

St. John's Episcopal Church

Bellefonte, PA

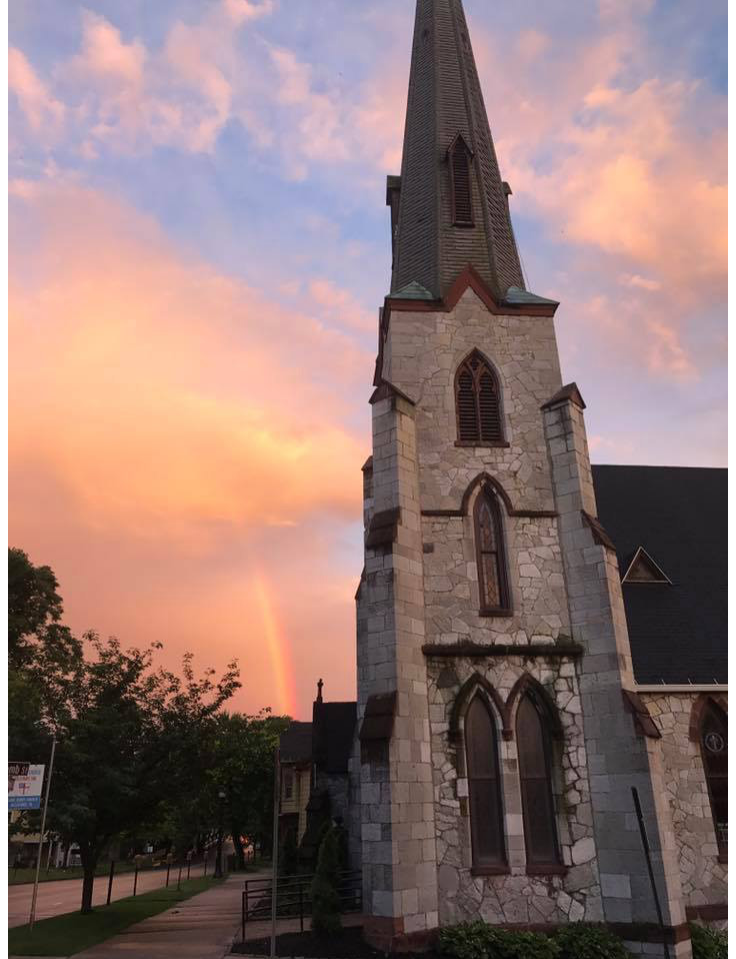
Parish Profile 2018



Heavenly Father, who has blessed our parish with great gifts of discernment and devotion, Grant that we may so deepen our loving commitment to you, to each other, and to our community during this search process that we may be fully prepared to support the ministry of our new rector, and through him or her, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN

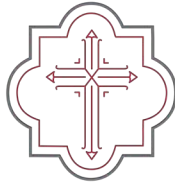
Contents

St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Profile 2017	1
Contents	2
St. John's Family	3
A Letter to our Candidates	4
Our History	5
Mary R. Beaver Fellowship Hall	6
Canterbury House	7
Our Diocese	8
The Clergy of St. John's	8
Worship	9
St. John's (<i>a closer look</i>) Including Budget Information	10-12
Our Community	13
Bellefonte's Architectural Heritage	14
Abundant Resources for Outdoor Living	15
Proximity to Penn State	16



St. John's Family





Saint John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 2018

Dear Friend in Christ:

St. John's is a spirited, devoted, and caring Anglo-Catholic parish in the heart of central Pennsylvania. Like many churches in transition, we find ourselves in a time of reflection and contemplation, as we search for positive direction.

Our church seeks a strong leader who is adept at preaching, pastoral care, and community service. We need a leader to encourage and strengthen our talents and outreach endeavors. We desire a rector who will both motivate the commitment of young families to our faith and address the concerns of aging parishioners. We want him or her to continue to involve our church in reaching out to the poor and suffering in our community and beyond: in other words, a rector who will inspire us in our role as Christians in society. We also seek a rector who will become an integral part of our parish family.

In sum, we are searching for someone who will have a vision for the future of St. John's, who will enjoy our fellowship, and who will exhibit strategic management skills that will help to maintain our history of dedicated stewardship.

Faithfully,

The St. John's Search Committee,
on behalf of the Vestry and
the members of our Parish.

Our History

There has been an Episcopal presence in Bellefonte since 1825 when Episcopalians began meeting in a cabinet shop, then later at the local Masonic lodge. As the congregation grew, Bellefonte was designated a regular supply station, furnished from Lewistown until the organization of St. John's parish in 1836.

In 1837, the Reverend George W. Natt became the first rector of St. John's "*Protestant Episcopal Church*," whose first home was a wooden frame structure located at what is now the corner of East High and South Penn Streets, behind the Centre County Courthouse. Opened on Easter Day, 1871 and consecrated on June 7, 1872, the grey-stone church that is St. John's Episcopal Church today is located at the corner of North Allegheny and West Lamb Streets in Bellefonte.

St. John's and its rectors have been instrumental in establishing other Episcopal churches and missions in the area, notably Lock Haven and State College; it is the "*Mother Church*" in Centre County. Throughout our one hundred-eighty-year history, St. John's has included many community leaders, including the early leaders of Penn State.

In addition to the church itself, our grounds include two other buildings: the recently renovated Canterbury House; which has served as a rectory as well as meeting space for church and community groups, and a parish meeting hall that hosts our weekly coffee hour and a number of fundraising activities throughout the year.

Today, while maintaining the liturgical-centered worship of an Anglo-Catholic parish, St. John's prides itself on its diverse membership and its plans for renewed community outreach and service to Bellefonte and the surrounding area.



Mary R. Beaver Fellowship Hall

The Mary R. Beaver Fellowship Hall, which was built in 1907, is integral to the life of St. John's. Recently renovated with air conditioning, a new floor, and a refurbished ceiling, the hall serves as a meeting space for church and community groups. The hall (which seats 80-100 people) hosts a weekly coffee hour and a number of fundraising activities throughout the year.



Canterbury House



The need for a rectory to house the Reverend John Hewitt and his family prompted Major W. F. Reynolds to have the house built next to the church on Lamb Street. Major Reynolds gave the house as a thank-offering and presented it to the parish on November 29, 1877. This structure remains in use by the rector.



Our Diocese

St. John's is a parish in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, comprised of 62 congregations with some 12,000 members (2018). Elected in 2015, as the eleventh Bishop of the diocese, The Right Reverend Dr. Audrey Scanlan, comes to Pennsylvania from Connecticut, where she served on diocesan staff as the Canon for Mission Collaboration and Congregational Life. Our diocesan office is located in Harrisburg, PA. For further information on the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, please visit <http://www.diocesepa.org>



The Right Reverend Dr. Audrey Scanlan

The Clergy of St. John's

Father Carlton Kelley

Father Kelley, our interim Rector, is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary and has served churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. He is on the board of the Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church and has done work with parishes affected by clergy sexual abuse. He is pursuing a doctorate in pastoral theology through the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio.



The Reverend Carlton Kelley, Interim Rector

Deacon Alex Dyakiw

Deacon Dyakiw was ordained to the vocational diaconate in 2007. A Brooklyn native, Deacon Alex and his wife, Ellen, relocated to Bellefonte in the early 1990s. Since ordination, Deacon Alex has led, or participated in, many ministries in the area: he has served twice as interim chaplain at the Mount Nittany Medical Center, and as vice president of the Bellefonte Council of Churches.



The Reverend Alex Dyakiw, Deacon

Worship

At 8 a.m., a celebration of the Holy Eucharist is offered. Known as “Low Mass” (because of its simplicity and brevity), the service includes a sermon, but no music. It lasts about 40 minutes. This service is always in “traditional” language – which, in the Episcopal Church, means the type of English spoken in 16th Century England (think Shakespeare). In practical terms, this means that the service has a somewhat more formal feel, since the words used during it are not “everyday” English.



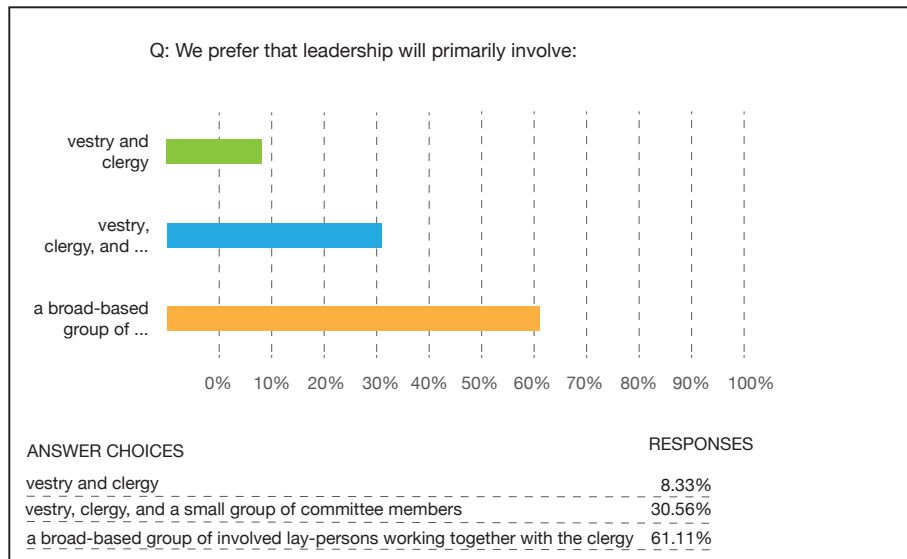
At 10 a.m., the principal weekly service is offered. This service is another celebration of the Eucharist, and, when the choir is present, is either a “High Mass” (meaning the priest sings certain parts of the service, with sung responses from the choir and congregation; additionally, there is increased ceremony and a greater number of servers assisting at the altar), or a “Solemn Mass” (same as a High Mass, but with the use of incense). The choir, when present, leads the congregational singing and supplies an offering of liturgical music (music written expressly for use during church services). There are hymns and a sermon, and the service normally lasts about an hour. For about two-thirds of the year, the 10:00 Mass is offered in “contemporary” language, and for about one-third of the year, it is offered in “traditional” language, like the 8:00 Mass.



On Wednesdays, a Low Mass is offered at 9:30 a.m. This contemporary-language service has no music or sermon, but does have a “healing rite,” which is an opportunity for members of the congregation to receive laying-on-of-hands and anointing with prayers for healing. This service lasts about 30 minutes.



St. John's



Strong and welcoming

Visitors to St. John's know that, to us, "welcoming" is not just a word, but an action. We are an involved congregation, and we appreciate the joyful presence of music in our worship services. We are dedicated to our church and not afraid of hard work. Though we look to clergy for guidance, we don't expect our priest to be the primary motivator of every initiative. We are willing and able to take on lay leadership roles as the situation warrants.

Adaptable

While we find strength in the traditions of the past, we welcome the challenges and opportunities of the ever-changing world. For example, our parish is a mix of new and long-time members. Due to the sometimes transient nature of university positions, it is not uncommon for faculty and students from nearby colleges to be with us for just a few years. But rather than destabilizing, we find this influx of new life an important part of our collective character. Similarly, while we cherish and celebrate the liturgical traditions of the High Church, our commitment to ecumenism has made our church appealing to congregants from a variety of religious backgrounds. We appreciate continuity, but we also welcome and value new voices.

Fiscally responsible

Though a small parish, we have maintained modest but stable growth, and we have been very consistent about meeting, if not exceeding, our budget for many years. With nearly 60 families and 50 giving units, our budget for 2018 is \$205,000. We are particularly blessed by a number of endowments, with a total value of \$984,343.00, that provide substantial revenue for the church from year to year. Our 2017 income from the endowments was \$40,122.00. We are currently able to maintain our properties within the budget without beginning an additional fundraising campaign. We have recently renovated our parish hall with a new floor and restored ceiling, and added air conditioning to both the church and the parish hall.

St. John's

Focused on outreach

At St. John's we find great strength in our church family and are dedicated to responding in kind with service to the world around us. We are blessed to have a full-time deacon (appointed by the bishop) who has been an invaluable asset to St. John's and the community at large, working tirelessly in outreach missions with the local hospital, nursing homes, inmates, and other area churches.

We are not a large church, nor a hugely wealthy one, but we are mindful of our blessings and strive to share them with our community.

Outreach to families, especially youth

We have worked hard to equip our buildings with child care and Sunday school facilities; now we need continued guidance in the expansion of our children's programs.

Community outreach

We are proud of our involvement in the community and we hope to expand participation in our local ministries. We are looking for guidance in becoming a greater presence in the lives of our neighbors in need.



2017 Crop Walk



Deacon Alex at Centre Crest



Christmas Children's Program



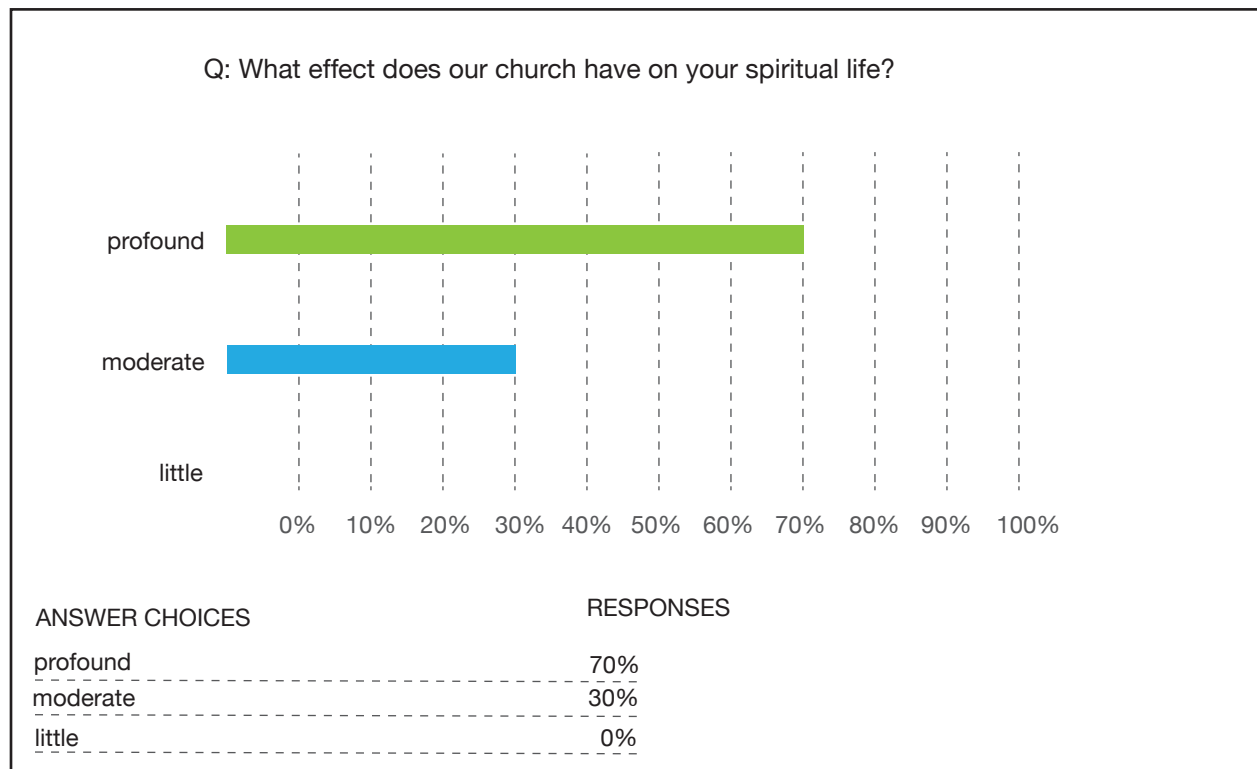
St. John's

Guidance in capitalizing on our ample resources

Our parish has many hardworking individuals with a broad variety of talents and abilities willing to lead new initiatives. We have facilities necessary for meetings, education, and ministry. We want continued guidance to coordinate and make the best use of these precious gifts.

Increased opportunities for Christian education and development

St. John's maintains an active men's group devoted to spiritual growth, and we offer a number of programs throughout the year, such as our Lenten Program, to enrich our community. We'd like to continue these practices and even expand on them to ensure that all who seek them may have such opportunities.



Our Community

Steeped in history, the small town of Bellefonte, PA, combines the best of town and country.

An active, engaged community

Bellefonte is bustling with a year-round schedule of downtown festivals and activities. In a day and age when fewer people seem to know their neighbors, Bellefonte remains a town where community fun and fellowship remain important to everyday life. Some highlights include:

- The annual Big Spring Festival, a family event showcasing children's activities, rides on Bellefonte Historical Railroad, music at Talleyrand Park, and restocking of the stream with hundreds of trout.
- A twice weekly farmer's market offers locally grown produce and other goods.
- The Children's Fair is held each June with pony rides, face painting, games, stories, and crafts.
- Father's Day weekend is marked by the Bellefonte Cruise & Classic Car Show.
- On summer Sundays, music lovers carry picnics and lawn chairs to Talleyrand Park for concerts at the Gazebo, ranging from Dixieland to classical.
- The Summer Bellefonte Arts & Crafts Fair features more than 100 artists and craftspeople, children's activities, food, and entertainment.
- Bellefonte's Victorian Christmas is a celebration of yesteryear that attracts visitors from near and far for its carriage rides, craft show, children's tea party, and candlelight homes tours.



Bellefonte Victorian Christmas



Dickens' Troupe



Bellefonte Cruise & Classic Car Show



Bellefonte Arts & Craft Fair

Bellefonte's Architectural Heritage

With more than 300 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, Bellefonte's impressive civic architecture and private homes (including those of seven governors) make the borough a popular walking tour for out-of-town visitors. While the iron ore that helped to establish our town is long gone, the impressive architecture of this golden age remains. Many of the larger homes in the area have been given new life as bed and breakfast inns and museums. And the historic Pennsylvania Match Company building now houses the American Philatelic Society.

Centre County Courthouse

Originally built in 1805, with additions and remodeling through the mid-1960s, the Courthouse features a Greek Revival style entry porch with eight twenty-six-foot high smooth-faced columns with *Ionic* order capitals. The Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial and statue of Andrew Gregg Curtin were dedicated in 1906. The Memorial was designed by Joseph M. Huston, the architect who designed the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg.



Centre County Courthouse



The Reynolds Mansion Bed & Breakfast

The Reynolds Mansion Bed and Breakfast

Built in 1883-84 for Major William F. Reynolds, the impressive structure is primarily *Queen Anne* in style, with *Gothic Revival* tones and *Italianate* influences. The thirty-room interior features ornate fireplaces, parquet floors, and stained-glass windows. A two-story carriage house was added in 1893.



Our Fair Lady Bed & Breakfast

Our Fair Lady Bed and Breakfast

Built in 1883, Our Fair Lady is located in the heart of Bellefonte's Historic District on Linn Street. The home was created in the *Second Empire* style, with *Italianate* features.

Abundant Resources for Outdoor Living

Bellefonte residents enjoy four seasons of outdoor activity. Our own Talleyrand Park offers ample green space for picnics and outdoor gatherings just steps from downtown shops and restaurants. Centre County also offers six state parks for rejuvenation in the sun or snow. Our area maintains numerous hiking trails, biking trails, streams, and lakes to suite all manner of outdoor activity, from kayaking to fly-fishing. In fact, Bellefonte is consistently recognized as the home of some of the best fly fishing streams in the U.S. and remains a destination for anglers worldwide.

Centre County Grange Fair

An annual fair and camping event held in Centre Hall, PA, since 1874. The fair is usually held the last full week of August.

Tussey Mountain

An all-season recreation area that includes thirteen ski trails, an Amphitheater for concerts and festivals, a Lodge for wedding and parties, and a Fun Centre that offers go-karts, mini-golf, batting cages, a skate park, driving range, and a par three gold course.

Waterfront at Talleyrand Park

A waterfront redevelopment project was completed in 2016, with a scenic pedestrian area from one end of town to the other along Spring Creek. Along the way, at Talleyrand Park, Wine and Cafe on the Park wine tasting, and long-range plans are being made for a new hotel.



Centre County Grange Fair



Tussey Mountain



Talleyrand Park

Proximity to Penn State

At its founding, the Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA, was the quiet rural outpost and Bellefonte the bustling urban center. These days those roles have reversed. Just minutes away from the university, Bellefonte reaps the benefit of the world-class arts, entertainment, and sporting events without sacrificing the warmth and quiet pleasures of small-town life. As Pennsylvania's land-grant university, Penn State provides unparalleled access to education and public service to support the citizens of the Commonwealth and beyond. Penn State comes in No. 14 among national public universities by the *U.S. News & World Report* 2017 Best Colleges ranking.



Eisenhower Auditorium



Penn State mascot the *Nittany Lion*