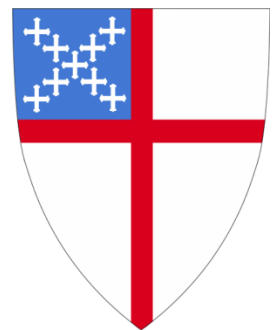


# **St. John's Episcopal Church Profile**

*Wake Forest, North Carolina*



[www.stjohnswf.com](http://www.stjohnswf.com)

## *Who we are...*

St. John's is an active, growing parish striving to follow the message of Christ and welcoming one and all who join us in our worship and service. Our congregation is comprised of people from all walks of life. We value our diversity of experience and opinion as each of us navigates our own spiritual journey.

St. John's is nestled atop a knoll near the center of Wake Forest, a twenty minute drive from downtown Raleigh. Wake County offers a seasonal climate and provides a symbiotic blend of city life and rural landscapes. The community surrounding St. John's has experienced tremendous growth throughout the past decade, and continues to flourish. Wake County schools rank among the highest in the nation. We are flanked by three major universities and several esteemed colleges. Our area's educational, cultural and recreational opportunities continue to draw citizens who are grateful to call this area home. St. John's serves the Lord in harmony with the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

As the only Episcopal Church in Wake Forest, our congregation consists of around two hundred families who are ready to grow in accordance with the surrounding community. We have an 8 a.m. service that is quiet, contemplative and relatively short. The 10 a.m. service includes Sunday school and our choir. St. John's attracts a broad base of members not only from Wake Forest, but also Raleigh, Youngsville, and other surrounding communities, which makes our parish a regional source of spiritual guidance.

St. John's began as a group of people who embraced the core Episcopal value of inclusion, and were looking for a place to connect with others. In 1953 this devoted group of Episcopalians started a campaign fund that resulted in the purchase of a small cinderblock chapel on Main Street. St. John's Episcopal Church, named after Saint John the Baptist, was consecrated two years later. The congregation flourished and in 1984, ground was broken on a piece of property we were given a decade earlier. In 2000 we added our education building.

St. John's then decided to develop a preschool that allows children from within our congregation and the community to begin their educational experiences with a strong Christian foundation. St. John's Episcopal Church Preschool is a highly regarded program for children ages one through four. In addition to our sanctuary, parish hall and education building, St. John's campus includes a beautiful columbarium that invites prayer and reflection. Our staff includes a part-time bookkeeper, an associate coordinator, and sexton.

## *Life at St. John's...*

While on the campus of St. John's, it is common to hear the sounds of laughter, storytelling, and empathizing, and smell snacks cooking in the kitchen. During one recent meeting that involved introspection, it quickly became clear that St. John's is all about connections – connections to one another in fellowship, as well as connections to the community in various outreach programs. Our parish sounds like a warm family reunion at Thanksgiving time, and it feels like that too.

The people at St. John's have long thought that groups with common goals and interests can come together to make great strides. These groups are our ministries, and thanks to dedicated parishioners, they provide the backbone for our fellowship and community outreach. We are blessed with the services our members provide in supporting numerous programs that impact our community. Some of these programs include collections for Tri Area Ministries, participation in Meals on Wheels, our Joy of Christmas program, Church Net, and the annual Relay for Life walk.

Within the church, our parish brings members together throughout the year for adult education, retreats, a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Lenten suppers, and a joyous Christmas pageant. Opportunities for involvement are endless, and helping hands are always welcome. From volunteering for Sunday school to coffee hour or grounds keeping, serving God's will takes many forms. St. John's is truly a place where one person can make an immediate and lasting impact on the lives of others.

Education is a core value of the St. John's community. Our Sunday School program and youth group reflect our belief that our young people are the future of our church. Weekly Sunday School classes are led by a rotating group of volunteers, which gives the youth a chance to meet a great group of role models. EYC is led by a young, energetic couple who are committed to guiding the children in spiritual matters as well as occasional advice on adolescent drama! From our pastors' insightful sermons about weekly readings to adult and youth education, learning and growing in Christ is instrumental to our spiritual journey.

The following are some of the ways we invite participation at St. John's:

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| † Acolytes               | † EYC           |
| † Adult education        | † Flower Guild  |
| † Alter guild            | † Greeters      |
| † Care group             | † Hospitality   |
| † Chalice bearers        | † Lay readers   |
| † Choir                  | † Outreach      |
| † Communications team    | † Sunday school |
| † Episcopal Church Women | † Ushers        |
| † Evangelism             |                 |

Whether we are creating a joyful noise or a prayerful solace, St. John's members are fortunate to have our church and one another as a source of continued spiritual nourishment.

### *Our vision for the future...*

From humble beginnings, St. John's Episcopal Church has grown into an organization with the facilities and grounds to support God's work. St. John's has an education building, a beautiful campus, an open sanctuary, and a parish hall with offices. These buildings have the capacity to serve the missions and ministries of St. John's and the local community through fellowship and outreach. Our current challenge is the mortgage tied to the new education building. We are searching for a pastor who can guide our congregation to fill the new building with the energy, spirit, and activities that reflect our Christianity. Our goal is to increase membership in order to fully utilize the blessings of our campus and become more financially stable. We have stewardship and finance committees working on plans to meet our needs, but there is much work to be done. A desire to get our financial house in order is a recurring theme from the parish.

St. John's members are our core strength. We have developed and sustained an active community of individuals who love and serve the Lord. We are challenged in attracting new members in an area with a multitude of churches. We are searching for ways to foster and enable new people to walk through our doors and share our mission. Many of our members are ready for their opportunity to get involved, or searching for where they fit within our church family. By igniting people's spiritual passion, we hope to welcome and nurture new members, encourage them to participate and show them how their hearts and hands can broaden the reach of our ministry in order to serve humanity. Fellowship is both one of our greatest strengths and one of our greatest challenges.

St. John's is looking toward a future with a solid framework for our ministries, and members who are motivated to participate. We are in agreement that our outreach brings St. John's our greatest source of joy, and our hope is to invigorate and continue these wonderful programs. We currently have a committed core of activities that have changed lives for the better, but we know we can do more. At times it seems we have more opportunities than parishioners. As our parish grows, we are changing from a family based culture, to an organization that needs more structure for our members to thrive in their outreach efforts. Our future ministries should include an even stronger focus on spiritual education, outreach, social programs and youth in order to help our members establish deep roots at St. John's. We are searching for a rector who will encourage a wider variety of members to become leaders, not followers; participants, not observers.

Our discussions and surveys have determined that St. John's hopes to continue to strengthen and expand our fellowship, educational and outreach programs, while maintaining our facilities and fiscal responsibilities. We need a leader to inspire us to walk the Lord's path, a preacher who can bring continually relevant sources of spiritual guidance, a pastor to nourish the needs of our congregation, and a shepherd to nurture the next generation of connections. Our future connections should include an even stronger focus on education, outreach and youth. Central to these ideas is the education of our adults and youth in Episcopal theology as well as the encouragement of individual growth. We desire a priest who can help us expand our congregation and provoke our members to spread the word of God through thought, word and deed.

We are currently searching for a rector who can help ...

- † Guide and inspire us spiritually while maintaining the theological principles of the Episcopal church
- † Encourage growth and retention of members
- † Continue and strengthen our current programs
- † Offer pastoral care in our daily lives and times of need
- † Serve as an example of stewardship and promote that through our congregation
- † Expand our presence in the community

To apply, please send your CDO profile, resume, and letter of interest to: The Rev. Canon Michael C. Hunn, 200 W. Morgan St., Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27601-1338.