

CHRIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA

Parish Profile

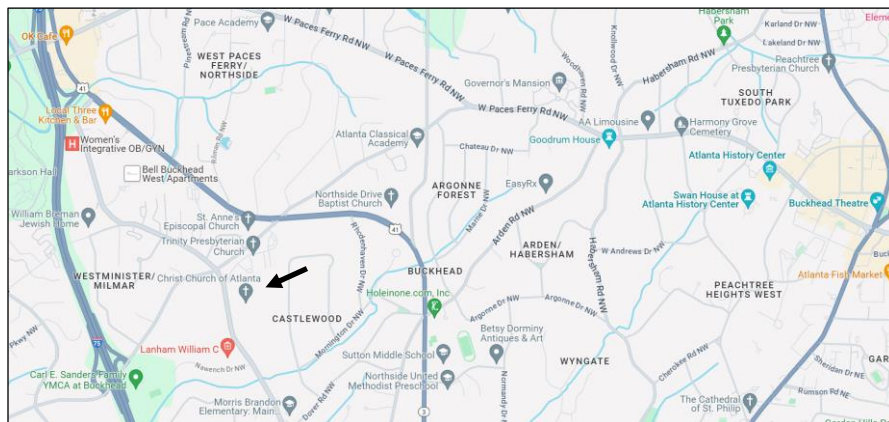
Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia

- MEETING LOCATION* Atlanta International School
2890 N. Fulton Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30305
- MAILING ADDRESS* 2951 Howell Mill Rd., NW
Atlanta, GA 30327
- WEBSITE* www.christchurchatl.org
- SOCIAL MEDIA* Instagram @christchurchofatlanta
Facebook *Christ Church of Atlanta*
- FOUNDED* 1998
- SEARCH COMMITTEE CONTACT* Mr. Calvin Edwards, Chair of the Search Committee
aussie7@bellsouth.net
- BISHOPS* Archbishop Foley Beach; Assisting Bishop Frank Lyons
- CANON TO THE ORDINARY* Canon Sean George, sean@adots.org
- SUNDAY SERVICES* Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Snapshot

People are attracted to Christ Church of Atlanta for various reasons. Some come because of our uncompromising commitment to biblical truth and teaching. Others come because of our steadfast dedication to orthodox Anglicanism and the historic creeds of the Church. People have joined Christ Church because of our devotion to family and community, and the ongoing opportunities for fellowship and service.

MAP OF BUCKHEAD & CHRIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA

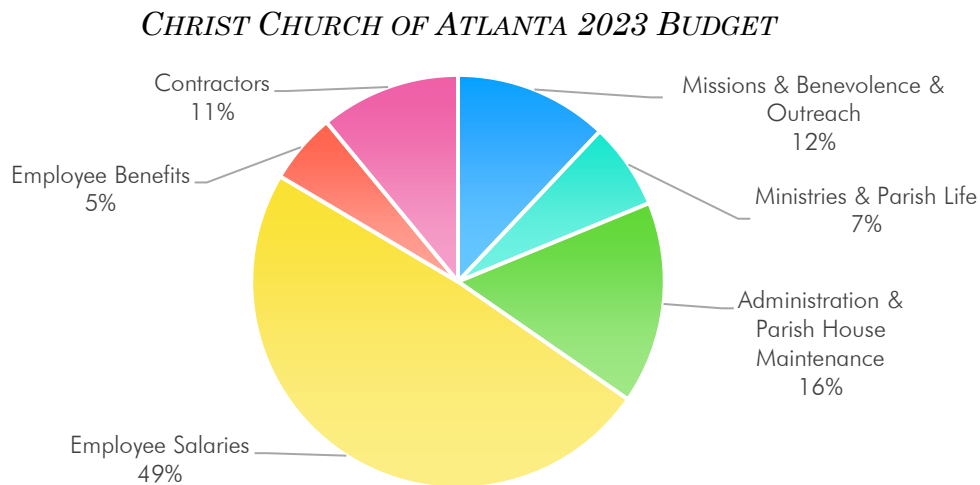


Christ Church is a very hospitable congregation and provides many opportunities for fellowship throughout the year. Whether through quarterly lunches, dinner groups or Sunday ladies' lunches, the congregation enjoys opportunities to get to know each other better and fellowship outside of regular worship services.

Although primarily an older congregation, the Christ Church family includes people of every age. We have senior adults, empty nesters, single adults, and youth and children.

We welcome visitors and new members alike to join us as we witness to God's work in our lives, joyfully love one another, and reflect God's love and character to the world.

Christ Church operates with an annual budget in excess of \$800,000. Proportionate expenses for 2023, by category, are portrayed in the following chart.



Hopes for Our New Rector

Christ Church has been greatly blessed by having a rector who is faithful to biblical literacy and strong biblical teaching and preaching. Our preferred candidate will adhere to the belief that Scripture is divinely inspired by God and totally and completely true. Ideally, he is also an ordained minister (preferably in the Anglican Church in North America) deeply rooted in the Anglican tradition and with significant relevant rector or associate rector experience. He should be a dynamic preacher and teacher who seeks to share the good news of the gospel without compromising biblical truth.

Our preferred candidate will also have a heart for pastoral care and a warm, winsome personality. It will be important that he be able to appoint an associate rector and other ministerial positions who are able to work together collectively to lead us into our new building space and all the new opportunities that entails.

History

Christ Church of Atlanta is a biblically based, evangelical church worshipping in the Anglican tradition. We confess the faith of Jesus Christ crucified, buried, risen, ascended, and coming again as expressed in the Apostles and Nicene Creeds, the historic ecumenical councils of the ancient undivided Church and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion.

Christ Church was incorporated in January 1998 by several biblically orthodox Christian families in the metropolitan Atlanta area who wished to worship in the Anglican tradition but believed that there was no longer a place for them in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

The Rev. Alfred A. Sawyer was called as founding rector and has served Christ Church faithfully since that time. Prior to Christ Church, Alfred Sawyer served churches in Georgia, England, and Israel. For eight years, he served as rector of Christ Church in Jerusalem, the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East. He is a former journalist and has been ordained for 45 years.



Sunday service at CCA.

Dr. Kenneth Boa was appointed teaching elder in 1998. Ken Boa is a Bible teacher, speaker, and author of numerous books on Christian apologetics and spirituality. He is the president of Reflections Ministries and also of Trinity House Publishers. He has taught a weekly Sunday school class at Christ Church since its inception.

Weekly public worship services of Christ Church began on January 25, 1998. In October 1998, Christ Church became a founding member of the Association of Anglican Congregations on Mission (AACOM). AACOM, the predecessor of the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA), was an association of biblically orthodox Anglican congregations with episcopal oversight from orthodox bishops in the Anglican Communion.

In 1999, founding membership forms were solicited from attendees at the weekly Service of Holy Communion and 51 households became founding members. In September 2000, Christ Church moved its Sunday meetings to the Atlanta International School where we continue to meet. Currently, our membership totals around 200, including adults and children. Our current average attendance is 96 people, which reflects a decrease from the pre-Covid average attendance of 126 people in 2019.

Since 2002, Christ Church has sought its own permanent place of worship, while continuing to lease auditorium space from the Atlanta International School. After an extensive search



Archbishop Foley Beach confirms young people.

in the densely occupied Buckhead community—with its strict zoning regulations—in 2017, Christ Church purchased seven acres of land and is in the process of building on that site (see attached architectural rendering). It is anticipated that the Fellowship Hall currently under construction will be available for use as worship, office, and classroom space in the fall of 2024. A second building, the Church itself, will be constructed at a later date.

In 2004, Christ Church left AMiA and became an independent affiliate of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes. We

are now under the episcopal oversight of the Most Rev. Foley Beach, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America and Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the South. In 2009, Christ Church members participated actively in the formation of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA), and the church was a founding member of the Anglican Diocese of the South (ADOTS), within the ACNA province. Christ Church has no affiliation with the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA). It has never been an ECUSA church or mission, nor has it ever used ECUSA facilities or accepted ECUSA funds.

The director of children's ministry oversees programs for children, and youth ministry is led by a part-time (interim) leader from the congregation. Although we do not currently have an associate rector (position is left open for selection by the incoming rector), the associate rector would typically work with the directors of the children's and youth ministries, and the parish life coordinator, to oversee programs for our middle- and high-school aged students.



Alfred Sawyer, rector, baptizing.

Christ Church has solid underpinnings in Biblical foundation, orthodoxy, and leadership structure. With the recent groundbreaking at our new church home, Christ Church is ready to build on that solid foundation and grow its gospel outreach to Atlanta.

Anglican Ethos

Christ Church could best be described as having a relatively low church demeanor that blends components such as a traditional liturgy, lectionary readings, both traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs, and the celebration of Holy Communion each Sunday. We favor a relaxed formality in the celebration of the sacraments. One distinctive characteristic of our culture is an extended time of greeting one another during the Peace in the context of the Sunday service.

Most members are not cradle Anglicans, and have come to Christ Church from various church backgrounds, including Episcopalian, Catholic, and multiple evangelical denominations. We celebrate our common unity around the gospel, and around the basics of Anglican worship, with a strict adherence to Biblical teaching and the critical truths of Sola Scriptura doctrine.

Mission

The mission of Christ Church is to develop a worshipping community, grounded upon the authority of Scripture, equipped and empowered to share the life of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, with those who do not know Him. The mission may be further elaborated in the following affirmations of the church's calling:

- Bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Honor God's holiness and majesty
- Be a biblical church
- Be a teaching church



CCA luncheons create fellowship around food!

- Serve a diverse congregation
- Enable personal application of truth
- Be a part of the Anglican Communion
- Be a community
- Serve others

These Affirmations remain an anchor in guiding our preaching and teaching at Christ Church. While we are open to changing as we grow, we want to do so in a way that is faithful to the gospel, Scripture, and our Anglican ethos.

Ministries

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music is a vital part of worship at Christ Church. We sing and play not for man's applause but for the "audience of One" – our Heavenly Father. Our director of music is a gifted pianist who leads the congregation in joyfully singing hymns and songs of praise to God each Sunday, and is supported by a small ensemble of adult voices. Our children add their voices during the annual Christmas pageant, and guest musicians join in leading the musical worship periodically. The style of music could be described as reverent and traditional with a modern instrumental flair.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Christ Church has a thriving Prayer Ministry. Its leadership is committed to praying for the needs of the church, its members, the community and for all who desire prayer. In addition to having a shared time of prayer during each service, we also have an Intercessory Prayer Team (a carefully selected group of men and women within Christ Church) whose members pray faithfully and confidentially for congregational prayer requests. A Tuesday morning prayer team also faithfully meets via Zoom each week to address prayer concerns of the church and its members.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

At Christ Church, we believe that following Jesus is a life-long journey of faith and formation. Our members tend to have a high level of biblical literacy, and there is a strong core of spiritually mature Christians. One of the great blessings of Christ Church is having Dr. Ken Boa as a Teaching Elder. Ken Boa teaches a Sunday school class each week.



Ladies Bible study includes singing, prayer, & guest speakers.



Confirmands celebrate with chocolate!

Additionally, there are several other Bible study opportunities offered throughout the week. On Tuesday evenings, our rector leads a Bible study via Zoom and has many participants, including several non-members. Ladies Bible class meets on Monday mornings and is committed to inductive study of Scripture.

Some members have expressed a desire for more opportunities for adults to learn together during the week. Our hope with a new rector is that he would create opportunities for more Bible study classes on Sunday morning, as well as a men's Bible study during the week.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES

The primary goal of the Children's and Youth Ministries at Christ Church is to reach children of all ages with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We provide a supportive environment and framework for families to worship together, fellowship with one another, and grow in their knowledge of and relationship with Jesus. We partner with parents to disciple their children in the Christian faith during their very formative years and help them establish a strong spiritual foundation. Families are encouraged to worship together, and children are valued members of the parish.



Rodeo night at Kidz Club.

Christ Church's Children's Ministry is

committed to:

- Providing a safe, loving, welcoming environment for babies, toddlers, and elementary-age children at all church events
- Teaching children's classes that are God-centered, Bible-based, child-friendly and age-appropriate, and helping children learn to apply biblical truths to everyday life
- Encouraging and providing opportunities for families to actively engage together in worship, service, fellowship, and evangelism

Additionally, on Wednesday evenings during the school year, Kairos (5th through 12th grade) and Kidz Club (kindergarten through 4th grade) meet for dinner and fellowship. Each week the children are immersed into a biblical story through worship, games, and interactive activities. For the older students, Kairos is their time for community, developing their faith and relationship with Jesus, and asking questions. We want our students to have a place and time to be themselves and to belong. Fun outings for the youth are also held several times a year and include events such as Six Flags, bowling, indoor skydiving, and go-kart racing.

Youth program participation has decreased since the onset of Covid. Families would like to see renewed attention given to this important ministry.

Ministry Staff

Christ Church's ministries are led by a combination of full-time and part-time staff, and volunteers. They are supported by two full-time administrative staff. As the church grows, we anticipate that there will be movement towards more full-time ministry staff.



Jhamna enlivens the CCA Christmas Party with carols & holiday favorites.

Outreach

Christ Church has a generous heart for serving its community. We believe we are called to seek and serve Jesus in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. By giving to others of our time, skills, and material resources, we acknowledge the wealth of God's blessing in our lives and his abundant mercy upon us. Outreaches include:



Church members volunteer for community service project.

- Participating in outside programs such as Operation Christmas Child and A Beacon of Hope Women's Center (pregnancy counseling and assistance)
- Collecting donations (supplies and money) for the Atlanta Victims Assistance program and the Atlanta Food Bank
- Allocating 10% of all unrestricted offerings for missions giving. Acting as stewards, we have supported: digging wells in Africa; sending Bibles to underground churches in the Middle East;

sending missionaries to Native Americans; prison chaplains ministering in Georgia; care for orphans; and evangelistic outreaches to elementary school children and to young adults on college campuses.

- Maintaining an active Benevolence Fund that helps people in times of financial crisis by assisting with rent, utilities, fire recovery, and other needs.
- Organizing hands-on service opportunities for families

Challenges & Opportunities

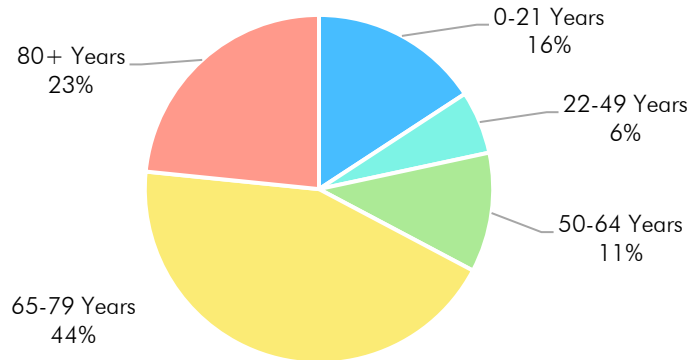
While Christ Church is strong in its foundation and commitment to Biblical teaching, it is not without challenges. One is our current lack of our own building space. It is anticipated that the Fellowship Hall will be completed Fall 2024. This will be an important shift for our church, as it provides a permanent site for worship, events, and outreach. The completion of the Church building as the primary facility will entail another fundraising effort at some point, and that will pose an additional opportunity for new leadership.

Another challenge facing Christ Church is the above average age of our congregation and declining attendance numbers. The current average age is 65. The proportions of the congregation, by age, are portrayed in the following chart.



CCA children participate in a Lent project to help the needy in the community.

*CHRIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA
MEMBERSHIP BY AGE*



The number of families with younger children has declined during the past decade. In 2012, for example, our average weekly attendance was 162, with a steady decline until a steeper drop in 2020 during the pandemic. Our hope is that a new rector will promptly appoint an associate rector and family life minister who will prioritize growth of our youth and family ministries. Coupled with a new and permanent church building, we think this challenge can be addressed with proper leadership. Our hope is that a permanent church home might also attract younger families to the church through a parents' day out program.

Conclusion

Christ Church of Atlanta has been well led for 25 years. Its next rector has an impressive foundation on which to build a vibrant, growing church that serves its parishioners and the Buckhead community and beyond.

*January 2024
CCA Rector Search Committee*

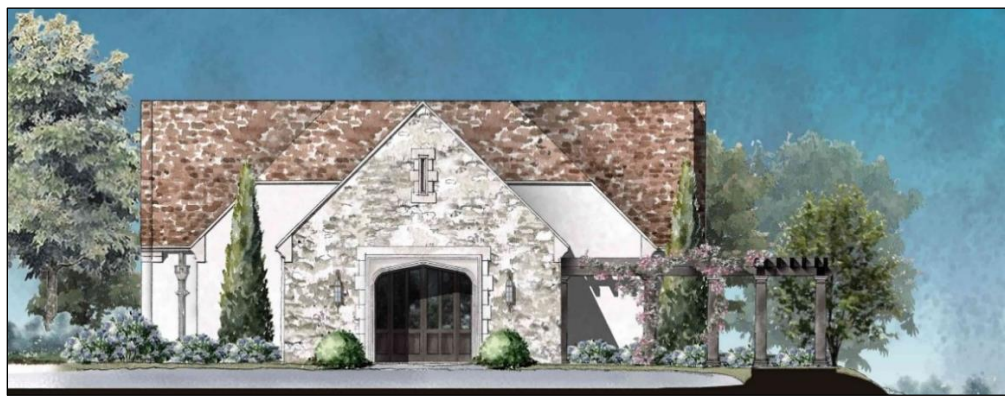
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See over for artist renderings of the new CCA church buildings

CHRIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA ARTIST RENDERINGS OF NEW BUILDINGS



Perspective rendering of church building



Front elevation of fellowship hall



Side elevation of fellowship hall

Renderings are artist's impressions. Actual buildings vary from initial sketches.