ST. GILES PROFILE

“We feed people, body, mind, and spirit. Come as you are,” is our mission statement.

St. Giles parishioners rejoice in our community and are generous in sharing it.

Saint Giles Episcopal Church
3025 Walters, Northbrook, Illinois 60062

Who We Are – Community, Mission and Worship

We are an inclusive congregation, diverse in background, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, domestic status, and economic condition, welcoming all into our fellowship. Our mission statement reflects the various ministries of our parish and the active, caring nature of our parishioners.

Our worship, fellowship and formation feed mind and spirit. Currently, our Sunday service includes a liturgy that is traditional but flexible with varying formats, including a once a month healing service and a more casual monthly service. Preaching is very important to the congregation. Thoughtful, succinct, and clear sermons which bring out ideas from the scripture readings and ask parishioners to apply them to their lives help us maintain our collective spiritual direction. Special music celebrations take place annually and choir music plays a significant role in each Sunday’s services. Added services include December Lessons and Carols, several Evensong services as well as extra services during Holy Week and Christmas. There is a lay led evening prayer offered on Thursdays.

Over the years, St. Giles has had formation classes for adults, youth, and children alike, a Bible challenge and scripture and book study groups.

We have long believed that alleviating physical hunger allows growth of the mind and spirit for those served and those doing the serving. Outreach ministries to feed the body include a food rescue program initiated by St. Giles parishioners which has served soup kitchens in Chicagoland for over 35 years. Hunger Resource Network, a secular support organization that regularly supplies the Chicagoland community with food resources for underserved, was initiated by one of the parishioners of St. Giles and is enthusiastically supported by many of our current members.
Our community garden regularly donates food to the local food pantry. We are involved in the annual fundraiser, Crop Walk, for world hunger relief. Once a month, we offer a free breakfast open to the community. Added outreach efforts are carried on by parishioners throughout the year.

More information about us is available at our website https://www.saint-giles.org/ and on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/St-Giles-Episcopal-Church-122430177815/.

Our Facility, located in Northbrook, Illinois

St. Giles Episcopal Church is located in the north suburban Chicago community of Northbrook, Illinois. Northbrook is a vibrant community located 25 miles north of downtown Chicago. The Village is graced with a diverse business community, top-rated public schools, outstanding recreational facilities, and civic-minded residents who work to bring together world class amenities while maintaining the village’s small-town charm. Access to the greater Chicagoland area is convenient with major expressway routes bordering the east and west sides of town, as well as train service to downtown Chicago.

Founded in 1949, the congregation of St. Giles built our current church in 1958 on a four-acre site. The property includes a beautiful brick and wood church adorned with contemporary stained glass and equipped with a Wolff pipe organ and amazing acoustics. There is a sizeable undercroft complete with small library and kitchen and large meeting area and storage space. A two-story 4-bedroom rectory, a separate education/administrative building, community garden, labyrinth, memorial garden, open space courtyard, and ample parking lot complete the campus. St. Giles currently shares its space with Campanella, a youth choir and educational organization, along with The Tree of Life, a Korean Christian church, and several smaller groups that meet weekly in the education building.

Challenges and Hopes

St. Giles’ history includes long tenures for our two past rectors of over 20 and 15 years respectively. We offer a small but strong core of dedicated and hard-working parishioners that include the vestry, ministry team leaders, rector search committee, and parishioners that regularly attend our Sunday liturgy. Our most recent stewardship drive showed a strong commitment by our parishioners with an increase in pledge dollars, despite our current lack of a permanent rector. As with many churches, the last decade has seen our attendance slowly decline.
Presently there are few children attending our Sunday service and there is no youth or children’s formation. The regular Sunday attendance is between 40 and 50 parishioners. The average age of parishioners is over 60. Consistent with the change in our needs, we are looking for a rector to serve on Sundays and three days a week (4/5th time). We look forward to continuing our tradition of outreach, strong preaching, good music, and spiritual growth. We are especially mindful of our need to provide pastoral care to our oldest parishioners and would like to attract new members and provide added formation opportunities. We are looking for a joyful, compassionate, pragmatic, spiritual rector to lead us into the future.

Our Diocese

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is led by Bishop Jeffrey Lee and has 122 member congregations, spreading from Lake Michigan on the east, to the Wisconsin border on the north and the Iowa border on the west. The Diocese is known for its leadership initiatives designed to support congregational vitality. To this end, the Diocese focuses its energies on two key programs: The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center, located on the fifth floor of the Diocesan office building in downtown Chicago, provides classroom space and accommodations for these programs as well as other leadership events.

To apply for this position, please complete the Clergy Information Form for Transitions found on the diocesan website: https://episcopalchicago.wufoo.com/forms/m1poxgz40cwsj2w/

For more information about this position, please contact Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministries, at amysen@episcopalchicago.org or 312-751-4203.