

*CHRIST CHURCH OF ATLANTA*

## **Rector Profile**

Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia

Christ Church of Atlanta (CCA) is faithfully praying for the Lord's provision of its next rector. This rector will replace Rev. Alfred Sawyer, founding rector of CCA, after 25 years of service.

### **Overview**

CCA seeks a man after God's own heart to faithfully teach and preach Scripture, and to oversee the spiritual health, growth, and direction of the church. The next rector will be a "man of God" in the church and community, humbly reflecting God's love and will in all he does. He will fully embrace the following primary responsibilities:

- Ensure the spiritual well-being of parish members
- Protect and promote the health of CCA and enable its growth
- Provide leadership and direction for the future of the parish
- Conduct and facilitate outreach in the broader Buckhead community to serve others and lead people to Christ

### **Convictions**

The rector will hold convictions that are congruent with those of CCA's Vestry and Search Committee. These include:

1. A fundamental ministry priority is to bring members and non-members into a saving belief in Jesus Christ.
2. Teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, by word and example, is a primary duty. So too is equipping the laity to proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ.
3. Attention is given to support of, and prayer for, Israel. Biblical exposition references the historical setting of Scripture in Israel.
4. All aspects of congregational life are opportunities for spiritual growth, even when they provide social, educational, or other value.
5. The rector places priority on pastoral care within the parish, including, but not limited to, crisis counseling, baptismal and premarital counseling, spiritual direction, and ministry to the sick and shut-in.
6. Church programs should be used to effect the spiritual growth of parish members and to introduce (or, re-introduce) neighbors in the community to the Christian faith.
7. The mission of CCA extends beyond its parish membership into the larger church and world.
8. The church's history and current practices are respected, and change, when necessary, will follow a process that includes the Vestry. Change should come gradually, be based on consensus, and be embraced by the congregation.

### **Biblical Orthodoxy**

A substantial proportion of CCA parishioners joined the church as a part of their journey towards greater fidelity to Scripture, and in a number of cases, upon leaving a church that

had abandoned Scripture as the sole rule of faith and practice. Indeed, the parish was formed as an alternative to mainline churches that embraced non-biblical positions on a variety of theological and social issues, including the authority of Scripture, the centrality of Jesus and the apostles' teaching, and sexual morality. The retiring rector has respected this history and the sensibilities of parishioners, particularly founding members, many of whom remain active in the church.

CCA's rector must be deeply committed to Scripture and its historical, orthodox interpretation. This will be reflected in preaching and teaching that is rooted in Scripture and reflects its authority. Exegetical instruction—teaching from Scripture with application to parishioners' daily lives—is strongly preferred over topical, “self-help,” or social/political commentary. Yet, current events and issues should be referenced from the pulpit (often encouraging prayer), thus connecting biblical teaching and the world and culture outside the four walls of the church.

Preaching should follow the Anglican lectionary. All religious services will be conducted in conformity with the Anglican tradition, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Creeds, and above all, the Scriptures. Preaching need not be excessively formal or academic/theological. CCA members enjoy humor, including references to the Georgia Dawgs!

### **Spiritual/Professional Characteristics**

The rector will be:

1. Deeply committed to the Lord and exhibit a close and dynamic daily walk in submission to Jesus Christ.
2. Open to the Holy Spirit and his leading.
3. Humble and know his own sinfulness and need for a Savior.
4. A student of God's Word possessing skill in applying Biblical truth in preaching, teaching, and counseling situations.
5. Able to preach from the lectionary readings and apply the Word to life in the parish.
6. Passionate about loving young families, children, and youth as they come into a saving knowledge of the gospel and grow in their relationship with Jesus.
7. A man with excellent interpersonal skills who communicates effectively one-on-one, with congregants and staff.
8. Teachable and able to take criticism with a willingness to learn and grow; respectful of all parishioners, even those who hold different opinions from his.
9. Skilled in developing and maintaining organizational structure and carrying out operational planning to faithfully steward CCA's human and capital resources as the church grows.
10. Hospitable to visitors, compassionate to those in need, and versatile in relating to persons of all ages, especially young adults and families with children.
11. Willing to: report to the Vestry on operational and financial matters, and encourage discussion thereof; assess programs and review them with the Vestry.

### **Personal Attributes/Experience**

The following attributes are CCA's ideal preferences, though variations will be considered.

- Age: 40 – 55
- Married with children
- Wife who participates in church life and supports the rector (may also have a professional life)
- 5+ years as a rector or associate rector (or equivalent)
- Ordained to gospel ministry & deeply committed to the Anglican tradition
- Fully committed to the parish; any “outside” responsibilities are mostly related to leadership within the Diocese or Province and do not take more than 10% of his professional time

### **Ministry in the Buckhead Community**

Buckhead is Atlanta's most affluent suburb and home to the governor's mansion. It is comprised of a vibrant mixture of business, retail, and residential areas—a unique community with distinctive demographics.

The rector will lead the growth of a Buckhead-area church, one that is in and of the community. This requires a profound understanding of its residents and the ability to relate to them well. The rector should have a level of education (formal and informal) and sophistication that readily generates the respect of highly-successful business and professional persons. He must also have a heart for, and the ability to relate to, those in the community who have not achieved success or prominence.

Among the skills necessary to work in the Buckhead community is the ability to make a case for faith and Christianity, to show its relevance, gently overcome objections, and thoughtfully argue for the sacred in a secular world. Nuanced reason, not simply faith affirmations, is needed to meet non-parishioners where they are. The rector should be versatile with apologetics.

The parish serves more than Buckhead itself. The broader Buckhead area (e.g., Brookhaven, Mid-town, Vinings, and portions of Sandy Springs and Smyrna) is important for the church's outreach and growth. Today, a significant proportion of the congregation commutes from beyond the Buckhead area.

### **Being Who We Are**

CCA is a church with an average parishioner age over sixty. It has often been said that CCA needs to “change” to attract young people. CCA is open to change, but it does not believe that it *must* change or that it *must* attract young people. Other churches seem called and well-suited to that. CCA seeks to be an exemplary example of “what it is” rather than to become “something that it isn't.” It seeks to grow through attracting those who appreciate CCA's identity. Thoughtful, intentional change that aligns with CCA values is welcomed, but wholesale upheaval into a “different” church would be an affront to those who brought CCA into existence.

### **Church Building**

CCA currently meets in the Atlanta International School in Buckhead. It expects to move into a completed Fellowship Hall in Fall 2024. A small mortgage may or may not exist at that time (there is none currently) and it will be a Vestry priority to pay it off. The rector is

expected to bring leadership and guidance to details pertaining to CCA's first church-owned facility and to participate in the raising of necessary funds.

Subsequently, at an appropriate time, with the guidance and cooperation of the Vestry, the rector is expected to move forward with fundraising and direction regarding building the church.

### **Congregational Support**

CCA's new rector can anticipate the enthusiastic support of members. While the church has not had to welcome a new rector previously, it has warmly welcomed several associate rectors and other ministry leaders. Staff, Vestry, and other volunteers will embrace new leadership. All realize that our current rector is retiring and look forward to God's man as the new leader.

### **Contact Us**

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application and resume to the search committee chair, Calvin Edwards at [aussie7@bellsouth.net](mailto:aussie7@bellsouth.net). Also, nominations by others are welcome.

*January 2024*  
*CCA Rector Search Committee*

*v.1.0*