

A red double door with a grid of rectangular panels. The door is closed, and the handle is visible in the center. The text is overlaid on the door.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

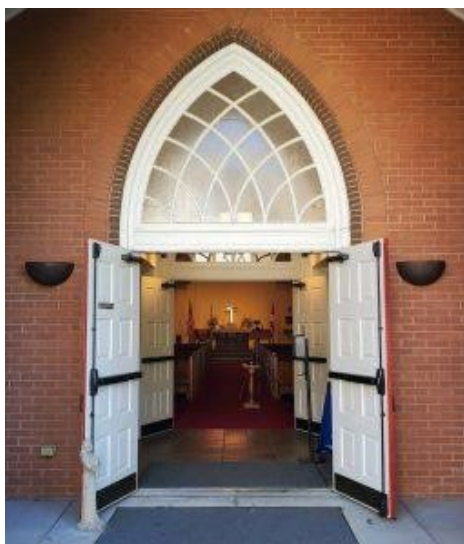
“It’s the PEOPLE!”

www.stmatthewssnellville.org



*“May the doors be wide enough to welcome all who
seek You in search of love, compassion and hope.
May the doors be too narrow to let in envy, jealousy
or prejudice”.*

Amen.



Our Past and Present

History



In April of 1979, 58 people met with Bishop Child to discuss the organization of an Episcopal church in Snellville. A formal organizational meeting was held in July of that year, at which time St. Matthew's was given its name.

[Check out our timeline of significant events at St. Matthew's](#)

Campus

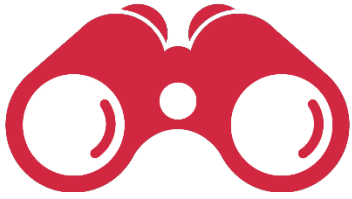


At St. Matt's, we consider ourselves STEWARDS of our campus, and take a shared responsibility towards its upkeep. We organize regular "parish workdays" where members gather on a Saturday and take care of things both inside and outside the buildings – projects include a deep cleaning of the kitchen, washing windows, cleaning out supply closets, weeding the gardens, spreading mulch, and planting flowers and bulbs.

Some recent major improvements over the past few years include a new pavilion, a new roof, a sewer line tie-in (no more septic!), a refurbished undercroft/youth space, an updated shaded playground for the preschool, an AV booth for livestreaming, 2 new AC units, repairs made to our pipe organ (Rogers 950 classic), and a meditation walk.

[Take a PHOTO TOUR of our campus](#)

Looking Ahead



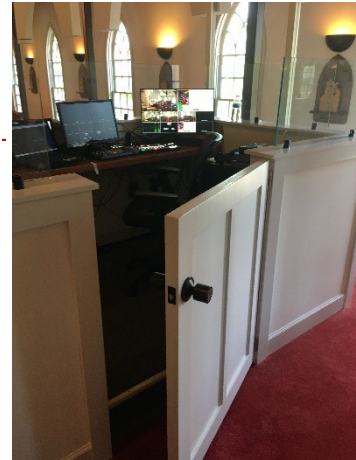
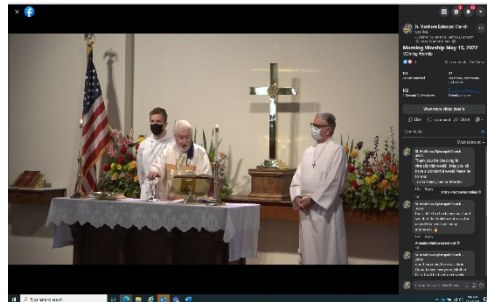
In April 2021, we started worshipping in person, after over a year of being closed due to the pandemic. Our Brotherhood of St. Andrew worked together to construct a pavilion in the yard behind the church that is large, inviting, and fully wired for electricity and wifi.

We were able to start worshipping together using this pavilion. A very special moment was when we were able to finally celebrate our first outdoor Easter Sunrise Service in person after a year apart. We met at the pavilion before sunrise and had an amazing celebration of Jesus' resurrection as the sun rose over the trees, with the birds singing. The joy on the faces of all that attended could be seen despite the face coverings!

HOW WE ADAPTED

We are reaching community members near and far. We established/refined these mechanisms during the pandemic shut-down to help **prepare us for the future of church:**

- Audio recordings of sermons since 2018
- **Livestream services and special events via FB and You Tube**
- **Permanent AV booth**
- Realm app for online giving and mass communication
- **Drive-through communion during height of pandemic**
- Outside pavilion fully wired for multi-use
- Custom web site managed internally
- Social media: Instagram, Facebook
- Zoom for committee meetings
- GroupMe app for youth correspondence



LEADERSHIP

Clergy and Staff:

Rev. Dr. Patricia Miller – Interim Rector
Matthew Edwards – Organist and Music Director
Susan Carson – Parish Administrator
Lindsay Wheeler – Registrar



2022 Vestry

Trisha Voiles – Sr. Warden/Stewardship
Jack Denton – Junior Warden, Finance
Mindy Barringer – Communications/Technology
Carolyn Coil – Christian Education
John Eberhart – Buildings and Grounds
Sharon Hansen – Inreach
Jay Jones – Youth
Joan Kengla – Worship
Judith Kimsey – Long Range Planning
Clay Olbon – Fellowship
Karen Wilson – Outreach



2022 Nominating Committee

Bernie Waller, Committee Chair
Crystal Furman, Secretary
Bruce Bowen
John Byron
Steve Charron
Oscar De Leon
Mara DiGiovanni
Mark Franke
Nancy Griner
Susan Jung
Heather Pratt





St. Matthew's is a worshipping community. Our rich variety of programs and ministry grows from a shared life of worship of Jesus Christ. Worship, especially Holy Eucharist, is central to who we are and how we (with God's help) stay anchored in Christ.

Sunday worship services are generally Rite II prayer book-based with the use of approved supplemental liturgies. During Lent and Advent, we typically make use of Rite I. Our services include a mix of mid to high church using processional crosses and acolytes. Music is a part of both of our Sunday services. We will also incorporate incense on high Holy days. During the pandemic shut down, we incorporated outdoor services under the pavilion, evening services in our lower gardens, online morning prayer and evening compline, and services around a bonfire.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES:

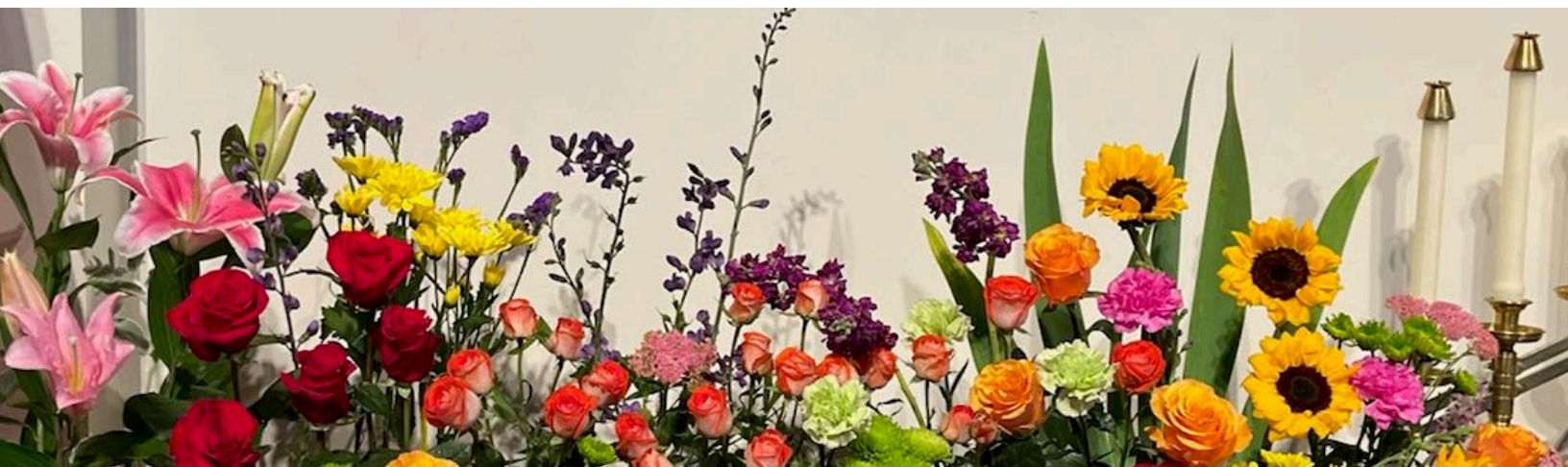
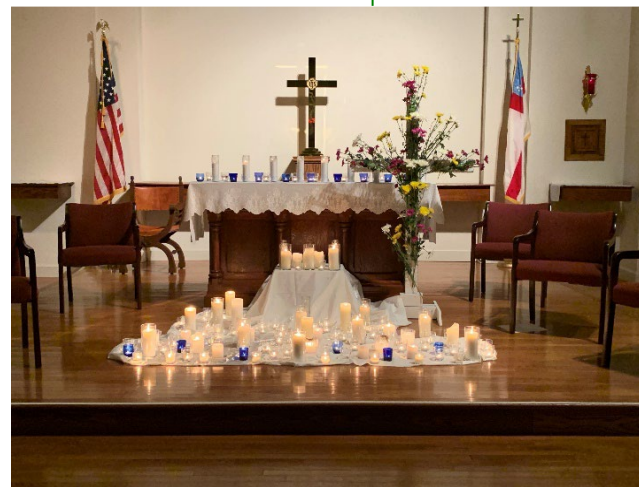
- Lay Readers
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Vergers and Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Bread Guild
- **Acolytes**
- Music
- **Flower Guild**

WORSHIP COMMUNITIES:

- Centering Prayer
- Wednesday Morning Healing Service
- **Brotherhood of St. Andrew**
- Daughters of the King
- Order of St. Luke
- Knit, Crochet, & Pray

SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS:

- Blessing of the Animals
- Easter Pageant
- Lessons and Carols
- Pentecost
- Youth Christmas Pageant
- **Evening of Remembrance**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



We continued to support the growth of our parishioners through Christian Education offerings via Zoom during the pandemic. Beginning in Fall of 2021, we were back in the church offering these classes face to face to as many as possible.

Our Youth curriculum focuses on equipping and training our **young people** for adulthood and ministry. Each class is one step in what will become a lifelong journey.

The goal of the St. Matthew's **Adult Christian Education** Ministry is to provide opportunities for personal growth that will meet spiritual needs and provide choices, such as special learning communities and small groups which foster fellowship and unity.

While learning in small and large group communities is most important, connecting those communities to the larger parish is also vital to the health of our congregation. There are times during the year that all group classes will do educational activities together, specifically during seasonal programs, such as Advent and Lent.



ST. MATTHEW'S PRESCHOOL



St. Matthew's Preschool provides care and development for each child's greater potential—spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially. Classroom activities include art, math, language, motor skills, playground activities, story time and free play.

St. Matthew's Preschool and Kindergarten has served Snellville, GA and the surrounding community since 1985. Over the past 37 years we have grown from just a small handful of students to more than 90 today. We strive to continue our original mission: **to provide a fun, loving, nurturing, and educational environment for young children in our community.**

We have seen an influx in the number of families enrolling their children in our program. For the upcoming 2022-23 school year registration, we filled 85 of the available 92 slots within the first 2 weeks of opening. Currently, all spots are filled, and the waitlist has over 60 students. As a result, we are exploring how the preschool could possibly add 12-14 students through offering an additional class.

We employ up to 20 staff members each school year. All staff are CPR/First aid trained and fulfill the Safeguarding God's Children Diocesan requirement. Our staff are multi-faceted, multi-talented, and ethnically diverse representing the demographics of the community, and the reason why St. Matthew's Preschool and Kindergarten is a true Outreach program of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

Our students and their families enjoy many special programs throughout the year including:

- Thanksgiving feast
- Christmas program
- Dad and Mom events
- Luau
- **Graduation Ceremony**





The youth ministry is where our middle school and high school students can connect, have fun, and build their faith in Jesus. We value fellowship along with service to our church and community.

We encourage the youth to participate in church life, including a Sunday youth service during the Pentecost season and performing the Christmas and Easter Passion plays. Our primary outreach effort is assisting the South Gwinnett Co-op food bank by preparing lunch bags for children delivered during the summer and assisting in food distribution at the co-op.

We meet Sunday evenings for dinner, group activities, and a scripture lesson. The youth holds their annual weekend retreat each August. We also organize gatherings throughout the year for movie nights, pool parties, and other fellowship activities.

Parents and guardians are the primary influence in a child's life, and they are also a part of the youth ministry. We all work to help strengthen and build a future for our youth with Jesus Christ at the center.

Youth activities throughout the year include:

- **New Beginnings (diocesan retreat for middle school youth)**
- Happening (diocesan retreat for high school youth)
- Youth retreat (annually in August)
- Mother's Day recognition
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (youth fundraising event)**
- Mall of Georgia movie nights
- Volunteering
- Youth Sunday (worship service organized by the youth)
- Christmas play
- Passion play
- Roller skating
- Laser Tag



OUTREACH



The mission of the Outreach Committee is to serve Christ by matching the unique gifts and talents of the parish to the special needs of the greater community, to love its children, and to care for the unfortunate.

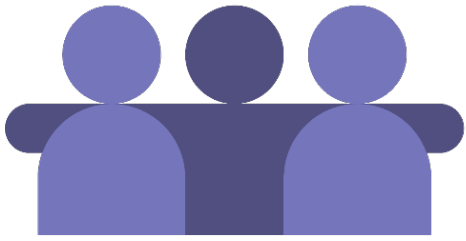
We have an active Outreach Ministry. This Ministry serves families in Gwinnett County and the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta by engaging in various activities and fundraisers to reach families and individuals living on the margins. Several parishioners volunteer their time and talents for these worthy causes. Some community services that fall under the Outreach Ministry include:

- Gwinnett Southeast Food Co-op - <http://www.segwinnetcoop.org>
- Family Promise - <http://www.familypromise.org>
- Church of the Common Ground - <https://www.churchofthecommonground.org>
- Delmar Gardens Senior Home - <https://www.delmargardens.com/>
- Mending the Gap - <https://www.mending-the-gap.org>
- Partnership with Gwinnett/Snellville Police Department
- FODAC - <https://fodac.org>
- Hunger Walk - <https://www.acfb.org/events/hunger-walk-run>
- Habitat for Humanity

In addition, the Rector's Discretionary Fund regularly helps with utilities or housing needs after consultation with Gwinnett County Co-op and other agencies and staff.



FELLOWSHIP



St. Matthew's is not only a shared place of worship and praise; it is also a bustling hub of activity, where parishioners gather to socialize and get to know one another better. Our mission is to create a fun, loving environment where our lives are respected, shared and celebrated and our common goals are strengthened through Christ Our Lord.

Our Fellowship ministry plans events for the involvement of all parishioners. These events are designed to celebrate our parish life and to gather in fellowship.

Some of our regular events include:

- Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Valentine's Day Celebration
- Ice Cream Socials
- **Lunch Bunch**
- Trivia Nights
- St. Matthew's Day Celebration
- **ECW Halloween Bingo**
- Thanksgiving Sunday Luncheon
- Cookies and Cider for Lessons and Carols
- Annual Meeting Fish Fry
- Chili Cookoff
- Restaurant Foyers
- Car Show



DEMOGRAPHICS



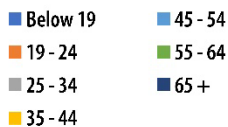
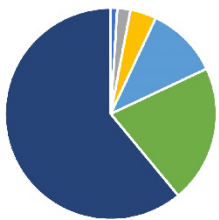
When St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was established in 1979, Gwinnett County was 94% Caucasian. Today, Gwinnett County is one of the most diverse counties in the country. One in four Gwinnettians is foreign-born, and more than a third are college graduates. The demographics of our church reflect both the diversity of the area, as well as the profile of the "typical" Episcopal Church.

Newer members are more closely reflecting the changing demographics of the community. In recent years, we are seeing more foreign-born, more minorities, and more young people with school-age children join our church family. We encourage diversity in our parish. To borrow a slogan from the Episcopal Campus Ministry at nearby University of Georgia, "It takes all kinds, and so do we."

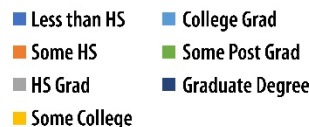
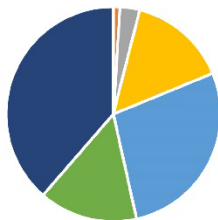
DATA FROM THE PARISH SURVEY

N=132

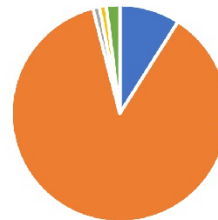
AGE



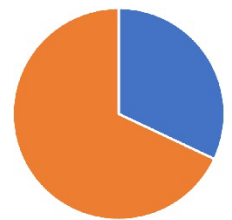
EDUCATION LEVEL



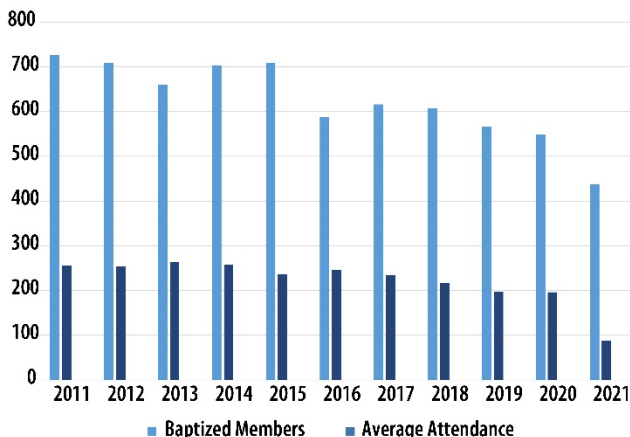
ETHNIC BACKGROUND



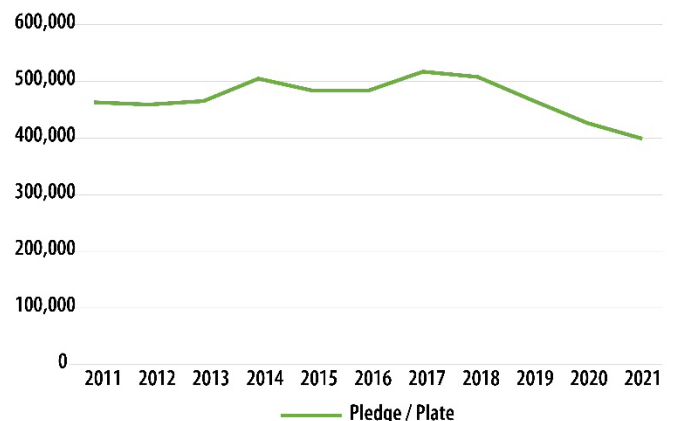
GENDER



SERVICE PARTICIPATION



GIVING TRENDS





Excellent stewardship of resources has been the cornerstone of St. Matthew's financial stability for many years.

Our objectives include:

- Providing long-term financial stability to the parish
- Adding additional staff to meet the needs of a growing parish
- Funding new ministries to enhance the spiritual life of the parish
- Maintaining buildings and grounds to prevent deterioration and costly repairs

Financial History & Projections

	2019	2020	2021	2022 (budget)
General Operating Revenue*	\$468,114	\$426,836	\$408,710	\$377,600
Expense as % of General Operating Revenue*				
total staff expense	52.40%	72.69%	36.69%	42.78%
property expense	20.15%	15.24%	21.70%	27.2%
outside disbursements**	11.66%	12.59%	13.95%	12.96%
office expense	7.87%	5.00%	7.40%	7.30%
congregational life	3.57%	0.92%	2.61%	4.57%
surplus (deficit)	0.98%	-10.42%	8.53%	0.26%

**an additional 10-12% is typically received for specific funding*

***includes diocesan assessment*

THE RIGHT LEADER FOR ST. MATTHEW'S

Part of our discernment process includes the results from a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). This is a reliable tool designed to provide an in-depth look at the experiences, perceptions, and aspirations of a church's congregation. Based on our members' feedback and our vision for the future of St. Matthew's, we have been able to gather traits and information that we consider are important to our next leader.



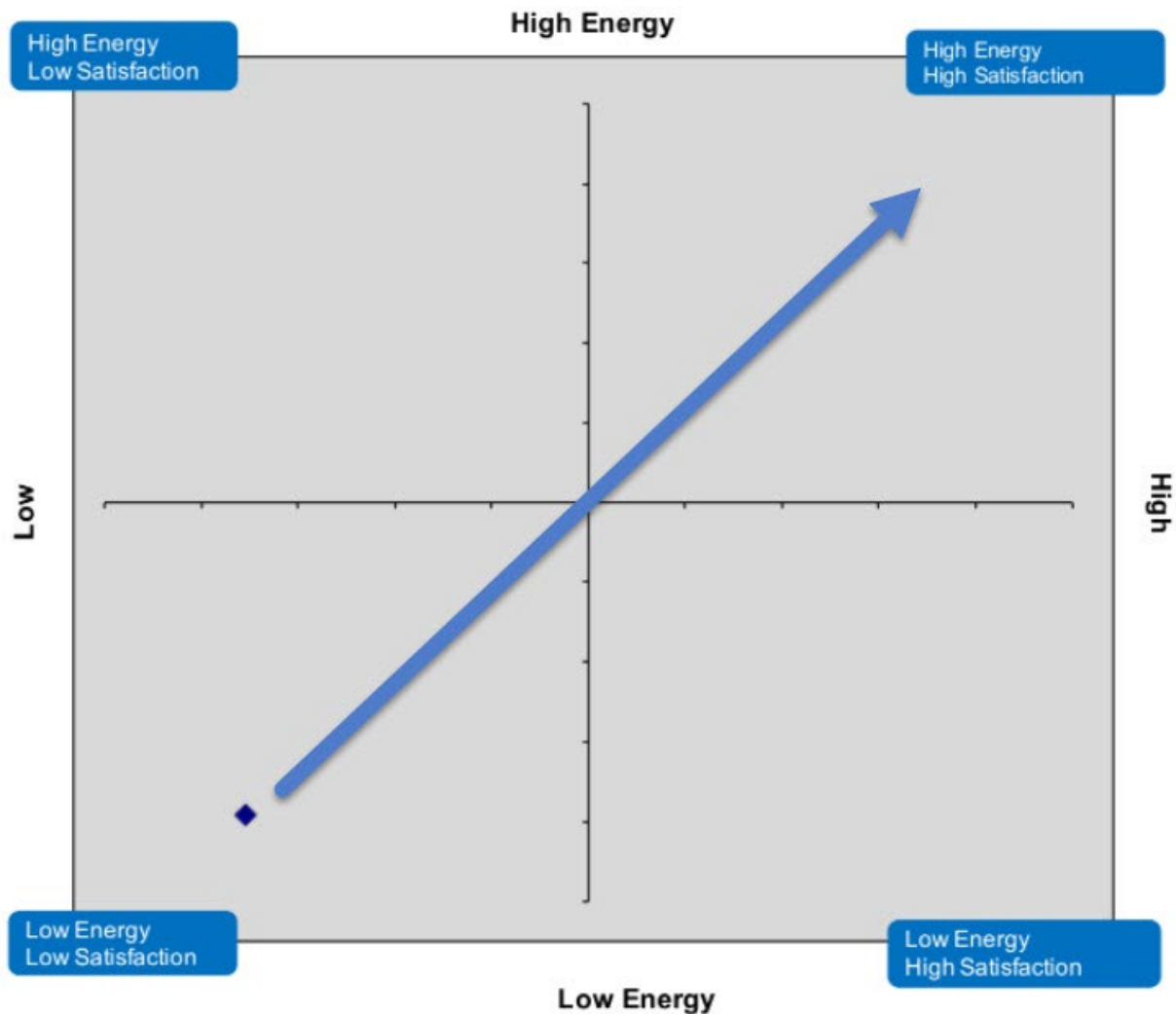
We are searching for a leader to help us:

- **CREATE** a worship experience that engages, enriches, and inspires our spiritual lives.
- **PROMOTE** a church experience that helps every parishioner realize how best to contribute their talents to the church and our wider community.
- **FOSTER** a church experience where parishioners are encouraged to communicate with one another their ideas and needs in a respectful and caring manner.
- **EMPOWER** parishioners to lead and support the clergy in areas related to pastoral care.

Our members value a leader who is focused on worship, care for parishioners, and building and supporting programs that enrich the congregation's life. We are searching for a leader who listens deeply, with an open heart and makes courageous decisions with good intentions.



How can you help us grow in the right direction?



Our church has potential to grow in both energy and satisfaction. Some important drivers are:

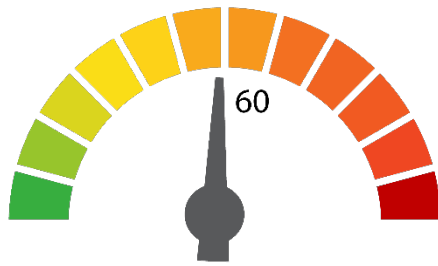
- **Persons who serve as leaders** in our church are representative of the membership.
- **The whole spirit in our congregation** makes people want to get as involved as possible.
- **Our former Rector articulated a clear vision for our church** and kept it before the people in a compelling way.
- **In important decisions in our church**, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.

It is important to note that there is a perspective within our church that a small group makes the decisions in our church and this small group has a differing opinion from the whole. Additional communication from leadership will be important to ensure that the perspectives of the congregation at large are being considered when decisions are being made with extra efforts to share how leadership has arrived at final decisions would be important to changing this perspective. Communication is the key!

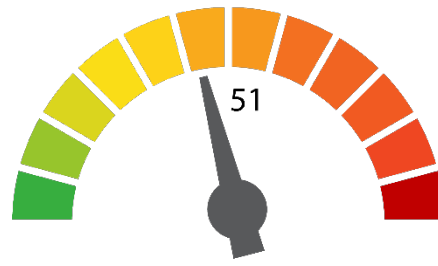
Performance Indicators

The following eight Performance Indicators show where we are in relationship to other churches. A ranking is considered average if it is between 30 - 70. We will be striving to move the "needle" closer to 70.

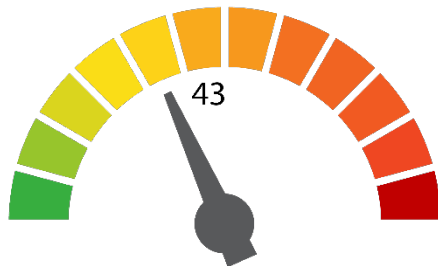
Four areas are considered Average and provide opportunities of strengths to further build on:



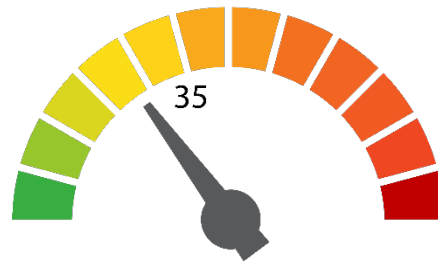
SPIRITUAL VITALITY



HOSPITALITY

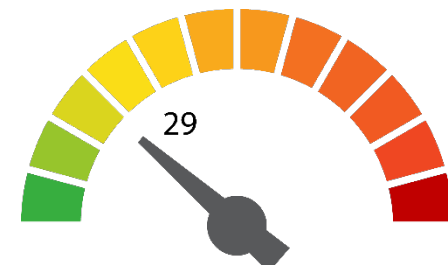


ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

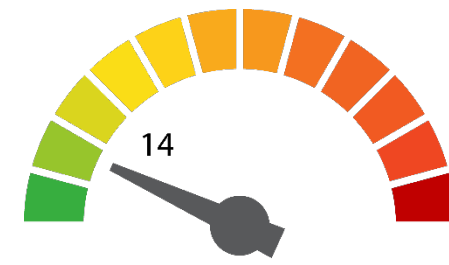


READINESS FOR MINISTRY

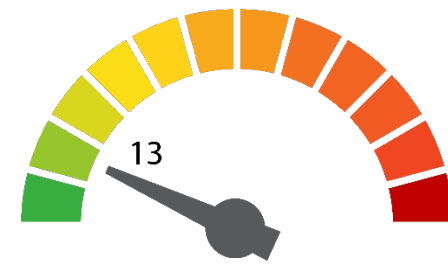
Four areas are considered Below Average and provide opportunities for growth:



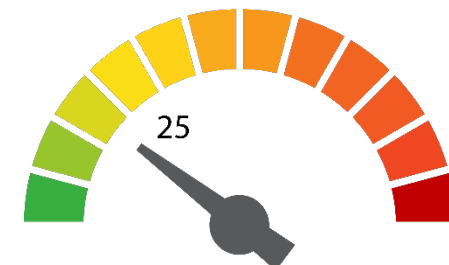
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



GOVERNANCE



MORALE



WORSHIP & MUSIC

The survey revealed we have a large group of parishioners answering "**Tend to Agree**" instead of "**Agree**" or "**Strongly Agree**". These "**fence sitters**" are where a huge impact can be made to move the needle and where our efforts may yield the highest rewards.



Atlanta. The ATL.

Home to more than six million people.

The cradle of the Civil Rights Movement. Home of the Braves, the Falcons, the Hawks, and Atlanta United FC. Home of the 1996 Olympics. Home of global enterprises like Coca-Cola, Home Depot, UPS, and CNN. Home of the world's busiest airport.



Snellville: Where Everybody is Proud to be Somebody!

[About Snellville](#)

[Snellville Community Profile](#)

For more than forty years, this motto has been Snellville's calling card and an invitation to join the small town in the big city.



Snellville is located in Gwinnett County in the northeast metro Atlanta area. When St. Matthew's Episcopal Church was established in 1979, Gwinnett County had a population of 160,000. Today, Gwinnett County is home to 957,000 people and is one of the most diverse counties in the country. Gwinnett boasts an exemplary school system, consistently ranking among the top nation-wide. The median household income is \$72,000, and the median home value is \$235,700. Our county's annual growth rate is .93%.



The Diocese of Atlanta

The Diocese of Atlanta is a diverse and expansive faith community, with 117 communities focused on worshipping a living and loving God and working for a better world in the name of Jesus Christ. More than 50,000 members in 11 convocations spread across 75 1/2 counties in north and central Georgia make up the Diocese.

Our Diocesan Purpose Statement, adopted at Annual Council 2015, informs all aspects of our common life: “We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually.”

We are a Christian community blessed with vibrance, variety and vitality. Our diocesan bishop, [The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright](#), was elected in June 2012 and ordained and consecrated on Oct. 13, 2012.

The Offices of the Bishop are at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. The Diocese has more than 200 clergy under Bishop Wright's oversight, plus an abundant supply of lay leaders and ministers.

The Diocese of Atlanta was carved from the Diocese of Georgia in 1907. As part of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese is connected to the worldwide Anglican Communion of 70 million people in 38 provinces. The Diocese is also engaged in a special companion relationship with the Diocese of Cape Coast in West Africa.

The Diocese of Atlanta actively supports the ministry of The Episcopal Church and its presiding bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry.

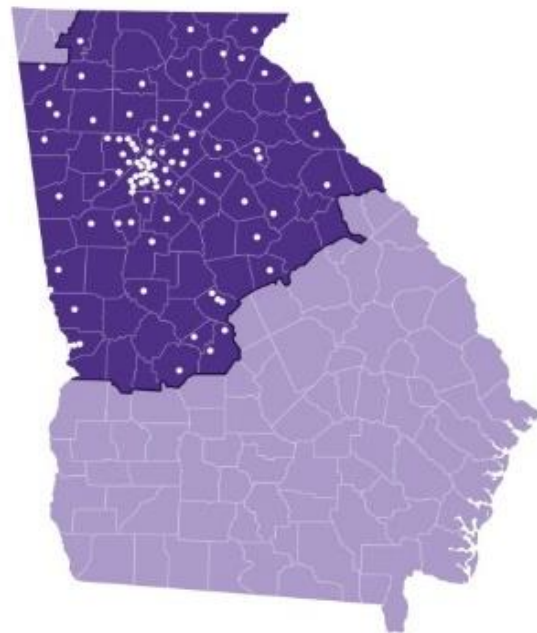
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[Sign up to our email list](#) to receive emails featuring diocesan-wide news, events, announcements, and inspiration.

Follow Bishop Wright: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



Apply to St. Matthew's

Candidates should submit materials through the [Diocese of Atlanta's online application system.](#)