

A wide-angle photograph of the interior of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. The view is from the back of the sanctuary, looking towards the front. The church has a high, vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden beams and three large, arched skylights. Three cylindrical pendant lights hang from the ceiling. The walls are white with several windows, some of which have crosses above them. A piano is visible on the left side of the front. A person is standing at a podium on the right side of the front, facing the congregation. The pews are filled with people of various ages, mostly seen from the back. A blue text box is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

**St. Alban's
Episcopal Church**

Austin, TX

PARISH PROFILE 2021

WELCOME TO ST. ALBAN'S

As a diverse, intergenerational, inclusive Christian community in the Episcopal tradition, we seek the transformation of lives through sharing the gifts of God's grace and love.

At St. Alban's everything belongs.
All people are welcome.

St. Alban's is where the diverse, authentic, wholehearted side of a booming Austin meets all the warmth and humility of a small-town church on the hill. St. Alban's is a melting pot of all types of people united in faith and in their commitment to community. It's a place where people from all walks of life step away from the pace and demands of a vibrant, entrepreneurial, and rapidly growing city to get quiet, to center, to pray, and to give thanks, joyfully. Being part of the St. Alban's family nourishes lives on and off the hill in the image of God.

Perched on a wooded hill with a beautiful scenic view, St. Alban's is situated on the rapidly growing southern edge of Austin, just north of Buda and Kyle. Our view from the hill now includes development in nearly every direction as more than 5,000 residential units are being built within two miles of our sanctuary.



MISSION

With God's help, we seek the transformation of lives through sharing the gifts of God's grace and love.

VALUES

St. Alban's is a joyful and inclusive community committed to spreading the love of Christ.

We value:

- **Inspiring worship** – Through scripture, liturgy, and music
- **Intentional Prayer** – Nurturing active relationships with God
- **Caring Fellowship** – Developing and sustaining Christian relationships with others
- **Christian Formation** – Spiritual and scripture-based learning for continual education and discernment
- **Meaningful Service** – Ministering to those in need throughout our communities

VISION

As the community grows around us, St. Alban's wants to be a welcoming place for the faith journeys of our new neighbors and our existing parishioners.

We want to develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

We want to develop the spiritual generosity of people so that their financial support of our parish also develops.

We want to make our parish as welcoming to families with children and youth as possible.

NEW RECTOR PROFILE



St. Alban's is an energetic, transformational Episcopal congregation on the rapidly-growing southern edge of Austin, Texas. We are more diverse than many Episcopal congregations - our congregation has a diversity of racial and gender identities, ages, family makeups, and positions in the socioeconomic strata. While we do have a diversity of theological perspectives among our parishioners, St. Alban's is theologically progressive. We happily hold this variety of theological perspectives under one roof without rancor.

Our new rector will be one leader among many, a director of the parish's mutual ministry and mutual leadership. They will be out in the community connecting us with others, helping us and the community deal with the difficult issues of our times. We love our church very much. The next rector at St. Alban's will shepherd this community as we grow and live together, and they will help develop and maintain our already strong loving-kindness.

St. Alban's has an adaptable culture. We are willing to adjust our ministry and the way our faith manifests - this is not a congregation stuck in the mud! A new rector doesn't have to fit any particular mold, and indeed we love those who don't fit in boxes or molds. We don't want to rest where we are, and we're not looking for a rector who wants to quietly shepherd a congregation in decline. We're ready to grow and evolve.

Finally, we are looking for a rector who will lead our worship program. Our congregation loves worship. We've got a beloved music program, and our music ministry is very important to the congregation. St. Alban's is happy when worship services are exceptional, and our new rector will prayerfully and energetically rise to the occasion with their sermons and worship leading.

In late 1981, a group of Christians led by the Rev. Malcolm Riker discussed planting a church in far south Austin. They met to found a spiritual home, a place of godly wisdom, or spiritual courage, an abundance of energy and joy. The Diocese purchased land for the proposed mission on a hilltop with an unblocked view of Austin and the surrounding area. One visit to the hilltop is all it takes for you to know it is a holy place.

The initial group moved forward and rented a former beer hall in Manchaca, Texas, to hold Sunday services, committee meetings, and classes. Why a beer hall? The location was close to the land the Diocese had ready for them, it was in an area not already served by the Episcopal Church, and the rent was quite affordable. These pilgrims trained lay readers, Eucharistic ministers, and acolytes; started a choir; and set up Sunday School classes. They scrubbed the building, built an altar, bought folding chairs from Target, and used hand-me-down altar hangings, vestments, hymnals, and prayer books from other Episcopal churches led by Rev. Riker. Many of those founding fathers and mothers are still active parishioners. Some people who were small children at that time now worship here with children of their own.

The first service was on December 6, 1981. In January 1982, the congregation petitioned the Diocese to be admitted as a mission named St. Alban's. The following month, the new church was approved at Council.

The congregation grew, organized lay leadership, and worked toward the construction of a church building. In 1987, the beautiful church in which we now worship was dedicated. Several years later, Sunday services and Christian Formation met in a large modular structure on loan from the Diocese while the main church building was remodeled to create more worship space.

St. Alban's became a transitional church, adding committees and ministries led by the laity. Education has always been emphasized and is embodied in Sunday Christian Formation, Education for Ministry, mid-week Bible studies, book clubs, and Vacation Bible School. Children and youth enjoy facilities designed for their needs and best of all, dedicated, interested teachers, to lead them.

The Rt. Rev. Claude E. Payne, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, advised us to finish construction of the Parish Life Center (PLC) in 2003 before taking the big step to becoming a parish. A demographic survey predicted that within a 5-mile radius of the church the population would consist of young 30-somethings, highly educated with at least one advanced degree and with 2.5 children. We finished building, moved into the lower floor, said goodbye to the modular structure and in 2004, St. Alban's celebrated achieving parish status. Later, the upper floor was finished and now houses the church offices, a library, choir room, EYC meeting space and a large conference/classroom.



RECTORS OF ST. ALBAN'S

The Rev. Malcolm Riker, 1981-1990
The Rev. Steve Sellers, 1990-1994
The Rev. John Musgrave, 1994-1998
The Rev. Lex Breckenridge, 1999-2005
The Rev. Margaret Waters, 2005-2014
The Rev. Erin Hensley, 2015-2020
The Rev. Anne Hoey (transitional)

WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings

During autumn, winter, and spring, we have two services: a 9 a.m. and an 11:15 a.m. service, and during the summer, we have one service at 10 a.m. All services offer Children's Chapel and celebrate Holy Eucharist. The 11:15 service is Rite II and includes choir and full vestments.

During the pandemic, we've been worshipping virtually and also socially distanced outdoors in our lower parking lot, and also on via livestream which are recorded and placed on YouTube. With vaccines bringing us closer together safely, we have just recently moved services back into our sanctuary in June 2021.

"In worship, "we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments"

Music

Like most people in Austin, we enjoy music as a contemplative and enriching part of life and faith. Both services have organ and piano music featuring our lovely Kohler & Campbell grand piano, and we are home to a very special pipe organ whose installation was completed in 2016. The St. Alban's Choir shares their gifts at the 11:15 a.m. service. The St. Alban's Handbell Choir is a fun group of people with ages ranging from twelve to eighty. Music offerings are also enhanced by guest instrumentalists on high feast days and other special occasions. We are fortunate to have access to Austin's rich community of musicians and listeners as we continue to reach newcomers to with music that connects and welcomes.



Liturgical Leadership

We have a thriving community of worship ministries that enable us to truly serve each other in and through worship.

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Floral Guild
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Readers and intercessors
- Music, including choir, handbell choir, and occasional solo performers
- Ushers
- Vergers
- Vestment Cleaning Guild





PARISH LIFE

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

CORETTA SCOTT KING

St. Alban's parish life is truly rich, intergenerational, and fun-seeking! Annual activities center around the seasons of faith and include parish favorites: Advent wreath-making, Fireside Christmas with children's nativity play and dinner, Epiphany feast and parishioner crèche exhibit, Annual Meeting potluck, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and talent show, Lenten speaker series, Easter celebration with an egg hunt, prayer shawl blessings for high school and college graduates, summer youth Mission Trip and Vacation Bible School, Blessing of the Backpacks for back-to-school, Fall Harvest Festival, St. Francis Pet Blessing, Thanksgiving potluck, Season of Giving speakers, and more.



PARISH LIFE

We have formation and learning opportunities, committees, and ministries for everyone!

Hospitality

- Bread Ministry
- Coffee Hosts
- Greeters

Fellowship & Service Committees

- Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- Capital Campaign and Stewardship Committee
- Clickety-Clack (Crafters who Care)
- Finance Committee
- Flower Delivery
- Food for Families in Crisis
- Landscape Committee and Waterers
- One Meal at a Time
- Outreach Committee
- Saints and Sinners Supper Club
- Vestry

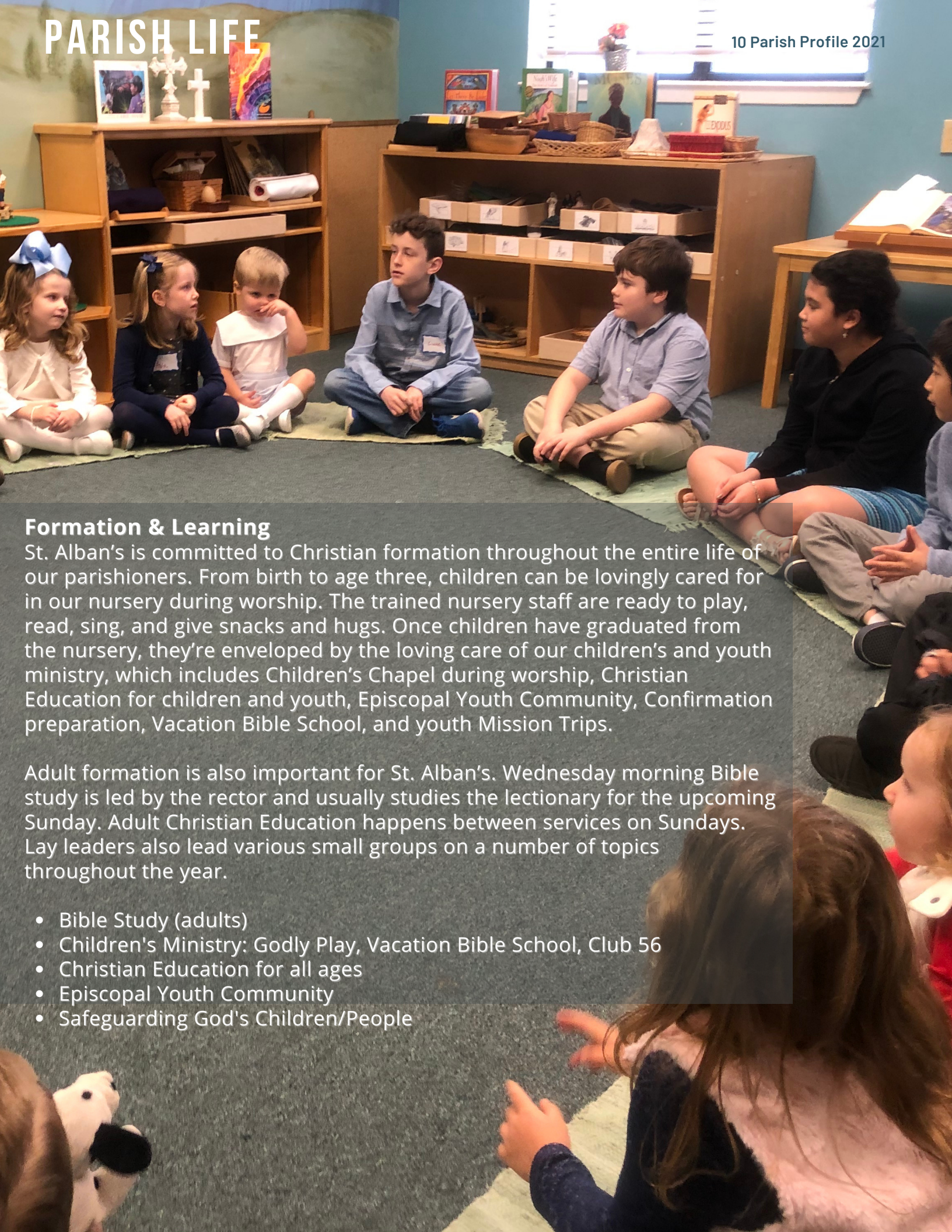
Worship Ministries

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
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- Ushers
- Vergers
- Vestment Cleaning Guild

Pastoral Care

- Community of Hope
- Daughters of the King
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers





Formation & Learning

St. Alban's is committed to Christian formation throughout the entire life of our parishioners. From birth to age three, children can be lovingly cared for in our nursery during worship. The trained nursery staff are ready to play, read, sing, and give snacks and hugs. Once children have graduated from the nursery, they're enveloped by the loving care of our children's and youth ministry, which includes Children's Chapel during worship, Christian Education for children and youth, Episcopal Youth Community, Confirmation preparation, Vacation Bible School, and youth Mission Trips.

Adult formation is also important for St. Alban's. Wednesday morning Bible study is led by the rector and usually studies the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. Adult Christian Education happens between services on Sundays. Lay leaders also lead various small groups on a number of topics throughout the year.

- Bible Study (adults)
- Children's Ministry: Godly Play, Vacation Bible School, Club 56
- Christian Education for all ages
- Episcopal Youth Community
- Safeguarding God's Children/People

OUTREACH: PARTNERSHIPS OFF THE HILL

11 Parish Profile 2021

Off our hill, St. Alban's does outreach in the form of a partnership with Menchaca Elementary School, Refugee Services of Texas, Senior Care of Onion Creek, a knitting ministry, contributions to Trinity Center in downtown Austin, El Buen Samaritano, and Meals on Wheels.

Menchaca Elementary Early Readers Initiative provides mentors and books to at-risk students. Through the Early Reader's Initiative, St. Alban's provided over 600 books to students this year. Additionally, we give each first grader a book bag embroidered with their name. It has been a joy to work with the principal and librarian at Menchaca to make this happen since 2009.

Refugee Services of Texas - St. Alban's Welcome Teams

Under this ministry, St Alban's parishioners have helped resettle 20 families from countries all over the world. Our assistance is coordinated through the Refugee Services of Texas (RST), who receive families approved by the State Department for resettlement in our area. This involves the donation of furniture, money, and household goods to furnish the apartments provided by RST along with the actual setting up of those apartments. We greet the family at the airport and transport them to their apartment. A hot meal is provided that first night after their long journey, and a pantry stocked with one week's worth of food also awaits them. Assistance with registering with the Social Security, wellness visits, pre-school immunizations, bus orientation, and other needs are also generally accomplished in the first month of their arrival.

Senior Care of Onion Creek - Sunday Worship

Parishioners who are members of Community of Hope and are Lay Eucharistic Ministers lead worship services one Sunday a month at this residential center. They bring music and prayers to the residents and build relationships with them.

Trinity Center, located in St. David's Episcopal Church downtown Austin, provides free healthcare, legal services, an address to receive mail, various meals and a spiritual home. St. Alban's supports this ministry by contributing items like blankets and hotel-sized toiletries, and the youth often do "Socktober" to collect packages of new socks. Parishioners can also serve as lay minister volunteers during the week.

El Buen Samaritano, an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, improves the health and wellbeing of our community through culturally appropriate, family-focused, and integrated services on one 11-acre campus. St. Alban's participates through financial donations for their Hands for Hope fundraiser and goods for El Buen's food bank.

Meals on Wheels of Central Texas distributes over 3,000 meals every business day to homebound seniors and people with disabilities and provides other crucial services like in-home care, home repairs, respite care, grocery shopping and delivery, and pet care. St. Alban's helps by delivering some of those meals. We develop lasting relationships with the seniors we serve.



AUSTIN, TX

12 Parish Profile 2021

Austin is the capital city of Texas and the 11th most populous city in the US. Because of its draw as a destination for migrating talent, metro Austin's population surpassed 2.0 million in 2015. Austin is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, and St. Alban's is right at the city's southern edge. To our south are the cities of Buda and Kyle, which are also growing quickly both in their own right and as bedroom communities for Austin. We are also near the unincorporated communities of Manchaca and San Leanna. Austin is internationally known for live music, food, and outdoor recreation.



Austinites include a diverse mix of government employees, college students, musicians, high-tech workers, digital marketers, and blue-collar workers. The city's official slogan promotes Austin as "The Live Music Capital of the World", a reference to the city's many musicians and live music venues. The city also adopted "Silicon Hills" as a nickname in the 1990s due to a rapid influx of technology and development companies. In recent years, some Austinites have adopted the unofficial slogan "Keep Austin Weird", which refers to the desire to protect small, unique, and local businesses.

Emerging from a strong economic focus on government and education, since the 1990s Austin has become a center for technology and business. A number of Fortune 500 companies have headquarters or regional offices in Austin, including 3M, Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, IBM, Intel, Oracle, Texas Instruments, and Whole Foods Market. Dell's worldwide headquarters is located in the northern suburb of Round Rock. Austin is the home of the University of Texas at Austin, which is one of the largest universities in the U.S. and is attended by over 50,000 students.

52.4% of Austin's population is religious. The majority of Austinites identified themselves as Christians: Catholic (25%), Baptists (9%), followed by Methodists (4%), Latter-Day Saints (2%), Episcopalians (1%), Lutherans (1%), Presbyterians (0.6%), and other Christians such as the Eastern Orthodox Church (7%). After Christianity, the second largest religion Austinites identify with is Islam (2%).





Austin Independent School District

The area to the north of St. Alban's is served by Austin ISD, with roughly 81,000 students.

Hays Consolidated Independent School District

Serving Hays County to our south, Hays CISD serves almost 21,000 students.

Austin Community College serves about 100,000 credit and non-credit students across its many campuses. It is the sixth largest community college system in the United States.

The University of Texas at Austin is the flagship of the University of Texas and a public research university with over 50,000 students. It operates museums, research libraries, arts programs, and a world-class athletics program.

Texas State University is a public university to our south in San Marcos. It is the fifth-largest university in the state, with over 38,000 students. It is a Hispanic Serving Institution and an emerging research university.

Concordia University Texas is a private university associated with the Lutheran. Church—Missouri Synod. They're located in Northwest Austin, and serve roughly 2,500 students.

Huston-Tillotson is a private historically black university in Austin. They were the first institution of higher learning in Austin. They've got about 1,100 students.

St. Edward's University is a private Catholic university in Austin. Founded in 1877, they have about 4,300 students.

Southwestern University is a private university in Georgetown, to the north of Austin. Founded in 1840, they're the oldest university in Texas. They serve about 1,500 students.

Seminary of the Southwest

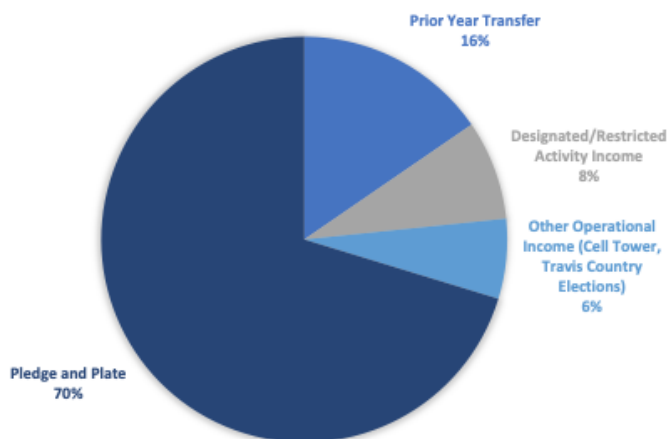
An Episcopal Seminary providing residential formation for ordained ministry and offering professional master's degrees to a range of lay professionals in a range of denominations and faith traditions. They have ~100 students.

OUTLOOK & FINANCES

14 Parish Profile 2021

We have a wonderful and devoted Vestry and Staff guiding us through this time as we search for our new rector and emerge from lockdown during the pandemic. We have a balanced budget, but like other parishes, have seen reduced pledges and plate offerings during the pandemic. With development happening all around our campus, we are actively marketing the portion of our unused land. From the sale of that land, we plan to establish a fund for maintaining our physical campus. We started a Capital Campaign in 2019 that has been paused due to the pandemic and the exit of our Rector. We will resume the campaign in the fall with the assistance of a consultant.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2020 INCOME



478

members

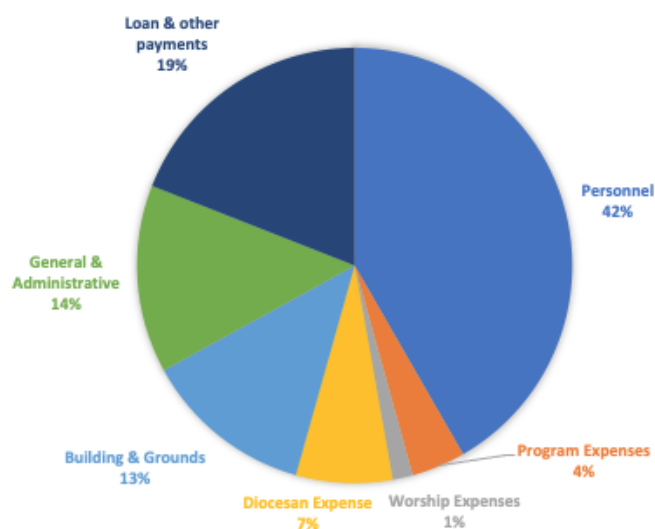
130

average weekly
worship attendance

66

households
submitted pledges
in 2020

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2020 EXPENSES



2021 Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Scores

Hospitality **96%**
Morale **81%**
Conflict Management **87%**
Governance **82%**
Spiritual Vitality **65%**
Readiness for Ministry **78%**
Engagement in Education **85%**
Worship and Music **72%**

Our Vision: "Preserving Our Past – Creating Our Future"

For several years, we have been on a journey of enlightenment about the extent and focus of our ministry, and whether our facilities are a help or a hindrance to future opportunities. We need our church to support and nurture our Christian growth as we respond to God's call in our lives. Our leadership voted unanimously to move forward with a plan to reduce debt, renovate our facilities, and expand our ministries to welcome the expanding communities around us. We estimate our three-year capital needs at \$500,000 to renovate the Sanctuary and Parish Life Center (PLC) to improve safety, accessibility, security, and to reduce our carbon footprint which will enhance worship, education, and fellowship experiences.

As we hear and respond to God's call, our church will continue to provide the support and spiritual nurturing so essential for our growth as Christians. As we care for each other and as we perform acts of Christian service, we are called to be good caretakers of the physical structures of the facilities that God has entrusted to us, and to provide for the needs of the next generation.



Heavenly Father, we pray intently and expectantly as we search for a new rector of St. Alban's. We ask your help in discerning who it is that you are calling to serve. Speak to our hearts, Lord, so that we may keep a humble heart. Allow us to use the gifts that you bestowed on each of us to accomplish this important task. We pray for our future rector, his or her family, as well as our own parish family. Grant us patience and understanding throughout this process. Amen

