

St. John's Episcopal Church Wichita, Kansas



2025 Parish Profile

Embracing Christ Love Through Action and Worship Since 1869

Our Mission:

To be a loving family of faith united in Christ and equipped for a ministry of service.

Who Are We:

St. John's is a downtown church in the heart of Wichita that strives to be a community of worship and service where relationships cross all boundaries. The rich history and tradition of St. John's dating back 156 years. We are a diverse, vibrant community of faith that welcomes and actively engages all people in Christian worship and service.

Our Faith in Action:

Service

Sunday morning Eucharist is being offered at 10am, with traditional liturgy and music. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer Rite II is the preferred order of service, with communion open to all.



Christian Formation

As Christians, we are called to grow in our faith and knowledge of God and the world to which we are called to minister. We grow in our discipleship to Christ through a variety of opportunities for adult Christian formation that happen throughout the year, including.

- Welcome and Connect
- Confirmation Classes
- Wichita Minster
- Altar Guild
- Usher Board
- Vestry
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Deacon
- Verger
- Lay Readers
- Office Volunteers

Welcoming

St. John's welcomes all people to worship and excludes no one. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, orientation, housing or legal documentation status, St. John's fosters an inclusive atmosphere set forth in early days of the parish, when the church served as refuge to worshippers of diverse racial and social status. As our mission statement says, we are "a loving family united in Christ." "We believe unity in Christ transcends all human differences, making one community where once there were many.



Fellowship:

St. John's Parish is a loving family of faith, united in Christ, for ministry of service. Showing hospitality to strangers and celebrating our life together in community is at the heart of St. John's ministry. We like to laugh together and break bread together on a regular basis. There are many opportunities for fellowship that happen throughout the year, including:

- Easter Breakfast
- Summer BBQ
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner
- Thanksgiving Dinner
- Coffee Hour



Community Outreach:

The Outreach Ministry of St. John's is a way of proclaiming the gospel not only by word but also through example. In promises made when baptized and with each renewal of our baptismal covenant, we pledge to "seek and serve Christ in all persons", by loving and serving our neighbors as ourselves. With God's help, we agree to "strive for justice and peace among all people" and to "respect the dignity of every human being." It is a primary role of St. John's to affirm, develop and enlist all baptized persons for engagement in personal ministry.

- Shower Up Wichita
- Sandwich Saturday

- God and Dogs
- ICT Street
- CROP Walk
- VITA tax services
- St. Francis Ministries
- Justice Together
- Breakthrough Club / Episcopal Social Services
- The Longest Night Memorial Service

Children's Ministry:

There are always opportunities for children to grow in the knowledge and love of God. All children are welcome to worship with their families at any of our services. We do offer Sunday School during the academic school year.

Our Legacy Gifts

Families of St. John's have blessed us with generous legacy gifts. In the early years, the donations were combined to create the General Endowment Trust; then gifts were collected for a Scholarship Trust.

Today our \$2,350,000 Endowment has eight separate Trusts providing long-term financial security and flexibility. Governing documents allow a 3% - 5% annual withdrawal earmarked for general operating expenses, while the eight trusts provide funds for needed maintenance and upkeep.

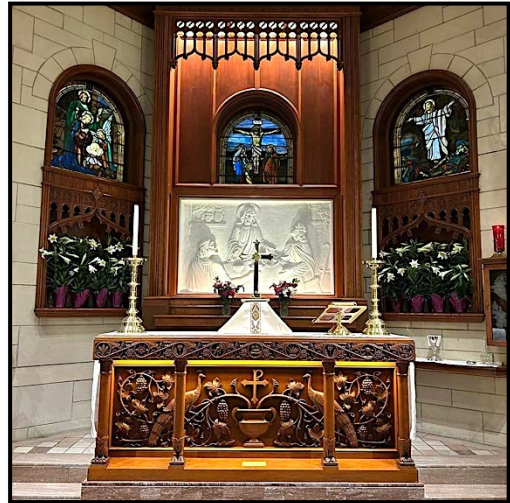


The Trusts are invested through Episcopal Church Foundation with State Street Investment Management, the asset management division of State Street Corporation.

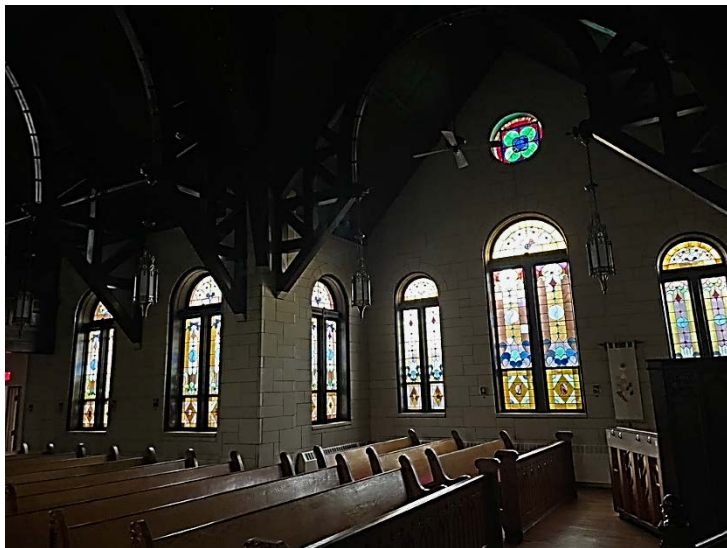
Parish History:

St. John's was one of the first churches in Wichita; and the first Episcopal Church in Wichita.

In the late 1860s businessmen from across the state were determined to start a new city; they selected a spot where the Arkansas River and the Little Arkansas River came together and advertised for people to come to this place called Wichita, to claim 160 acres of free land. In 1869, a wagon train brought settlers to the river site; the town consisted of two buildings – a stockade wall general store and the Munger house. It was here that St. John's got its start as John Hilton, and his wife Sybil



led services. In 1870, St. John's parishioners fashioned their church home – the third building in town – using stockade walls and a sod roof; however, by winter snow and rain caved in the roof. St. John's began what would be a nine-year fundraising campaign to build their second home, a white clapboard building consecrated in 1879.



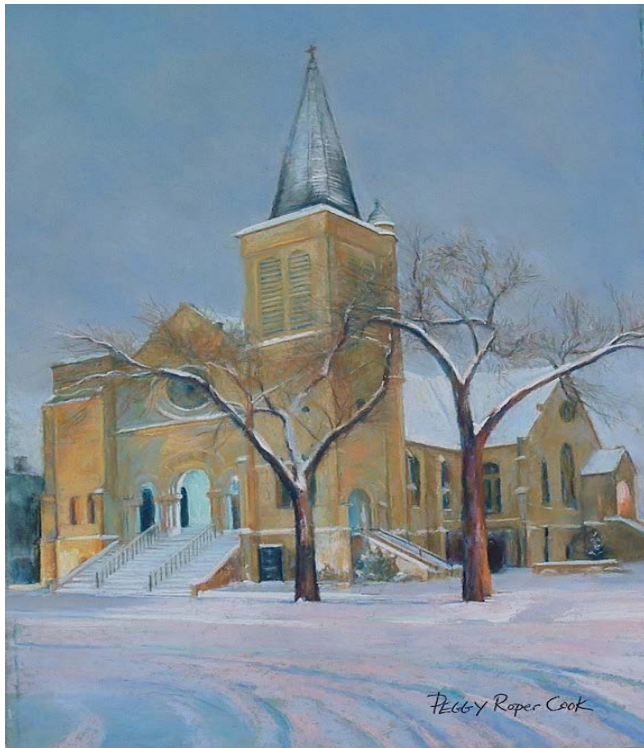
These were boom years for Wichita; attendance at St. John's was over 300, and people were frequently turned away. By 1887, St. John's was once again planning a new home. With pledges in hand and money from the sale of the other building, construction began in 1887. So too did a depression. It would be April 1893 before St. John's celebrated the first service – a wedding.

Through the years St. John's has been blessed with generous families interested in preserving and enhancing our beautiful home.

1926 – the Magill Memorial Bell Tower was added

1955 – stonework was added to the walls of the sanctuary

1962 – the Education Building was completed just north of the church to house a chapel, offices, parlor, and library.



1978 – a walkway and elevator connected the two structures.

2002 – a capital campaign helped fund a second walkway and added the portico area

2014 – the undercroft underwent a major renovation.

2023-24 – Full restoration and refurbishment of the stained-glass windows and housing

It's been 156 years since St. John's first gathered as one Body to worship, dedicated to serving God and His people. We continue to celebrate ALL who have opened their arms and hearts to embrace the spirit of St. John's.

Wichita

Known as the Air Capital of the World because of its strong aviation history and continuing aerospace industry, Wichita is the No. 1 U.S. manufacturing metro for aviation, with more than 450 aviation suppliers and has delivered 35% of all general aviation planes built in the U.S. Through engineering, production and supply, Wichita has touched most aircraft currently flying.



For 155 years, it has offered a dynamic community with rich culture, activity and opportunity. From its roots as a trading post and a major cattle marker on the Chisholm Trail, Wichita has grown from thatch-roofed mud buildings into Kansas' largest city. It has been a haven for entrepreneurs and dreamers as companies such as Pizza Hut, Koch Industries and Freddy's Frozen Custard all have their beginnings here.

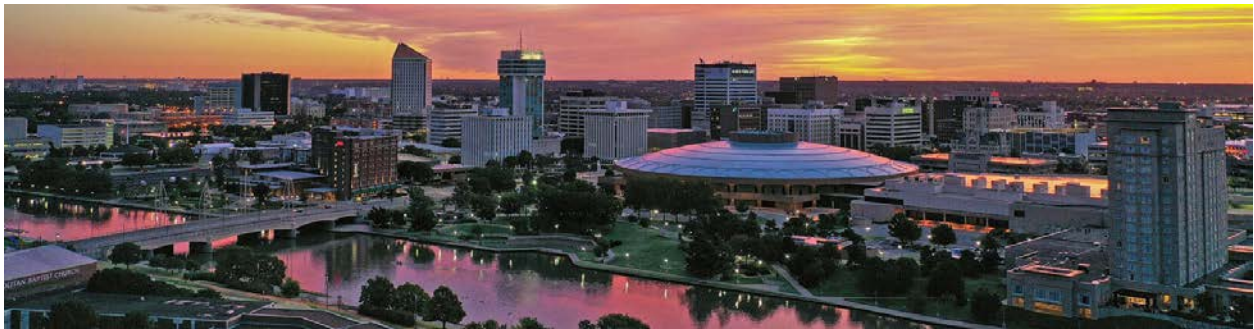
It is a growing educational hub, home to Wichita State University and the National Institute for Aviation Research, Friends University and Newman University. The Wichita Biomedical Campus, now under construction, will bring together services from WSU and the University of Kansas School of Medicine and Pharmacy.



Museums and parks, such as Exploration Place, the Sedgwick County Zoo, Botanica, Wichita Art Museum, Old Cowtown Museum and the Museum of World Treasures highlight attractions. Performing arts center Century II, the Orpheum Theater (under restoration), Intrust Bank Arena and Equity Bank Park, house concerts, shows and sporting events. The annual Riverfest and smaller festivals bring people downtown for events, while Bradley Fair, Old Town, the Waterfront and NewMarket Square are just some of the shopping and dining areas throughout the city.



Wichita is known for its Midwest friendliness, on display with its hosting of NCAA Tournament basketball and U.S. Figure Skating championships. The city of Wichita has an estimated population of 400,991, with 647,000 in the metro area. Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport, which serves 16 nonstop destinations, is consistently rated at the top of regional and smaller-market airports.



Application information

For more information or to apply, email the Canon to the Ordinary with a cover letter (addressed to the Parish Search Committee), an up-to-date resume, and an Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) portfolio:

The Rev. Patrick Funston
Canon to the Ordinary
email: apfunston@episcopal-ks.org
phone: 785.706.1223

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas



The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas includes more than 8,500 people in 44 congregations, two campus ministry houses and two social service agencies in the eastern 40% of Kansas. Parishes range in size from 2,200 members to small congregations in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas of the Sunflower State. The diocese was founded in 1859, preceding statehood by two years. The diocese stands in the center of the United States and also within the broad center of The Episcopal Church. Liturgically, parishes range from low to high, but all are in the broad middle of faithful Episcopalians who seek to be faithful followers of our Lord.

Within our deeply interconnected diocese, clergy and lay leaders have opportunities not available in larger dioceses.

The road to service is short with opportunities on task forces and commissions including the Council of Trustees, the Commission on Ministry, and the General Convention deputation. Our diocesan staff is readily accessible to parish leadership, and we take pride in our many opportunities for clergy collegiality.

The 10th Bishop of Kansas is the Rt. Rev. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom, who was ordained and consecrated on March 2, 2019. Originally from Colorado, Bishop Bascom's call to ordained ministry was nurtured in the Diocese of Kansas while a student at the University of Kansas. Bishop Bascom's leadership in the diocese is marked by special emphasis on Care of Creation and discerning New Models of Ministry, work she also does with the wider Church.



For more information about the diocese, visit www.episcopal-ks.org.