

**ST. CATHERINE
OF ALEXANDRIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA



PARISH PROFILE
2021



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WELCOME



We are St. Catherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace, Florida, located in Hillsborough County, part of the greater Tampa Bay area. We are seeking a new pastoral leader to serve as our next rector. We have written this story of our parish and ourselves, our history and our hopes for the future. We know that God is already preparing the one called to be with us, the priest who will lead us to and through the next chapter in our story. We are eager to enter this time of discovery and discernment as we prepare to welcome our next pastoral leader .

From 1957 until now, St. Catherine's has grown through the leadership of many faithful priests. In 2011 Mother Susan Latimer was called and became the first female rector in the history of our parish. Mother Latimer brought a great passion for spiritual formation, and was instrumental in nurturing us with the riches of Contemplative Prayer, Wisdom teachings, and the Daily Office. She helped the parish reach out to the community with a Fine Arts Summer Camp that continued with great successful for 5 years. She supported the J2A program in Christian formation for young people. And she brought her musical gifts to our worship. After battling a serious medical condition and being away on lengthy medical leave, Mother Latimer accepted a call to a parish in Southern California, where she grew up.

Since her departure, Father Allen Farabee, retired Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, NY, has served as Interim Rector. He has been a stabilizing presence and has led us well during this interim time.

While we were getting ready to call our next rector, the Covid-19 pandemic arrived and shut us down. We celebrated Holy Week and Easter by livestreaming our worship, with just the priest, organist and two or three others in church. Many of the activities that make us who we are, that give us energy and hope, were suspended. Along with everybody everywhere, we have been challenged to stay together, to continue being the church, to reach out and serve the world in this perilous time. In this time of political polarization in our country, we have experienced that in our parish as well. We have done our best to embrace one another in spite of our differing politics.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on St. Catherine's Church, as we search for a new rector. Be ever present in our midst, and so guide our community and the candidates, so that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for Your people and equip us for our ministries; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.



WELCOME

Despite the challenges, we are continuing our search for a new rector now, because there is light shining in the darkness, because we have hope for the future, and because we are eager to embrace the next chapter of our life. Our story will be honest and encouraging. We hope you will pray with us and, perhaps, come to us and lead us forward.

In this profile you will see our common life, recognize the resources God has given us for ministry, appreciate the lessons we have learned during our nearly 65 years of parish life, and understand the things we love and long for.

We have been led by many priests of different personalities and gifts. We have learned that we do best when we avoid personalities that are too reserved or too autocratic. We want a pastoral leader who is emotionally centered, mature in faith, flexible in methods, open and positive and outgoing. We do best when we are led by a priest who is straightforward with us, encourages our gifts and ministries, is present with us in our life, and wants to be with us. Please pray for us in our search and talk with us about serving us.

Mission

The mission of St. Catherine's is to nurture each other in the knowledge and love of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to share the Good News with all.



WHO WE ARE



- Sunlight shining through the clear windows of the church, making bright the Lord's Table.
- Members and visitors gathered at tables in the parish hall having breakfast on Sunday morning.
- Friends and companions hauling branches, painting rooms, fixing things on parish work days.
- Adults assembled around tables studying and talking about faith, matters of concern and even controversial topics.
- Members of our parish gathered with people from other churches and faiths to advocate for social justice with HOPE.
- Young people on pilgrimage to South Dakota or Maine in their Journey to Adulthood.
- Children arrayed in Christmas pageantry, or dressed as saints on All Saints' Day.
- Gathering in quiet for Centering Prayer or Wisdom Practices or Contemplative Prayer.
- Taking food to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.
- Working with Temple Terrace Elementary School to support the education and well-being of children.
- Members visiting other members to bring Communion, prayer and fellowship.

These are signs of the things we value and the activities that tie us together in bonds of love and affection. They are the actions that make us the church, that extend the heart and hands and love of Christ within our parish and in the world around us.

More than half of respondents in our self-study are 65 years or older, mostly retired, and 74% are married. 60% have attended St. Catherine's for 20+ years, and most come to church 4 or more times a month. About half of the congregation lives within a 15 minute drive to church, while the rest drive 16-45 minutes. Our congregation is very diverse educationally and professionally, with many having completed college or advanced degrees.

In this profile, you can see some of the groups and activities that have arisen to give shape to our faith and commitment. These activities shift over the years, and our next rector will have to help us strengthen our commitments and find new and creative ways to live our baptismal promises. The Covid-19 pandemic has really made our last year unusual. We know that with the lifting of that perilous threat, we may need to reweave or reconstruct our activities. We are ready.



A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR ALL

As is true for all Episcopalians, worship is central to our life. Our Sunday liturgy is the place where we are fed and grounded and sent in mission. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic and the social turmoil of the recent past, we have come together at the Lord's Table to remember the needs of the world and to be woven into the blessed community of love and grace. We normally worship with two liturgies on Sunday. We use *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) along with supplemental liturgical materials in our worship. During the interim time, we have begun to print the entire liturgy in the Sunday service leaflet, seeking to make the riches of our worship friendly and accessible to visitors – and to us.



Our 8:00 AM service is a quieter and more reflective liturgy celebrated according to Rite I with no music. Our 10:00 AM service is our principle liturgy on Sunday celebrated according to Rite II. The choir leads our music and portions of the liturgy are chanted. We normally sing hymns from *The Hymnal 1982*, as well as from *Songs of the Spirit*, a supplemental song book. We sometimes sing hymns from *Wonder, Love and Praise, Lift Every Voice and Sing* and other supplemental hymnals. We have sung Taizé and Anglican chants. We have sometimes sung the psalms, and sung various songs of praise. We have written intercessions to reflect the needs of the day.

Over the past few years, we have gathered for worship at other times. During the time of the last rector, the Daily Office was said by members of the congregation. For many years there was a Saturday evening Eucharist. We have tried a Sunday evening contemplative Eucharist, then gathered for Contemplative Evening Prayer once a month. For many years there was a midweek midday Eucharist, including prayers for healing and anointing. During the Covid-19 pandemic, most of these other worship services have been suspended. Many of us would like to reawaken these occasions for worship.

We celebrate the great liturgies of Holy Week faithfully and with great dignity. At various different times, but not of late, we have worshipped jointly with the people of nearby Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Together we have celebrated the St. Francis Day / Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving, and Epiphany, with socials following, and would like to find occasions to worship together again.

Whatever else our rector does with us and for us, his or her presence and leadership begins and centers in gathering us together around the Lord's Table. It is from the Lord's Table that we rise to serve the world.

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During the ministry of Father Ed Rich, St. Catherine's adopted a model of organization and ministry known as SWEEP. Each area of ministry – Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care – is overseen with a vestry liaison. In addition, there are committees to oversee our property and our finances. While we are still organized with this model, we would be open to imagining a new way of being. For now, however, this is us!

In the Fall of 2019, we celebrated a Ministries Fair, with banners, displays, cookies, brochures, recruitment and joy. We prepared a booklet to gather all information about our life and ministry in one place. While we could not gather in the same way in the Fall of 2020, we hope to do it again as soon as possible.

SERVICE: The Service Commission equips us to serve the world in the name of Jesus. We seek to offer healing and hope to our city and its people and even beyond. We have embraced many opportunities for service.

The Service Commission oversees St. Catherine's outreach to the Temple Terrace community and beyond. In addition to allotting financial support for a number of different organizations, the Commission also has written grants which were funded by the Southwest Florida Diocese Episcopal Charities grant program. They also promote many hands-on activities where parishioners get involved with organizations.

Temple Terrace Elementary School

For many years, the people of St. Catherine's have partnered with Temple Terrace Elementary School to support the wellbeing of students and their families. Parishioners purchased backpacks and loaded them with school supplies for students who could not afford them. They were collected at church prior to the start of school, and the backpacks, as well as the backpacks of children from the church, were blessed, during Sunday worship.



In addition, we have worked closely with the school social worker to provide financial support, band aids, grocery vouchers and other resources that support children and their families. We have provided backpacks of food for children to take home on weekends, so they have something to eat when school is not in session. We have also purchased books at the annual book fair for children to keep at home.



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St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry – The St. Vincent de Paul Society, located at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, provides food and other necessities to people in Temple Terrace. Each week parishioners deliver the food donated by the congregation to the Food Pantry.

James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital – Snacks for families visiting veterans are donated by the congregation. Socks are donated for the veterans at Christmas time.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) – One of our members serves as liaison to Episcopal Relief and Development. We distribute information about its work, receive offerings in support of its mission and cooperate with the Diocese of Southwest Florida in the support of Episcopal Relief and Development.

Hillsborough Organization for Progress & Equality (HOPE) – While mercy ministries help those in immediate need, justice ministries hold systems accountable to resolve problems. St. Catherine’s has joined with other faith communities in this organization, and many members of St. Catherine's have been actively involved. Mental illness and the law, and affordable housing were the two issues HOPE focused on this year when \$5M of the Hope Affordable Housing Trust Fund was used to develop the Sabal Place apartments in Seffner. Some of the apartments will be designated for those transitioning from homelessness. During the summer, Tampa Chief of Police Brian Dugan confirmed that all officers in the department were trained in Crisis Intervention Training, which HOPE had supported in seeking justice for the mentally ill. Our support of this ministry has not been without controversy as some have felt it is “too political.”

WORSHIP: The Worship Commission Serves as a council of advice to the Rector and ministries of worship.

The work of the Worship Commission is to support the Rector in preparing and planning for worship at St. Catherine’s. The commission supports the various groups who serve at the services: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, and Ushers.

Through those serving on the Worship Commission purchases are made for banners, crosses, flowers, robes, vestments, and music. The commission participates in planning for special services, such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.



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SMALL PRAYER GROUPS: There are several small lay-led prayer groups that meet at St. Catherine's on a regular basis.

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that deepens our communion with God. Currently done via Zoom.

Contemplative Evening Prayer uses icons, candles, incense, chants from Taizé, quiet times, Bible readings and other spiritual readings. Currently suspended due to Covid-19.

Wisdom Practice Circle - The wisdom way of knowing includes sacred chanting, silent meditation, gesture prayer, *Lectio Divina*, and other ancient practices to deepen our knowledge of God and touch the sacred mystery. Currently done via Zoom.

CHOIR: The choir of St. Catherine's was mentioned on the survey as a reason for coming to St. Catherine's, and for remaining here. Choir members are loyal. They offer musical leadership at the 10:00 AM service throughout the school year. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when we were able to resume in-person worship, choir members led our singing faithfully.



ORGAN: St. Catherine's organ was built by the Robert L. Sipe Company of Garland, Texas, and was dedicated on January 26, 2003. It is a two-manual, 19-rank organ with 32 stops. It is highly regarded in the community. The church is often used as an acoustically good recording space for professional groups, and as a recital space by students from nearby colleges and universities.

EDUCATION: The Education Commission plans, implements and evaluates all Christian Education programs

Working closely with our Director of Christian Formation, the Christian Education Commission plans, implements and evaluates all formation programs. The interim time has been especially challenging, with the Covid-19 pandemic upending our regular schedule of church school, youth programs and adult education.

CHILDREN CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

Sunday School has been interrupted by Covid-19. Normally, childcare is offered



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all morning for young children supervised by trained caretakers. We would have Sunday School classes for pre-school, lower elementary, upper elementary, and middle school. The upper elementary children would participate in a program called Young Explorers / SEEDS, a curriculum designed to serve as a bridge between elementary and middle school which was created by one of our teachers.

The middle school students would be in Rite 13, and our high school students would be working through the J2A, the Journey to Adulthood classes. Through Covid-19, our Director of Christian Formation has maintained contact with students, sending them weekly lessons and activities to do at home in hopes of keeping alive their love of learning the stories of the Bible, and in participating in Christian Formation at St. Catherine's..



Children's Chapel is a worship service for children ages 18 months to 8 years, on Sunday from 10:00 AM to about 10:35 AM. Children participate in age-appropriate worship as leaders teach the children simple prayers and songs with motions. There is a Bible story with pictures and a short discussion of the meaning of the story. The children sing a song based on the Apostles' Creed. The older children act as role models for the younger ones, teaching them customary worship behavior and helping lead the songs. At 10:35 AM, the younger children return to the Nursery and the older ones join their parents in the church in time for the Peace.



Blessing Bags are bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and other hygiene items. They are donated to Metropolitan Ministries, who distribute them to people who come to them for help. The children bring in the items for the bags and help to fill them. Suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION: St. Catherine's believes that we learn and grow in our faith all during our lives.

Zoom Bible Study meets Wednesday morning at 11 AM with the Rector - "Let

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us feed our minds and souls and spend some time with the scriptures. We will look at the readings appointed for the coming Sunday. No preparation is needed. Just find a Bible – any translation – and join us!”

Coffee Conversations meets Sundays at 9 AM with the Rector to discuss a variety of topics. Currently suspended due to Covid-19

Lenten Study Program explores some dimension of Christian living and believing during the season before Easter. Offered via Zoom due to Covid-19.

Adult Christian Education @ St. Catherine's is a group on our Facebook page. The Christian Formation Director posts a commentary on the topics from the Bible, often drawn from the Gospel for the coming Sunday. People can respond to the lesson. There is also a link to the previous week's streamed Sunday Eucharist.

Special Events occur throughout the year, including Registration Days, picnics for Sunday School, and an end of the year party around Pentecost. There's a visit from St. Nicholas, on or around St. Nicholas' Day, the Christmas Pageant and field trips for fun or service.

Visitors and new members often cite our openness to study, conversation and growth, both with children and adults, as important in them becoming a part of us. Many new members have said that they were heartened by our willingness to engage in important matters, talk about difficult things, and to grow actively in our faith.

EVANGELISM: The Commission's mission is to reach all persons in the name of Jesus.

We know that evangelism is more than being friendly, but we have worked hard to be welcoming. The Evangelism Commission oversees this ministry, the process whereby we reach out, welcome and incorporate people into the church of Christ, here at St. Catherine's. Just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, several commission members attended a



Diocesan Workshop on Evangelism and are excited to strengthen our efforts in this ministry. We greet people well, we welcome them to our church, children are



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generally well accepted in our worship, but we know we could and want to do more. We now use a Sunday leaflet that is visitor friendly. But we know the challenge of telling our story in a city where many people do not know we exist. This commission leads us as we grow.

PASTORAL CARE: This Commission ministers to the members of St. Catherine's parish family.

When the church is faithful to its Lord, it is a pastoral community. While we hope our rector will touch our lives in joy and sorrow, the Pastoral Care Commission works closely with the rector to ensure that we remain connected. It takes a village to care for one another and the Pastoral Care Commission is our village council. It coordinates the ministry of visitation by parishioners and Eucharistic Visitors, and members of the Commission send cards and greetings on parishioners' birthdays, at times of sorrow and grief, or illness and need. The commission often provides food to members who need support. There is interest in developing and strengthening the healing ministry in our parish, including the laying on of hands and Unction. We hope our next rector will help us grow as a healing community.

NUTS AND BOLTS: These committees support the life of the parish.

Building and Grounds Committee keeps our buildings cool when it's hot, dry when it's raining, painted and repaired as time goes by. Our mission is to keep the grounds and buildings of St. Catherine's safe, inviting and hospitable. We have adopted the motto "renew, refresh, and rejuvenate our facilities." Volunteers work



throughout the year, painting, changing light bulbs, fixing water leaks, replacing ceiling tiles, as well as upgrading sprinkler systems and lighting systems. Volunteers also plant new shrubs and trees as well as supervise the lawn and spraying services. We do our best to be good stewards of our property.

Many hands really do make light work, so we welcome all who would like to help us keep our property beautiful. Periodically, we have parish workdays, where volunteers work from early morning to mid-afternoon, and enjoy lunch together at noon.

Finance Committee works closely with the parish Treasurer to oversee and monitor the finances of the parish, to ensure that timely audits are done, the budget prepared and followed, and that the vestry is provided the adequate and thorough financial information that it needs.

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Stewardship Committee works to help us live our calling to be stewards of God's abundance, by making an offering of ourselves through our time, our talents, and our treasure. The committee is responsible for organizing and carrying out our annual pledge campaign. St. Catherine's is largely dependent on the annual pledges of parishioners to provide the financial resources to bear witness to the gospel in our community and beyond, and to be good stewards of our property. In doing our work, we are supported by The Episcopal Church, our Diocese of Southwest Florida and our own imaginations and creativity.

Endowment Committee oversees the endowment, and is accountable to the vestry. St. Catherine's is blessed with a modest endowment, approximately \$500,000. We recently created the **Oak Tree Society** to encourage planned giving and estate planning to support the ministry of St. Catherine's.

St. Francis Garden is located on the east side of the Education building. Created in the 1970's, it was the vision of a former parishioner who designed the garden, and the red brick path in the shape of a cross. The garden is a peaceful, quiet place for rest and prayer. For many years, we have interred the ashes of loved ones there.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP: We are not always organized by Commissions and Committees. Sometimes we just gather for fun, fellowship and support!

For more than thirty years, the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of **Loaves and Fishes**

ministry has prepared a full breakfast on Sunday mornings following the 10:00 AM service. Teams of parishioners rotate in the kitchen and we might enjoy anything from shrimp and grits, to Jamaican jerk chicken, to French toast, to a festive Easter brunch! Some of us would say that our Sunday breakfasts are the way we best gather together - young, old, conservative, liberal, gay, straight, black, white, brown - to share fellowship with one another. We have missed our breakfasts terribly. We look forward to resuming them when we can gather again safely.



There is a **Lunch Bunch** that meets once a month for lunch and fellowship at a



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nearby restaurant. It is suspended during this pandemic time, but those who participate look forward to coming together again.

Often members of the parish gather in each other's homes in **Supper Clubs**, small groups that meet for dinner and fellowship in the homes of parishioners. In the fall, people sign up, and are gathered in groups of 8 to 10 people. This is one of the best ways we find community within our parish, and in particular, for new people to find a group of friends quickly. Again, these have been suspended during this pandemic time, but we look forward to gathering again.

During the season of Lent we gather during the week for **Lenten Soup Supper**, prayer and discussion to prepare ourselves for Easter. Each week a different commission prepares soup, while other parishioners bring bread, fruit, or appetizers to share.

We have enjoyed **Special Parish Events** such as the July 4th Picnic, Bingo Night, the All Saints' Tailgate Party, Easter Sunday Breakfast, Parish Picnics and Christmas Caroling in the Parish Hall, among other gatherings.



WHOM DO WE SEEK



We want to be honest. We have learned some things about ourselves during the last decade and we can only move forward with a new pastoral leader by being honest. Over the last ten years, our average worship attendance has declined slightly and our pledging has remained stable. Many factors have contributed to this trend, but it is true. What is also true is that we had carried “members” on our Parish rolls who were no longer active, including adult children who had moved out of the area. During the interim period, after a thorough review of actual members, we reviewed and revised the rolls, and transferred a good number to inactive status. The fact remains, however, that our growth is stagnant. We have weathered the Covid-19 pandemic year remarkably well financially, but, we have, at best, stayed stable. In September 2019, at the beginning of the interim time, we revived the custom of having a Ministries Fair to celebrate all the ministries of our parish. Things were ticking up, and there was great enthusiasm.

In recent years, there was a **tendency among us to compartmentalize**, to focus on those things in parish life that interested us and not notice – or value – other ministries. We are working on changing that culture. We have celebrated *all* our ministries. Members who work with hammers and paintbrushes, contemplative members, musical members, those who find meaning in serving the world, and those curious about their faith – all find their place at the Table of the Lord at St. Catherine’s. We are growing in this inclusion.

As our Self-Study Survey indicates, we are an **older, stable congregation**, like our city. As is true for many congregations, we rely on a small group of people to take leadership roles. A relatively small number of pledgers contribute a large part of our pledged income. Nevertheless, we continue to attract new members. We are largely a white congregation, with *some* racial and ethnic diversity. We have welcomed gay and lesbian members, including same sex married couples with children. We have been sought out by single young adults and other seekers. Livestreaming our liturgy has brought us into contact with many people who might be reluctant to come physically to St. Catherine’s.

Compared with even ten years ago, we have **fewer children in church school**, fewer young people serving as acolytes, and in this pandemic year, we have had to find new ways to gather our young people within our community. However, in the interim time we have baptized many children – a promising sign upon which we want to build.

During this interim time, we have had to admit –yet again – that **we are as diverse and polarized about political and social issues** as the rest of our nation. We don’t always agree about political and social things. What’s more, we don’t always



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agree about whether we can and should *talk about* our disagreements! Our interim rector has attempted to engage us in reflection on these issues – systemic racism, income inequality, political battles, social protests, and other problems. To be honest, some of us have welcomed his efforts, and some of us have criticized and resisted his efforts. We are still learning to live with each other, when one parishioner will wear a t-shirt with “Black Lives Matter” on it, and another parishioner will wear a tie emblazoned with Confederate battle flags! And different people are offended by each fashion statement.

We have continued to stay together, but it is not always easy. There have been times in our history when our disagreements threatened to undo our fellowship. That has *not* been the case during this current time. We think that, at this point, we are less bothered by internal church issues – such as the inclusion of gay and lesbian people, liturgical change (although there have been times when those issues roiled us) - than with social and political matters. We include strong conservatives, democratic socialists and everybody in between.

Such disagreements have been part of our story. We know that we need to talk about these things in our search for a new rector. Not that we are looking for someone of a particular position. We are looking for someone with wisdom, courage, integrity and care enough to walk with us in sometimes unsettling times, someone who can help us be a faithful community of believers in spite of our disagreements.

During the last two decades, covering the ministry of our last two rectors, we have discovered **how important it is for us to have a rector who is *present***. Present in the parish office, present in parish activities, present in prayer, and present in the present! St. Catherine’s is too big for the rector to do everything. But he or she needs to be in touch with the parish and all its ministries. We are too small for the rector to rely on a large staff to do things. We have a superb, but small staff. And more than anything, we want our priest to be present with us, to encourage us, uphold us, and stand among us with joy and hope.

We are seeking a person of character, who will laugh with us, cry with us, withstand our faults with some grace, speak the truth to us even when it stings, encourage us to turn out when we are tired and want to withdraw.

Our Self-Study reveals that we highly value the following gifts for ministry:

- **Friend/Fellow Traveler** – Overwhelmingly, our principal hope is that our new rector will come and be our friend, our companion on the journey; will be close to us, know us, share our lives and lead us from a place of companionship.

WHOM DO WE SEEK



- Celebrant / Worship Leader
- Minister of the Word / Preacher
- Spiritual Guide
- Teacher
- Pastor
- Parish Administrator

We want our rector to do all the things a priest should do:

- We want intelligent, engaging sermons that touch our lives to God's life.
- We want our rector to lead our worship with beauty and skill.
- We want our rector to visit us when we are sick or dying.
- We want our rector to guide our staff and volunteers with competence.
- We want our rector to lead our vestry, so that they will lead us in holy and healthy habits of common life.
- We want our rector to help us resolve conflicts without taking personal offence.
- We want our rector to love us, warts and all.

And... **we want to love and care for our rector.** During periods in which our priests have battled illness, we have discovered how much we want to care for our pastor. We want to be allowed to love our rector and support him or her and their family. We are not a perfect congregation. But our hearts are strong and our hope is great. We believe our best days are yet to come. And we know that God will be with us. We hope our rector will be too.





THE WAY FORWARD

CHALLENGE AND HOPE

Sometimes, when parishes seek a new rector, the message they give to prospective rectors is: “Help! We’re in trouble. Come and fix us!” Other times the message is: “We like ourselves as we are. Won’t you come and hang out with us?” We are seeking neither.

We are a congregation with a strong and committed history, devoted members and an abundant legacy of faith and witness. But we need strong and healthy leadership to move forward. From our Self-Study, our conversations among ourselves and the realities of this moment, we have set before ourselves the following challenges. These are things we need to face and embrace, needs that must be met and undertaken to be all that God means us to be.

- ***With our new rector, we hope to rebuild our community life*** that has been frayed during the pandemic and time of social unrest. We have stayed together remarkably well. We have reached out to each other. We have continued our worship, prayer, meeting, and outreach, but the fabric of our parish community has thinned. It’s nobody’s fault. We will come together again, and we hope our new rector will take time, be patient, offer us hope, and help us rebuild.
- ***With our new rector, we hope to reach out to our community*** and do a better job of telling the good news of our church and our Lord. St. Catherine’s was planted in the middle of a residential neighborhood, on a relatively quiet street, across from a long-standing golf course with a club house of which more than a few parishioners are members. We are not situated on a major thoroughfare. Few people drive past us in the course of their day. Too many people in our community do not know we exist. That must change. In the course of the Covid-19 pandemic we have educated ourselves in the value of social media. We hope to find better ways to reach our community, and we hope our new rector will embrace this challenge.
- ***With our new rector, we hope to invite, embrace and include more children, young people and young adults.*** This will not be easy. People come to St. Catherine’s from many communities. Children do not attend the same schools, and soccer and other sports, school activities, and necessary family time often crowd out church. We know we are not alone in facing this challenge, but we hope our new rector will understand the importance of this growth for the future of St. Catherine’s.
- ***With our new rector, we hope to look outward to the world*** for which Jesus

THE WAY FORWARD



died and brought life and hope. We believe we are better at offering works of mercy than advocating for justice, both of which are given to us in our Baptismal Covenant. It may be that works of mercy are more readily done. It may be that advocacy stirs stronger feelings. But while we have enthusiastically supported Temple Terrace Elementary School, the VA Hospital in Tampa, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, and Episcopal Relief and Development, our attempts to support HOPE – a social justice interfaith agency – have been more complicated. We hope our next rector will help us grow our vision of service and help us find new ways to serve our city and its people.

- ***With our new rector, we hope to confront changing patterns of stewardship.*** We have enjoyed strong stewardship leadership in our finances. Our pledge campaigns have been creative, with vestry leadership, and parish-wide support. Until recently, our pledge income has grown consistently. However, like many churches, the reality of our finances is skewed by the number and amount of pledges: a few large pledges support a disproportionate amount of the budget. We have a modest parish endowment and have created the Oak Tree Society to encourage legacy stewardship, but we need new energy, new imagination and new passion to finance the mission God has given us. We hope our next rector will understand this challenge and help us grow in our vision of stewardship.
- Finally, ***with our new rector, we hope to take stock of our community and its changing demographics.*** We are largely a white congregation in the increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-racial city of Temple Terrace. We are not on the growing edge of new building and development in the Tampa Bay area, but we are changing. We know that our reactions to these changes have not always been positive or uniform. We have welcomed persons of color, but like most of our society, have had a hard time talking about race, racism, and its impact on our church and society. We hope our next rector will help us face and embrace a changing world, a changing city and a changing church.

We face great challenges. We don't pretend otherwise. But we are excited about the next chapter of our life. We truly care for each other. We care deeply about our parish. We want to grow. We want to bear witness to our community. We believe we have good news that will strengthen, enliven and embolden all people. There is great promise in this moment. ***We want a rector to come – not to save us, not just to hang out with us – but to walk with us, learn with us, take risks with us, guide us, and stand firm with us as we become the people of God for this time.***



ST. CATHERINE'S HISTORY

Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my Name, I am there among them." Thus 60-plus years ago, on March 12, 1957, 15 lay people met with Canon William Hargrave and Father William F. Chamberlain, Vicar of St. Francis Church in Tampa, to discuss forming a mission in Temple Terrace, a small, mostly residential community to the immediate east of Tampa.

The first congregation (of 27 people) met at the Temple Terrace Civic Center on April 28, 1957, with music furnished by a portable record player. On May 5, the mission was formally established as St. Catherine's Episcopal Church.

After worshipping in a restaurant and a storefront, the new congregation began to meet in the Temple Terrace Civic Center again, but on a more regular basis. The upstairs room which was used as gambling casino, was offered for the church's use, so each Sunday it was necessary to move the gambling equipment out in order to prepare for worship in what quickly became known as the "Upper Room." Our first Confirmation class (of 3 children) took place in 1958.

During 1959, under St. Catherine's third Vicar, Father Edward Pernell, the name of the church was changed to St. Catherine of Alexandria, because he admired the courage and steadfast resolve with which she kept her faith. Her symbol, the broken wheel, can be seen in many places throughout the church's buildings and publications. In the meantime, a 5-acre parcel of land was located at the corner of Druid Hills Road and 62nd Street, and was purchased. Father Willis Doyle, the first full-time Vicar, oversaw construction of the new building, and it was dedicated on July 9, 1961.

When Father Paul Johansen arrived in July, 1966, the congregation had grown to 244 communicants. He saw that the parish needed to focus more of its attention outward. To this end, he became more involved in community affairs and encouraged parishioners to do so as well.

Father J. Candler Monroe arrived during Advent of 1969 and almost immediately, his youth and energy captivated the parish. Tragically, however, during the following Spring, he was reported as missing, and then, a week later was found killed, a victim of assault. The killer was apprehended and convicted, but St. Catherine's remained in a state of shock.

When Father Jerold R. Stadel came to us during Advent, 1970, St. Catherine's was still grieving over the death of Father Monroe. Father Stadel's personality of quiet strength quickly had a calming influence, and provided the leadership necessary to get us looking outward and moving forward again.

During Father Stadel's tenure, involvement by the congregation in community and Diocesan affairs increased dramatically. Several parishioners led Diocesan

ST. CATHERINE'S HISTORY



Committees, one served on two Bishops' Nominating Committees and on the DaySpring Board of Directors, three served as President. Many parishioners attended Cursillo, and afterwards worked on Cursillo teams. Some became involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry. Three parishioners entered the priesthood. As a result of Father Stadel's leadership, St. Catherine's became self-supporting and achieved parish status in 1975.

In late 1991 through early 1992, the planning to erect a new worship space took place. Construction began later that year. Once again, however, the parish was marked by trauma when in mid-1992, Father Stadel experienced a near-fatal stroke and had to step back from parish leadership. With the guidance of Father Ed Henley who became Acting Rector, and under the direction of the Building Committee, construction continued. The first worship service in the newly completed worship space was held on Easter Sunday, 1993. In the following years, although he did not return to St. Catherine's as our rector, Father Stadel made what all of us believed to have been a miraculous recovery for which we are deeply grateful.

Father Ronald Jaynes was installed as Rector in August, 1994. He knew his ministry with us, following the long tenure of the beloved first rector of our parish, would be one of an interim nature. Right off the bat he declined to live in the rectory, quite controversial at the time. As we came to grips with many of the issues of the 1990's in the Episcopal Church, and in particular when he "allowed" Integrity, the LGBT Episcopal group to hold services in the sanctuary without "consulting the Vestry," his time with us was marked by disagreements and controversy. The congregation became polarized, and Father Jaynes ended his tenure in August, 1998.

In March 2000, Father Edward R. Rich, was installed as our third Rector. He began immediately to articulate a vision for our parish. He formed the SWEEP Commissions (Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care) to help lead in the planning and implementing of parish programs, and recommended a line-item budget for them to do so. Many outreach programs were undertaken, and Diocesan involvement remained strong. Christian Education was revitalized, and many young families with small children joined the parish.

A Capital Fund Campaign, together with a grant from the Diocese, resulted in complete renovation of the entire 3,500 square-foot Christian Education Wing. A new front entrance was built leading into the narthex. It was topped by a cupola containing the parish bell. The sale of the original parish rectory, which had become a rental property, enabled us to acquire an exceptional new organ, and a bequest funded the upgrading of all original windows in the oldest of our buildings. Father



ST. CATHERINE'S HISTORY

Rich was very much the priest in the center of all that happened at St. Catherine's. Although there were some who felt him autocratic and controlling, many felt that he reaffirmed St. Catherine's as a home for all no matter how divergent their opinions. Father Rich retired for reasons of health on December 31, 2010. On January 2, 2011, Father H. Jeff Robinson was installed as our Interim Rector, while the parish took stock of itself and prepared to call a new Rector.

After prayer and discernment, Mother Susan Latimer was called to serve as Rector of St. Catherine's. She began with us in October 2011 and served until June 2019, when she accepted a call to a parish in Southern California where she had grown up and where she still has family. Mother Susan was drawn to us in part because of our commitment to and passion for liturgy and music. In addition to leading the parish to embrace new patterns of prayer in spiritual formation and development, she wrote a grant to offer a Fine Arts program to the community - and to the parish. The St. Catherine's Fine Arts Summer Camp provided a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to work together and to interact with 40 plus elementary school campers for five summers. However, staffing became a problem as parish volunteers, getting up in age, were unable to commit to the time necessary to work with the children and teachers, and the camp ended after five summers.

In December 2016, Mother Latimer was diagnosed with breast cancer and went on medical leave until September 2017. This was a difficult time, certainly for her, and for the parish, especially after the parish had ministered to Father Stadel and Father Rich during their times of illness. Mother Susan was a very private person who chose not to share the details of her illness. Some felt we had not been given the opportunity to reach out to her pastorally in the way we were accustomed. During the latter part of Mother Latimer's ministry in particular, there emerged some unhappiness with her leadership style, with strong feelings both in support and opposition to her ministry with us.

Since Mother Latimer's departure, there has been questioning, reflection, growth, learning, and now renewed attention to our search for the next rector of St. Catherine's. During the interim period, with the assistance of The Rev'd Canon Richard Norman, Canon to the Ordinary in our Diocese, the vestry has spent time examining its covenant of behavior and oversight. With the help of the Interim Rector, Father Allen Farabee, the vestry has exercised healthy oversight and made good decisions for the parish. Father Farabee has worked very hard to call the parish together, to make it a warm and inviting place for all, and to create a safe space to express feelings and hopes for our future. We have learned better what kind of personality and leadership we want from our rector, and we are eager and ready to call the 5th Rector of St. Catherine's.

FINANCES



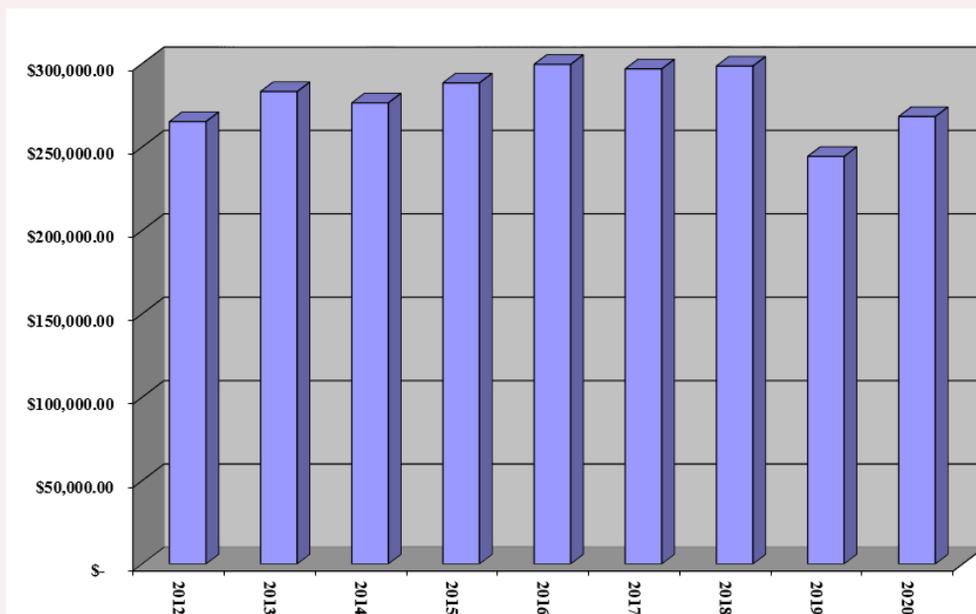
St. Catherine's is operating with an annual budget of \$291,000 in 2021. The revenue portion of the budget is derived primarily from parishioner pledged contributions, plate contributions, as well as some income from facility rental and usage fees.

Our budgeted fixed expenses include personnel costs, building and grounds maintenance costs, office and administrative costs as well as our annual diocesan assessment. We also budget financial support for our ministries to spend at their discretion. A total breakdown of budgeted revenue and expenses for 2021 is shown on the pie charts.

The Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020 has certainly had a negative effect on the in-person attendance at each of our weekly services. St. Catherine's has closely followed guidelines as established by our Diocese for weekly service guidelines and administration of the Holy Eucharist. In spite of the pandemic, our parish has remained faithful to St. Catherine's. The pandemic led our parish to begin to stream our Sunday services which has proven to be a huge success and will continue after the pandemic subsides.

The faithfulness of our parishioners has kept St. Catherine's financially sound through the leaving of our rector in 2019 and onset of the pandemic in 2020. We have been able to meet the financial needs of our parish and still be fiscally responsible to our parishioners. We look to a bright future for our parish.

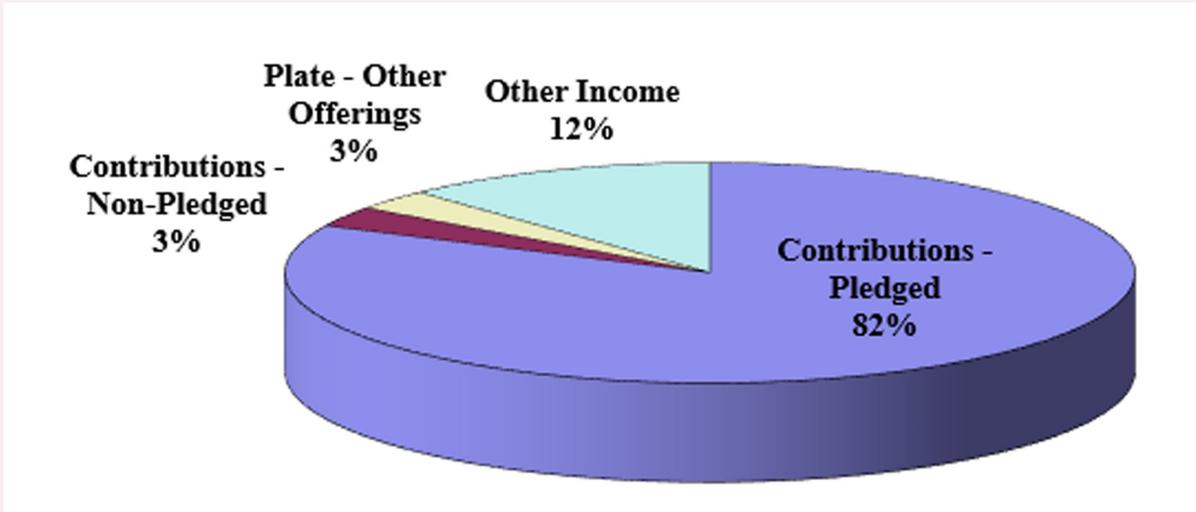
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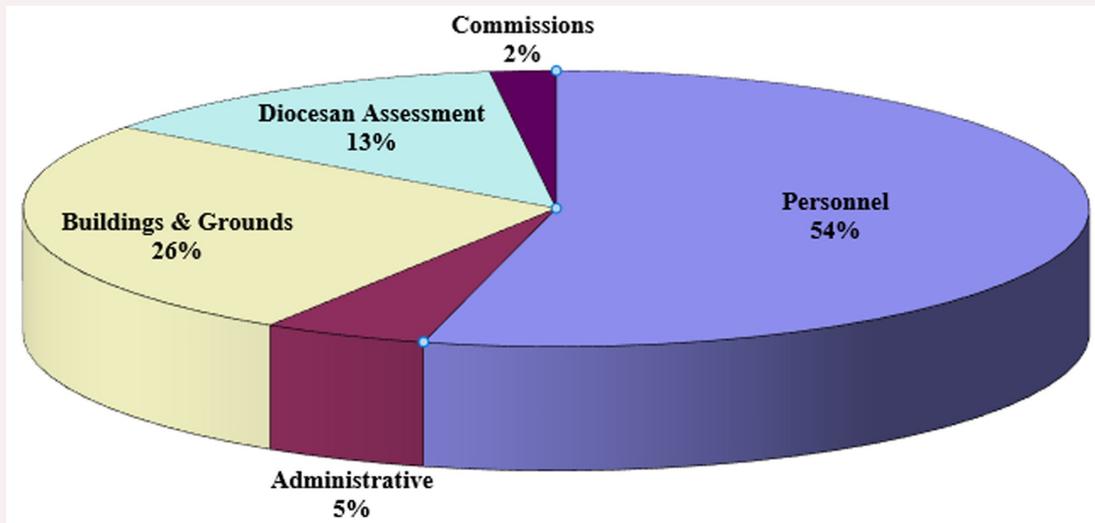
FINANCES

2021 BUDGETED REVENUE



FROM A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$291,000

2021 BUDGETED EXPENSES



WHERE WE GATHER



The original church building was built in 1961. The Parish Hall was added in 1982. Our new worship space was constructed in 1992, and the original church building was renovated in 2005 when it became the Christian Education unit and parish offices.

The picture below shows the main entrance to the church, through the Koch Tower and into the narthex. The nave is on the left, and the parish hall is on the right.



The church building consists of three main elements: 1) the worship space, 2) the Parish Hall with kitchen, and 3) the Christian Education unit with classrooms, the choir area and parish offices.

2



3



1



The nave seats approximately 240 and is an open, inviting, liturgical space. Our



WHERE WE GATHER

congregation loves music, and loves to sing. We are blessed to have a wonderful pipe organ and an acoustically good space in which to worship and make music. The worship space is simple and straightforward, yet warm and inviting.

The Parish Hall is a space that is full of light and accommodates functions well. We have recently remodeled the kitchen and replaced the tables and chairs in the Parish Hall.

Many community groups have found welcome at St. Catherine's. Prior to Covid-19, quite a few 12-step groups met at the church on a weekly basis, as well as a Boy Scout troop. The church is used as a polling place for elections. There are occasionally other community groups who use our facilities, as well. The Boy Scouts and other groups have indicated that they will return when the pandemic lifts.

The church is located in a residential area on five acres of land. The property is landscaped with Florida native plants, among others, and is beautifully covered with many live oak trees. Under the canopy is an area used for over-flow parking.



This area also provides for outdoor worship and gatherings.

The church buildings have served us well and have been well maintained. They are debt free. The property is large enough to allow for growth and provides gracious space for Christian community.

We hope our new Rector will appreciate our church buildings and grounds, and will help us be good stewards of our property.



WHERE WE LIVE



Temple Terrace, a city within Hillsborough County, is primarily a residential community of 38,000 people. The city is conveniently located within a mile of the University of South Florida, within a twenty-minute drive to downtown Tampa, and a mile east of Busch Gardens. The city is surrounded on two sides by the Hillsborough River and is noted for the many oaks and other trees throughout the city.



The Hillsborough River winding through Temple Terrace among old oak trees.

The city of Temple Terrace was built around a golf course in the early 1920's. Many other courses are located in the surrounding area. Additional demographic information about Temple Terrace is available through a link from the search portion of our website.



Clearwater Beach

Florida's west coast beaches are within an hour's drive to the west and all of the Orlando area attractions are within an hour's drive to the north east. Tampa International Airport provides access to almost anywhere in the world. The Tampa Bay area provides a full offering of music, art and entertainment facilities and major league sports.

The University of South Florida, now Florida's second largest public university with over 45,000 students, continues to expand its medical school and research facilities in conjunction with Tampa General Hospital, one of the preeminent research hospitals in the Southeast.



Other higher education options include Hillsborough Community College (HCC) with four major campuses and numerous satellite centers, many of which are less than ten miles from Temple Terrace and the University of Tampa located in downtown Tampa.



BISHOP DABNEY SMITH'S VISIT

CONFIRMATION

Covid-19 has certainly brought difficulties and changes to our lives over the last year. You will have noticed as you read this Profile, that we have had to suspend some activities, move others to a virtual platform, and even change how we do things in person. But Bishop Smith recently made his pastoral visit to St. Catherine's, encouraging us, reminding us that God has blessed us even during this difficult year, and bringing us hope for our search.



With parishioners in the church and many more worshipping with us online, we stood to sing "Lift High the Cross," heard God's promise of a new heart within all people, went with the Greeks to see Jesus, and were lifted by words of hope from our Bishop.

We renewed our Baptismal Covenant and the Bishop confirmed 4 people, including the daughter of a priest from Haiti and members of a neighboring parish. We offered a prayer for our Bishop, thanksgiving for his presence and guidance during this last year.



God has a way of providing what we need when we need it. After our difficult year, Bishop Smith's visit was just the encouragement we needed. We were lifted up and excited about the journey ahead and the calling of our next Rector.



It has been a year of unexpected blessings.

While we were unable to worship in-person, we discovered a whole new way of reaching people through streaming services. We have discovered new ways to gather for worship, new ways to reach people, new ways to proclaim the good news of Jesus. We will continue streaming into the world from St. Catherine's. We have missed each other terribly, but have found new connections, and new ways to make them.

We are looking forward to coming back together in person, and to calling our new Rector to lead us.

PARISH STAFF



CLERGY

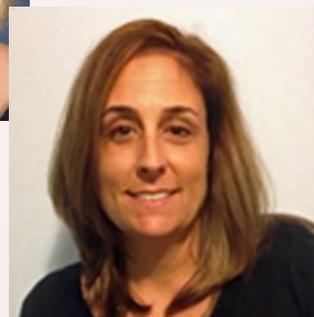
The Rev. Allen W. Farabee and his wife retired to Florida, from New York, several years ago. He assisted our prior Rector on Sundays, from 2016, until being called to serve St. Catherine's as Interim Rector .

OFFICE STAFF

Diana Gruposso, Parish Administrator, schedules use of the facility, keeps parish records, prepares worship bulletins, the weekly newsletter and monthly *Wheel*, and assists the Rector, Vestry, and staff. She also assists with the Website updates and livestreaming.



Brenda Menendez, Financial Secretary, handles the parish financial records, and works with the parish Treasurer.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Rachel Rubottom, Director of Christian Formation, oversees the Christian Education classes and events for children and youth, including Nursery, Children's Chapel, Sunday School, and The Journey to Adulthood Program, as well as Adult Education .

MUSIC

Linda Ruescher, Interim Director of Music and Organist assists the Rector in planning the music for services. She trains and directs our choir and plays the organ and piano during services.



VESTRY & SEARCH COMMITTEE

Vestry

Manon Alewynse, Senior Warden
John Grupposo, Junior Warden
Jeff Boe
Brandon Devoll
Sylvia Dixon
Rory Anne Eubank
Carol Harlow
Bernice Hull
Paul Johnson
Juana Delgado Miller
Kim Quire
Catherine Temple

Search Committee

Ellen Buckley, Chair
Tiffany Grant
Bernice Hull
Paul Johnson
Kim Quire
Renee Stembridge
Milton Temple

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you discern that God may be calling you to a life-giving ministry at St. Catherine's, please submit the following materials:

- Résumé / c.v.
- A copy of your updated OTM profile
- A letter of interest that highlights how you feel you meet the needs of St Catherine's.

Email all documents to:

The Rev'd Canon Richard Norman
Canon to the Ordinary
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Questions: 941.556.0315

Deadline: September 7, 2021



502 Druid Hills Road | Temple Terrace FL 33617
813-988-6483

Website: www.stcathtt.org
YouTube Channel: [UCYcZyIX6Pcbj6HVCUkjl0w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYcZyIX6Pcbj6HVCUkjl0w)
Facebook: [@StCatherineEpiscopalChurchTempleTerrace](https://www.facebook.com/StCatherineEpiscopalChurchTempleTerrace)