



Saint John's high altar cross

How we got where we are

About 1822, the Rt. Rev. William Meade, Bishop of Virginia, wrote, "When I first visited Kanawha County there were only two communicants in our church, Mrs. Alexander Quarrier and Mrs. Joseph Lovell. . . . There was no Episcopal Church and the idea of building one seemed preposterous.

" . . . After many years of patient perseverance and accumulation of a very large sum, the first Saint John's was built and consecrated in 1839."

In 1888, the congregation moved to its present structure, and the adjacent parish house was completed in 1928. The buildings have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

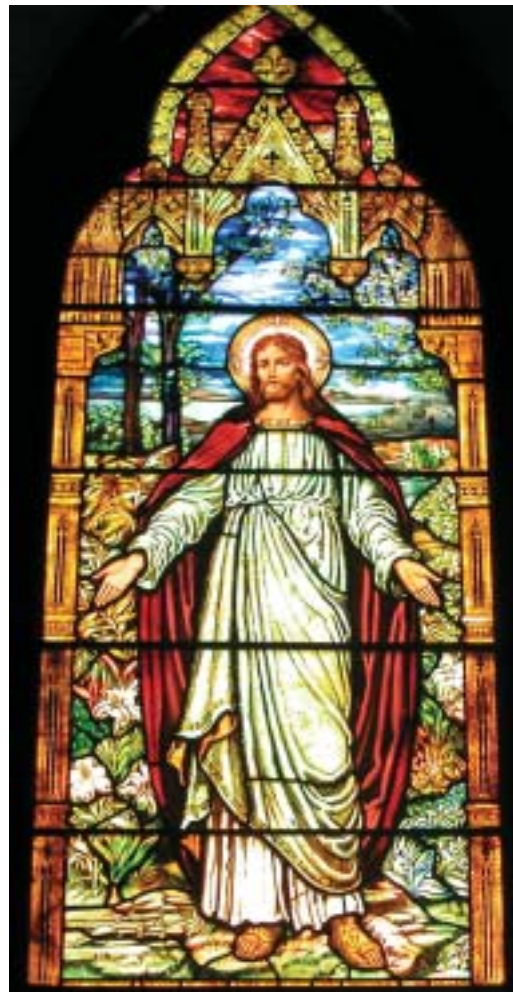
Our first rector, the Rev. Charles Page, has now been followed by 24 rectors.

Saint John's has served as mother church in the Kanawha Valley. Saint Luke's on Charleston's West Side began as a mission of Saint John's in 1873, as did Saint Matthew's in South Hills in 1893 and Saint James in North Charleston in 1896.

In 1953, a number of families from Saint John's helped to form All Saints in South Charleston, and in 1956 Saint John's formed the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Kanawha City section of Charleston.

We have long been on the cutting edge in social outreach. Manna Meal, a soup kitchen feeding more than 200 people two meals each day, was founded by Saint John's 30 years ago and still uses our kitchen and parish hall.

The parish has given birth to and continues to nurture many agencies that serve the community, including Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center, Covenant House (serving the poor, marginalized and transient), Charleston AIDS Network, Women's Health Center, Kanawha Hospice,



Saint John's Resurrection Window

Health Right (free medical clinic), and Spokes for Folks (bicycles for the poor).

With two full-time clergy, two additional full-time staff members, several part-time workers and a host of volunteers, Saint John's is among the largest parishes in our diocese. Ours is the largest missionary apportionment in the diocesan budget.

Our parish has a balanced operating budget of nearly a half-million dollars, and pledges for 2007 exceed \$0.5 million.

Our Saint Ambrose Choir is recognized as one of the finest in the state. Our legacy of social justice is revered in our community.

We are a diverse family of singles, couples and children; young and old; straight and gay; wealthy and poor; black and white. We are committed to inclusion of all God's children.

What we want next for our parish

- Expand social outreach by seeking out unmet needs in the community.
- Strengthen Christian formation, especially for children and youths.
- Continue our excellent traditions in liturgy, preaching, and music, which is grounded in the Anglican choral tradition.
- Honor our legacy as an open, welcoming community.
- Encourage, develop and strengthen volunteers and lay leaders.
- Maintain and improve buildings and grounds.
- Continue to engage in ecumenical and interfaith activities and dialogue.

Charleston: 'Our Town'

Our parish is made up of many talented, gifted, committed people. Ask parishioners why they choose to live in Charleston or what they like about it and you'll get many reasons.

"The people" is a frequent response. Once one has lived here, it becomes difficult to call any other place home.

The Charleston area with a population near 150,000 is a small city with the amenities of a larger metropolitan area. It is the cultural and economic center of the region with attractive facilities ranging from a new performance hall and art museum to a charming minor league baseball park.

The newly-built Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences provides excellent acoustics for the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and hosts touring Broadway companies and shows. Its art museum is home to a diverse collection of classic and modern art.

Exciting whitewater rivers, scenic forests and mountains celebrated across the nation are within a short drive of Charleston.

Excellent local drama groups thrive here as does the nationally syndicated public radio program, Mountain Stage. The University of Charleston and West Virginia State University provide cultural and educational enrichment.

Charleston Area Medical Center is a nationally recognized healthcare facility. West Virginia University, in conjunction with CAMC, is in the forefront of medical care and research.

Ours is one of the few remaining cities with two lively newspapers.

Its location at the confluence of the Elk and Kanawha rivers means Charleston's river traffic remains important to the local economy. The junction of three interstate highways makes Charleston a transportation hub. Our Yeager Airport is served by major airlines.

Charleston is an attractive, compact, easy-to-live-in city, and Saint John's, with its active community of Christians committed to social betterment, seeks to make it more so.



Centerpiece of our parish banner

Saint John's is an inclusive, welcoming downtown parish,

A progressive presence in our capital city,

Excellent music and liturgy grounded in Anglican tradition,

Diverse in theological and political beliefs while loving and caring for one another.

We seek a new vision for social outreach and consistency in programming for our children.

Sunday schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (Rite I during Lent)
8:45 a.m. Bible Study on the day's lectionary
9:30–11:45 Nursery provided
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum
10:25 a.m. Church school, Children's Chapel, Godly Play
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir (Rite I in Lent)
12:00 noon Youth programs, including Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood
12:30 p.m. Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA), 2nd Sunday except June
5:00 p.m. Taize, 2nd Sunday, October– May
5:00 p.m. Evensong, two times each year

Weekday worship

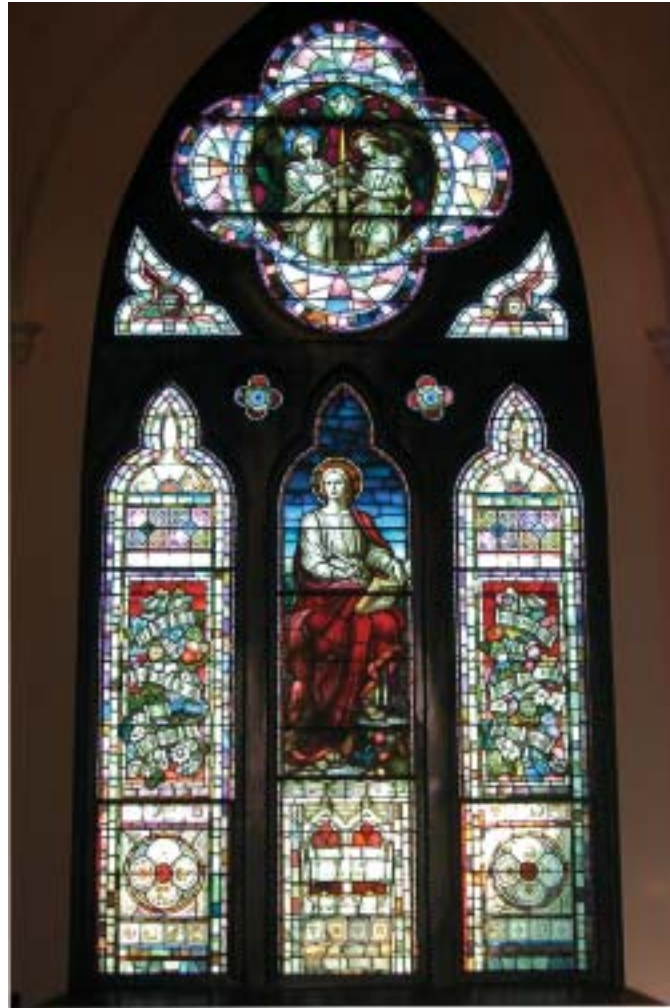
- Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Tuesday – Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
Wednesday, 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing

We expect our next rector to be

- An energetic visionary with imagination.
- A risk-taker, a self-starter who will reach out into the community.
- Active in supporting ministries now housed on Saint John's property—Charleston AIDS Network, Manna Meal, SAGA (Straight and Gay Alliance)—as well as in discovering new ministries.
- A good preacher with ability to connect the liturgy to everyday life.
- An able administrator with good fundraising and fiscal skills.
- Physically, emotionally and spiritually fit.

Correspondence concerning the search process should be directed to:

Phyllis Atwood
2324 Windham Rd
Charleston WV 25303
patwood@suddenlink.net
phone 304 343 9859



Our Saint John Window, north side of nave

Bishop • The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Interim Rector • The Rev. David R. Hackett
Associate Rector • *to be filled*
Parish Administrator • Brenda Dearien
Director of Music • Brenda Maurice Vanderford
Assistant Organist/Choirmaster • David Morton
Christian Formation Director • Katherine Giltinan
Custodian • Dan Williams Sunday Sexton • James Martin
Nursery Attendants • Judy Skiles, Amita Janeshek

phone 304 346 0359 • fax 304 342 2810
1105 Quarrier St., Charleston WV 25301-2493

On the Web www.stjohnswv.org

Saint John's Episcopal Church Charleston, West Virginia



... that all might find a home in God's healing love.

—from Saint John's mission statement (See www.stjohnswv.org)