toiletries, all provided with compassion, dignity, and respect. Church of the Resurrection parishioners serve as volunteers with Way of the Cross Ministry helping to prepare and provide meals for approximately 50–80 people. Just as importantly, volunteers take time to serve the food and welcome each guest with care and hospitality. Our parish is honored to participate in this important outreach that meets both physical needs and human connection.



STAIR Gadsden

STAIR Gadsden is an after-school program that provides one-on-one reading tutoring to students at Oscar Adams Elementary School in East Gadsden where each child receives an hour of focused support twice a week. Through this consistent, individualized attention, students are given the opportunity to build confidence, strengthen literacy skills and develop a greater love of learning. Parishioners from Church of the Resurrection join with volunteers from other local churches to support and sustain this meaningful ministry as they work together to make a lasting impact in the lives of local children and their families.

Pams Pods

Named in honor of a member of Resurrection since its inception, Pam's Pod continues her legacy of service. During her many years as Alms Bearer, Pam was dedicated to loving others—a mission this ministry upholds by collecting laundry detergent and supplies. These donations support programs outside our church that provides essential laundry services to the homeless population.



MANNA

MANNA was founded by members of the Church of the Resurrection who recognized a need for meal delivery within the community. Although it now operates as an independent nonprofit, it remains close to our hearts. Many of our parishioners continue to volunteer their time delivering meals to local residents who are elderly, homebound, or have special needs. They offer not only nourishment but also a friendly face that fosters connection, supports physical and emotional well-being, and helps ease the isolation experienced by those with limited resources.

Sawyerville Day Camp

For several years, our members have donated supplies to Sawyerville, a phenomenal diocesan outreach program. Beach towels and swimsuits have topped the list of donations, as well as monetary donations for whatever the camp needs. Without question, the camp gives back to ECR's Youth when they volunteer a week of their summer vacation to serve the underserved in West Alabama. According to their annual report, the Youth's giving time and effort is a small investment compared to the intangibles they reap from the experience.



INREACH PROGRAMS

Altar Guild

One of the least recognized but most important services is the Altar Guild. Every week, the servants who create the table and its surroundings are charged with the duty of sanctifying our space as congregants. They also meet as needed, care for the linens, and maintain the supply of the bread and wine. A special long-term project completed recently by Altar Guild is the exquisite needlepoint Bishop's Chair, which was christened by Bishop Kee Sloan on January 21, 2018.

DOK

The Cross and Crown Chapter of Daughters of the King (DOK) was instituted at Resurrection in 2012, its name inspired by our beautiful stained glass window. Women communicants who complete a 12-week course enter the Order to serve Christ through prayer, service, and evangelism. All women are invited to complete the course. DOK sponsors Quiet Days, helps in pastoral care, sends notes and cards to those on the prayer list, and provides embroidered banners for baptisms. At times, they will take on special commitments to provide for families and individuals who are in both acute and ongoing need of care. Their vows to pray, serve, and evangelize are taken very seriously by those who choose to become members.



ECW

The Episcopal Church Women at Resurrection are extremely visible and active in the life of the church. Led by “The Trinity,” an affectionate name for three hard-working women who coordinate the effort, the numerous servant-volunteers take on the tremendous task of providing food and flowers, setting up tables, decorating, and other forms of pastoral care for the whole church, sometimes at a moment’s notice. These tireless servants of our church also handle receptions for baptisms, confirmations, funerals, and the Bishop’s visits with efficiency and grace.

Music Program

The choir at Resurrection is composed of a committed core of people dedicated to praising God through music. Choristers process and recess in the service while they lead the congregation in traditional hymns and liturgical songs. Led by the Choirmaster, the choir sings anthems and spiritual songs during appropriate interludes in the service, such as the offering and the Eucharist. Lessons and Carols, a special program prepared for months and performed every Christmas by the choir, is a highlight of the Holy Season for the whole community.



Parish Life Committee

This committee helps foster connection and fellowship within our church by organizing a variety of beloved gatherings throughout the year. From Sunday morning coffee and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to the Lenten Lunch Series, Easter potluck, Supper Club sign-ups, newcomer meals, and the cherished Parish Retreat, there is always an opportunity to come together. In fact, we're always looking for new reasons to gather and celebrate community. One of our most well-known traditions is the annual cheese ball sale, a favorite both within the parish and in the wider community.

The Garden Committee

In the grounds that surround Resurrection are found numerous gardens... some large and some small. The Galbreath Garden, the Troxell Garden and the Petri Garden were designed in remembrance of former members. Our largest garden also has individual areas in memory or thanksgiving for former members. Resurrection happily shares its gardens with the surrounding community and enjoys being a part of the community's milestones and seeing our grounds proudly displayed as the beautiful backdrop for families, proms, and senior portraits.



Worship Ministry

Many opportunities for service exist within the Worship Ministry. Each Sunday, Lectors read the Bible lessons, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) aid in serving the Eucharist, Acolytes assist the Celebrant, and Greeters make sure all feel welcomed and included.

Children's Church

Each Sunday, as the congregation gathers for worship, our youngest members are welcomed into the nursery where they play, learn, and hear about the Lord in a caring environment. When it is time for Communion, they return to the church to rejoin the congregation and share in the service. This ministry is made possible by our dedicated volunteers and nursery staff, who lovingly care for and nurture our children each week.

Scholarship Fund

ECR students who are eligible may apply for scholarship money to be used for college tuition. The Scholarship Committee reviews the students' applications and awards the money upon their graduation from high school.



The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is uniquely situated in both Gadsden and Rainbow City. Gadsden, the largest city in Etowah County and the county seat, has a population of approximately 33,000; Rainbow City, a suburb of Gadsden, has a population of approximately 10,000. Both Gadsden and Rainbow City sit on the Coosa River, in the northeast portion of the State of Alabama. We are within one hour of Birmingham; two hours of Atlanta; and three hours of Nashville. Etowah County has a population of approximately 100,000. It is the smallest county in Alabama geographically as such the entire county has a sense of community.

The median household income in Etowah County is \$56,000 to \$60,000 with the average household income being \$73,295. Our largest employers include Gadsden Regional Medical Center (1,300+), Etowah County Board of Education (1,200+), and Koch Foods (1,100+). Currently, Minth Group is redeveloping a former steel plant to an automobile parts manufacturing facility which will provide approximately 1,300 new jobs to our community. Our unemployment rate is at 3.4%, below the national average (4.3%). Kiwanis, Rotary, Elks, and Masons all have active chapters in Gadsden/Etowah County.



With 555 square miles of mountains, valleys, forests, rivers and lakes, Etowah County is one of the most diverse areas for outdoor sports and recreation in the southeast. Our climate allows for outdoor activities year-round. Noccoalula Falls Park features a 90-foot waterfall and is one of "America's most stunning natural wonders" (The Weather Channel). The park also includes: a pioneer village, animal habitat, walking trails, sightseeing train, playground, mini-golf, picnic pavilions, war memorial, RV and tent campground, cabins and meeting facilities., and seasonal light display that brings the community together. The Black Creek Trail system offers more than 15 trails of varying intensity for walking, hiking and mountain biking.

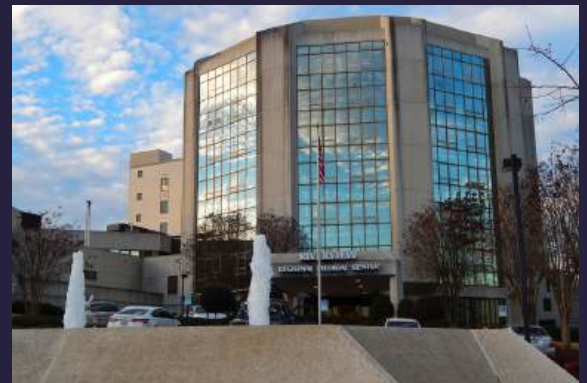
Along the Coosa River are boardwalks, piers, boat ramps and marinas which host many local, state and national fishing tournaments. Within a short distance are several award-winning golf courses, including part of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Our municipalities have been investing in outdoor recreation by building and renovating several outdoor sports complexes which are utilized for among other events and activities: youth soccer, baseball, and flag football as well as pickleball facilities. The City of Gadsden also provides youth basketball and football programs. A new indoor/outdoor Athletic Center is currently being built in Gadsden which will include an aquatic center.



Gadsden has a thriving downtown area with local retail shops and restaurants lining picturesque Broad Street. Our community is served by multiple arts programs including the Gadsden Museum of Art, the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, which is the home of Imagination Place (children's museum) and Downtown Dance Conservatory. First Friday is a monthly celebration of community where Broad Street is closed to traffic allowing for live entertainment, special events, food trucks and artist set. The Mort Glosser Amphitheater, a WPA project and National Historic Place, is a local landmark and home to multiple concert series throughout the year.

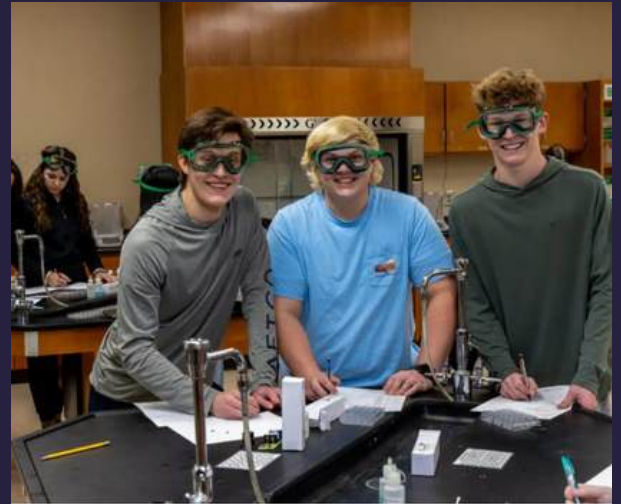
Healthcare

There are two major health care centers serving Etowah County: Gadsden Regional Medical Center and Riverview Regional Medical Center. Etowah County is also home to Northeast Orthopedics (NEO), with multiple orthopedic and physical therapy offices through northeast Alabama and Gadsden Cancer Clinic.



Education

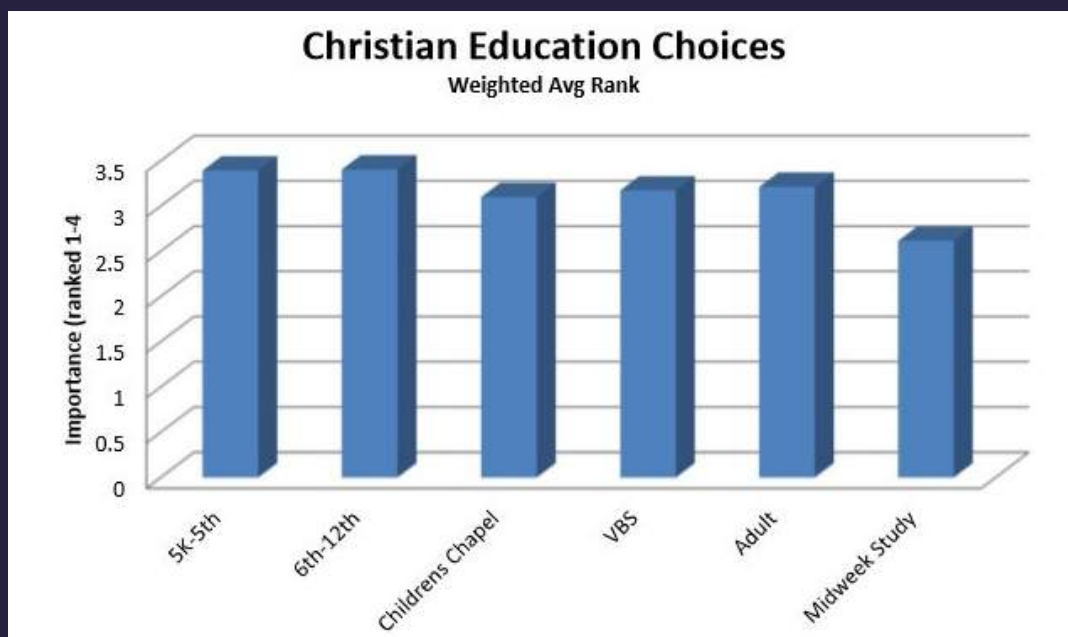
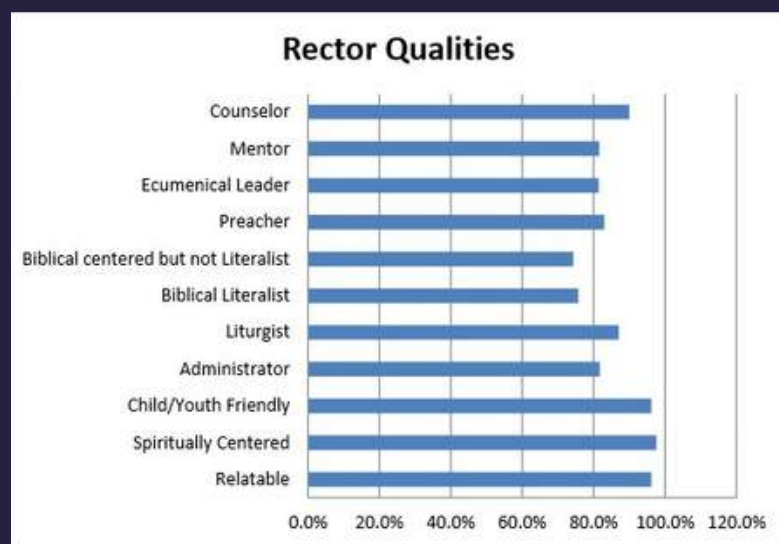
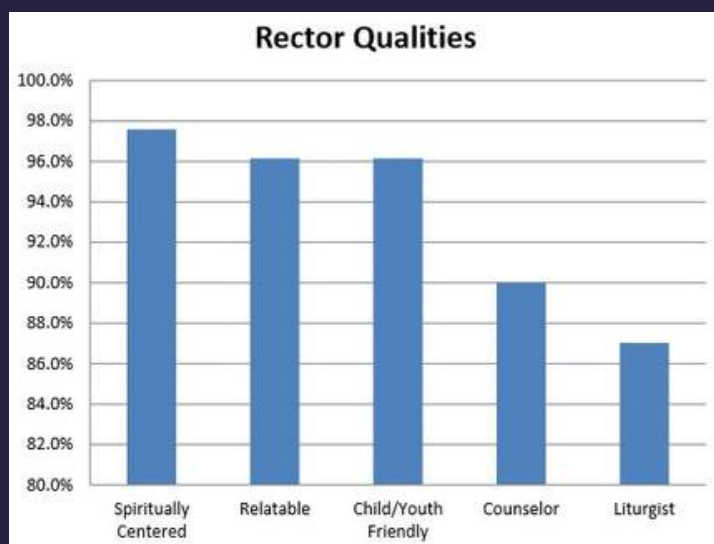
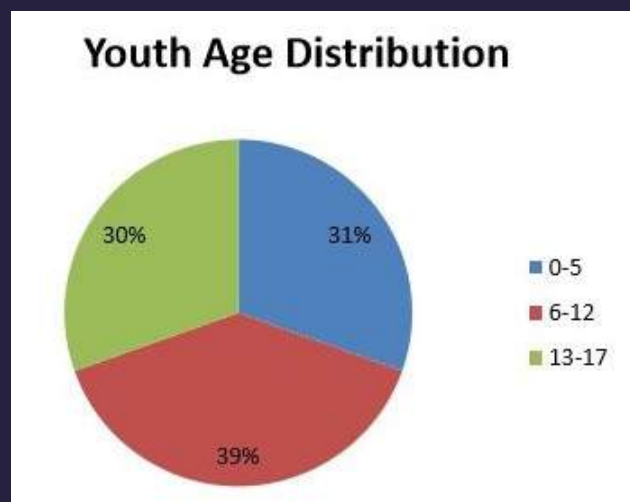
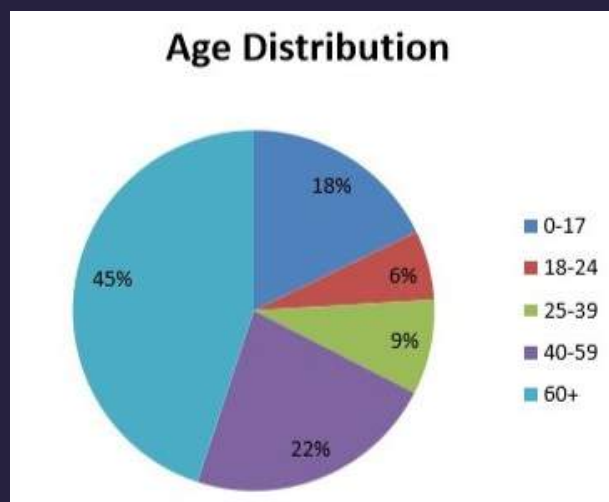
There are three public school systems in Etowah County: Attalla City Schools, Etowah County Schools and Gadsden City Schools. Eura Brown Elementary, within the Gadsden City School District, is currently ranked the #5 elementary school in Alabama by *U.S. News and World Report*. It is consistently an award-winning elementary school and is located a half a mile from The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. Higher education opportunities in the area include Gadsden State Community College and Jacksonville State University (neighboring Calhoun County). JSU recently opened the JAX State STEAM Institute in Rainbow City; it is home to the only Challenger Learning Center in Alabama.











All information based on the 52 responses to parish survey

FINANCIALS

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Average Attendance	90	93	62	66
Average Dollars per Giving Unit	60 @\$3619	61 @ \$3797	46@\$4851	50@\$4668

Income	2023-2025	Expenses	2023-2025
Pledges	226,480.50	Salaries and Benefits	160,525.22
Plate	2,948.01	Administration	29,785.27
Other	39,255.77	Buildings	38,277.23
		Christian Formation	1,035.73
		Outreach	1,842.22
		Parish Life	3,222.26
		Worship	2,651.37
		Diocesan Covenant	23,428.32
Total	268,684.28	Total	260,767.61

Income	2023-2025	Expenses	2023-2025
Pledges	226,480.50	Rector (Including Pension)	111,266.48
Plate	2,948.01	Personnel (non-Rector)	49,258.73
Other	39,255.77	Outreach/Operations	76,814.08
		Covenant	23,428.32
Total	268,684.28	Total	260,767.61



