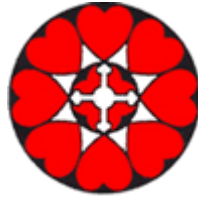


# St. John's Episcopal Church, Salem NJ.

76 Market Street, Salem, New Jersey 08079

## *Parish Profile*



**Founded in 1722 - Serving Salem  
and the surrounding Community for 300+ Years**

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## Greetings From Salem New Jersey

Salem is a city in and the county seat of Salem County, the most rural county in the U.S. state of New Jersey. The name Salem, for both the city and county, is derived from the Hebrew word shalom, meaning peace. The town and colony of Salem was laid out in 1675 by John Fenwick and the community was given permission to choose officers in October 1693. It was incorporated on February 21, 1798, as part of the initial group of 104 townships established by the New Jersey Legislature. On February 25, 1858, it was reincorporated as Salem City.

Salem County is located in the southwestern corner of New Jersey, within driving distance of several major metropolitan areas, but you won't find the hustle and bustle here. With over 140,000 acres of preserved natural and farmland, you can escape the hustle and bustle of city life. Locals value our rich history, agricultural identity, and lively arts scene. They visit our museums, explore our parks and nature preserves, and shop our markets for locally grown produce. Unwind, reconnect, and enjoy the small-town atmosphere.



Facing north at the south end of Route 45 in Salem.



Broadway in downtown Salem.



Salem County is also the home of the Cowtown Rodeo and Farm Market. The longest operating rodeo in the U.S., now on their 71<sup>st</sup> year.



## Who Are We....

Through our congregational assessment and listening sessions we are discovering that our congregation is one that can be welcoming to making changes. However, until recently, we have been conservative in our approach to do so. Our Interim Rector aspires us to approach the edges of our comfort zone and sometimes beyond. She has helped to push us towards better organization via reintroducing committees to share in the leadership and decision making. One of our discoveries was that there are indications that the congregation would like to see more people making decisions. At the same time, Vestry members look to grow and guide membership to take a turn at leadership to allow Vestry members to step back and enjoy the fellowship of the church.

Also, our Interim Rector offers guidance and education to those who wish to grow. She dedicates time towards classes like the Rule of Life to help discover the next steps after being Confirmed, or the Sacred Ground classes to help us discover the differences between all of God's children.

Because we are very diverse in what we seek from our spiritual experiences, we look towards the guidance of our new Rector to continue our spiritual growth, while keeping some of the traditions of St. John's intact for those who appreciate the history they grew up with here.



O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## ***The Music***

The music ministry at St. John's, under the direction of Minister of Music, William Clisham, is an important part of worship and outreach to Salem and the surrounding area. Music, led by Music Minister William Clisham, is an integral part of the 10:30 service each Sunday with outstanding vocals from the choir and beautiful instrumentals from our organ. The choir consists of volunteer singers with professional section leaders. The choir also sings at liturgies in Holy Week and other Holy Days and sings special Evensong services several times each season. The music is drawn largely, but not exclusively, from traditional Anglican and classical sources. If you are interested in being part of the choir, please contact Bill through the church office or at the organ after the postlude each Sunday.



***Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of  
all his wonderful acts.***

**Psalms 105:2**



St. John's Church is fortunate to have the largest and most versatile pipe organ in Salem County, a three-manual, 30 rank organ built by Kimball in 1937, modified and enlarged in 1967, and still maintained by Jacob Gerger & Sons.

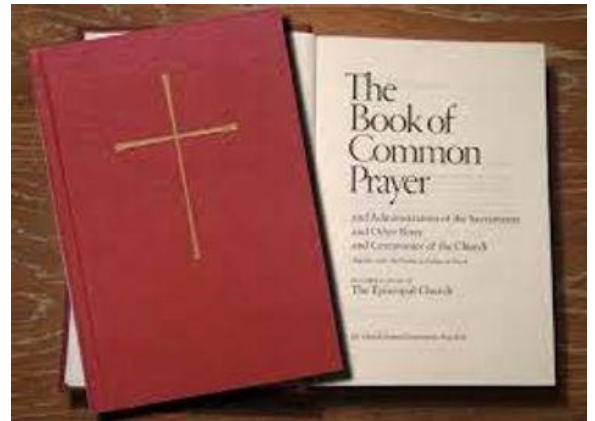




# Worship

All are welcome to participate in our worship - whether you are a dedicated Christian, a new believer, or someone who still has questions and doubts because worship is a journey, and we are all traveling at a different pace. Every worship service includes the reading of Holy Scripture, from the Old and New Testaments. Through our study of scripture, we learn the lessons that help us take the next step on our journey toward God.

Our service follows a form and order found in our worship book called The Book of Common Prayer. This guidebook allows everyone to participate - all you have to do is follow along. Some of our services include music, both traditional and contemporary.



## Celebrating God's Presence

In our worship services, we celebrate our connection to God through water, bread and wine.

**Water:** Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us that, through Baptism with water, we are united with God. The Episcopal Church recognizes all Christian Baptisms, regardless of denomination. (If you are not baptized and wish to be, you may contact the church office for more information.)

**Bread and Wine:** Jesus shared bread and wine with his first followers at the Last Supper, telling them to do so as a way of remembering Him. We follow this command when we celebrate Holy Communion, consuming a wafer and a sip of wine that have been consecrated during the service. Through it, we receive forgiveness for our sins and a strengthening of our union with God and one another. Any baptized person is welcome and encouraged to share in this meal.

## ***Some Of Our Ministries***

**Quilters:** A group of devoted women, faithfully meet on Tuesdays and create the most wonderful, colorful children's quilts. Approximately 50 quilts have been created every year and are delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Camden next to Cooper Hospital. These quilts are displayed every year at St. John's Annual Meeting. The quilters have a dedicated workroom complete with all the necessities to produce these fine quilts.

**Secret Santa Shoppe:** Many of our outreach ministries have been spearheaded or developed by our Deacon, Deacon Sally, who has witnessed as our Deacon for 13 years. Some years ago, an idea was developed to host a free 'Christmas shopping center' for kids in the community. Donated items such as candles, Christmas decorations, small children's toys, tape measures and small tools are collected throughout the year and arranged on tables for women, men and children. "Real elves" help children shop for presents for family members, wrap the presents and then the children are invited to eat lunch.

**Interfaith Rise Refugee Resettlement:** In August 2021 a huge airlift brought thousands of Afghans out of harms way to the United States. St. John's reached out to Interfaith Rise, the local organization authorized by the Federal Government to resettle all refugees in this area. St John's has actively supported their efforts including a County wide collection of household goods (I-Rise sent a truck for all the stuff we collected), monetary support of their work and a baby shower, attended by three refugee mothers with child. This is an ongoing effort to support I-Rise in every way we can. Most recently, Deacon Sally has campaigned to help I Rise start a food pantry due to changes in Federal support.





## ***More Of Our Ministries***

**Scarf, Glove, and Hat Hangout:** St. John's is in the perfect location with a wrought iron fence on 2 sides of the Parish Hall. Donated hats, gloves, scarves and more are hung on the fence annually in late January. Items are generally removed by neighbors within a couple of hours. Many other people and organizations contribute to this event which helps provide many items for selection. Hangout is usually the day of the Annual Meeting, and all youth and hardy adults participate in placing items on the fence.

**Middle School Backpack Project:** Just before school starts each year, there are a plethora of book bag giveaways. Many of these events focus on elementary school aged children. St John's focuses on Middle School children with approximately 30 fully stocked backpacks, utilizing the supply list from the school. These backpacks are delivered to the school nurse who gives them out as children need them. Oftentimes they start school with supplies but lose or damage their backpacks during the school year. She then has a replacement to give them. All of the backpacks are packed at coffee hour by members of the church.

**Trunk or Treat:** St. John's has been offering a trunk or treat with multiple vehicles every year on Halloween. Parents have told us that they are most grateful to be able to bring small children particularly to this event. The children are so proud of their costumes (and so are some of our adults). The parish is asked to donate candy for the event; participants decorate their own cars.



**These and many other projects benefit our local community and the wider needs of the world. Everyone participates in some way – it takes many people to make these events happen.**



## ***Mission***

In this Episcopal Church, no matter who you are, what you believe, who you vote for, how you look, or what you wear, you are welcome at St. John's. We roll out the red carpet equally for those who have little and for those who have a lot. You have a home here if you are married, single, partnered, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, or still figuring it out. We encourage you to bring your children of any age; from screaming babies to wandering toddlers to sleepy teens . . . they are welcome.



## ***Our History***

The first Anglicans to settle locally are believed to have arrived with founder John Fenwick in 1675 who established Salem as the first permanent English Colony in the Delaware Valley. We have been a recognized as community of faith since 1722- first as a mission and then a parish church.

## Our History Continued

During the Revolutionary War with England in the 1770s, there were Anglican Church members who were sympathetic with the patriots seeking independence. For this reason, British soldiers showed their disdain by using the church building as a stable for their horses. Following these events, the building went through years of neglect. In 1810, The Rev. Henry James Feltus wrote "The old Church had become a home for the birds, and a burrow for rabbits, its pulpit and pews rotten, and its velvet hangings faded and torn, and it was unfit for public worship." This was followed by years of good fortune for St. John's, and on November 8, 1820, after many years without a rector, The Rev. Richard Cadle was ordained to the Order of Priest in St. John's Church.

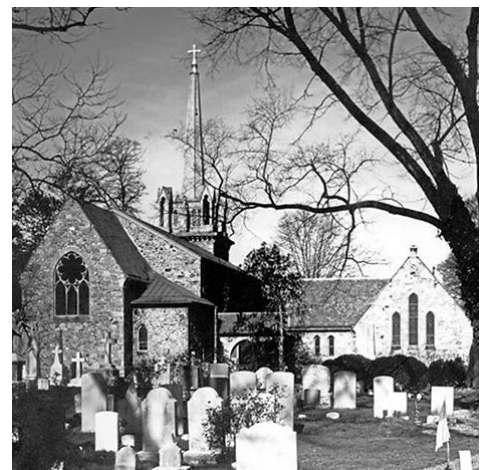


As the parish grew, a larger structure was needed. William Strickland, a Philadelphia architect who had apprenticed under Benjamin Latrobe, prepared the drawings for a new church. Under the pastorate of The Rev. Henry M. Mason, the 100+ year old church building was torn down, and in its place a stone edifice was built. It was dedicated on February 8, 1838. The sermon of the occasion was delivered by the then Rector, The Rev. Edward G. Prescott.

In 1882 the church was enlarged, and in 1884 the chapel was constructed north of the church. With the enlargement of the church by adding the recessed chancel, the flat ceiling of the sanctuary was cambered (curved) to better match the Gothic arched opening of the chancel. It was during these years that electricity was installed in both church and chapel.



*Interior of St. John's, ca. 1934. Façade of 1868 Hall-Labagh pipe organ can be seen on the left, which was used until the 1937 installation of the Kimball organ. 1934 photo. of the exterior and cemetery. Note the original 1838 wooden steeple and bell tower. Photos were donated by Jim and Helen Acton.*



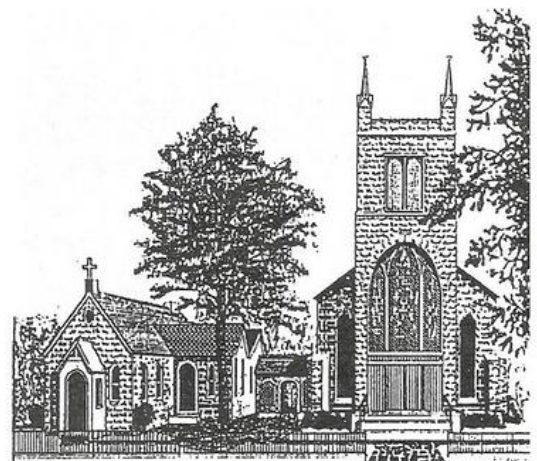
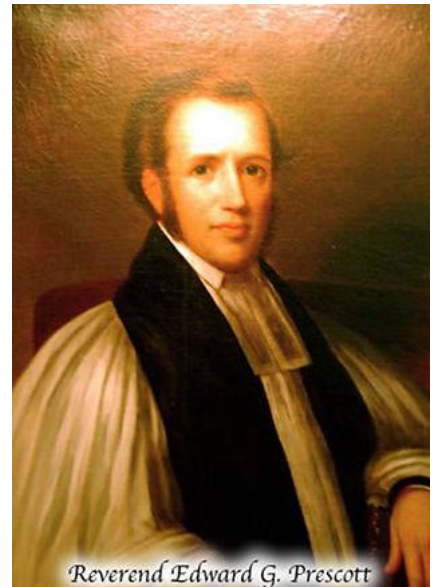


## *Our History Continued*



We often forget that for the first one hundred years of our history we were an English Colony. The first Anglicans to settle locally are believed to have arrived with founder John Fenwick in 1675 who established Salem as the first permanent English Colony in the Delaware Valley. While there is no concrete information about any early church structures, these first members of the Church of England in Salem met in homes and were ministered to by Swedish, Lutheran and ultimately Anglican priests from other early churches in the Delaware Valley.

It wasn't until 1722 that the Anglican 'Society for the Propagation of the Gospel' met in England and named Salem as a "mission church." The ground upon which the first church structure was built was deeded to the church and its Wardens on February 5, 1727. This original deed for an acre of land on Market Street in Salem is now held in the archives of the Salem County Historical Society. The first permanent building was completed and dedicated on June 24, 1727, St. John the Baptist Day, and thus the church was named. The building was small, chapel-like, measuring 28 feet by 40 feet with a small belfry and spire, double front doors and side porches that opened to the church yard, all surrounded by a stone wall.





## ***Our Neighborhood Demographics***

As of the 2000 U.S. census, there were 5,857 people, 2,383 households, and 1,463 families residing in Salem. The racial makeup of the city was 37.46% White, 56.77% African American, 0.60% Native American, Hispanic or Latino of any race were 4.88%, 0.24% Asian, 1.38% from other races, and 3.55% from two or more races.

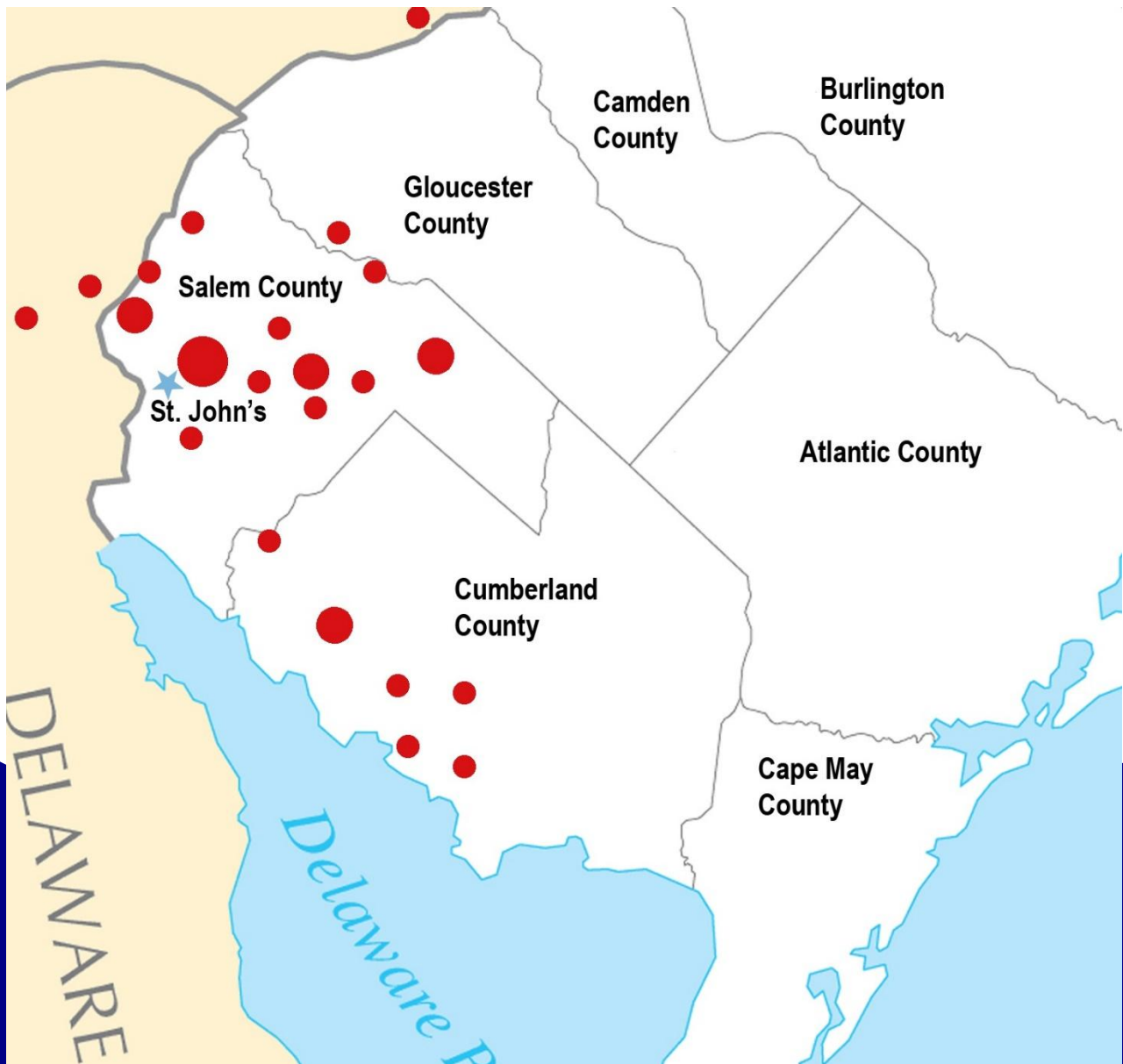
There were 2,383 households, out of which 32.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 27.7% were married couples living together, 29.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 38.6% were non-families. 34.1% of all households were made up of individuals, and 14.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.43 and the average family size was 3.10.

The population was spread out, with 31.0% under the age of 18, 9.1% from 18 to 24, 25.4% from 25 to 44, 20.6% from 45 to 64, and 14.0% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 34 years.

The median income for a household in the city was \$25,846, and the median income for a family was \$29,699. The per capita income for the city was \$13,559. About 24.7% of families and 26.6% of the population were below the poverty line, including 35.3% of those under age 18 and 12.1% of those age 65 or over.



## *Where St. John's Touches*



Though St. John's is centrally located along the river in Salem County, its family travels from neighboring towns and counties to experience the glory of our Lord and his love for us. We come from towns like Alloway, Mantua, Pennsville, Quinton, Bridgeton, and Woodstown just to name a few. We look for our Rector to assist in attracting more of our neighbors to join in praising our Lord and celebrating him in this, our Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement. We believe this will help us testify and grow our outreach programs throughout the county.

In addition to the offerings received each week from the Congregation, St. John's is also blessed with the benefits of two investment accounts. These funds allow us to continue the LORD's work each week and offer support to the community through our outreach programs. We are happy to share our financials with applicants.





## ***Buildings and Grounds***



**Springtime on Campus**



**Parish Hall and office**



**Chapel**



**Cemetery**



**Sexton Workshop**



## **Pastoral Relationship**

Our parish survey identified three priorities for our new rector. We confirmed these priorities through a series of holy conversations between the Rector Search Committee and the congregation. These priorities are:

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Have a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into our community.
3. Provide more opportunities for Christian Education and Spiritual Formation at every age and stage.

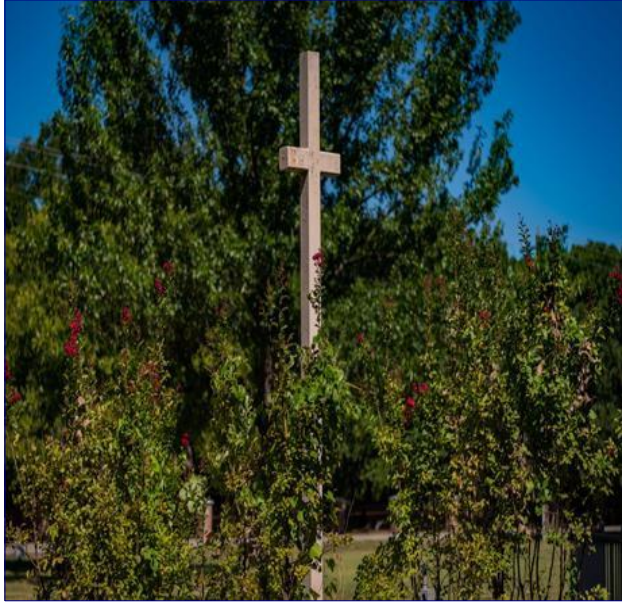
Keeping these priorities in mind, a picture of the perfect pastoral relationship would include someone who can inspire and connect people to God's Word through preaching; who has the capacity to create a vision and lead the church toward realization of the vision; and who has the capacity to engage people empathetically and care for persons in time of need. Additionally, being child-friendly and flexible with a strong sense of humor and a commitment to outreach and lay leadership would be important.

The people of St. John look forward to an enduring relationship between the rector and all ministries including music, Christian Formation (adult and youth), outreach, and pastoral care. A dynamic speaker and preacher focused on serving families with children would be welcome.

Finally, our lay leadership seeks further involvement in the community of St. John's and hope to build a strong partnership with the new rector to continue our mission of being Christ's heart, hands and feet.

We pray for a rector who will embrace our strengths and help us become stronger in our faith, our relationship with each other and with the greater community.

## Prayer



Most Merciful God, we thank you for the opportunity to tell the larger Church about St. John's Episcopal Church, a place we hold dear.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to a Rector who will love us, lead us, faithfully care for us, and guide us in our ministries.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is now leading that person who is searching for a home, to us.

We await our new rector with hope and faith.

## Contact Information

Interested Clergy should email the Search Committee at:  
[stjohnssearchsalem@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnssearchsalem@gmail.com)

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