



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
130 39th Avenue Place NW
Hickory, NC 28601

Parish Profile: St. Alban's Episcopal Church

At St. Alban's Episcopal Church, we are a welcoming, faith-centered community committed to a journey of spiritual growth, service, and fellowship. Rooted in Episcopal tradition and open to positive change, we seek to expand our ministries and adapt to better serve both our congregation and the wider community. Our mission is to create a vibrant church that grows with its members, continually seeking ways to deepen our faith and enrich our shared experience.

Who We Are

St. Alban's is a community woven from diverse backgrounds and experiences, with members of all ages and stages of life. We are committed to creating a nurturing environment where people of all generations feel included and valued. While we celebrate our Episcopal identity and history, we recognize that there is always room to grow and evolve in order to meet the needs of today's world.

Our Vision for Ministry and Growth:

Supporting Young Families and Growing Together

We understand the importance of young families in shaping the future of our church and seek to enhance the support and resources available to them. Through intentional programming, accessible fellowship, and family-centered events, we aim to create a stronger sense of belonging and provide practical support that helps young families feel fully embraced by our community.

Expanding Programming for Young Children

To better serve the youngest members of St. Alban's, we are eager to expand our children's programming with new initiatives that inspire spiritual curiosity and joy. By improving our Sunday School curriculum and exploring creative approaches to faith formation, we hope to foster a nurturing and engaging environment that supports each child's unique spiritual journey.

Enriching Christian Education

Christian education at St. Alban's is a journey of lifelong learning, and we seek to build upon our existing programs to create even more opportunities for growth. By incorporating new study groups, workshops, and discussion forums, we aim to cultivate an atmosphere of exploration and dialogue, empowering our congregation to deepen their understanding of faith at every stage of life.

Enhancing Sunday Morning Worship

Our Sunday worship is central to the life of St. Alban's, and we are committed to making it even more meaningful for all. We look forward to improving the worship experience through a Sunday school/adult forum option, additional service times and options and a continued commitment to excellence in preaching and music. Our goal is to provide a worship experience that is spiritually enriching and inviting to all, especially families and newcomers.

Expanding Fellowship Opportunities Throughout the Week

While Sunday worship is a cornerstone of our community, we want to provide additional opportunities for fellowship throughout the week. By expanding our calendar to include new small groups, family-friendly events, and social gatherings, we aim to build stronger connections among members and create a welcoming environment for all to enjoy friendship and support.

Enhancing Music, Choir, and Handbells

Music is a cherished part of our worship at St. Alban's, and we strive to broaden its impact within our parish and beyond. Our goal is to support our choir and handbell ministry with additional resources and new opportunities for involvement, allowing more members to experience the joy of music and share in this beloved part of our worship life.

Strengthening Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is fundamental to our mission, and we are committed to expanding our capacity to support those in need. By enhancing our pastoral care team and training, we aim to reach more members with compassionate support during life's challenges. Through a more organized and responsive approach, we hope to build a stronger network of care for all members of St. Alban's.

Deepening Our Commitment to Diversity

We believe diversity is a blessing that enriches our community, and we are committed to building a more inclusive church. This includes actively seeking ways to better reflect the diversity of our wider community, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering an environment where all feel valued and respected. Our aim is to make St. Alban's a truly welcoming home for people of all backgrounds.

Enhancing and Expanding Community Outreach

Throughout the gospels, Jesus is very consistent in his message of caring for, helping, and loving those who are sick and in need. Members of St. Alban's follow their faith with a strong commitment to use their talents and resources to help those in need in our community and world with life challenges: food insecurity, improved housing opportunities, education for life skills, medical needs, and disaster assistance. As we look to the future, we challenge ourselves to expand our abilities to meet additional needs with our resources given with love and compassion.

Expanding and Improving Our Newcomer Program

As we grow, we are excited to enhance our newcomer program to create a welcoming path for visitors to become part of our church family. By developing a more structured and engaging newcomer experience, we hope to help every individual find their place within our community and discover meaningful ways to participate in the life of St. Alban's.

Vision for Staffing: A Future Pursuit

In our vision for growth, we anticipate that additional staff support will help us better fulfill our mission and deepen our ministries. In the future, we hope to welcome a Deacon, Assistant Rector, or Youth Minister to focus on expanding ministries for young families, supporting pastoral care, and fostering spiritual formation among our youth. We envision this future leader as a collaborative partner who will bring fresh ideas and energy to our ministries, allowing St. Alban's to flourish in the years ahead.

Conclusion

St. Alban's Episcopal Church is a community that values tradition yet embraces growth and change. We look forward to the future with a spirit of optimism and fervent desire to work together with new clergy leadership to continue building a church that serves its members faithfully and welcomes all with open arms. We invite those who share our vision for growth and community to join us on this exciting journey.