

Parish Profile

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church



An inclusive parish in the heart of downtown Denton.

1200 N. Elm Street
Denton, TX 76201
<https://stbarnabasdenton.org>

Welcome

Overview

Welcome to the Parish Profile of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, an inclusive family-size parish in the heart of Denton, Texas!

Our parish is at an important crossroads from which we can either return to health or cease to exist in our present form in just a few years. We are an aging congregation that has experienced a significant decline in membership and a commensurate decline in giving over the last several years. However, despite this decline, our parish history includes a legacy of rebuilding, and even in our present situation, two factors compel us to believe that we can restore the health of our beloved parish with God's help:

- We completed a new building in 2020 made possible by the generosity of long-time parishioners who wished to continue our inclusive downtown presence.
- Our remaining core membership stands determined to sustain our long tradition of community service, social inclusiveness, intellectual curiosity, spiritual devotion, and worship centered on the rich tradition of Anglican liturgy and music.

Therefore, we seek a rector who can collaborate and co-conspire with us, contributing ideas and resources to support and coordinate our mutual ministry while sharing spiritual insight.

At present, a priority for the parish is to nurture our existing membership through fellowship, pastoral care, and sustainable Christian education so that we may rebuild our parish; however, we see this nurturing as a step toward readying ourselves to reach out to those in the surrounding community who need us. We see the restoration of our own community and a renewed ministry to others as concomitant goals, developing the strength of our fellowship through an interdependence that allows us to both give and receive support from one another. We know that when we serve others, we find joy that sustains us.

At the moment, we are best equipped to reach out to adults and seniors, but as our parish gathers strength, we seek to reach out again to college students and families with children. We are well positioned to provide a church home to those who seek a parish that welcomes all regardless of race, class, ability, or gender identity and to those who value the spiritual depth thoughtfulness of our prayer book's liturgy and the beauty of our music in the growing community of Denton.

As we seek God's will for our future ministry, we offer ourselves as a welcoming downtown church dedicated to Christian love and service.

Parish Mission Statement

We at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, who come from all over Denton County and neighboring counties to this downtown house of God, believe that our mission is to glorify God through our worship and to serve one another and our neighbors through caring fellowship, Christian education, and outreach to the community in the name of Christ.

We are members of the world-wide Anglican Communion, partner churches in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury. We believe that scripture, tradition, and reason are the sources of authority in our corporate and personal lives. We see thinking and free intellectual inquiry as friends of spirituality, not as foes.

We, therefore, do not fear, but welcome diversity.

Welcome

Parish Goals

In 2020, our parish saw the completion of a new building. When we began the journey to build a space that could house the community we hoped to become, we set out to achieve the following goals:

1. To glorify God and build the Body of Christ through liturgy, the sacraments, and sacred music
2. To build a church community of family and friends
3. To build programs for all ages to teach, learn, and spread the Gospel
4. To build opportunities to support and serve others in need

These goals served us well as we built the physical structure of our church. We now hope that they will help us build up the community of the faithful as we seek a new rector and grow both in numbers and in service to others.

A Prayer for our Rector Search

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment as we seek our next rector.

Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Lead us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as we search for a new priest. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility and fill them with a sense of your love and presence.

Bless the priests we meet through this search with open hearts and upright spirits as, together, we seek your purpose. Help us learn—even in this time of uncertainty—to see the process of discernment as a conduit for your unfailing grace. Help us support one another with love, patience, and thankfulness as we continue the ministry of our beloved parish. Amen.



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

1200 N. Elm Street

Denton, Texas 76209

July 2025

Dear Friend in Christ:

We at St. Barnabas are deeply grateful to you for your interest in us. St. Barnabas has a long history of being part of the fabric of the City of Denton. We are fewer in number now than we have been in past years, and overall, our hair is a bit grayer than it was – although we have recently and joyfully welcomed some younger adults and children into our parish family. Together, we are a dedicated, spiritual, generous, and inclusive congregation of people who seek to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ by being His hands and feet, right here and right now. Our commitment to Christ, to each other, and to our neighbors remains strong.

We seek a priest and pastor who will guide us and walk with us toward the vision we see, that of bringing the Good News of Jesus's reality and relevance to this oft-broken world, in real, palpable, and visible ways.

Thank you, again, for your interest in St. Barnabas. If you have questions or wish to send materials for consideration, please contact

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In faith,
Anne Schoolfield
Senior Warden and Chair, Rector Search Committee

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Who We Are and What We Do

Worship and Liturgy

Central to our existence as a community of faith is our commitment to Episcopal worship, liturgy, and sacred music in the Anglican tradition. Services both before, during, and after the pandemic have included both Rite I and Rite II options of Morning Prayer, mid-day prayers, spoken and sung Eucharists, Compline (virtual), Lenten Stations of the Cross, and seasonal observances of the High Holy days. On Easter Sunday 2025, we moved to one service at 10:00 a.m. after a year-long discussion about the merits of this change.



Worship Services

While times for Sunday morning Eucharistic services have varied slightly over the years, St. Barnabas has held an early, spoken service using Rite I and a later, sung service using Rite II for much of its recent history. However, beginning on Easter Sunday of 2025, our Sunday worship moved to one service at 10:00 a.m. Our plan for the foreseeable future is to alternate rites seasonally and to have sung services from September through April. Additionally, since April 2025, we have had no midweek services, but we anticipate returning to one midweek Eucharist beginning in September 2025.

Before the pandemic, St. Barnabas offered the following mid-week services:

- **Morning Prayer** on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist** on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
- **Evening Prayer** at 6:00 p.m. and **Holy Eucharist** at 6:20 p.m. on Wednesdays

During the pandemic, St. Barnabas offered the following services:

- **Sundays, 9:00 a.m.** — A spoken service using Rite I
- **Sundays, 11:00 a.m.** — A sung service using Rite II that included choral anthems and both Anglican and Gregorian chant; this service was also livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. and posted on the parish's Facebook page afterwards
- **Wednesday, 12:00 noon** — A spoken service using Rite I
- **Noon Prayers** — A spoken, in-person service held on Mondays at 12:00 noon
- **Compline** — A mostly spoken, video service posted Mondays-Fridays at 8:00 p.m., led by both clergy and laity

After the pandemic, we returned to a more modest offering of services:

- **Sundays, 8:30 a.m.** — A spoken service using Rite I
- **Sundays, 11:00 a.m.** — A sung service using Rite II that included choral anthems and both Anglican and Gregorian chant; for the first few years after the pandemic, this service was livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. and posted on the parish's Facebook page afterwards
- **Wednesday or Thursday, 12:00 noon** — A spoken service (often) using Rite I
- **Evening Prayer with *Lectio Divina*** on Sundays during Advent 2024.
- **Morning Prayer** before Tuesday Bible Study during Advent 2024.

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Special services each year have typically included the following:

- **Ash Wednesday** – A spoken service at 12:00 noon and a sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Stations of the Cross** – A lay-led service held during the six Fridays of Lent at 6:00 p.m. and on Good Friday at 12:00 noon
- **Maundy Thursday** – A sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – A sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil** – A sung service at 8:00 p.m.
- **Red Mass/Creationtide Service for the Academic Year** – A sung service celebrating the beginning of the academic year, alternating between St. Barnabas and St. David of Wales, Denton, for many years. Since the pandemic, the service has been held at St. Barnabas. In 2023, we began incorporating the celebration of Creationtide into this service, marking the relationship between education and the creation. In 2024, we were able to celebrate with the fourth-grade teacher who coordinates our pen pals ministry – thereby, allowing us to celebrate a new ministry (being pen pals to elementary students) and to thank the person whose cooperation enables that ministry
- **Blessing of the Animals** – An outdoor service typically held on the Saturday nearest St. Francis's Day
- **Christmas Eve** – For many years, the parish held two services: 1) a family service at 6:00 p.m., featuring a children's story, a children's pageant, and carols accompanied by guitar, and 2) a sung late service at 10:00 p.m., featuring a musical prelude that began at 9:30 p.m. and seasonal choral music throughout the service. Over the last decade or so, however, fewer parishioners have been comfortable attending the later service, and even though the parish lost most of its families with children during this period, the early service became the better attended of the two, with family attendance replaced by that of older parishioners. In 2019, the parish chose to hold one better-attended service at 7:30 p.m. In 2020, the parish held two services (in observance of Diocesan directives) – one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.; the latter was livestreamed. During 2021-2023, the service was held at 7:00 p.m. In 2024, the service was held at 3:00 p.m. to allow those serving to rest and spend time with family during the evening.
- **Christmas Day** – A spoken service (unless on a Sunday) held at 10:00 a.m. (Not held in 2020; Christmas Day Morning Prayer videos were used during 2021-2023; an in-person service was held at 9:30 a.m. in 2024.)

Worship Services during the Pandemic

Responding to the pandemic in March 2020, St. Barnabas went to one Rite II service at 10:00 a.m. livestreamed on the parish Facebook page and posted afterwards for video viewing.

Upon the installment of a priest-in-charge in September 2020, the parish moved to a schedule of two Sunday Eucharists, with the 9:00 a.m. service held outdoors in our prayer garden and the 11:00 a.m. service held inside with limited attendance, as specified by Diocesan directives. During this period, both the early and late services alternated by week between Rites I and II.

On the second Sunday of November, when the early service moved inside, the former practice of using Rite I at the early service and Rite II at the late resumed. LEMs also distributed communion wafers each Sunday before the 11:00 a.m. service for drive-by pick up during this time.

While the pandemic challenged our parish, as it did all parishes, one bright spot was that we became increasingly adept at delivering quality video services even with limited means. This new skill allowed us to serve parishioners who were unable to attend in-person services and

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to share our worship with many outside our parish. For example, in preparation for Advent, five parish musicians recorded Compline services with music for each Friday in the season, as well as a Service of Ten Lessons and Carols posted on the fourth Sunday in Advent—a service that has been enjoyed by 360 viewers. During 2023 and 2024, we began reserving livestreamed services for special occasions—for example, Holy Week evening services that can be difficult for some parishioners to attend.

Acolytes

Currently, adults serve as thurifers, crucifers, and torch bearers because the parish contains few middle or high school students. In the past, St. Barnabas has trained youth to participate at the altar, and we look forward to sharing this ministry with youth again.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of St. Barnabas prepares the church and altar for all worship and Eucharistic services. Additionally, the members maintain the fair linens that grace the altar; ensure that all vestments worn by the clergy, lay ministers, and acolytes are in good order; care for altar vessels; prepare the sacraments for the Holy Eucharist; and oversee the placement of flowers. The Altar Guild is responsible for care of the nave, chancel, sanctuary, sacristy, and narthex. All duties are performed under the direction of the Altar Guild Director and the rector.

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir has played a significant role at the later Sunday service, as well as services for High Holy days, leading the parish in service music, Anglican chant, and Gregorian chant; the choir also sings anthems that draw from a broad repertoire of music from the 15th Century through the 21st Century. Our members all read music and are conversant with a variety of musical styles. While the choir's membership has, in the past, consisted of up to 12 volunteer members and up to five paid soloists (typically, university students), for the last few years before the pandemic, membership consisted of seven to ten volunteer members and two paid soloists. Beginning in September 2020, music for the later service was provided by the organist, the director of music, and one student soloist to comply with Diocesan directives that singers be masked and 12 feet apart and to keep the few remaining members of the volunteer choir safe. During the last two to three years, a small, but dedicated ensemble of three to seven singers has led our music accompanied by our organist.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)

LEMs assist at the altar during Sunday Eucharists and at other functions, such as weddings, funerals, and other services as requested by the clergy or family. In the past, the parish has arranged opportunities for LEM training and licensing of members wishing to serve in this ministry.

Readers

Parishioners serve as readers at Sunday Eucharists (and at other services such as Lessons and Carols, Morning Prayer, and Stations of the Cross), delivering readings from the Old and New Testaments and leading congregants in the Psalm and the Prayers of the People.

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Ushers

Ushers greet worshippers in the narthex, collect service offerings, and provide worshippers with assistance before, during, and after services. In December 2024, our head usher provided training that covered both standard ushering procedures and the importance of maintaining a safe environment. While ushers are not church security, they play a vital role in being observant and cautiously addressing any suspicious behavior. To enhance safety, ushers are now equipped with panic buttons and keep their cell phones accessible. Usher seating has been arranged near the backdoor of the nave to allow for better monitoring of both the sanctuary and activity in the halls and foyer. The goal remains to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere while being mindful of the safety and well-being of all who gather for worship.

Administration, Facilities, and Stewardship

This section describes St. Barnabas's personnel, facilities, and monetary resources.

Clergy and Staff

In addition to the rector, St. Barnabas is served by a staff of two part-time employees – the Parish Secretary and the Sexton – with a volunteer Director of Music and a contract organist; additionally, the parish contracts for yard maintenance. Over the years, we have been blessed to have the assistance of retired clergy and deacons. While our staff has served us faithfully and well, our finances have limited our ability to keep up with market compensation values, a situation that the parish is committed to rectifying and that we have made progress toward since the pandemic.

Vestry

The St. Barnabas Vestry consists of six elected members, including Senior and Junior Wardens. Its responsibilities include overseeing parish finances, upkeep of the building and grounds, major parish activities, and planning. Vestry members currently do not have assigned portfolios; however, Vestry members often work in pairs or trios to complete tasks. Vestry members may serve as liaisons to parish committees, such as the Outreach Committee. Additionally, the Vestry has worked diligently during the last two to three years to keep the parish in good working order by updating existing policies or creating new ones, by updating recordkeeping and securing parish technology, and by leading major parish projects as needed.

Convention Delegates

St. Barnabas regularly participates in the Diocesan Convention. Each year, during the Annual Parish Meeting, the congregation elects two delegates and two alternate delegates.

Parish Administration

Over the last two to three years, the Vestry has worked diligently to improve parish administration by updating or creating parish policies (for building use, social media use, funerals and weddings, etc.) and establishing yearly schedules for administrative tasks and maintenance. Additionally, we have worked to secure our technology and physical plant.

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Like many smaller churches, St. Barnabas has been a bit slow to update our technology, not so much because of the cost, but because of the expertise required to keep up with current trends. Thankfully, our new building was created with security in mind and has provided the impetus to upgrade the security of the church network.

At this time, we have a secure physical plant with steel fire doors on all entrances, security cameras around the perimeter and in the nursery, and a “panic alarm” system that allows us to alert police with a single button. We have chosen not to install a door alarm system for now.

Our computers were upgraded in 2021, with software upgrades in 2024. We are committed to keeping the network secure and have a parishioner with computer expertise who helps ensure the proper steps are taken. Our building has both wired and wireless internet. A locked mechanical room holds the internet hub and security camera recorder. The computers are in locked offices, with online cloud backups for essential information. We use MS Windows and Office, Dropbox, and Realm as our primary tools for maintaining communication, church records, and financial data. We are making a concerted effort to maintain church “systems” records in Dropbox, with an emphasis on thorough documentation of our setup and account access, as well as records of church policies. Our goal is to have an accurate “single source of the truth.”

We have recently updated our web presence and have purchased a number of web domains to improve our internet security and direct traffic to the correct website. Additionally, our community maintains an active parish Facebook page to provide information about parish activities, as well as Diocesan and ECUSA news.

Facilities

While St. Barnabas has experienced a decline in membership over the last several years, one crowning achievement is our new building erected in two stages, with the second stage and renewed landscaping completed in 2020.

The church is located in central Denton between North Elm and North Locust Streets and represents a legacy of Episcopal presence in the Denton Community that began in the 1870s. The church has been in its current location since the 1930s. Sadly, decades of use, as well as an electrical fire in 1967, damaged the original building badly. Eventually, replacement became necessary. Groundbreaking for a new building was held in 2017. The beautiful grounds now encompass a church of 13,326 square feet.

The grounds are extensive, as the construction process and the removal of multiple old buildings left a large open space. An enhanced prayer garden has been installed in the shade of the main church yard near the location of the original St. Barnabas church. Outdoor gathering places, such as a barbecue patio and a play area for children are possibilities for the future, and there is ample room to expand the current building if expansion is needed.

The new modern building is the result of years of effort by the parish to create a beautiful, energy efficient, ADA-compliant space with room for worship, education, administration, and gathering. The office opens with a library/reception room that leads to both the church administrator’s office and a private rector’s office. The parish hall is spacious, with a pass-through kitchen that has been outfitted with new appliances. All kitchen and bathroom fixtures are water-efficient, helping us be good stewards of our resources. A nursery and Godly Play room round out the “meet and manage” end of the building.

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The “worship” wing includes the sanctuary proper with sacristy and vesting rooms. The nave holds just under 250 people at full capacity. Its high open-truss ceiling accommodates a choir and organ loft. The sanctuary furnishings, highlighted by the stained-glass windows and massive oak cross at the altar, glorify God’s divine presence and loving grace. Pews from the old church were refinished and moved to the new, as were the stained-glass windows, which were carefully restored by John Kebrle, of Dallas, Texas, whose father and grandfather co-fabricated the original windows. Kebrle was also commissioned by donors to fabricate and install the magnificent Rose Window above the altar. The marble altar once graced the old chancel. Because the altar survived the fire despite falling through the floor, making it part of the new church was imperative to everyone involved. A resplendent oak cross built and donated by artist Jan Barboglio provides depth and gravitas behind the altar. Smaller furnishings have been repaired or replaced as needed, with an emphasis on maintaining continuity with artists and artisans whenever possible.

St. Barnabas has a history of exceptional music. The choir loft’s stained-glass St. Cecilia window, fabricated by Denton artist Christie A. Wood, honors long-time organist-choirmaster Alis Adkins, who developed the music program over her 50-year tenure in the parish. We continue to be blessed by the amazing music that even a few singers can produce from the soaring loft.

Rounding out the worship wing are a large classroom, the main restrooms, and an all-gender/family/ADA restroom that can accommodate even the largest wheelchair. We are eager to share our new physical plant with others. Although we have not been able to fill it with people since the final occupancy permit was granted, we look forward to the day we can join together to celebrate a full-capacity communion in this blessed place.

To view photographs of our new building, see Appendix E and visit the parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stbdenton/>

Nave Sound System

While the new St. Barnabas nave has wonderful acoustics for music, we have needed to work to make the spoken word easily accessible to all. In 2023, we applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas for an improved sound system. The improvements include panels along the wall under the choir loft to reduce excess reverberation, a set of powerful compact speakers, a new soundboard, and new headset and lectern mics. This new equipment replaced that used by St. Barnabas for over 20 years and has made our nave more accessible and comfortable for worship and other purposes. We have also recently worked to provide greater accessibility for those using hearing aids by using an audio over Wi-Fi assistive listening app.

Finishing Committee

As we moved to our new building, a Finishing Committee was formed to complete the interior with furniture, bookcases, and artwork and to oversee plans for the prayer garden and other outdoor spaces.

Following the lead of the original Building Committee, the Finishing Committee repurposed items from our former building in our new building, incorporating the old with the new throughout. Recent acquisitions include donated artwork, refurbished tables for the parish hall, and the rector’s office desk and chairs. Many furnishings were funded by designated

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donations from current parishioners; some additional furnishings await funding although this committee has completed most of its work.

Stewardship and Finances

In the past, St. Barnabas has typically held its Fall Stewardship Drive during October. Traditionally, a Vestry member has served as the leader of the campaign to encourage pledging of time, talent, and treasure from parishioners in service to the church.

In recent years, our fourth-quarter stewardship efforts have been more in the nature of “appeals” than “campaigns.” Our giving remains strong at the individual level, but as our numbers have fallen, so has the total amount of pledging.

Currently, we practice stewardship throughout the year by making conscientious decisions about our resources. We have no debt and some reserves; however, we have not had the capacity to add to these reserves recently. We are also mindful of and grateful for a legacy of the thoughtful, able, hardworking, and open parishioners who have sustained our parish for over 100 years. During 2022-2024, we have focused on expressing gratitude as a parish in November and celebrating the culmination of our stewardship efforts in December at a luncheon after our Lessons and Carols; one of the final carols we sing is “In the Bleak Midwinter,” which concludes with “what can I give Him? Give him my heart.” We see giving our hearts to Christ as the basis of all stewardship.

We have provided a financial statement for 2023-2025, as well as a current balance sheet, in Appendix C: Finance Report.

Fellowship and Mutual Support

Parish life at St. Barnabas is enriched by the following:

The Order of the Daughters of the King

The St. Margaret of Scotland chapter at St. Barnabas has 15 members, with six members currently able to participate actively.

Members take lifetime vows to join The Order of the Daughters of the King, incorporating a Rule of Prayer and Rule of Life and pledging to a life of prayer, service, and evangelism to spread Christ’s Kingdom and strengthen the spiritual life of the parish and its rector. The focus of the chapter does not change with circumstances, but the focus of their prayers does, with the Daughters praying currently for the work of the Rector Search Committee and for pandemic relief. As in past years, members have divided names in the church directory to pray daily for “their” congregants.

In the past, members have held weekend spiritual retreats at Camp All Saints, the Diocesan retreat center. They have hosted Lenten and Advent Quiet Days for the parish, and most recently conducted those jointly with Daughters from St. David’s, alternating parishes. Other past meetings have included special events, such as a Mother-Daughter tea, book studies, and meeting at a local assisted living center where members lived. Members have attended Diocesan, State, and National conventions, and have had some of their activities and programs featured in the *Royal Cross* member magazine.

During the pandemic, the Daughters continued their meetings via Zoom, on the second Saturday of the month. Emails keep all members connected and apprise members of prayer

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requests sent to DOK. Although current attendance may be small, the Daughters enjoy getting together and supporting each other. Many members are active in parish life, serving during Sunday services, on committees, and on the Altar Guild.

Crafty Hearts

The Crafty Hearts, an informal group open to anyone who knits, crochets, sews, quilts, or just wants to fellowship, currently has five to six members. Projects include hats, prayer shawls, scarfs, afghans, and baby blankets. The group's craft items are usually donated to various local organizations with some items sold at our annual bazaar. The group often meets on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall.

Book Club

The St. Barnabas Book Club was started in 2002 when a parish mom had twins and needed adults to talk to at least once a month! A social group of eight to ten for booklovers, the club's focus has always been contemporary fiction but other genres are chosen on occasion. Discussions are casual rather than literary studies and can range from ten minutes to an hour, depending on participants' reactions to that month's book. Books are chosen by group approval from suggestions given at meetings, and attendees bring food and beverages to share.

Other Ways We Care for Each Other

In addition to the organized groups mentioned above, the members of the parish care for each other through various forms of communication. A small, but devoted group sends cards to parishioners on Christmas and parishioners' birthdays to let them know that the church family is thinking of them. Our Senior Warden compiles a monthly newsletter to keep parishioners informed of upcoming parish events and often sends a weekly email communication. The parish secretary sends informative emails as needed.

Ways That We Care for and Engage with Our Surrounding Community

We are involved in our surrounding community in a variety of ways: we donate to local social support organizations like Our Daily Bread, which provides social services for the unhoused. In fact, we dedicate all proceeds from our Annual Fall Bazaar to the charities our parish supports. Additionally, we have participated in Taizé services with four other churches (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Christian, and Methodist) within the last few years, thereby fostering a deeply meaningful ecumenical exchange.

We have also begun attending more Diocesan events like Parish Leadership Day, which provides a variety of informative workshops and allows us to interact with and learn from people outside our parish. Further, in November 2024, two Vestry members attended an APNET (Associated Parishes of North East Texas) workshop to learn more about how the churches involved support one another through a minster model. We would like to explore more ways to be involved with the wider community, including doing more with the Taizé group of churches and with other Episcopal churches nearby.

Before the pandemic, our parish was isolated in many ways from interaction with our Diocese, with other nearby Episcopal churches, and with smaller, like-minded churches from other denominations in Denton. We see mutual engagement and support with these members of the body of Christ as integral to our communal ministry and success.

Who We Are and What We Do

Christian Education and Spiritual Growth

The section below details the types of Christian education typically offered by the parish.

Adults

Sunday School

For many years, adult Sunday School was held between the early and later Sunday morning services for approximately 30-40 minutes, with the discussion typically focused on lectionary readings for the day's service.

Currently, Sunday School is held in the parish hall from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and is being led by a lay team. We expect to return to studies led by the interim rector in September. Recent topics have included study of selected chapters of the Bible, the doctrine and tradition of the Episcopal Church, and the Book of Common Prayer.

Lenten and Advent Book Studies

For the last few years, the interim rector or a lay leader has generally provided a book study during both Lent and Advent with the studies meeting on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Other Adult Offerings

Over the years, various study groups of short duration have been offered in the evenings. Subjects have included topics of current interest, studies of other religions, books by some of our parishioners, and other topics of interest to the group. Since 2021, these studies have been offered on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Canterbury

While St. Barnabas has worked in the past with St. David of Wales, Denton, to sponsor a Canterbury group for students in local universities, this ministry is currently inactive after the small group of participating students graduated in December 2019. A Vestry member sent emails to all parishes in the Diocese of Dallas and to the other Dioceses in Texas during the summers of 2022 and 2023 inviting students who might be coming to Denton to attend Texas Woman's University or the University of North Texas in the fall to worship with us; unfortunately, we received few responses, but we hope that in time, we can renew our efforts.

Youth

Although St. Barnabas has had no youth group since 2010, at its best, the youth group was a small number of teens who had grown up together in the church. The group met once a week to do a short Bible study and socialize together. The parish worked to make activities fun — lock-ins at the church, bowling, eating out together — so that the teens would associate their time at church with good times and friends. Most of the activities were relatively inexpensive, and the group raised some of their own funds by hosting babysitting events at Valentine's Day and around Christmas. Almost all of these youth served at the altar as acolytes.

Earlier efforts to establish a youth group were problematic; a joint EYC-type program with Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Denton was attempted, but short lived. The number of teens in the parish has typically been small with a wide age range. Nevertheless, we have always been proud of our young people; when the parish has had graduates to honor, we have acknowledged them at a church service on Sunday in May and in the parish newsletter.

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Children

The parish has used the Godly Play curriculum for a number of years. In the last few years, Godly Play has been commonly attended by up to six children, averaging three core children, some of whom attend church with the grandparents.

Godly Play itself is a program based on the work of Jerome W. Berryman. It usually consists of three parts: a story using physical materials, a time when the children can explore story materials further or complete an art project, and then a feast, when participants share a small snack and drink together. The program mirrors the church service structure while encouraging children to form and explore their own spirituality, learn basic Bible stories, and develop a relationship with God. The parishioner leading Godly Play most recently has also supplemented this curriculum by discussing various prayers children would hear in church, such as the Lord's Prayer, going one line at a time to discuss each line's meaning. We have a number of adult volunteers with Safe Church Training who can serve as the second adult needed.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are held as needed. These classes were last held in fall 2023 in preparation for the Bishop's visit in October that year. We anticipate offering classes for those wanting to be baptized, as well as those wanting to be confirmed or received this fall (2025).

First Communion Classes

At St. Barnabas, young children have been included in the full sacramental life of the parish. Therefore, as needed, the parish has offered instruction to prepare children for their first communion. This preparatory program has been offered and taught by a licensed lay person.

The hour-long activity-based sessions with written materials have covered the following themes:

- I. Community
- II. Jesus and the Last Supper
- III. Church and Altar Elements
- IV. Prayers and Practices in the Eucharist
- V. First Communion Practice
- VI. First Communion Service / Reception

The classes have included stories, arts/crafts, group discussion, and other activities focused on learning the parts of the Eucharistic ritual. The most recent class was held in the fall of 2023.

Service and Outreach

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Ministry Team has traditionally been responsible for inspiring and educating our congregation about the mission outreach of our church and for providing prayer, as well as financial and service support for outreach projects. The Outreach Committee currently consists of 12 parishioners who meet in December to select projects to support in the coming year. Priority is given to projects that have a connection with Episcopal Relief and Development. Also considered are those organizations that are of special interest or that have a link to our parishioners.

Who We Are and What We Do

The committee oversees financial giving to community organizations and organizes a Fall Bazaar. The bazaar is held in the parish hall and is open to the public. Various outside vendors rent spaces to sell products ranging from soy candles, jewelry, cosmetics, kitchen products, home décor, and dog treats, to items from Threads of Hope and items made by Crafty Hearts members. Proceeds from the bazaar, along with other donations collected throughout the year, help support our outreach projects.

The committee has supported these organizations through the years:

Ann's Haven	Episcopal Relief and Development
Church in Jerusalem	Friends of the Family
Compassion International	Interfaith Ministries
Denton Christian Preschool	Meal on Wheels of Denton County
Denton Community Food Center	Monsignor King Outreach Center
Denton Police Youth Luncheon	Our Daily Bread
Denton State Supported Living Center	Tarrant Area Food Bank

Additionally, the committee works to support local seasonal outreach and has coordinated parish involvement with the Apple Tree Project, which provides school supplies for Denton ISD (DISD) students, and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project, which provides Christmas gifts for families in need in previous years. Currently, the committee provides gift cards to DISD students for school supplies in the fall and to DISD social workers at Christmas time.

Ministries We Have Initiated Since 2022

We have initiated three new ministries since 2022:

- A **small outdoor food pantry** – Loaves and Fishes – which serves those who may not have the capacity to visit Our Daily Bread, the full-service resource for the unhoused in our community
- Our **Lay Pastoral Visitors**, who not only visit, but provide communion for our homebound
- Our **Pen Pals ministry** to a fourth-grade class at a nearby elementary school.

Each of these ministries brings us joy and the opportunity to serve and connect with those around us, but the Pen Pals ministry may serve the purpose most unique to our congregation – we are mostly older adults, and many of us lack the capacity to work in a soup kitchen or help build houses for those who need them, but we share a love of learning, reading, and writing, and we have an active parish book club. In addition to exchanging letters of encouragement with our pen pals, we supply them with books, snacks, and in spring 2025, knitted emotional support chickens before their state exam.



Where We Want to Go

Our Hopes and Dreams

Having settled in our new building, our parish is ready to rebuild its community by nurturing our current membership through a combination of fellowship, pastoral care, and sustainable Christian education programs for all ages so that we can reach out to those in the surrounding community who need us. We see the restoration of our own community and a renewed ministry to others as concomitant goals, developing the strength of our fellowship through an interdependence that allows us to both give and receive support from one another.

While we see the return of families with children to the parish as perhaps, the ultimate sign of parish health and want to make St. Barnabas a family-friendly parish again as quickly as possible, we also recognize that we may be better equipped at present to minister to other groups, including

- former members who remain in the area
- adults in the downtown community (perhaps, through the Denton Downtowners Facebook group and other downtown activities)
- college students and faculty at both universities, including musicians who value the rich tradition of Anglican music and those seeking a spiritual home in an inclusive environment
- the LGBTQ+ community and family members, who may not have found acceptance in other faith traditions

We can also see ourselves reaching out to a more diverse ethnic community in the future – particularly, the Hispanic community, which is currently underserved in the northern sector of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

Additionally, we see opportunities for increased outreach to community organizations, such as Wheeler House for Women and Children and Our Daily Bread, as well as opportunities for increased engagement in downtown civic and recreational activities (see Appendix D for a list of these).

The sections below detail our thoughts about restoring our parish to full health and about the rector we seek to work collaboratively with us toward our ministry goals.

Worship and Liturgy

While St. Barnabas had maintained the tradition of an early, spoken Rite I service and a later, sung Rite II service for many years, beginning on Easter Sunday of 2025, we moved to one service at 10:00 a.m. for the foreseeable future. In making this change, we have acknowledged that we have been able to offer two worship services on Sundays since the pandemic only because a small group of volunteers has been willing to serve multiple times in a month – sometimes, in multiple capacities.

Moving forward, we want to foster a community where we more deliberately honor one another's contributions and conscientiously work to share the load of sustaining our parish. One way we can further this goal is by moving to one service on Sundays.



Where We Want to Go

In addition to fostering a healthier, more sustainable parish that supports those who serve our worship, we have realized that moving to one service could offer the following benefits:

- Staffing services and other events would be more manageable during this time of transition
- We could direct our creativity and energy toward other ministries
- Communication among us could be easier
- One fuller service better represents – to us and to those who visit – the vibrancy and engagement that are characteristic of our community
- Our willingness to move to one service demonstrates that we are good stewards of our resources and united in our commitment to one another as we move to call a new rector

We are exploring ways to integrate the worship preferences of those who formerly attended the earlier service and those who attended the later service by using Rites I and II seasonally, having services with less music during the summer and more music during the academic year. To accommodate college students and adults who work on Sunday mornings, the parish might, at some point, consider offering an additional weekend service on a Saturday or Sunday evening. However, increasing attendance at and widening parish participation in current services is a priority for the present.

Staff, Finances, and Stewardship

Our hope is that with growth, St. Barnabas can be an ever-more-visible representative of Jesus Christ here in Denton. We would love to be in the position of needing to add staff in order to accomplish that mission—even though this vision is a distant one at present.

Although few children and youth currently attend St. Barnabas, our building has the space to host a more robust Children's and Youth Ministry: we can envision adding a Children's and Youth Minister.

St. Barnabas has a rich musical heritage and a comfortable choir loft: we can envision a larger choir made up of both paid and volunteer singers and musicians, supported by enthusiastic parish members.

St. Barnabas has a long history of generosity: we can envision fostering a greater culture of giving of ourselves, our souls and bodies, in service to our Lord.

To do these things we envision requires time, talent, and treasure to be sure. But first and foremost, it requires people, people united in the mission of serving our Lord through worship, service, and giving.

In recent years, stewardship efforts at St. Barnabas have been more in the nature of making one-off appeals at the end of the year, rather than pursuing a weeks- or month-long campaign. When we have the support of a rector, we can envision a more robust stewardship campaign, designed to conceive and implement a more comprehensive strategy for securing a sound financial future for our parish.

Where We Want to Go

Christian Education

Below, we describe possibilities we see for expanded Christian education at St. Barnabas.

Adults

While St. Barnabas has typically offered more Christian education programs for adults than for any other age group, over the years, parishioners have expressed a desire for extended studies of the Bible and studies that focus on spiritual growth in addition to the types of studies previously offered. We also recognize that engaging in outreach provides educational opportunities as well, and we seek to include more parishioners in outreach as we move forward.

Canterbury

While various circumstances (including the way student groups are managed at the two universities in Denton), make the formation of a viable college ministry difficult, St. Barnabas has hosted successful college programs in its past; moreover, reaching out to college students is a natural extension of the parish's inclination to inclusion and openness to spiritual and intellectual inquiry. Further, we are just steps away from the boundary of the TWU campus, and only a few minutes' drive from UNT. As the core ministries of the parish become more secure, St. Barnabas might consider working to re-build its college outreach by offering a weekly event on campus – perhaps, borrowing space from the Wesley Center (United Methodist on-campus space) to offer a meal, discussion, and Eucharist – and finding ways to collaborate with college groups from other similarly inclined denominations (for example, Methodists and Lutherans). Many students are deeply interested in social justice issues and might find working with other college ministries to address concerns, such as student food insecurity, meaningful.

Youth

St. Barnabas has not provided a youth ministry for over a decade. While we look forward to the day when we are able to provide this ministry again, we are currently better equipped to support other programs for which we already have existing membership and volunteers or staff in place who can lead these.

Children

While St. Barnabas has used the Godly Play curriculum for a number of years, our implementation of Godly Play itself could be improved by discussing parish goals for the program, providing policies regarding how the leader should interact with children and parents, and considering other ways the leader could help children participate in church. In the last few years, the parish has provided the program with two Godly Play staff members, a leader and a door keeper, so that our program observes best practices for children's ministry. Further, within the last two years, the Godly Play room has been made more inviting; all materials are ready, and that the room is devoted to Godly Play, indicating that children's ministry is a parish priority.

Additionally, we see other possibilities for improving parish outreach to children, including the following:

- Advertising that we offer the Godly Play curriculum – particularly, on the parish website and the parish Facebook page, with pictures of the room and an explanation

Where We Want to Go

of the program. Young families with children who are actively looking for a church will most likely look online to find a church that suits them.

- Hosting children's programming in the church that is not necessarily related to the church, thereby showing the community that our church is a place where children are welcome and that we provide a safe environment where children can socialize.

Parish Family Activities

Post-pandemic, we have seen the return of parish fellowship activities as an important counterpart to Christian education. In the past, the parish has enjoyed multi-generational activities such as the Shrove Tuesday Supper, Las Posadas and other Advent activities, Karaoke nights, Newcomers' Luncheons, and the annual St. Barnabas Day Picnic. While we haven't had the capacity for as many of these since the pandemic as we had before, we look forward to the day when we can provide a wider offering of similar activities. We can also imagine new activities, such as open houses, to which we can invite the surrounding community, and a full St. Francis Day Fair with family and pet activities and gardening/environmental activities.

Our New Rector

Under God's wisdom and grace, we seek a rector who hears God's call to join our inclusive community and to support and collaborate with our parish as it works to rebuild itself and expand its ministry. We recognize that each candidate for rector brings a unique set of gifts and skills. We also acknowledge that a vital parish succeeds in ministry not only through the rector's efforts, but also through the gifts, goodwill, and sustained work of the parish membership.

Finding ourselves at a crossroads and standing committed to return our parish to health, we seek an experienced part-time priest who

- Welcomes the challenge of composing sermons that engage both the heart and the mind and that speak to a congregation of adults from multiple professions, including education, technology, and medicine, as well as students and retirees
- Values the rich tradition of Anglican liturgy and music
- Has experience with successful collaborative administration (in a parish or lay environment, previous career, or volunteer organization) to promote creative, responsible stewardship of church finances and facilities and to foster parishioners' gifts and skills
- Has sustained a commitment to inclusive ministry, affirming all persons regardless of race, class, ability, or gender identity, with all sacraments open to all (See Appendix B of our 2024 Parish Survey Results for our interest in exploring becoming a reconciling parish)
- Has sustained a commitment to oversee and help expand parish ministries of fellowship, pastoral care, formation, and outreach and to nurture lay leaders determined to restore a dynamic and inclusive parish community
- Values the connections and support available through the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, the community of churches in Denton, and the civic and religious outreach community within Denton

Appendix A: Our History

The History of St. Barnabas: Building and Rebuilding

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, or St. B's, as it is referred to by many of its parishioners, is the oldest existing Episcopal congregation in Denton County.

The church began in the 1870s as a preaching mission with worship held in a dilapidated room over the Olympia Confectionary on the second floor of the Scripture Building, which still stands on the west side of the Denton Courthouse Square. The first church structure to be known as St. Barnabas Episcopal Church was dedicated by Bishop Harry T. Moore in 1923. In 1933, its status changed from a preaching mission to a mission. The congregation moved to its current location in 1938; in 1946, the mission was designated a parish with the Reverend Homer F. Rogers serving as its first rector. The Anglo-Catholic or "high church" character of the services at that time drew people to St. B's. St. Barnabas is not nearly as "high church" now as it was under Father Rogers and his successors through the early 1970s when, for example, parishioners were expected to practice the sacrament of confession on a regular basis and daily masses were offered.

It was also during the Rogers era that the congregation began to serve both local colleges, as Father Rogers, affectionately known as "Padre," was designated chaplain to both TSCW (now Texas Woman's University) and NTSC (now the University of North Texas). In part because of the influence of "Padre" and later, of Father Emmett Waits, St. Barnabas had a strong college ministry and saw at least 20 members of the parish enter the priesthood or religious orders.

In 1951, a majority of families left the parish in part due to resistance of some members to the high church services practiced. These members established a new mission congregation that would later become Denton's second Episcopal church, St. David of Wales. As a result, St. Barnabas began rebuilding the congregation with the remaining half-dozen or so families.

On August 16, 1967, the church was partly destroyed by fire. The parish made a conscious decision to remain on Elm Street to continue its downtown ministry, and the building was restored and enlarged. Adjacent property was purchased for a rectory, and on October 13, 1968, St. Barnabas was re-consecrated by Bishop Charles Avery Mason.

St. Barnabas has been served by various rectors who have made lasting contributions to the church building, the building up of the congregation, and the building of community service. In 1975, with the encouragement of the Reverend Charles Walling, Ann's Haven Hospice of Denton County, was established. A study group at St. B's led by Dr. Robert Lockwood, whose wife Ann had died of cancer and for whom the hospice is named, developed the idea and provided the impetus. Ann's Haven Hospice still serves Denton today.

Despite the building restoration done in the late 1960s, having an older building has always presented challenges. In 1988, the parish discovered that church walls were collapsing because the external buttresses were cosmetic, not load-bearing. Supporting bars were installed, but additional repairs soon became a critical need and financial burden. The Vestry decided in 1989 that the rectory was no longer a satisfactory family dwelling. In response to this decision, a housing allowance was added to the clergy pay package, and the building on North Locust was designated as the Christian Education Building. For many years, Cornerstone Cooperative Day Care used this space during the week, paying rent and contributing "sweat equity" to building maintenance.

Appendix A: Our History

From 1989-1993, the parish was served by Father Charles Williams, who had a keen interest not only in setting the intellectual tone of the parish but also in enhancing its artistic environment. Father Williams encouraged the remodeling of the altar area, and the church often became a performance space for local arts ensembles. He also advocated a strong lay ministry and attention to outreach and social issues, setting an example for the acceptance of diversity and urging parishioners to make St Barnabas a safe place to question and inquire. These values have marked St. Barnabas's ministry ever since, with the parish extending acceptance to the wider community. For a time, the parish provided office space to AIDS Services of Denton.

Sustaining and encouraging the values of inclusiveness and openness to spiritual inquiry, Father Donald K. Johnson served as rector from May 1995 through August 2020. Early in his tenure, the parish was blessed with a number of young families with children, and through the efforts of the Vestry, two youth directors were hired for a short time to work with the EYC. But the children grew, and the families moved away. Even with multiple lay efforts to engage college students in a Canterbury program shared with St. David's, attendance was sporadic and campus ministry did not flourish. We became an older congregation, and our physical plant required extensive work.

In response to the generous bequests of parishioners Elisabeth and Alonzo Jamison and Chardean Newell, the lay leadership (with brainstorming sessions, surveys, house masses), supported by Father Johnson, embarked on plans for building a new church structure on the existing property. Again, strong lay leadership shepherded the parish through this difficult financial challenge, bringing stage one of the new building to completion in 2019 and stage two in 2020.

St. Barnabas's long history of building and re-building continues to give its parishioners hope: the sustained emphasis on a strong lay ministry and Christian outreach continue; music to support the liturgy remains important; we value the contributions of ALL in the worship service. In recent years, we have watched beloved friends and family leave us and welcomed the arrival of new members, but recently few, if any, young families. We are an aging congregation, yet we are a caring, welcoming, socially responsible small downtown church—open to all.

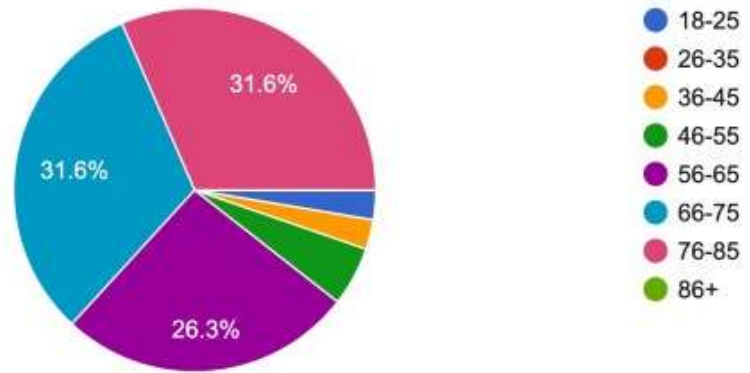
Despite our size and current limitations, we have successfully built a new church facility. Early in the building process, we highlighted four areas as part of our mission:

1. Gathering for Worship – Glorifying God and building the Body of Christ through liturgy, the sacraments, and sacred music
2. Gathering for Fellowship – Building a church community of family and friends
3. Gathering for Education – Building programs for all ages to teach, learn, and spread the Gospel
4. Gathering for Outreach – Building opportunities to support and serve others in need

Committed to these mission ideals, we are now poised and eager to build up the Body of Christ and to welcome new members and a new rector as our shepherd and spiritual guide. On this historic journey, we offer ourselves as an inclusive, welcoming downtown church in Denton County dedicated to Christian love and service.

Appendix B: Parish Statistics

Pie chart showing the age distribution of the 38 respondents to the 2024 Parish Survey.



2024 Parish Statistics Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, February 2025 St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Denton, Texas				
Persons Baptized or Confirmed		Confirmed Persons in Good Standing	Marriages and Funerals	
Baptized	4	150	Funerals	2
Received	0			
Confirmed	0			
First Communion	0			
Services Held		Parochial Calls Made	Number of Teachers and Students in Church School	
Sunday Eucharist	87	50	Godly Play Teacher	1
Morning Prayer	11		GP Assistants	3
Evening Prayer	3		Children	6
Midweek Eucharist	20			
Ash Wednesday	2		Adult Ed Teachers	5
Stations of the Cross	5		Adult Participants	12
Holy Week	3			
Academic Year Service	1			
Blessing of the Animals	1			
Lessons & Carols	1			
	132			
2024 Average Sunday Attendance: 51				

Appendix B: Parish Statistics

Responses from the 2024 Parish Survey indicating interest in becoming a reconciling parish:

The Episcopal Church USA and the Diocese of Dallas have asked all parishes to work toward racial healing, justice, and reconciliation. Would you support...plore racial healing, justice, and reconciliation?

38 responses



The Episcopal Church USA approved an alternate rite for the celebration of same-sex marriages in 2018. For Dioceses such as the Diocese of Dallas (EDOD) where the Bishop does not support the celebration of same-sex marriages in a church, the national church passed Resolution B012 in 2018, a resolution that allows a rector, with the support of the parish, to ask for alternate spiritual oversight that would allow the rector to perform same-sex marriages. Three parishes in EDOD have requested and received this alternate oversight. Would you support St. Barnabas's calling a rector who would be willing to explore alternate oversight for St. Barnabas?

The Episcopal Church USA approved an alternate rite for the celebration of same-sex marriages in 2018. For Dioceses such as the Diocese of Dallas (E...to explore alternate oversight for St. Barnabas?

38 responses



Appendix C: Finance Report

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Denton, Texas Statement of Financial Activities End of Year				
	2025 (through May)	2024	2023	
REVENUES				
Offerings and Pledges	\$ 66,887.17	\$ 155,312.07	\$ 196,987.82	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,556.63	\$ 5,762.74	\$ 5,834.73	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 69,443.80	\$ 161,074.81	\$ 202,822.55	
EXPENSES				
ADMINISTRATION				
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 7,648.35	\$ 24,573.96	\$ 19,263.00	
Office Expenses	\$ 2,409.46	\$ 6,957.01	\$ 25,722.17	
Computer Software/Hardware	\$ 1,722.56	\$ 1,826.31	\$ 1,513.81	
Organ/Piano Maintenance	\$ 0.00	\$ 70.35	\$ 1,295.00	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 11,780.37	\$ 33,427.63	\$ 47,793.98	
PERSONNEL				
Clergy and Staff	\$ 21,290.98	\$ 64,681.09	\$ 77,927.31	
Music Program	\$ 7,115.00	\$ 12,405.00	\$ 16,935.00	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 28,405.98	\$ 77,086.09	\$ 94,862.31	
OTHER EXPENSES				
Building and Grounds	\$ 25,824.29	\$ 42,456.88	\$ 22,562.81	
Children/Youth	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 423.21	
Publications	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 85.00	
Altar Guild	\$ 1,319.80	\$ 3,701.09	\$ 2,494.47	
Hospitality	\$ 619.23	\$ 1,495.02	\$ 298.40	
Communications	\$ 94.00	\$ 566.35	\$ 611.00	
Outreach	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 2,057.23	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 27,882.32	\$ 49,394.34	\$ 28,532.12	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 68,068.67	\$ 159,908.06	\$ 171,188.41	
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,375.13	\$ 1,66.75	\$ 31,634.14	

Appendix C: Finance Report

BALANCE SHEET			
	2025 (through May)	2024	2023
ASSETS			
Operations Checking	\$39,114.84	\$45,253.41	\$47,643.33
Investment Accounts	\$181,440.53	\$179,509.08	\$174,580.31
Fixed Assets/Land_Bldg	\$2,653,747.00	\$2,653,747.00	\$2,653,747.00
TOTAL ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Payroll Taxes	-\$546.55	-\$546.52	-\$463.19
Prepaid Pledges	\$0.00	\$9,700.00	\$19,00.04
NET ASSETS (EQUITY)			
Operating Fund Reserve	\$25,310.01	\$25,310.01	\$26,589.76
Other Designated Funds*	\$87,836.94	\$85,084.16	\$83,733.04
Fixed Assets/Land/Building	\$2,653,345.00	\$2,653,345.00	\$2,653,345.00
Financial Activity Accounts Surplus/(Deficit)	\$108,356.97	\$105,616.84	\$92,839.61
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,874,302.37	\$2,878,509.49	\$2,875,970.64
*Designated Funds include Outreach, Fundraising, Columbarium, Church Flowers, and others.			

Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

Denton, the county seat of Denton County, is located forty miles north of both Dallas and Fort Worth. With a 2024 population estimation of 167,000 permanent residents and more than 50,000 university students, Denton is the 24th largest city in Texas and the 191st largest city in the United States. Denton has grown 25% since the 2010 census. In 2012, Business Insider named Denton the Best Small Town in America, and in 2020, the financial firm SmartAsset ranked Denton second among Boomtowns in the US.

Population Growth

From 2010 to 2020, Denton County's population grew 46% and has now surpassed one million residents with a population growth in the City of Denton of 20.36%. Denton County's median household income sits around \$96,000 – above the national median of almost \$75,000. By 2030, it is estimated that the population will reach over 207,000 people in the City of Denton. Further, the city's current unemployment rate is 3.4%. In 2020, SmartAsset also ranked Denton as one of the most affordable cities in the U.S., with great school districts.

Since 2006, Denton has ranked in the top 25 of the nation's fastest growing cities. The most recent racial composition is 57.3% white, 25.9% Hispanic or Latino, 9.7% Black or African American, 4.7% Asian, 1.9% two or more races, 0.3% Native American, 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.01% Other race alone. Ethnic diversity is likely broader than these figures indicate due to the large number of international students and their families associated with the two universities in town. The median age in Denton is 29.1 years for males, and 29.5 years for females.

Access to Dallas and Fort Worth and Easy Travel Connections

Living atop the "Golden Triangle" where the eastern and western segments of Interstate 35 rejoin, Denton residents are uniquely situated to take advantage of what Dallas and Fort Worth have to offer: professional sports, shopping, entertainment, and world-class art in both cities. Travel is easy from Denton with DFW International Airport located 25 miles south and Love Field Airport 40 miles south. Denton also offers public transportation with connections to Dallas, including connections from the Downtown Denton Rail Station. The A-train stops several times in Denton as it heads toward the junction with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System in Carrollton.

Employment

While Denton boasts a number of large employers – both public and private – it also values small businesses – including local restaurants, small antique stores, vintage boutiques, and shops selling wares by local artisans. Denton's thriving downtown features many one-of-a-kind, locally owned businesses, supported by the Denton Main Street Association.

Top Five Private Employers		Top Five Public Employers	
Employer	Employees	Employer	Employees
Peterbilt	2000	University of North Texas	8900
Presbyterian Hospital	1000+	Denton ISD	4400+
Medical Center Denton	1000	Texas Woman's University	1800+
Sally Beauty	1000	Denton State Supported Living	1700
Safran Electrical and Power	700	Denton County	1600+

In the coming years, Denton plans to continue developing downtown and surrounding areas; the neighborhood in which St. Barnabas is situated is one such area. The downtown square offers a variety of activities each week. Further, the downtown "footprint" is a mixture of

Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

commercial and residential structures. Denton also has a number of aspiring entrepreneurs, many of whom share coworking space at Stoke Coworking, which is located just steps from the Downtown Denton Rail Station.

Housing

Housing in Denton and the surrounding communities can be found in a wide range of prices and architectural styles, with the median price for a home being \$350,000 in Denton proper. Denton offers several historic districts and conservation districts. Additionally, there are many new developments and apartment complexes under construction in response to Denton's growth among the general population, as well as the student population. Average rental costs in town are \$1,550 per month. Texas has no state income tax, and Denton's property taxes are relatively low compared to other cities in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Education

Denton has four high schools and one alternative high school, nine middle schools, 25 elementary schools, two early childhood centers, an advanced technology complex, and other specialized schools and centers. Additionally, Denton boasts three higher educational institutions: North Central Texas College, a two-year institution with a branch in Denton; Texas Woman's University, a Ph.D.-granting institution with an enrollment of close to 16,500 students and a highly respected nursing program; and the University of North Texas, an R1 Doctoral University with an internationally renowned College of Music and an overall enrollment of 47,000.

Healthcare

There are two hospitals in Denton. Texas Health Denton staffs 255 beds, and Medical City Denton staffs 208 beds. Moreover, the number of general and specialized physicians and diagnostic and treatment facilities has grown steadily in Denton, with recent additions of heart and cancer centers. Those who have moved to the area have found medical appointments easy to obtain.

Religious Institutions

Denton is home to over 75 Christian churches, as well as Unitarian, Jewish, Baha'i, and Islamic organizations. The community is home to two Episcopal churches: St. Barnabas and St. David of Wales. The largest churches in Denton, with over 2,000 members each, include Denton Bible Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church.

Politics

Denton County, like most suburban counties in Texas, is reliably Republican in statewide and national elections, although it has become less so since 2018. The city of Denton is somewhat more balanced politically than the County. In the 2020 general election, Denton County recorded 53% of the presidential vote total for Donald Trump and 45% for Joseph Biden.

Parks and Recreation

The Denton Parks and Recreation department has developed walking trails and bike paths throughout the city, large spaces for softball and soccer, tennis courts and driving ranges, and a bike path that runs from Denton to Lewisville; moreover, Denton lies within 25 miles of three Texas Parks and Wildlife spaces that provide areas for swimming, boat ramps, and fishing and camping facilities.

Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

Performing Arts and Cultural Events

Denton has a strong reputation for its performing arts, often drawing on students from the College of Music at UNT, one of the largest schools of music in the US. Additionally, Denton has both a community band, as well as a band for seniors called the New Horizons Band, and community choirs, including the Denton Community Chorus. Denton's theater offerings include plays and musicals performed throughout the year at the Denton Theatre on the Square, as well as theater performances at both universities. Additionally, Denton supports many live music venues, concerts on the downtown square lawn, a large Halloween festival called the Day of the Dead, a community Christmas tree lighting festival, the Denton Blues Festival, a Cinco de Mayo festival, and the Denton Arts and Jazz festival – a three-day event in October that brings 300,000 people to Denton.

Cultural Events with Potential Outreach Opportunities

The Day of the Dead Festival – a free, multicultural, family-friendly festival held just east of the square. It honors the hallmarks of autumn, including the harvest, Halloween, and Dia de los Muertos, and many attendees come wearing their costumes. Highlights of this festival include the uniquely decorated coffins for the day's main event: the coffin races.

Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square – a major event held downtown in early December. This event for all ages attracts many thousands of residents who come to sample wassail from shops on the square, listen to live Christmas music, visit with Santa, and usher in the Christmas season with their friends and neighbors.

Turkey Trot – a 5k race held on Thanksgiving Day.

City's Egg'Stravaganza and Easter Egg Hunt – an event for children of all ages.

Redbud Festival – Denton's official Arbor Day celebration, held each spring and featuring a variety of plants for sale, live music, food trucks, kids' activities, Redbud tree giveaways, and educational gardening workshops.

Denton Community Market – a farmer's market held each Saturday morning during March through December, and located just south of the Square. The market features live music and activities for children, as well as venues for local farms, artists, and food trucks.

Appendix E: Our New Building



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