

ST. ANDREW'S-IN-THE-VALLEY



PARISH PROFILE 2017

TAMWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Saint Andrew's-in-the-Valley—

an inclusive faith community, worshipping
together and doing Christ's work in the world
with love and joy!



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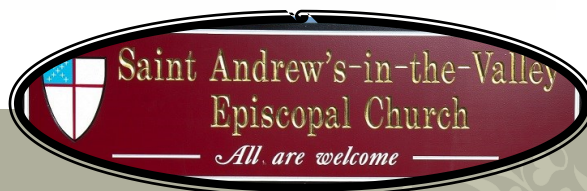
Cover photos:

Top: Easter Sunday

Middle: Liturgy of the Palms

Bottom Left: Animal Blessing

Bottom Right: Brett School Children enjoy the Labyrinth



WELCOME!

A Collect For the Search Process

*Loving God, giver of all
good gifts, grant to the
Search Committee, and to the
parish, wisdom and faith.*

*Be with us as we
develop and create the
Parish Profile.*

*We ask this in the name
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

In a recent letter to the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, Bishop Hirschfeld wrote “There’s something freeing and powerful about imagining church, the Beloved Community, not as a fixed place, but as a journey, a pilgrimage together, a becoming.”

We began our search process with an online questionnaire which gathered information from parishioners about who we are, why we came to this parish, and why we stay here. The response rate was almost seventy percent, which encouraged the Committee as it tallied answers and collected the data. Eighty percent of us come from an Episcopal background. Most of us have belonged at St. Andrew’s for fewer than fifteen

years. Our average age is well over sixty, and we are a blend of those who grew up in the area and those who have come here in retirement from many parts of the country. Most of us are college educated, or have professional backgrounds. We value our younger members and what they bring to the church. We are known for being open and caring within our parish and in the larger community.

The second phase of our information gathering consisted of small group meetings that provided us with more personal thoughts about who we are as a parish, how we want to grow in our faith, and what we would like in a new rector. The answers were as varied as are our parishioners.

Final group meeting.



Final group meeting



We are a mature parish. We have strong leadership in many areas, a sound financial position, and most important, a deep spiritual commitment to doing God’s work in the world. We take pride in welcoming all who come through our doors, and in taking our faith into the world.

We seek a rector who will guide us on a journey of growth, both spiritually and into the wider community. We hope this document provides a picture of us and our vision for the future of St. Andrew’s.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our journey as a parish family at St. Andrew’s-in-the-Valley.

Search Committee:

Pat Adams, Betsy Hess, Tom Huckman, Cathie Lewis, George Rau, Lisa Thompson,



St. Andrew's is

Annual picnic and Eucharist
at White Lake



Celebrations



Welcoming to visitors



Hosting Christmas Dinner



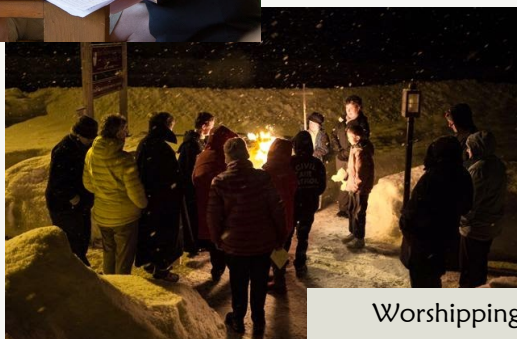
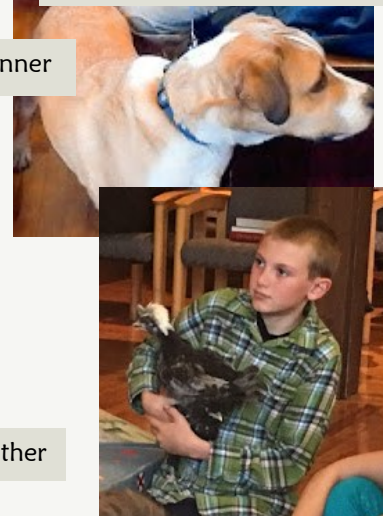
Family.....all members



Chancel dramas



Preparing seasons together



Worshipping seasons together



....all this and MORE!!



Spring, Summer...



Lobster dinner fundraiser



Mardi Gras...pancake supper

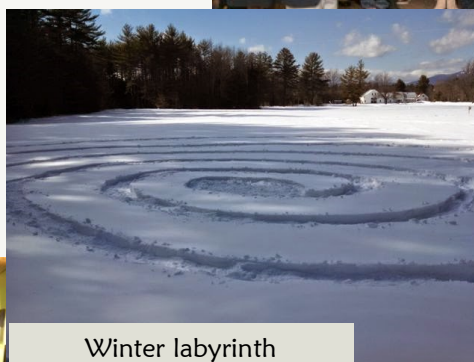


Theatrics...

Cast from a Murder Mystery Dinner



Special music



Winter labyrinth



....Winter



Wednesday Women's Lunch Bunch

OUR COMMUNITIES

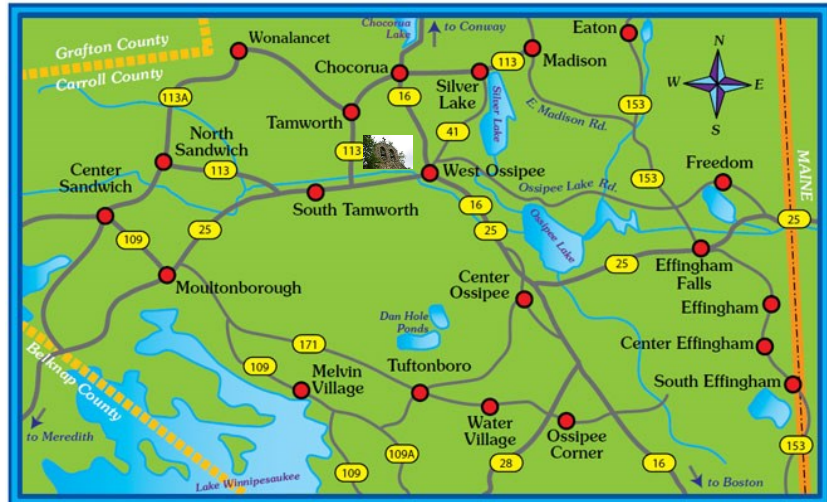


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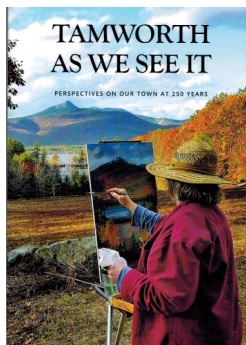
St. Andrew's-in-the-Valley is located in Tamworth, a small, rural town in east central New Hampshire, but our church community covers a wide geographical area. This area of New Hampshire had its early beginnings in timber and farming. Tourism is the main driver of the local economy today. The region's many lakes and mountains attract visitors from around the world.

Like much of New Hampshire, our population is diverse in occupation and avocation, but not in ethnicity. The work force is made up of both skilled and unskilled labor, with many working multiple jobs to make ends meet. Our communities are also home to retirees from southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and beyond. Many find this quiet, beautiful area the perfect place to settle. These retirees make up a large portion of our parishioners.

We have local elementary schools and two regional high schools. We also have two colleges in the area, and libraries and local history centers in most towns. Unique to Tamworth is the Tamworth Community Nurse Association offering free medical support to Tamworth residents. Tamworth village is home to the Barnstormers Theater, continuously operating since its founding in 1931.



People in this part of New Hampshire delight in a multitude of outdoor activities and the many community events that happen throughout the year. Skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, golfing and boating are all popular pastimes for both youngsters and oldsters. This area is also home to many talented artists and musicians who, in addition to displaying their work through exhibits and concerts, also provide learning opportunities for all ages.



"St. Andrew's featured in Brett School mosaic for Tamworth's 250th Celebration."



FORMING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHRIST

WORSHIP AND LITURGY



St. Andrew's resonates with the prayer, music, and praise to God that has filled this church for over ninety years. The simplicity of our church building, with windows open to the natural beauty around us, welcomes all into worship.



Our Sunday liturgy is the key element of our faith formation. We have been blessed with clergy who have made the celebration of the Eucharist a holy experience each week. Whether it is Rite I at the 8AM Liturgy or Rite II at the 10AM, the style of worship and the sermons keep our faith alive and relevant as we go forth to love and serve the Lord.

We value the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer as well as Enriching Our Worship. Within this structure, we embrace flexibility. Our Liturgy Committee, including the organist, works together with the Rector in planning our services. We look to the Rector for leadership, guidance, and ultimate decisions concerning the form of our worship. We are inspired when the Sunday readings are illuminated and deepened through music, art, and drama.



Parishioners are active participants in worship and liturgy: thirty-eight, of all ages, are Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, or Readers. On-going training gives us confidence, skill, and delight in serving as a team. Singing is vigorous, from both choir and congregation.



Liturgy is how we express and are transformed by our worship. We open our hearts, minds, and souls in different ways so that God has room to join us in our prayers for strength, forgiveness, healing, and love. Our praise, honor, and glory to God, our confession and God's forgiveness,

our intercessions for ourselves, others, and our community send us out to be God's mercy and justice in the world.



"We seek a rector whose strong, grounded spirituality will meet with our willingness to grow in liturgical expressions of our faith, personally and as a parish."

FORMING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHRIST SPIRITUAL FORMATION & EDUCATION

Gathered for Morning Prayer



Spiritual formation and education takes many forms in our parish. On Wednesdays, a service of Morning Prayer is held in the chancel. Led in rotation by our three licensed Lay Readers, as well as our Summer Deacon and Rector, the service (either Rite I or Rite II) is intentionally less formal, with the homily-discussion of the readings being an opportunity for sharing our faith and experiencing prayer in a small group.

On Wednesday evenings during Lent we gather for simple soup and salad suppers, followed by directed discussion. During our last lenten season, the discussion centered around “Growing a Rule of Life”, by the Society of St. John the Evangelist. This prompted conversations on our relationship with God, ourselves, and each other. We also had a day of yoga and mindful meditation, and walked our labyrinth, giving participants a chance to experience faith in a very different venue.

[“Click for link to Thursday Memo”](#)

KEEPING CONNECTIONS

The “Thursday Memo” is our email-based newsletter, which is an important means of communicating weekly information to the parish community. Our Parish Administrator and our Rector collaborate on the content and format, and parishioners are encouraged to submit other news, and photos. Over the last few months it has been used by the Search Committee to keep the parish updated on the search process.

A website has been developed, with the goals of setting up a parish calendar and establishing links to the Community Food Center and the parish Profile. St. Andrew’s also has a Facebook page.

We stay connected with the rest of the Diocese. Several times a year our three Delegates to Diocesan Convention, or their Alternates, attend the Lakes Region Convocation meeting, where the eight parishes in our area coordinate and support each other as we carry out both Diocesan and local initiatives.

HOW WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Pastoral care is an important ministry at St. Andrew’s. Members of the Committee assist the rector in a variety of ways. It might involve visiting someone who is ill or homebound, dropping off a meal, keeping in touch by phone, or providing rides to church or events. Many members of the congregation have assisted with long-term care of fellow parishioners. At St. Andrew’s we are indeed “our brothers’ keepers”.



We seek a rector with an interest in promoting Christian formation and education to both adults and children, and who is technologically savvy,

FORMING COMMUNITY THROUGH CHRIST

OUR YOUTH



Although few in number, our youth are cherished and nourished by their parish family. As a group, they are as diverse in gender, interests, and talents as are the adults—and they are equally committed to God and to the Church.



Liturgical arts workshop

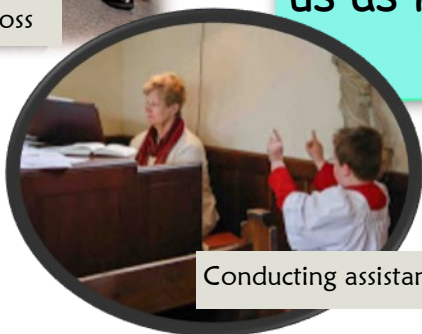
Ideas from our youth

Our Youth: What we want in a Rector.



Pancake toss

Someone who is kind, respects others, and loves us as neighbors.



Conducting assistance

- ♦ Occasional "kid centered" sermons, but short ones!
- ♦ More "fun stuff" like picnics, parties, and dramas
- ♦ Colored altar candles for different seasons



Cleanup work

(A rector who) relates sermons to life experiences

Why do you come to Church?

"Because you are with other people you know you can trust and be safe."

What do you like best about Church?
"Coffee hour."



A profound discussion with the Bishop

SERVING COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

OUTREACH: LOCAL, REGIONAL, INTERNATIONAL

The Outreach ministries at St. Andrew's are central to our mission and an integral part of who we are as a parish. Our two most visible programs are Dinner Bell South and the Community Food Center, both of which operate from our church. Volunteers from St. Andrew's, other area churches, and community residents all contribute to making these programs successful.

The Dinner Bell South ministry provides a full-course, home-cooked meal each

Brett School Annual Food Drive



Sunday evening in the Parish Hall. We also prepare festive holiday dinners for larger gatherings. We serve over 800 guests annually. The Community Food Center, open at the church every Tuesday and Friday, provides food to over 1,650 individuals in our area. This year, the Community Food Center distributed 119 Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. The amount of food distributed in 2016 was enough for 34,671 meals.

In addition to these outreach efforts, we have a continuing commitment to Al-Anon & AA, which meet Tuesday and Saturday evening at St. Andrew's. The church also provides meeting space and on-going support to Boy Scout Troop 151, a small committed group of boys and adults. Most years one or two of the boys achieve the level of Eagle Scout.

Our "Fun Raising" Committee serves many needs. Functions including the Murder Mystery Event, the Harvest Dinner and Pie Auction, and summer Lobster



Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser

and Steak Dinner benefit our budget and help fund a number of our outreach programs. Proceeds go to local, regional, and international programs. Priority is given to organizations and projects with which our parishioners are actively involved, with a particular focus on children, food, and health.

- ♦ Agape Ministries, Tamworth Caregivers (Local)
- ♦ Child Advocacy Carroll County, CASA of New Hampshire (Regional)
- ♦ Episcopal Relief and Development, & Eleanore's Project (International)



"My wheels, my wheels!"

Lobster and Steak Dinner Fundraiser



Pie Auction and Harvest Supper



STEWARDSHIP, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & FINANCIAL

Stewardship

We commit ourselves to ongoing stewardship of time, talent and treasure. During the year, parishioners expend these in a variety of ways. A Pie Auction takes place, a spring clean up day is scheduled, the altar guild polishes the brass for the Easter festival, food is lovingly prepared for coffee hours, lessons are read and the choir leads our melodic praises each week. We are faithful servants tending God's house, people, and community.

Each fall, the Stewardship Committee decides on a theme for the campaign and design materials to distribute to the parish. We use a trifold format, which incorporates a letter from the committee, quotations from scripture, and a listing of the outreach programs we support. Last year's theme revolved around Jesus as Shepherd and we, the parishioners, as sheep of His pasture. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of St. Andrew's members and friends we surpassed our goal. We ended our campaign with a well-deserved and celebratory in-gathering Sunday brunch hosted by the Stewardship Committee.



Photos from the 2016
Annual Meeting



2016 Stewardship Logo



Capital Campaign

Our financial health over the last few years has enabled St. Andrew's to make a number of much-needed building repairs and improvements such as an award winning accessibility ramp, ceiling repairs and painting, as well as new lights in the sanctuary. The stone façade, which is a signature part of our church, has also been repointed and repaired.

We need to embark on a capital campaign that would include the necessary roofing and other improvements to the physical plant. A plan is in place that details the changes and respective costs.

We were recognized for upgrading our Parish Hall entry ramp and doorway to the standards of the Americans for Disability Act even though churches are exempt from the ADA's legal mandates. The award cited our desire to be welcoming to all members of the surrounding communities who use the building.



Above: Accessible ramp
Below: Award



We seek a rector who will embrace our capital campaign efforts and help us get it off the ground.

STEWARDSHIP, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & FINANCIAL

Financial Summary

At the beginning of 2016, the Vestry put forward a deficit budget, expecting that this shortfall would be covered by some under-spending as we went through the year. Thanks to some over-budget giving and some under-budget expenses (line items for energy and snow removal), we ended the year with a strong cash balance. Through the efforts of our Treasurer and our Parish Administrator, our finances are well cared for.



*The 2016
Annual Report is
Available in
pdf form.
Click on the link
to the left to
view*

St Andrew's-in-the-Valley, Tamworth, NH -- Data from Parochial Reports

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Est from 2017 Budget</u>
Avg Sunday Attendance	53	53	50	46	46	52	
Pledges	62	66	69	58	59	61	62
Pledge Support	129,768	131,202	140,827	128,738	137,353	140,696	145,309
Parish Support: less amounts to reserves	138,872	146,314	144,610	148,098	148,048	147,509	157,159
Income	167,237	173,542	170,265	174,256	173,140	169,226	178,818
Total Revenue	208,456	199,963	195,667	207,048	206,093	192,445	183,368
Expense	178,116	169,420	170,218	172,113	174,772	168,329	180,953
Total Expense	201,889	194,465	201,668	201,813	196,487	186,388	185,988
Rector TCC	79,882	78,803	80,314	82,387	85,206	79,485	93,986
Invested Funds & Reserves	393,418	418,268	432,458	434,426	422,491	436,136	450,364

OUR STORY



The Rev. Frederick Charles Cowper (1851-1929) was a retired English clergyman and beloved pastor whose ministry in Carroll County from 1912-1929 inspired the building of this church. He walked or drove his horse and buggy on humble dirt roads bringing instruction and celebrating Holy Communion in farmhouses along the way.

When Rev. Cowper heard that a small group of families in Whittier dreamed of building their own church, he gave the idea his encouragement. The Smarts donated pasture land next to the schoolhouse where Rev. Cowper was holding Sunday services. Complimented by summer fund-raisers on the church lawn: tea, pony rides, puppet shows, and children's games, a trust was set up to build the new "Whittier Episcopal Church".

Architect Walter H. Kilham drew up plans based on the 11th century Church of Saint Helena in Austerfield, England whose clear windows and fieldstone bell-tower became central to the new design. Saint Andrew's was consecrated as a mission by Bishop Dallas on the Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6, 1928.

In 1962, our building expanded into the Prince Room, named after The Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Prince, whose ecumenical proposal became the Tamworth Associated Churches. From 1957 to 1969, Saint Andrew's had its first full-time Rector, The Rev. George W. Wickersham II, who also took services at the Tamworth Congregational and Chocorua Baptist churches.

In 1986 we were the first parish in the diocese to call a woman rector.

In the mid-1970's, the Parish Hall was added. Today it provides space for the Community Food Pantry, AA & Al-Anon meetings, and the Sunday evening Dinner Bell South, a community meal hosted by Saint Andrew's and other local churches.



Bishop Parker (l) and Rev Cowper, placing of the cornerstone.

We seek a Rector who will work with us on developing a Capital Campaign for achieving the aesthetic and practical adjustments necessary to our building's strength, both for our congregation and as a valued community resource.

The Rev. Frederick C. Cowper, 1928



OUR STORY

Our church building is in need of a new roof and adequate storage space for the Food Pantry, the kitchen, and the sacristy. The Facilities-Building Committee has developed a plan which received interest and verbal support from the parish. The roof is now our priority. We are “on hold” with the larger renovation project.

Our challenges over time.

We have our inevitable moments of struggle and discernment. Through them, we have become honest with each other about who we are and what we are about, both individually and as a parish. We acknowledge our mistakes. We honor relationship, trust, and clear communication.

The Rectors called to Saint Andrew’s have each brought us skills and insights we needed to take for the next step in our life together: pastors, youth leaders, preachers, mentors of tough love through “our teenage years”. We have matured into a welcoming, accepting, and compassionate congregation who has much to offer those seeking an active community in which to grow in faith.

Saint Andrew’s interior, 1928



Saint Andrew’s interior, 2017



“We seek a rector who will support and deepen our faith, joy, courage, and love.”

CONTACTS



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RECTOR SEARCH TEAM

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Cathie Lewis

George Rau

Lisa Thompson



VESTRY

Carol Tubman, Sr. Warden

Sally DeGroot, Jr. Warden

Jen Huckman, Clerk

Robert Seston, Treasurer

Pat Adams

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