

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Parish Profile



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St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, in Virginia Beach, Va., is a vibrant, active church on a wooded lot in the middle of a suburban community.



Look to the east and we are 15 minutes from the Atlantic Ocean.



Look to the west and we are 10 minutes from the Virginia Beach Town Center, an exciting area of shopping, dining, arts, entertainment, businesses, residences, etc.

Look inside St. Aidan's and we are a parish with close ties among members and with open arms to visitors. Our services and our hearts are open to all. Please continue to read this profile to see how we manifest Christ in our Church life.

Who We Are

St. Aidan's mission is "to serve as Christ's beacon to all who are drawn to our door and all whose paths we cross."



Our vision is "to provide a safe and supportive environment for people of all backgrounds and interests; to develop and strengthen their personal and communal relationship with God. God's loving Spirit beckons us to become the body of Christ. Striving for justice and peace in our community and in the world at large, we seek to serve God in all our daily interactions."

Our Worship

While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused St. Aidan's to halt on-premises activity, it has not stopped our parish from gathering in Jesus' name. In the spirit of Matthew 18:20, many parishioners and even a few guests join daily Zoom meetings for Morning Prayer. The Palm Sunday and Easter Day Morning Prayer Zoom services had approximately 75 and 100 worshippers respectively.

In more normal times, St. Aidan's offers two Sunday services, the first at 8:15 AM and the second at 10:30 AM. Both primarily are Rite II with Holy Eucharist. The early service is held without music, while the later includes various offerings of hymns, choir anthems, and solos as well as handbell and guitar music. Christian Education for children and adults (taught by lay persons) is held between the services beginning at 9:30 AM.

The second Sunday of the month is Youth Sunday with lessons read by the youth. The sermon is geared toward the younger members, and the music during the offertory is usually provided by our young people.

Healing Prayers with laying on of hands is offered once monthly, and any month with a fifth Sunday allows us to have one combined service for the entire parish.



During the summer months, one combined service is held at 9:30 AM, with a "drop in choir" and/or special music selections and guest musicians. We also have an outdoor, open air chapel, which is used at times during mild weather.

Special worship opportunities are offered throughout the year, including Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve services.



The Rt. Rev. "Holly" Hollerith



The Rt. Rev. "Jay" Magness

What We Value

We value our wooded setting with its outdoor chapel, columbarium, and playground.

We value having our choice of services: a quiet 8:15 AM service and a family, youth and music-oriented 10:30 AM service. We value our monthly healing service and weekday communion.

We value having a church building that hums all week with both parish and community activities.



We value our monthly “Feeding the Homeless.”

We value our Pastoral Care Commission which meets weekly to review and respond to the needs of parishioners. Many have felt the strong support of these caring people through home and hospital visitation, phone calls, cards, meals and delivery of Sunday altar flowers.

We value our neighbors at Seton Youth Girls’ Shelter and at Kings Grant House Assisted Living, both of which benefit from and appreciate our outreach.



We value attending Diocesan events such as Shrine Mont Fall Camp, and Cursillo. We value participating in all-parish events like our Fall Fair.



We value our well-led music program which fosters our musical offerings including vocal and handbell choirs.



We value those who teach Sunday school and Vacation Bible School as well as those who attend.





We value our outdoor chapel which was built using the time talent of many parishioners. Because our parish has been and continues to be very much influenced by the presence of the military, we were honored to receive wood from the decking of the battleship USS Iowa which was made into a cross by

parishioners. It is the focal point of our outdoor chapel.



We value our 120-niche Columbarium which sits in a tranquil, wooded area.



Above all, we value having a place to share our love for Jesus Christ and for one other. We are truly blessed because St. Aidan's is a Grace-filled place.

Our Fellowship

St. Aidan's many ministries demand hard work and commitment, but we also know how to have fun. We look for intergenerational opportunities to share our love of Christ through fellowship. Below is a "snapshot" of many activities we have and will continue to enjoy at St. Aidan's:



EYC Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner

Our parish comes together annually to raise money to send our youth on a Mission Trip. Themed tables are decorated, fancy gift baskets, household items and services are auctioned, and dinner is enjoyed by all.

EYC game night and potluck supper

As an on-going annual event, our EYC invites the parish to a potluck dinner, followed by Game Night. They assemble a large supply of games and the attendees rotate through the tables to learn, interact, play and have a great time.



Shawl Ministry

Both a ministry and a social time, a group of dedicated ladies gather every Monday morning to work on various projects. Prayer shawls are knitted and given to those in need. Various crafts are made and sold at an annual sale. Combining their work, this group recently produced a beautiful quilt that was raffled to fund outreach.

Monthly Ladies Luncheon

On the last Friday of every month, the ladies of St. Aidan's gather for a luncheon at a local restaurant and enjoy local food and each other's company.



Annual Fall Fair

In October, St. Aidan's hosts its Fall Fair for members and the community. Fair proceeds are divided between outreach and non-budgeted needs of the parish. Using a decade old "tried but true" formula, tables are rented to vendors, and we sell our famous "Fickle Pickles", baked items, soups, and chowders. The congregation collects hundreds of used books, which are then sold or donated. In addition, a delicious meal of hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue is prepared on site. There are outdoor children's games as well as a scarecrow design area for all to enjoy.

Monthly Movie Popcorn Theology

Again, as a long-standing event, every month, members of St. Aidan's gather together to watch a movie and share appetizers. A lively theological discussion, based on the movie, follows.

5th Sunday Potluck brunch or lunch

When a month has 5 Sundays, we schedule one service mid-morning, followed by a potluck meal. This brings together the congregations from both services to enjoy conversations and a meal.

Taco/ Movie Night

Parishioners sign up to bring all the ingredients for a huge Taco bar, which young and old enjoy, followed by a family movie and discussion.

Receptions

We gather and donate our time and baking skills for receptions at various times during the year, such as our Bishop visits, retirements, funerals, staff birthdays, and greeting new clergy!

Bethlehem Walk

The first weekend in December brings the memorable neighborhood ecumenical Bethlehem Walk. Founded by, and held at a neighboring church, St. Aidan's has approximately 30 members who help to construct a set of the town of Bethlehem, dress in costume, perform character roles and bake hundreds of cookies. This free event, held for three consecutive evenings, helps spread the story of Our Savior's birth, and unites our community.

The people of St. Aidan's love a reason to get together and share fellowship, food, prayer, and good conversation.

Our Outreach

Contributing to our local and world-wide communities has always been important to the members of St. Aidan's. In addition to pastoral care within our own walls, we support numerous outreach ministries, with our time, talent and financial giving. Below is a list of the most active current Outreach projects, but as needs arise, both in our locality and globally, we joyfully band together to provide support.

Every month, we gather for a few minutes after our worship service to assemble **100 sandwiches** for distribution to the homeless. Fellowship and conversation abound as busy hands prepare this food.

Once a month, members gather before the sun comes up to **prepare and serve breakfast** in Norfolk to 80 - 90 homeless individuals. We also hand out parishioner-donated socks and personal care items.

We support **Seton Youth Shelters** (<http://setonyouthshelters.org/>), a non-profit organization that offers a safe haven to youth in crisis throughout Hampton Roads. We assist with their on-going programs, including street outreach, van outreach, counseling, and monthly paper goods collections.

Our **Food Pantry** is on call to provide a week's worth of groceries to needy families referred by Virginia Beach Human Services. Our parish gathers food and cash for this service.

Through our **Holiday Ministry**, St. Aidan's provides Christmas meals and gifts for families and institutionalized adults.

The **Shawl Ministry** meets once a week to knit and crochet handmade shawls for parishioners and friends who need an extra "hug" with comfort items. With donated and auctioned items, this ministry raises funds for the Church's general outreach budget.

Meals-on-Wheels receives our financial support and parishioners routinely volunteer to deliver food.

Our Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

St. Aidan's active and vibrant EYC, divided into grades 6th – 8th and 9th – 12th, meets weekly for fellowship and spiritual growth. The youth strive to proclaim by word and example, the good news of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ, and to work toward justice and peace among all people, by loving their neighbors as themselves. Sunday evening programs are planned with fellowship, faith, fun and food, but occasional outside activities such as games, movies, and rock wall climbing are enjoyed. The EYC adult leaders often use thought-provoking video series and guest speakers to supplement the program, while continuing to help our teens explore their faith. Our youth participate in their own service projects, such as filling Manna Bags, to give to the homeless, while supporting other parish ministries and assisting with Vacation Bible School.

Participation by our youth on the Diocesan level has been on-going for years. Two of our dynamic members are currently serving on the Diocese EYC Board. Attendance at Diocesan retreats is strong. This year, St. Aidan's also has two members on the staff of "Happening".

For the past several years, our EYC has planned, raised funds for, and participated in a summer Mission trip. The EYC has worked with other churches and mission groups on Virginia's Eastern Shore to improve homes, stock local food pantries, tutor children from families where English is a second language, and host community events.



EYC Mission Trip Fundraiser



Our Music

St. Aidan's music ministry is an integral part of parish life and worship. Our Adult Choir, led by Music Director Jamie Dougherty, shares its ministry at the 10:30 AM Sunday services and our youth musicians and singers share theirs at the second 10:30 AM service each month. Our four-octave Bell Choir, also led by Mrs. Dougherty, adds its well-loved ministry to a worship service once each month.

Our worship music is selected from a blended pallet of traditional and contemporary styles.



Our Community

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church is located in the north central area of the Virginia Beach, on the Little Neck peninsula. The Little Neck and Kings Grant areas include a variety of neighborhoods, from older well-established homes, to townhouses and newer modern homes. The numerous neighborhood parks and playgrounds, as well as several beautiful lakes and riverfront areas, make Little Neck a highly sought-after community. Virginia Beach City Public Schools is the largest school division in the region and is highly ranked nationally in the large-school division.

Our City

Virginia Beach, part of a multi-city region known widely as Hampton Roads or Tidewater, is located on the southeastern coast of Virginia. A thriving city with a population of over 450,000, Virginia Beach is best known for its beautiful beaches and family-friendly oceanfront area and boardwalk. The winters are cool with only light snowfalls, summers are hot (perfect for enjoying the gorgeous beaches), and spring and fall bring out all the best in outdoor enjoyment.



The city hosts a variety of outdoor events and festivals, such as the “Something in the Water” festival, Neptune Festival, and Boardwalk Art Show, just to name a few. Virginia Beach is home to Oceana Naval Air station, several large international companies, colleges and universities, world class museums, the Virginia Aquarium, parks, walking and biking trails, and countless restaurants. See <https://www.visitvirginiabeach.com/>. Our neighbor, Norfolk, is home to the world’s largest naval base.



While located on the coast, Virginia Beach is just an hour's drive to Virginia's Historic Triangle – Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown. Day trips to Washington, D.C. or the mountains make this area ideal for various family adventures.



Our Facilities

Located on over three acres of wooded land, St. Aidan's main structure has grown and expanded throughout the 56 years of its lifespan. Now consisting of four main sections, the building has ample room for worship, Christian formation and community events.

The Nave/sanctuary seats approximately 220 people, with designated choir and organ space in the chancel area. A commercial sized kitchen is adjacent to our large parish hall which can accommodate seating for 120 people at tables for 10. The center wing houses a hospitality/meeting room, a music room, updated restrooms, and the Holy Comforter Chapel, which has seating for 30 people. The mid-section hosts Head Start pre-school classrooms and their administrative rooms, a nursery, storage areas, and additional restrooms. An office wing, with rector and secretary offices and workspace, completes the "under roof" areas. Outside, we have our outdoor chapel and large patio area, our flagpole, and our columbarium.

Our Parish History

The congregation of St. Aidan's was established as a Diocesan-Parochial Mission in the summer of 1963, with Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach co-sponsoring parish. The Rev. L. J. "Jay" Taylor, Jr. was appointed priest-in-charge and later became St. Aidan's first rector. He began his ministry in June 1963. With approximately 68 families, the first Holy Eucharist was celebrated on August 18, 1963, in a local elementary school with 110 in attendance. In February 1964, St. Aidan's, now an organized mission, was granted a portable chapel. The first service held in the new building was Christmas Day, 1964.



St. Aidan's new A-frame building, Winter 1965

In 1968, as our parish was growing and maturing, the Reverend Robert B. Newland was called as our second rector. In response to the growth, the parish added a 4,000 square foot wing to house church classrooms and offices, as well as the Head Start office and classrooms. St. Aidan's was the first church in Hampton Roads to sponsor a Head Start program and that program continues to thrive in our building.

The Reverend Paul "Peter" Hogg, Jr. was called as the third rector of St. Aidan's in 1979.

In 1983, as the parish continued to grow in members and ministries, the vestry recognized the need for expansion and renovation. The first two phases of the project saw the construction of a new parish hall and redesign of the single wing. Many improvements were made to the property including the beautification of the interior of the nave and sanctuary.



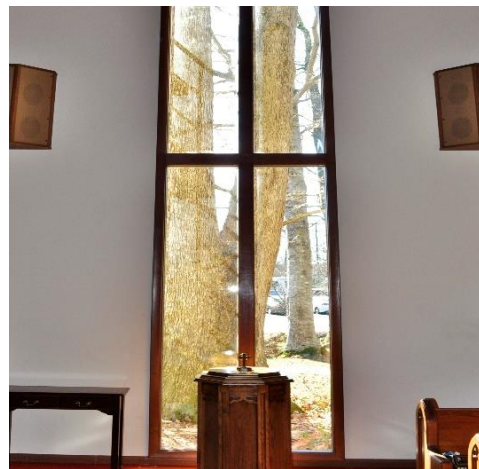
Parish Hall Groundbreaking, 1985

In response to the growth of the 1980s, additional building took place which included a large, multi-purpose hospitality room and a new chapel. The multi-functional space was needed for adult Sunday school, EFM classes, receptions, community meetings, and gatherings for weddings and funerals. A new chapel was also added, and is used for small worship groups, Holy Eucharist during the day and centering prayer one evening each week. It is a haven for those seeking a quiet time or a place for meditation.



In 1992, St. Aidan's nave was graced by the installation and dedication of 13 stained glass windows designed for contemplation and meditation. Seven of these works of art represent major biblical motifs, and six depict the emergence of the Church. These masterworks of art offer intrinsic, highly stylized theological symbols as well as simplistic pictorial representations.

The "14th" window, the last at the rear of nave, is the only window that allows us to look out into the world, as we, the Body of Christ, leave the nave.



In 1994, the St. Aidan's Needlework Guild initiated a project to complete eight needlepoint kneelers to accommodate the 16 feet of rail where parishioners kneel to receive the elements of Holy Eucharist. Like the stained-glass windows, each is a piece of art giving testimony to the devotion and diligence of the guild, which toiled for three years in the undertaking. Each cushion features a different cross medallion at its center.

Also, in 1999, St. Aidan's provided a free land lease enabling Seton Youth Shelters to erect a structure which provides emergency shelter and counseling for girls, ages 9 to 17, who are in crisis.

The Reverend Mark Wilkinson, fourth rector of St. Aidan's, was called in 2007.



Several years later, a local Boy Scout whose troop meets at St. Aidan's, designed and landscaped an outdoor labyrinth on our property for his Eagle Scout project. He was assisted by parish members and the labyrinth is used by the community and members alike.

In a continuing effort to maintain the infrastructure of our church the Vestry tasked the Property and Grounds Committee to develop a five-year plan for our future. The plan, which became known as Preserving Our Heritage, was launched in 2016. This promising endeavor is ongoing as of this writing.

In April 2019, the Reverend Mark Wilkinson accepted a call to another parish, and we began our discernment process and search for our fifth Rector.



St. Aidan's history and growth are a testament to devotion, generosity and continuing love for Christ and His church. It began with humble origins, and, through the grace of Our Lord, has become what it is today.

Our Members & Finances

St. Aidan's members hail from many walks of life including education, medicine, law, national defense, law enforcement, business, homemakers, and retirees. We strive to grow in our relationship with Jesus and each other, through the use of the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us.

Since 2015, St. Aidan's has averaged 81 pledging units annually, and in 2019, pledge income received exceeded the amount pledged by six percent. Pledge and plate income has averaged \$236,000 and total income has averaged \$317,000. We are proud to have been good stewards of our resources and that we are a parish with no outstanding debt.

In March of 2016, parishioners pledged \$87,675 in support of a five-year plan for our future known as "Preserving Our Heritage." The plan focuses on building and grounds infrastructure, and we are on schedule to complete and fully fund all projects

St. Aidan's total expenditures of administration, outreach, capital improvement, and Diocesan pledge have averaged \$305,000 annually since 2015. During that same period, our endowments for emergencies and for outreach have grown by more than 20% and now exceed \$52,000.

Our Diocese

The Episcopal Church in Southern Virginia has roots in the earliest decades of American history, going back four centuries to the English settlement of Jamestown. It is now one of three dioceses in Virginia.

Our diocese consists of 102 congregations in nine convocations totaling approximating 30,000 members. In addition, there are six active Campus Ministry Programs at colleges throughout the diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, was Consecrated on February 1, 2020. She succeeds the Rt. Rev. Herman “Holly” Hollerith, who retired in December 2018.

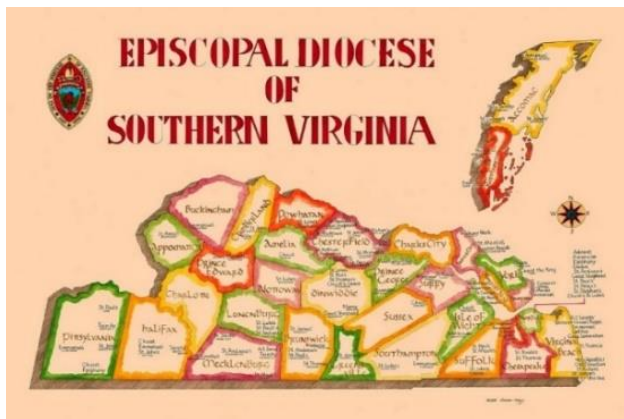


The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes at her ordination/consecration

Diocesan offices are in Newport News, VA, where 10 staff members, including Bishop Haynes, are located. Diocesan Council meets annually in early February to conduct the business of the diocese and to hold elections. The Executive Board of the Diocese meets eight times a year in various locations throughout the area. The Standing Committee meets monthly.

St. Aidan's is in Convocation II of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Our parish is active in Diocesan affairs, with one of our parishioners being the current Diocesan Treasurer and other members have recently served on the Diocesan Executive Board and Disciplinary Board.

Chanco on the James is Southern Virginia's Diocesan Camp and Conference Center. It is situated on 125 acres of woods, surrounded by natural wildlife along the James River in Surry County. It is about a 90-minute drive from St. Aidan's. An outdoor ministry of the Diocese, Camp Chanco is a spiritual place for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. It has one of the longest running summer camp programs in Virginia. Chanco is open to all children and for six years in a row, it has earned the top spot as "Best Summer Camp" by Virginia Living magazine.



To learn more about the Diocese visit

<http://www.diosova.org/>



To learn more about Camp Chanco visit

<https://chanco.org/>

Our Staff

Director of Music – Jamie Dougherty

Parish Secretary – Karen Causey

Parish Bookkeeper – Megan Jaskoski

Volunteer Treasurer – Sharon Metz

Parish Sexton – Dennis Farrell



Jamie



Megan



Karen



Sharon



Dennis

Our Vestry



Pam Belote,
Senior Warden



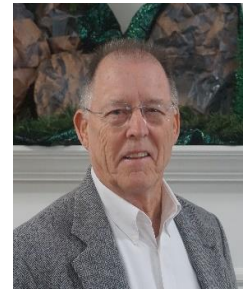
Julie Barr



Mary Dail



Jeanette
Hamilton



Barry
Higginbotham



Bob Kehl



Jim Metcalfe



Tom Metz



Dodie Streit

Our Discernment Committee



Elise Balcom

Consultant



Jerry Alley

Chair



Kathy Benson



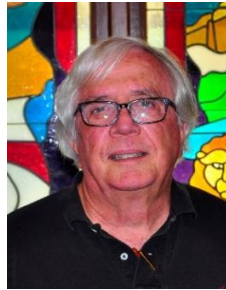
Mary Dail



Andrea Fischer



Janice Poole



Sid Vaughn



Irv Wells



Buddy Wells, *mascot*

Our Future

In preparation for calling a new rector to our parish, the Vestry and Discernment Committee invited our congregation to participate in a Town Hall Meeting, and to complete The Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that provided input on the future direction of our Church. This anonymous survey has allowed us to gain information on our parish's strengths, vitality and trends, as well as to determine our direction for the future and what we seek in a new rector.

Our Direction

To **offer** a wide variety of meaningful worship and educational opportunities grounded in the Episcopal tradition.

To **grow** our outreach ministries to our immediate neighbors and our City of Virginia Beach

To **expand** offerings of Christian Education to all ages

To **provide** a welcoming, visible and well-maintained place of worship in our community, while continuing to offer the use of our building to service organizations, thus making St. Aidan's a relevant part of our community.

To **grow** – *to Go and Serve our Lord.*

Our Next Rector

We are seeking:

A vibrant **spiritual guide**, one who joyfully celebrates the Eucharist with us, presents dynamic, forward-looking theological perspective sermons, and will be an example to us of a God centered life.

An insightful and energetic **leader**, led by God, who can both develop strategies to reach new members and families, and develop strategies to incorporate new and long-term church members into a fulfilling church life.

A **pastor**, one who is skilled in reaching out with compassion to parishioners in times of crisis and one who protects confidential conversation.

A **counselor**, a good listener experienced in conflict management, able to address conflict and help people deal with disagreements in a compassionate manner.

A **mentor and role model**, eager to invite, empower and support the continual development of lay leadership and is able to coach and rejoice in the success of parish leaders.

A **Community-minded person**, who has the ability to relate, engage, converse and mingle socially, not only with the congregation but with the community; one who is available to visit with the sick, the needy and those in need of spiritual advice.

A **manager** for staff and lay leaders, who is skilled at delegating tasks and willing to step forward to fill the gaps when necessary.

Our hope

Just as Aidan was a missionary monk, and later bishop who brought the Good News to the British Isles of Lindisfarne in the sixth century A.D., so do the people of this parish continue to strengthen their church, their families, and their community with the Good News of God in Christ.

By publishing our Parish profile, we hope we will find a “match” – an experienced Episcopal priest who will be called to join us on this energetic and exciting path. We are grounded in our deep love of Christ, in our families and friends, and in our community. St. Aidan’s needs that special parish priest to believe in and be an integral part of our journey. Our Discernment prayer says it simply and from the heart:

***Gracious and Loving God of Wisdom,
Help us to remember that we are led by the Holy Spirit. Guide us in us
Discernment of Your will for our Parish as we search for our new Rector,
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen***