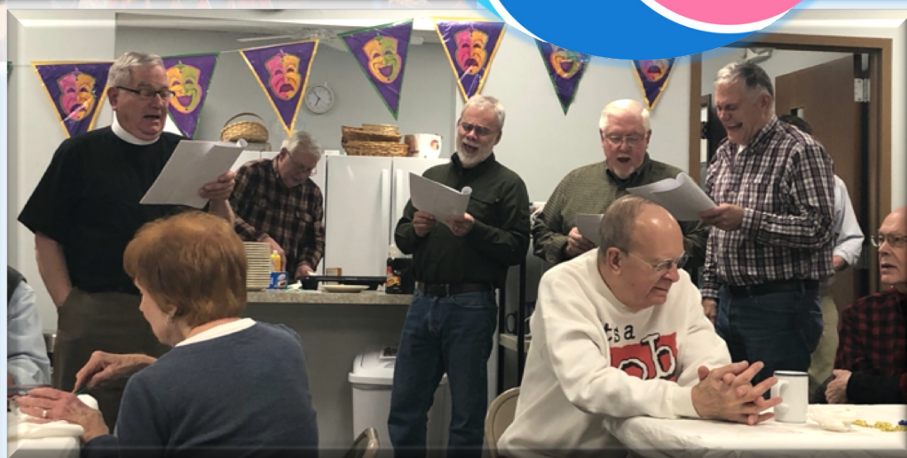


# St. Francis' Episcopal Church

## *Eureka, Missouri*



*Parish Profile 2020*

To Our Future Vicar,

Greetings from the St. Francis' Episcopal Church Discernment Committee.

We hope, in the pages that follow, to share with you our excitement for the future of St. Francis' Episcopal Church. We are a relatively young congregation, born in 1990, and still a mission planted by the Diocese of Missouri. After a quarter of a century without a permanent home, we have built our own worship space, a location in the community that we are now using to do the work of God.

We are located at the edge of St. Louis County in the City of Eureka, a beautiful community with delightful green spaces and a theme park. Our congregants have chosen St. Francis for a wide variety of reasons, but we are united in hearing God's call to be a part of this community. To better understand and represent our members, we gathered in small groups to talk about what matters to us and what we are looking for in a priest. Members were also given the opportunity to complete an online survey. You will read more about that vision as you continue through this profile.

We are blessed by God with a unique and loving community. That said, we don't want that community to stay just as it is. Our dream is to leave the status of a mission and finally, after three decades, take our place as a parish in the Diocese of Missouri. The diocese has placed a great deal of faith in us and we know that we are called to be an indispensable congregation in this part of God's kingdom.

We trust that God has a unique person chosen for St. Francis and that we will find each other through prayer and reflection.

In love and faith,  
*The Discernment Committee*

### **Prayer for God's Will in Seeking a New Vicar**

*O God of Infinite Wisdom, be with us as we discern whom to call as a new vicar to guide our community. Help us become a people that embody the qualities we seek to attract; form in us hearts that are prayerful, compassionate, and alive. Send your Holy Spirit to renew in us the attitude of our church's namesake. Transform us by your mercy into the image of Christ, so that we may reflect your light, your hope, and your love for the life and restoration of the world to your glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*



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The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith  
The Rev. Doris Westfall - Interim Canon  
to the Ordinary

## **Clergy & Staff:**

The Rev. Alfred Jewson – Interim Vicar  
The Ven. Rebecca Barger – Deacon  
Cheryl Foster – Music Director

## **Location:**

602 Rockwood Arbor Dr.  
Eureka, Missouri 63025

(636) 938-3733

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



*Diocese of Missouri*

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# Our Story

St. Francis' Episcopal Church was formed in 1990 by families who saw the need for an Episcopal church in the Eureka-Wildwood area. It was planted by parishioners from the Church of St. Michael and St. George and from St. Martin's Episcopal Church. At first the congregation met at a Methodist church and then found a home at a local hotel. Through the passage of time, the congregation moved to a Christian Brothers retreat center, then to a local elementary school, and then to a Masonic lodge. As a result, in 2013 our Youth Group defined our congregation as "Episco-portable."



*The Christian Brothers retreat center was a temporary home for many years.*

Church membership fluctuated over the years, generally with the average Sunday attendance (ASA) hovering in the 50's. We reached a crisis in 2009, our congregation's number ebbed, and we were no longer able to support a full-time vicar. By 2010 we were considering closing our doors; our ASA had declined to the 20's. At that time a new part-time vicar was called, The Rev. Sally Weaver. Through hard work and with her leadership, we slowly increased our membership. We saw annual growth despite the challenges of meeting in a Masonic lodge with no windows and 70's vintage orange carpeting.

In November 2014, Bishop Wayne Smith assigned a deacon to our congregation, the Rev. Rebecca Barger. She has been with our congregation since that time and in 2019 was also called to serve as Archdeacon for the Diocese of Missouri.

In February 2015, we met with Bishop Smith and the Diocesan Council and requested funding for property and a building of our own. This was not the first time we had made such a request, but the Bishop deemed that we had shown a history of health and growth that justified the purchase of land and a building.



*The youth nicknamed St. Francis as "Episco-portable" due to our capability to move.*



With the assistance of Kevin Coffey, the Mayor of Eureka, we located a 2.65-acre property with an advantageous location; at the entrance to a new 500-home subdivision, across the street from a planned elementary school (which opened in the fall of 2019), and a block from a planned St. Louis County Library. On October 1, 2016, we broke ground on the land. Our new building was dedicated on December 3, 2017.

The Rev. Sally Weaver announced her retirement in the early summer of 2018 and we worked with the Diocese to find an interim priest. The Rev. Alfred Jewson became available from a previous interim position and was welcomed to St. Francis on September 1, 2018. With his skilled direction, and with the assistance of The Reverend Canon Doris Westfall, we have been working an active discernment process to determine who we are and to listen to God's call for our future.



*Mayor Kevin Coffey, Bishop Smith, and Deacon Barger during the groundbreaking ceremony.*



*St. Francis during construction.*



# Who We Are

Inside our red doors you will find the warmest welcome and the most accepting community of faith. We are a broad church and a diverse and dynamic family which embraces historic faith and progressive thinking. The welcome we offer follows that of Christ's teaching of hospitality, acceptance and love. We are a "come as you are" church family, committed to loving each other. We have services, programs and ministries for every member of the family.

To gather a deeper understanding of who we are as a people, we have completed a two-stage assessment process. Looking at what other churches have done in similar situations, we developed a customized



*Top: Kira Jordan, Sally Hader, Brigitte Jung, Sue Schmidt, and Sylvia Ahmad.*



*Left: Katie, Abby, Amanda, Lydia, and Giana performing a skit for the congregation.*



*Choir Director Max Starbuck leads choir practice.*

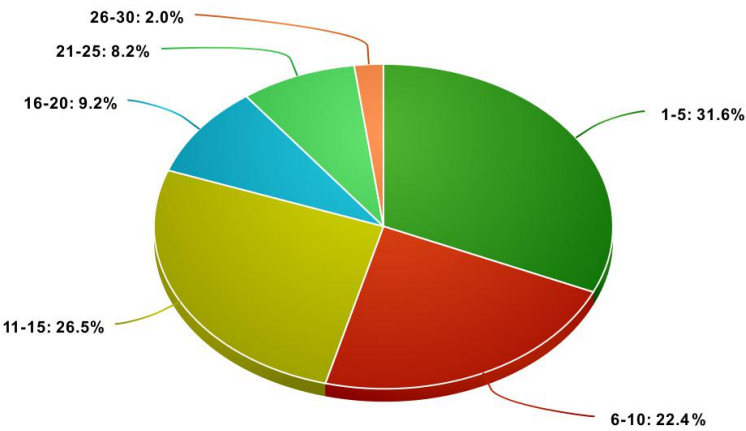


*Tracey Oswald and Herb Smith prepare for a Bishop's Committee meeting.*

survey instrument. We made it available online and as a hardcopy document. As our rolls include 115 parishioners we were pleased to have gathered 87 responses (a 76% response rate). Then, recognizing the limits of a one-size-fits-all instrument, we gathered together in parishioners' homes for small group discussions that we called "Coffee and Conversation." Those nine gatherings drew 47 individuals (41% of possible participants). We offered questions that were both objective and subjective, both open-ended and closed-ended. Here's what we learned about ourselves:

**We chose St. Francis**

As this chart indicates, only a third of our congregation members live within five miles of the church. As people shared their stories, many talked about long periods of "church shopping" before finding St. Francis. New members of the congregation recalled they received a very warm welcome at St. Francis which led them to return to find out more. One new member said that he felt St. Francis was a "safe harbor."



*Mileage from St. Francis*

**We are very engaged in our church**

Most congregants wear many hats in our church. For example, it's perfectly normal to be on the Bishop's Committee, active in the choir, and volunteer with Crafters. This isn't the behavior of the minority; we estimate that three-quarters of the membership volunteer in multiple roles outside of the Sunday service. The classic "10/90 rule" (ten percent of the people do ninety percent of the work) simply does not apply at St. Francis. The importance of service to members was evident during "Coffee and Conversation" sessions as many members said they felt most spiritually alive when participating in worship service and in outreach ministries such as serving at Trinity Hot Lunch Sundays, volunteering at the childcare center, or leading a Bible study.



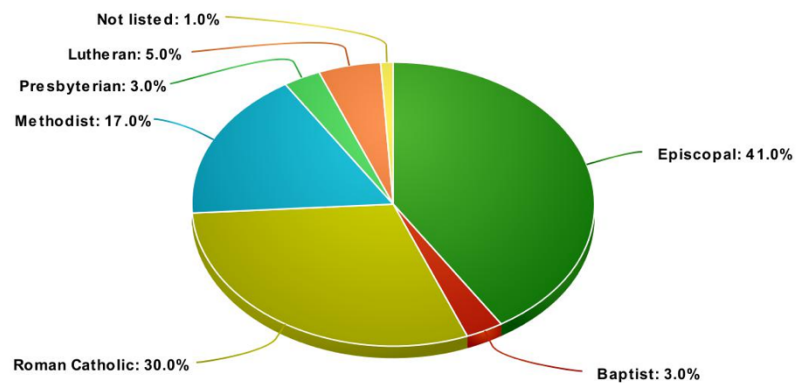
*Bob Smith serves as Lector.*

## We cherish each other

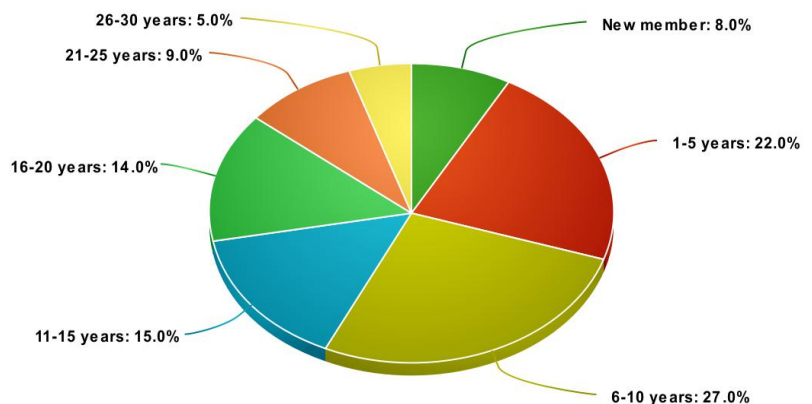
Over and over again, members of the church said that what drew them to the church and what keeps them at the church is “the people.” We aren’t just a friendly congregation; we are truly there for each other. There were testimonies throughout the “Coffee and Conversation” meetings about how we had experienced the practical support of the church when life has been most difficult. The phrase “we are like a family” was repeated throughout the small group gatherings.

## We are a varied and dynamic group

There’s really no such thing as a typical member of St. Francis. We come from many faith tradition backgrounds. Our membership represents a variety of professions including educators, healthcare workers, and civil servants - one congregant is a mayor, another a former mayor, and one member holds multiple software patents. We have members who are politically conservative and members who are politically liberal. Some were born outside of the U.S. We are well-represented by military veterans. Some people have been here many years, while others have come only recently. There are babies and there are senior citizens. In keeping with the core values of Anglicanism, we come together despite our differences and model what it means to be the Kingdom. During our meetings, members spoke of an appreciation for feeling free at St. Francis to ask theological questions and express differing opinions without fear of judgment.



*Previous Denominational Affiliation*



*Length of Time at St. Francis*



It's important to the people of St. Francis that we live into the Episcopal Church's motto that "all are welcome." In our conversations, many congregants stated that they felt it to be critically important to be an affirming congregation so that members of the LGBT+ community feel accepted and included at St. Francis.

### **We are enthusiastic learners**

Our members are generally well-educated, and many members have formally studied their faith. One congregant in eight has graduated from the Episcopal School for Ministry or had other formal religious education. Our Adult Forum program has a long history of varied and enriching content. Many members of the congregation have led Adult Forum, sharing their knowledge and experiences with the larger church. We also have weekly Bible study where it is perfectly normal to refer to an Orthodox commentary or to pull out an Interlinear Bible to really dig into the weekly Scripture readings.

### **We are engaged with the diocese and with the national church**

One of the things that makes St. Francis distinct is our relationship with the diocese. We have been the beneficiary of many years of diocesan financial support, and we would not have opened the doors of our new church building in 2017 had it not been for the generous support of Bishop Smith and the support of the diocese.

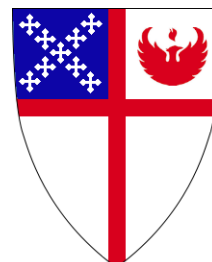
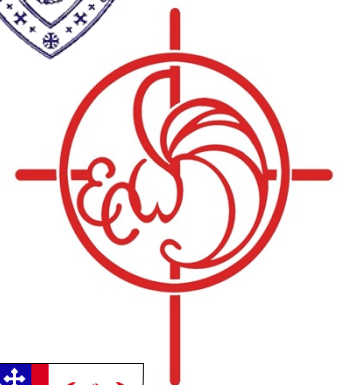
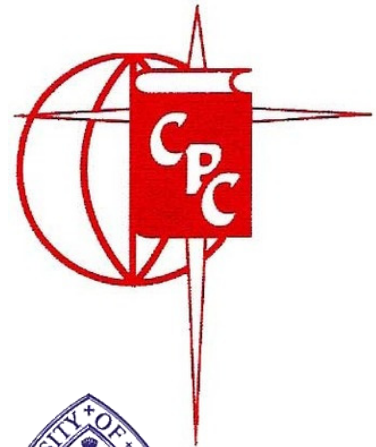
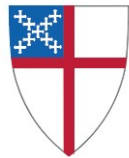


*Fr. Alfred Jewson officiates the wedding celebration of Paul Jokerst and Jeff Veenstra.*

We also participate actively in the life of the diocese. Our deacon, The Venerable Rebecca Barger, was recently tasked with serving as Archdeacon of the diocese. Members of the congregation have served on the Diocesan Standing Committee, the Diocesan Board for Episcopal Church Women, the Board of the Episcopal School for Ministry, the Commission on Ministry, the Board of Examining Chaplains, the Diocesan Resolutions Committee, senior staff for Camp Phoenix, and the Hunger Task Force. We count among our members a board member of The University of the South, an officer of the Church Periodical Club, a deputy to General Convention and a member of the Episcopal-Presbyterian Dialogue.



THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



*Michael Booker (far right) currently serves a three-year term on the Presbyterian Episcopal Dialogue Committee.*

# Our Worship & Liturgy

We worship each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.; both usually follow the Rite II liturgy. The two services are similar except the choir participates at the 10:15 service. Both services consist of music with traditional and contemporary hymns that are sung by the congregation and accompanied by an organist or pianist.

For many years we have used a comprehensive bulletin which includes the day's service from the Book of Common Prayer in an effort to make the liturgy as accessible to newcomers as possible.

Lay members actively participate in the liturgy as greeters, ushers, lectors, servers, and chalice bearers. Our choir is small but mighty and makes a joyful noise at the 10:15 a.m. service. During special occasions, our bell choir adds to the beautiful music heard throughout the service.



*Fr. Alfred Jewson and Acolyte  
Aundrea Bach during Holy  
Eucharist.*



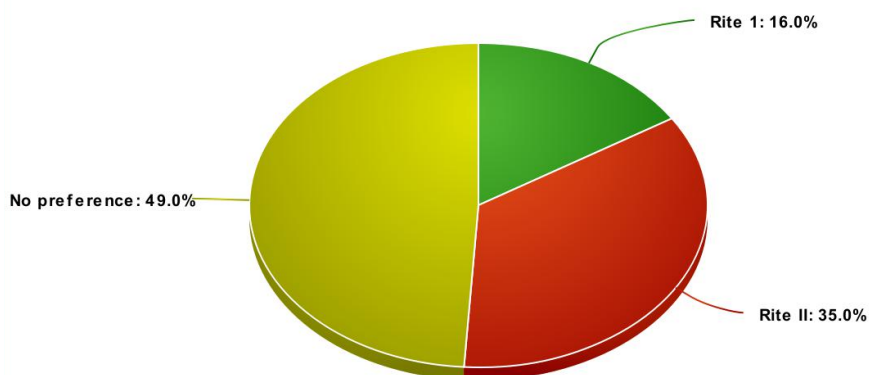
*The congregation stands for the opening hymn.*

Throughout the year additional worship opportunities are added as appropriate for various liturgical seasons. While parishioners are most comfortable with Rite II and its variants,



Rite I is used intermittently, usually during penitential seasons. We have been known to use “bells and smells,” for occasional celebrations.

Our congregation loves music. We have a skilled organist, a choir, and a handbell choir. Music tastes vary widely, and our priests have had success with many resources outside of the 1982 Hymnal. Although music preferences vary, the importance of music in services was prominent in discussions, and especially important is the singing of familiar hymns and songs.



*Congregation survey results for type of service preferred.*

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the priest offers to anoint individuals with oil for healing while the community gathers around them and prays for them. At the end of each service, our deacon sends out eucharistic visitors who share eucharist with homebound individuals.

*Sunday School:* Our Christian Formation Teachers lead Sunday school lessons on Sunday mornings during the 10:15 a.m. service. Sunday school activities are related to the lectionary lessons each week. The children leave the service at the close of the opening hymn to attend Sunday school and return to the service during the passing of the peace.



*Children during Sunday School.*

# *Inreach Ministry*

**W**e consider fellowship activities to be critical to the health of every congregation. Therefore, we focus on activities and ministries that encourage members to build relationships, learn together and serve one another in community. This takes on many forms at St. Francis.

*Adult Forum:* Held every Sunday following the fellowship time, includes presentations on theological topics as well as other topics of interest to the congregation. Presentations are given by the clergy and parishioners.

*Bible Study:* Meets every Friday morning to study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday.

*Blessing of the Animals:* In honor of our Patron Saint of Animals, St. Francis of Assisi, we bless our companion animals.

*Book Club:* Meets monthly to discuss a book selected by the group. The books are not necessarily religious books but usually involve moral or ethical issues. This group is led by a parishioner.

*Crafters:* Meet every Wednesday afternoon to make scarves, hats, quilts, and prayer shawls to donate to those in need or experiencing loss or difficult circumstances.

*Fellowship (Coffee Hour):* Occurs each Sunday after service (roughly 11:30 a.m.) and is a time for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. The third Sunday of each month, the fellowship time includes a pot-luck meal.



*Feast of St. Francis of Assisi  
Pet Blessing – October 6, 2019*

*Mass in the Grass:* As with many churches, we celebrate Holy Communion followed by an annual parish picnic.

*Prayer Group:* We are reminded in prayer groups that God will never forsake us, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, and that our Savior sympathizes with our weaknesses.

*Spirituality Retreats:* As an addition to daily activities, spirituality retreats allow attendees to build both their personal relationships with God as well as their spiritual relationships with each other.

*Women's Group and Men's Group:* Gather monthly for dinner and conversation at a congregant's home or a restaurant.

*Picnics and Bonfire:* Opportunity to gather as a church family for fun, food, and fellowship.



*Women's Group*



*Spirituality Retreat*



*St. Francis Youth*

*Youth Group:* Offers activities for our young people in grades 7-12. Some activities such as game night and wacky bowling are open to the whole congregation.



# Outreach Ministry

Outreach means a great deal to everyone at St. Francis. We may be small, but we are a mighty group with big hearts. We are committed to a variety of outreach ministries to support a broad range of interest and need. We focus our work in three main categories:

- Community Partnerships
- Diocesan Programs
- Church Level Programs

## Community Partnerships & Programs

*Adopt-a-Highway Program:* Members of St. Francis are focused on making Missouri roadsides cleaner and more attractive for our residents and visitors. We are proud to be a part of the 5,300 groups and 50,000 volunteers that help keep Missouri clean.

*Hot Meals:* Every month with a fifth Sunday, many of our congregants volunteer their time to purchase, prepare, and serve over one hundred hot meals for the homeless at Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End.

*Food Pantry:* For two decades we have supported the Eureka Food Pantry. Food is collected in a red wagon each week and those items are donated to support the needy in our community.

*Trunk or Treat:* Our first Halloween “Trunk or Treat” was held in 2019 for the area children. The evening consisted of hot chocolate, candy distribution, and kid friendly games.

*Tutoring Program:* Since 2011, we have hosted Wednesday night tutoring during the school year. We match students who have a need for academic support with volunteers who can assist them in classes from calculus to French. Three local school districts refer their students to us for assistance.



*Right to Left: Suzanne Jones, Abby, Katie, Sue Schmidt, Kira, Sally Hader, and Cole at Trinity Episcopal Church.*



*Food collection for the Food Pantry.*

## Diocesan Programs

*Camp Phoenix:* Operated by the Diocese of Missouri, Camp Phoenix is a week-long overnight summer camp for youth ages 8-15. St. Francis plays a large role in the development and on-going success of the camp and a member of the senior staff is a volunteer from our own church. Camp Phoenix has been well-attended and enjoyed by several generations and we have always worked to include others from both inside and outside the parish.



*Kaleik Jokerst volunteers his time as a camp counselor and enjoys entertaining the campers with his various costumes.*

*Episcopal City Mission:* We donate requested items to the Episcopal City Mission during the Christmas season. The Episcopal City Mission provides spiritual assistance to children in detention in St. Louis.

*Episcopal Church Women (ECW):* ECW is one of the oldest church organizations in the Episcopal Church and offers every woman in the diocese an environment of support and encouragement, education, and opportunity for ministry.

## Church Level Programs

*Building Use:* St. Francis is committed to opening its doors to those in the surrounding community as a place to gather, meet, and learn. Our community room is currently used by several support groups on a weekly basis.



*Christmas Donations:* Every Christmas season, we support adopt-a-family programs of charitable community organizations by providing gifts for needy children.

*Discretionary Funds:* The vicar and deacon both have Discretionary Funds that are used to support emergency needs. The first Sunday of the month, all loose plate offerings go into the Discretionary Fund.

*Law Enforcement Memorial Service:* In 2019 we held our first service in support of law enforcement. This special service honors law enforcement officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice during the previous year. This service is held in conjunction with the Officer Memorial Service held each year in Washington D.C. Plans are being made to hold a special service honoring paramedics and fire fighters as well.



*Kathleen O'Reilly and Barb Sacco with donated presents for needy children.*



*Officer Memorial Service  
held on May 15, 2019.*



*School Supplies:* For a number of years we have collected school supplies for children in need.

*New Shoes:* For the past several years we have purchased new tennis shoes for children in need when returning to school in the fall.

*Prayer Shawl Ministry:* Prayer shawls, scarves, and blankets are created to provide comfort for those suffering mental, physical or emotional difficulties.



*Sylvia Ahmad (left), Kathleen O'Reilly (center), and Doris Schaefer (right) donate their time to knit prayer shawls and scarves for those that are suffering mental or physical difficulties.*



*Top Left: Tutoring volunteers (left to right), Paul Becker, Kathleen McDonald, Jeff Rainbolt, Herb Smith, Jackie Selle, and Marsha Smith. Not pictured – Caitlin Selle.*



*Top Right: Barb Sacco volunteers in the child-care center.*



*Bottom Left: Jeff Rainbolt helping a student with algebra.*



*Bottom Right: Jude and Tatum volunteering at a local food-packing event.*

# *Our Facilities*

When we designed our church, we wanted a building that looked like church, was wide-open, a flexible worship space, and an area for the community to meet. We wanted adequate office space for our staff and a designated space for our deacon.



One of our priorities was that the building be easy to navigate for those with mobility issues. We have a number of congregation members who need doorways and entrances that welcome those with walkers or wheelchairs.

We were able to include space for a childcare center in our initial building design. While a part of the building, it is its own entity.











Since the building was erected, we have added a memorial garden. That space was dedicated on May 19, 2019. Having lacked a permanent home, some families had saved the ashes of their departed family members so that they could find a permanent resting place with us.

Our plans for the 2.6 plus acres of which we are now stewards include spaces for an outside fellowship area and a community garden.



As a community of believers aware of our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation, we help take care of our environment in these ways:

-  Reducing energy consumption with motion-activated lighting and zoned heating and cooling systems.
-  Holding an electronics recycling event each year
-  Recycling office paper, aluminum and cardboard
-  Designing our gardens to utilize native plants to help the environment and to reduce water usage



# Friends of St. Francis

## **Friends of St. Francis Mission Statement reads:**

*Friends of St. Francis Childcare is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where children can grow through play and through organized activities. Our goal is to provide children with an awareness of their value as unique human beings who are loved by God.*

When the Bishop and the Diocesan Council approved funding for our new building in 2015, they took an additional step forward in faith and authorized construction of a wing for our new church that would house a childcare facility with a capacity of 24 preschoolers. The name for the childcare center, “Friends of St. Francis,” was chosen by the youth of the church.

Friends of St. Francis is its own 501(c)(3) entity, and not under the direction of the vicar. It has a board of trustees appointed by the Bishop’s Committee. That board then hires and supervises a director who has operational oversight of the facility and staff. The director sees to it that Friends of St. Francis meets all state certification requirements for its operation and that its standards for care make Friends of St. Francis eligible for state reimbursements for low-income families.

Friends of St. Francis takes children from the time they are toilet trained until they leave for kindergarten. This was always intended to be a mission of the church, and we discovered a niche where we were much needed. Some of our wonderful children have behavioral issues or learning disabilities, and some have been expelled from other care centers. For many of our parents, this is their last hope to find a local, reasonably priced and caring environment for their little ones. We have welcomed those dear children and embraced the challenges of this weighty responsibility. Members of the congregation volunteer their time at the center and prepare lunches daily.



It merits mention that Friends of St. Francis struggles to bring in enough in tuition fees to pay for its workers. The high percentage of children with special needs requires a higher-than-normal ratio of teachers to students. Parents of small children have finite resources, and good workers deserve reasonable compensation for their time.





# Stewardship & Finances

While some financial support is received from the diocese, St. Francis is blessed to be a debt-free congregation as we purchased our property and building with a combination of internal fund-raising and support from the diocese.

St. Francis' Episcopal Church has 64 active pledging units. For 2020, we have received pledge commitments for \$165,473.00. Our budget will be voted on by membership during the January 2020 Annual Parish Meeting. Salaries and benefits will be the main financial commitments along with diocesan assessment, outreach, and building maintenance.

For the second year we have used the "Pony Express" stewardship program with great success. The number of pledging units increased by 23%, from 52 to 64 (including five pledges from our youth). The amount pledged for the year grew by 40%, an increase that exceeded our expectations.



As a younger congregation, we lack an endowment or investment fund that sustains our finances. There is no single (wealthy) pledging unit that balances our budget.

Individuals give as they are able. Our finances depend on the giving of the people of the congregation.

St Francis' Episcopal Church Financial Data				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
ASA	67	67	65	67
Pledges	<i>Not Available</i>	<i>Not Available</i>	52	64
Average Pledge	<i>Not Available</i>	\$ 2,443.00	\$ 2,267.00	\$ 2,585.52
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledged Income	\$ 134,362.00	\$ 105,914.00	\$ 117,878.00	\$ 165,473.00
Operating Fund	\$ 39,564.00	\$ 29,313.00	\$ 25,168.00	\$ 53,176.00
Other Income	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 105.00	-
Total Income	\$ 193,926.00	\$ 159,227.00	\$ 168,656.80	\$ 203,983.00
Total Expenses	\$ 168,205.00	\$ 140,400.00	\$ 171,181.80	\$ 202,139.00

*Note: The total number of pledges and average pledge given is not available as historical data was damaged in a flood at a previous location.*

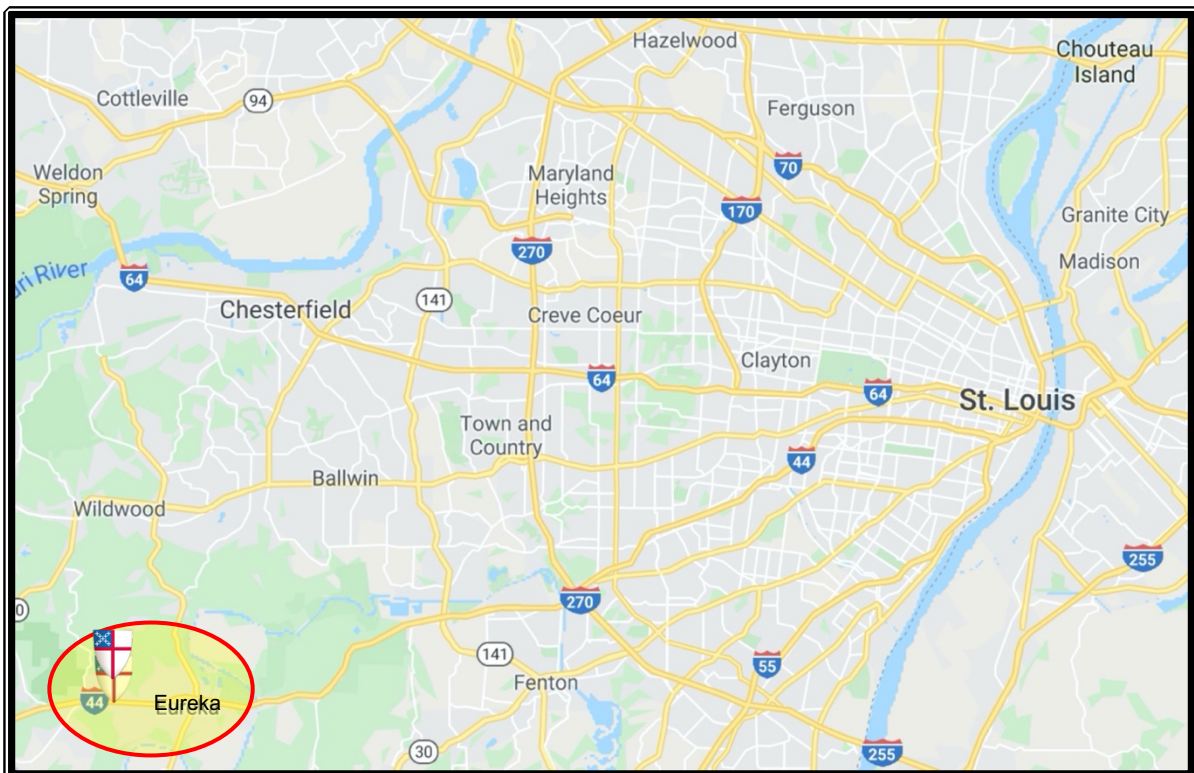


# *Our Community*

The City of Eureka is located at the southwest end of St. Louis County, straddling Interstate 44. Originally platted in 1858 and incorporated in 1954, Eureka today covers 10.45 square miles and has an estimated population of 11,329.

Eureka is a part of the Rockwood School District, which provides the community with excellent schools. The Rockwood School District has been awarded the “Distinction in Performance” award by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and a “Gold Medal” rating from Expansion Management Magazine.

Eureka is best known in the St. Louis area as home to one of the eighteen Six Flags theme parks. It is a lovely city, described by its municipal website as: “Nestled among the rolling hills and limestone of Southwest St. Louis County you will find beautiful Eureka, Missouri. Eureka is unique among other St. Louis County communities for its retention of a small-town atmosphere while still providing access to a major metropolitan area. Beautiful local and State parks and surrounding terrain, quality schools, affordable housing and a very low crime rate are just a few of the amenities that make Eureka a great place to live, work and visit.”



# The Diocese

The Diocese of Missouri was founded in 1841. It is a member of Province V and occupies the eastern half of the state of Missouri. There are 42 churches in the diocese, 30 parishes and 12 missions.

On November 23, 2019, at the 180<sup>th</sup> Diocesan convention, the diocese elected The Rev. Deon Johnson as the Eleventh Bishop of Missouri. Information about our new bishop can be found at: <https://www.diocesemo.org/news/2019/11/23/deon-johnson-elected-11th-bishop-missouri>.

Rev. Johnson will be consecrated on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



Source: <https://www.diocesemo.org/about/diocese>

# *Our New Vicar*

Our discernment process was designed to determine the priorities of the people of St. Francis. One question we asked concerned the focus of future growth. St. Francis congregants identified the following top priorities:

- Growth in Membership
- Service to the Community
- Strengthening of Financial Position
- Spiritual Growth
- Children's Ministry

It is easy to see how these priorities fit into an overarching goal of healthy growth. Our new vicar will need to offer leadership and talent in helping us to expand in these ways.

We also asked about the essential skills and gifts of our new vicar. These are the top five personal attributes we seek in a new vicar:

- Open-minded
- Approachable
- Compassionate
- Community and Neighborhood Minded
- Flexible/Adaptable

We seek a vicar who understands there is no typical or standard parishioner at our church, and we value the distinctiveness in all people. Kindness and compassion are qualities highly appreciated by our parishioners who feel this is a way to show God's love to each other and our community.

The other quality that we hope to find is enthusiasm – enthusiasm for Christ, enthusiasm for the Anglican tradition, enthusiasm for service, and enthusiasm for making disciples. Like any congregation, we want an engaging preacher, deeply grounded in Scripture, who has a strong gift for pastoral care.

Our members have many talents, abilities, and a strong desire to serve. As the most recently planted church in the Diocese of Missouri, St. Francis needs a vicar that encourages, appreciates, and empowers us to utilize these gifts.



# *Identity & Vision Statements*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is a growing and inviting community of Christians known for meaningful worship and faithful service to God, our neighbors, and each other.

We, the people of St. Francis' Episcopal Church, are a Christian faith community founded in the Episcopal tradition. We seek to grow in our love and understanding of God, our care of one another, and our service to the needs of the world around us. We pray and labor together to express our ideals of mercy, inclusion and reconciliation.

## *Values*

***Inclusion*** - We welcome all who come seeking God's love and grace into the full life and ministry of the parish. (Galatians 3:28)

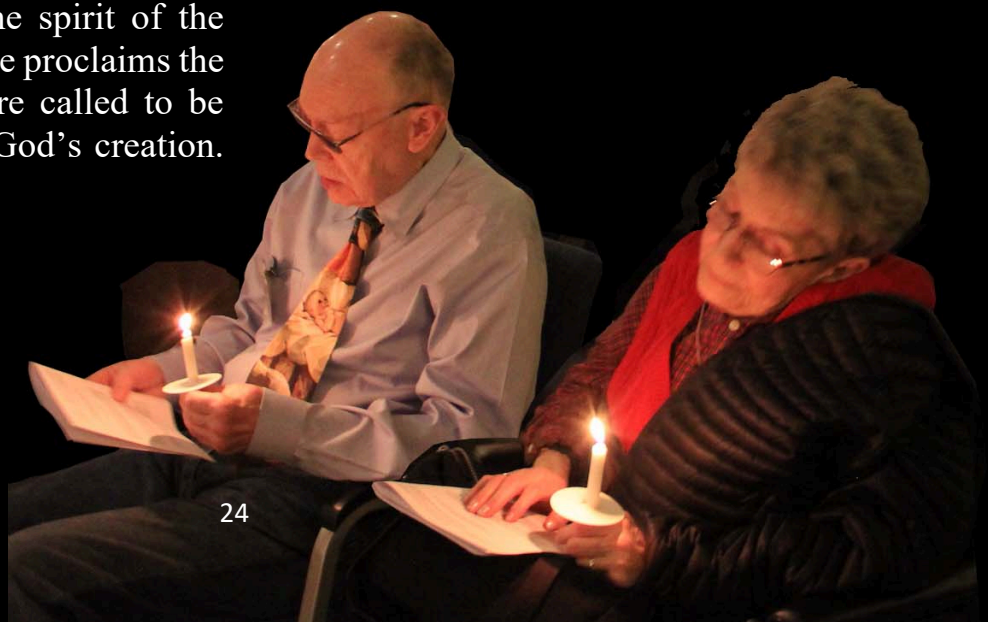
***Common Life*** - We rejoice together, we mourn together, and heed God's call to bear each other's burdens. We have a special responsibility to the children entrusted to us by God, knowing that it is our duty to teach, nurture and protect them. (Galatians 6:2, Mark 10:14)

***Worship*** - We meet regularly for joyous worship and reverential celebration of Holy Eucharist. (Acts 2:42)

***Spiritual Growth*** - We are engaged in a lifelong process of spiritual growth. We nurture this through study, prayer, and an open exploration of the Christian faith. (II Peter 3:18)

***Service*** - We give generously of our material and spiritual resources to those in need around us. (Matthew 25:35-36, James 2:14-17)

***Creation*** - We believe, in the spirit of the Blessed St. Francis, that nature proclaims the glory of God, and that we are called to be wise and tender stewards of God's creation. (Genesis 1:31)



**A**lmighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a vicar for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*BCP, p. 818*



*Diocese of Missouri*  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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