

# Parish Profile

## St. Barnabas Episcopal Church



An inclusive parish in the heart of downtown Denton.

1200 N. Elm Street  
Denton, TX 76201  
<https://stbarnabasdenton.org>

# Welcome

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## Overview

Welcome to the Parish Profile of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, an inclusive family-size parish in the heart of Denton, Texas!

Our parish is at an important crossroads from which we can either return to health or cease to exist in our present form in just a few years. We are an aging congregation that has experienced a significant decline in membership and a commensurate decline in giving over the last several years. However, despite this decline, our parish history includes a legacy of rebuilding, and even in our present situation, two factors compel us to believe that we can restore the health of our beloved parish with God's help:

- We completed a new building in 2020 made possible by the generosity of long-time parishioners who wished to continue our inclusive downtown presence.
- Our remaining core membership stands determined to sustain our long tradition of community service, social inclusiveness, intellectual curiosity, spiritual devotion, and worship centered on the rich tradition of Anglican liturgy and music.

Therefore, we seek a rector who can collaborate and co-conspire with us, contributing ideas and resources to support and coordinate our mutual ministry while sharing spiritual insight.

At present, a priority for the parish is to nurture our existing membership through fellowship, pastoral care, and sustainable Christian education so that we may rebuild our parish; however, we see this nurturing as a step toward readying ourselves to reach out to those in the surrounding community who need us. We see the restoration of our own community and a renewed ministry to others as concomitant goals, developing the strength of our fellowship through an interdependence that allows us to both give and receive support from one another. We know that when we serve others, we find joy that sustains us.

At the moment, we are best equipped to reach out to adults and seniors, but as our parish gathers strength, we seek to reach out again to college students and families with children. We are well positioned to provide a church home to those who seek a parish that welcomes all regardless of race, class, ability, or gender identity and to those who value the thoughtfulness of our liturgy and the beauty of our music in the growing community of Denton.

As we seek God's will for our future ministry, we offer ourselves as a welcoming downtown church dedicated to Christian love and service.

## Parish Mission Statement

We at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, who come from all over Denton County and neighboring counties to this downtown house of God, believe that our mission is to glorify God through our worship and to serve one another and our neighbors through caring fellowship, Christian education, and outreach to the community in the name of Christ.

We are members of the world-wide Anglican Communion, partner churches in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury. We believe that scripture, tradition, and reason are the sources of authority in our corporate and personal lives. We see thinking and free intellectual inquiry as friends of spirituality, not as foes.

We, therefore, do not fear, but welcome diversity.

# Welcome

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## Parish Goals

In 2020, our parish saw the completion of a new building. When we began the journey to build a space that could house the community we hoped to become, we set out to achieve the following goals:

1. To glorify God and build the Body of Christ through liturgy, the sacraments, and sacred music
2. To build a church community of family and friends
3. To build programs for all ages to teach, learn, and spread the Gospel
4. To build opportunities to support and serve others in need

These goals served us well as we built the physical structure of our church. We now hope that they will help us build up the community of the faithful as we seek a new rector and grow both in numbers and in service to others.

## A Prayer for our Rector Search

O God of patient and gentle strength, who knows our needs even before we ask, may your loving presence guide us as we seek the next rector for St. Barnabas. Give us an open spirit, discerning hearts, and clear minds, that we may trust your will for us and become ever more united in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Inspire our conversation, deepen our prayer, and make us a community of humility and grace. Raise up for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion. All this we ask through Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



## St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

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1200 N. Elm Street

Denton, Texas 76209

January 2021

Dear Friend in Christ:

We at St. Barnabas are deeply grateful to you for your interest in us. St. Barnabas has a long history of being part of the fabric of the City of Denton. We are fewer in number now than we have been in recent years, and our hair is a bit grayer than it was, but we are a dedicated, spiritual, generous, and inclusive congregation of people who seek to love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ by being His hands and feet, right here and right now. Our commitment to Christ, to each other, and to our neighbors remains strong.

We seek a priest and pastor who will guide us and walk with us toward the vision we see, that of bringing the Good News of Jesus's reality and relevance to this oft-broken world, in real, palpable, and visible ways.

Thank you, again, for your interest in St. Barnabas. Please contact us at [StBDentonRectorSearch@gmail.com](mailto:StBDentonRectorSearch@gmail.com) if you have questions or wish to send materials for consideration.

William Joyner  
Senior Warden

Anne Schoolfield  
Chair, Rector Search Committee

St. Barnabas Rector Search Committee: Cecile Johnson, Ann MacMillan,  
Carol Rowley, Maureen Saringer, Ken Wigginton

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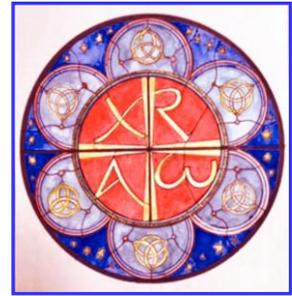
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# Who We Are and What We Do

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## Worship and Liturgy

Central to our existence as a community of faith is our commitment to Episcopal worship, liturgy, and sacred music in the Anglican tradition. Services both before and during the pandemic have included both Rite I and Rite II options of Morning Prayer, mid-day prayers, spoken and sung Eucharists, Compline (virtual), Lenten Stations of the Cross, and seasonal observances of the High Holy days.



## Worship Services

While times for Sunday morning Eucharistic services have varied slightly over the years, St. Barnabas has held an early, spoken service using Rite I and a later, sung service using Rite II for much of its recent history.

St. Barnabas currently celebrates three in-person Eucharists each week:

- **Sundays, 9:00 a.m.** – A spoken service using Rite I
- **Sundays, 11:00 a.m.** – A sung service using Rite II that includes choral anthems and both Anglican and Gregorian chant; this service is also livestreamed at 11:00 a.m. and posted on the parish's Facebook page afterwards
- **Wednesday, 12:00 noon** – A spoken service using Rite I

Additionally, the parish currently offers the following non-Eucharistic services:

- **Noon Prayers** – A spoken, in-person service held on Mondays at 12:00 noon
- **Compline** – A mostly spoken, video service posted Mondays-Fridays at 8:00 p.m., led by both clergy and laity

Before the pandemic, St. Barnabas offered the following mid-week services:

- **Morning Prayer** on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist** on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
- **Evening Prayer** at 6:00 p.m. and **Holy Eucharist** at 6:20 p.m. on Wednesdays

Special services each year have typically included the following:

- **Ash Wednesday** – A spoken service at 12:00 noon and a sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Stations of the Cross** – A lay-led service held during the six Fridays of Lent at 6:00 p.m. and on Good Friday at 12:00 noon
- **Maundy Thursday** – A sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday** – A sung service at 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Vigil** – A sung service at 8:00 p.m.
- **Red Mass** – A sung service celebrating the beginning of the academic year, alternating between St. Barnabas and St. David of Wales, Denton
- **Blessing of the Animals** – An outdoor service typically held in the afternoon on the Saturday nearest St. Francis's Day
- **Christmas Eve** – For many years, the parish held two services: 1) a family service at 6:00 p.m., featuring a children's story, a children's pageant, and carols accompanied by guitar, and 2) a sung late service at 10:00 p.m., featuring a musical prelude that began at 9:30 p.m. and seasonal choral music throughout the service. Over the last decade or so, however, fewer parishioners have been comfortable attending the later service, and even though the parish lost most of its families with children during this period, the early

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service became the better attended of the two, with family attendance replaced by that of older parishioners. In 2019, the parish chose to hold one better-attended service at 7:30 p.m. In 2020, the parish held two services (in observance of Diocesan directives) – one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.; the latter was livestreamed.

- **Christmas Day** – A spoken service (unless on a Sunday) held at 10:00 a.m. (Not held in 2020.)

## Worship Services during the Pandemic

Responding to the pandemic in March 2020, St. Barnabas went to one Rite II service at 10:00 a.m. livestreamed on the parish Facebook page and posted afterwards for video viewing.

Upon the installment of our current priest-in-charge in September, the parish moved to its current schedule of two Sunday Eucharists, with the 9:00 a.m. service held outdoors in our prayer garden and the 11:00 a.m. service held inside with limited attendance, as specified by Diocesan directives. During this period, both the early and late services alternated by week between Rites I and II.

On the second Sunday of November, when the early service moved inside, the former practice of using Rite I at the early service and Rite II at the late resumed. LEMs currently also distribute communion wafers each Sunday before the 11:00 a.m. service for drive-by pick up.

While the pandemic has challenged our parish, as it has all parishes, one bright spot is that we have become increasingly adept at delivering quality video services even with limited means. This new skill has allowed us to serve parishioners who are unable to attend in-person services and to share our worship with many outside our parish. For example, in preparation for Advent, five parish musicians recorded Compline services with music for each Friday in the season, as well as a Service of Ten Lessons and Carols (<https://tinyurl.com/StBLessonsAndCarols>) posted on the fourth Sunday in Advent – a service that has been enjoyed by 360 viewers.

## Acolytes

Currently, adults serve as thurifers, crucifers, and torch bearers because the parish contains no middle or high school students. In the past, St. Barnabas has trained youth to participate at the altar, and we look forward to sharing this ministry with youth again.

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of St. Barnabas prepares the church and altar for all worship and Eucharistic services. Additionally, the members maintain the fair linens that grace the altar; ensure that all vestments worn by the clergy, lay ministers, and acolytes are in good order; care for altar vessels; prepare the sacraments for the Holy Eucharist; and oversee the placement of flowers. The Altar Guild is responsible for care of the nave, chancel, sanctuary, sacristy, and narthex. All duties are performed under the direction of the Altar Guild Director and the rector.

## Parish Choir

The Parish Choir plays a significant role at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service, as well as services for High Holy days, leading the parish in service music, Anglican chant, and Gregorian chant; the choir also sings anthems that draw from a broad repertoire of music from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our members all read music and are conversant with a variety of musical styles. While the choir's membership has, in the past, consisted of up to 12 volunteer

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members and up to five paid soloists (typically, university students), for the last few years, membership has consisted of seven to ten volunteer members and two paid soloists. Since September 2020, music for the 11:00 a.m. service has been provided by the organist, the director of music, and one student soloist to comply with Diocesan directives that singers be masked and 12 feet apart and to keep members of the volunteer choir safe.

## **Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)**

LEMs assist at the altar during Sunday Eucharists and at other functions, such as weddings, funerals, and other services as requested by the clergy or family. In the past, the parish has arranged opportunities for LEM training and licensing of members wishing to serve in this ministry. Currently, the licenses are expired and need to be renewed to be in compliance with the Diocese.

## **Readers**

Parishioners serve as readers at both Sunday Eucharists (and at other services such as Lessons and Carols, Morning Prayer, and Stations of the Cross), delivering readings from the Old and New Testaments and leading congregants in the Psalm and the Prayers of the People.

## **Ushers**

Ushers greet worshippers in the narthex, collect service offerings, and provide worshippers with assistance before, during, and after services.

## **Administration, Facilities, and Stewardship**

This section describes St. Barnabas's personnel, facilities, and monetary resources.

## **Clergy and Staff**

In addition to the rector, St. Barnabas is served by a staff of three part-time employees (Parish Secretary, Sexton, and Organist) and one volunteer (Director of Music); the parish contracts for yard maintenance. Over the years, we have been blessed to have the assistance of retired clergy and deacons. While our staff has served us faithfully and well, our finances have limited our ability to keep up with market compensation values, a situation that the parish is committed to rectifying.

## **Vestry**

The St. Barnabas Vestry consists of six elected members, including Senior and Junior Wardens. Its responsibilities include overseeing parish finances, upkeep of the building and grounds, major parish activities, and planning. While Vestry members currently do not have assigned portfolios, the Vestry is considering re-instituting specific responsibilities for each member after the Annual Parish Meeting in February 2021. Vestry members may serve as liaisons to parish committees, such as the Outreach Committee.

## **Convention Delegates**

St. Barnabas regularly participates in the Diocesan Convention. Each year, during the Annual Parish Meeting, the congregation elects two delegates and two alternate delegates.

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## Facilities

While St. Barnabas has experienced a decline in membership over the last several years, one crowning achievement of the members who remain is the new building erected in two stages, with the second stage and renewed landscaping completed in 2020.

The church is located in central Denton between North Elm and North Locust Streets and has served the Denton community for 145 years. The church has been in its current location since the 1930s. Sadly, decades of use, as well as an electrical fire in 1967, damaged the original building badly. Eventually, replacement became necessary. Groundbreaking for a new building was held in 2017. The beautiful grounds now encompass a church of 13,326 square feet completed in 2020.

The grounds are still under development, as construction and removal of multiple old buildings left a large open space. An enhanced prayer garden is planned in the main church yard near the location of the original St. Barnabas Church. Outdoor gathering places, such as a barbecue patio and a play area for children, are also planned for the future, and there is room to expand the current building if expansion becomes necessary.

The new modern building is the result of years of effort by the parish to create a beautiful, energy efficient, ADA-compliant space with room for worship, education, administration, and gathering. The office opens with a library/reception room that leads to both the church administrator's office and a private rector's office. The parish hall is spacious, with a pass-through kitchen that has been outfitted with new appliances. All kitchen and bathroom fixtures are water-efficient, helping us be good stewards of our resources. A nursery and Godly Play room round out the "meet and manage" end of the building.

The "worship" wing includes the sanctuary proper with sacristy and vesting rooms. The nave holds just under 250 people at full capacity. Its high open-truss ceiling accommodates a choir and organ loft. The sanctuary furnishings, highlighted by the stained-glass windows and massive oak cross at the altar, glorify God's divine presence and loving grace. Pews from the old church were refinished and moved to the new, as were the stained-glass windows, which were carefully restored by John Kebrle, of Dallas, Texas, whose father and grandfather co-fabricated the original windows. Kebrle was also commissioned by donors to fabricate and install the magnificent Rose Window above the altar. The marble altar once graced the old chancel. Because the altar survived the fire despite falling through the floor, making it part of the new church was imperative to everyone involved. Smaller furnishings have been repaired or replaced as needed, with an emphasis on maintaining continuity with artists and artisans whenever possible.

St. Barnabas has an exceptional Department of Music. The choir loft's stained-glass St. Cecilia window, fabricated by Denton artist Christie A. Wood, honors long-time organist-choirmaster Alis Adkins, who developed the music program over her 50-year tenure in the parish. Even in this time of COVID, we are blessed by the amazing music that one or two singers can produce from the soaring loft. Rounding out the worship wing are a large classroom, the main restrooms, and an all-gender/family/ADA restroom that can accommodate even the largest wheelchair. We are eager to share our new physical plant with others. Although we have not been able to fill it with people since the final occupancy permit was granted, we look forward to the day we can join together to celebrate communion in this blessed place.

To view photographs of our new building, see Appendix E and visit the parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stbdenton/>

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## Finishing Committee

A Finishing Committee has been formed to complete the new interior with furniture, bookcases, and artwork and to oversee plans for the prayer garden and other outdoor spaces. The committee approves monetary and material donations and presents proposals to the Vestry for large purchases or improvements.

Following the lead of the original Building Committee, the Finishing Committee has repurposed items from our former building in our new building, incorporating the old with the new throughout. Recent acquisitions include donated artwork, refurbished tables for the parish hall, and the rector's office desk and chairs. Built-in bookcases for the reception area and shutters and window coverings in both the office area and parish hall are planned. Many furnishings have been funded by designated donations from current parishioners; some additional furnishings await funding.

## Stewardship and Finances

In the past, St. Barnabas has typically held its Fall Stewardship Drive during October. Traditionally, a Vestry member serves as the leader of the campaign to encourage pledging of time, talent, and treasure from parishioners in service to the church.

To launch the campaign, the rector has delivered a sermon addressing stewardship on the first Sunday, with Vestry members and other laity sharing their stewardship insights during this service and subsequent services to encourage parish participation in the drive. After the drive, the Vestry and the treasurer develop a budget for the next year. This budget is presented for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting.

In recent years, our fourth-quarter stewardship efforts have been more in the nature of "appeals" than "campaigns." Our giving remains strong at the individual level, but as our numbers have fallen, so has the total amount of pledging.

In 2020, the stewardship campaign was coordinated by a Vestry member and the parish treasurer with a Sunday in early November designated as Stewardship Sunday. During the week prior, the stewardship team sent a letter to the parish describing our financial situation, acknowledging the difficulty of pledging during the pandemic, and detailing parish needs for the coming year. On Stewardship Sunday, the Senior Warden and Vestry coordinator spoke at the 11:00 a.m. service. As pledges came in, the stewardship team wrote thank-you notes to pledgers. While the campaign was successful overall, with over \$128,000 pledged, the parish needs additional pledges to secure its financial health.

We have provided a financial statement for 2018-2021, as well as a current balance sheet, in Appendix C: Finance Report.

## Fellowship and Mutual Support

Parish life at St. Barnabas is enriched by the following:

### The Order of the Daughters of the King

The St. Margaret of Scotland chapter at St. Barnabas has 25 members, with eight members currently able to participate actively.

Members take lifetime vows to join The Order of the Daughters of the King, incorporating a Rule of Prayer and Rule of Life and pledging to a life of prayer, service, and evangelism to

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spread Christ's Kingdom and strengthen the spiritual life of the parish and its rector. The focus of the chapter does not change with circumstances, but the focus of their prayers does, with the Daughters praying currently for the work of the Rector Search Committee and for pandemic relief. As in past years, members have divided names in the church directory to pray daily for "their" congregants.

In the past, members have held weekend spiritual retreats at Camp All Saints, the Diocesan retreat center. They have hosted Lenten and Advent Quiet Days for the parish, and most recently conducted those jointly with Daughters from St. David's, alternating parishes. Other past meetings have included special events, such as a Mother-Daughter tea, book studies, and meeting at a local assisted living center where members lived. Members have attended Diocesan, State, and National conventions, and have had some of their activities and programs featured in the *Royal Cross* member magazine.

During the pandemic, the Daughters have continued their meetings via Zoom, on the second Saturday of the month. Emails keep all members connected and apprise members of prayer requests sent to DOK. Although current attendance may be small, the Daughters enjoy getting together and supporting each other during this "stay-at-home" time. Many members are active in parish life, serving during Sunday services, on committees, and on the Altar Guild.

## Crafty Hearts

The Crafty Hearts, an informal group open to anyone who knits, crochets, sews, quilts, or just wants to fellowship, currently has five to six members. Projects include hats, prayer shawls, scarfs, afghans, and baby blankets. The group's craft items are usually donated to various local organizations with some items sold at our annual bazaar. Pre-pandemic, the group met on weekdays in the parish hall.

## Book Club

The St. Barnabas Book Club was started in 2002 when a parish mom had twins and needed adults to talk to at least once a month! A social group of eight to ten for booklovers, the club's focus has always been contemporary fiction but other genres are chosen on occasion. Discussions are casual rather than literary studies and can range from ten minutes to an hour, depending on participants' reactions to that month's book. Books are chosen by group approval from suggestions given at meetings, and attendees bring food and beverages to share. Although the club stopped meeting in person during the pandemic, the group has continued their fellowship via Zoom.

## Other Ways We Care for Each Other

In addition to the organized groups mentioned above, the members of the parish care for each other through various forms of communication. A small, but devoted group sends cards to parishioners on Christmas and parishioners' birthdays to let them know that the church family is thinking of them. Our Senior Warden compiles a monthly newsletter to keep parishioners informed of upcoming parish events; our priest-in-charge sends a weekly email communication. The parish secretary sends informative emails as needed, including a weekly email providing an order of service for the 11:00 a.m. videoed service and instructions for those who would like to attend Sunday services in person.

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## Christian Education and Spiritual Growth

Although the pandemic has limited the parish's ability to provide Christian education for all ages, the section below details the types of Christian education typically offered by the parish.

### Adults

#### Sunday School

For many years, adult Sunday School has been held between the early and later Sunday morning services for approximately 30-40 minutes, with the discussion typically focused on lectionary readings for the day's service.

Currently, following Diocesan pandemic protocols, Sunday School is held in the parish hall from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and is livestreamed, recorded, and uploaded to Facebook. The subject matter, selected by the priest-in-charge, has included study of selected chapters of the Bible; the current study focuses on the doctrine and tradition of the Episcopal Church.

#### Lenten and Advent Book Studies

For the last several years, the rector has generally provided a book study during both Lent and Advent. Usually, the studies have met after the Wednesday evening Eucharist. During Lent, these studies have often been followed by a light supper provided by participants. In the last two years, the parish has added a daytime class to accommodate older parishioners, led by a lay person with significant experience. Generally, both classes have used the same texts chosen by the rector and the other leader together. However, groups occasionally use different texts that reflect participants' interest.

#### Other Adult Offerings

Over the years, various study groups of short duration have been offered in the evenings. Subjects have included topics of current interest, studies of other religions, books by some of our parishioners, and other topics of interest to the group.

### Canterbury

While St. Barnabas has worked with St. David of Wales, Denton, to sponsor a Canterbury group for students in local universities, this ministry is currently inactive after the small group of participating students graduated in December 2019.

### Youth

Although St. Barnabas has had no youth group since 2010, at its best, the youth group was a small number of teens who had grown up together in the church. The group met once a week to do a short Bible study and socialize together. The parish worked to make activities fun – lock-ins at the church, bowling, eating out together – so that the teens would associate their time at church with good times and friends. Most of the activities were relatively inexpensive, and the group raised some of their own funds by hosting babysitting events at Valentine's Day and around Christmas. Almost all of these youth served at the altar as acolytes.

Earlier efforts to establish a youth group were problematic; a joint EYC-type program with Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Denton was tried, but short lived. The number of teens in the parish has typically been small with a wide age range. Nevertheless, we have always been proud of our young people; when the parish has had graduates to honor, we have acknowledged them at a church service on Sunday in May and in the parish newsletter.

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## Children

The parish has used the Godly Play curriculum for a number of years. In the last few years before COVID, Godly Play was commonly attended by up to six children, averaging three core children. Occasionally, children from families searching for a new church would attend; however, no recently visiting families chose to remain at St. Barnabas.

Godly Play itself is a program based on the work of Jerome W. Berryman. It usually consists of three parts: a story using physical materials, a time when the children can explore story materials further or complete an art project, and then a feast, when participants share a small snack and drink together. The program mirrors the church service structure while encouraging children to form and explore their own spirituality, learn basic Bible stories, and develop a relationship with God. The parishioner leading Godly Play most recently also supplemented this curriculum by discussing various prayers children would hear in church, such as the Lord's Prayer, going one line at a time to discuss each line's meaning.

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are held as needed. In the last six years, the following classes have been held: one class of six teens, one class of six adults (three confirmands and three reviewing adults), and several classes of one or two adult confirmands. With the exception of the teen class, all classes have been presented by the rector.

## First Communion Classes

At St. Barnabas, young children have been included in the full sacramental life of the parish. Therefore, as needed, the parish has offered instruction to prepare children for their first communion. This preparatory program has been offered and taught by a licensed lay person.

The hour-long activity-based sessions with written materials have covered the following themes:

- I. Community
- II. Jesus and the Last Supper
- III. Church and Altar Elements
- IV. Prayers and Practices in the Eucharist
- V. First Communion Practice
- VI. First Communion Service / Reception

The classes have included stories, arts/crafts, group discussion, and other activities focused on learning the parts of the Eucharistic ritual. Sadly, at least five years have passed since the parish has had young families to participate.

## Service and Outreach

### Outreach Committee

The Outreach Ministry Team has traditionally been responsible for inspiring and educating our congregation about the mission outreach of our church and for providing prayer, financial, and service support for outreach projects. The Outreach Committee currently consists of 15 parishioners who meet in December to select projects to support in the coming year. Priority is given to projects that have a connection with Episcopal Relief and Development. Also considered are those organizations that are of special interest or that have a link to our parishioners.

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The committee oversees financial giving to community organizations and organizes a Fall Bazaar. The bazaar is held in the parish hall and is open to the public. Various outside vendors rent spaces to sell products ranging from soy candles, jewelry, cosmetics, kitchen products, home décor, and dog treats, to items from Threads of Hope and items made by Crafty Hearts members. Proceeds from the bazaar, along with other donations collected throughout the year, help support our outreach projects.

The committee has supported these organizations through the years:

Ann's Haven	Episcopal Relief and Development
Church in Jerusalem	Friends of the Family
Compassion International	Interfaith Ministries
Denton Christian Preschool	Meal on Wheels of Denton County
Denton Community Food Center	Monsignor King Outreach Center
Denton Police Youth Luncheon	Our Daily Bread
Denton State Supported Living Center	Tarrant Area Food Bank

Additionally, the committee works to support local seasonal outreach and has coordinated parish involvement with the Apple Tree Project, which provides school supplies for Denton ISD students, and the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project, which provides Christmas gifts for families in need.

# Where We Want to Go

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## Our Hopes and Dreams

With the completion of our new building, our parish is ready to rebuild its community by nurturing our current membership through a combination of fellowship, pastoral care, and sustainable Christian education programs for all ages so that we can ready ourselves to reach out to those in the surrounding community who need us. We see the restoration of our own community and a renewed ministry to others as concomitant goals, developing the strength of our fellowship through an interdependence that allows us to both give and receive support from one another.

While we see the return of families with children to the parish as perhaps, the ultimate sign of parish health and want to make St. Barnabas a family-friendly parish again as quickly as possible, we also recognize that we may be better equipped at present to minister to other groups, including

- former members who remain in the area
- adults in the downtown community (perhaps, through the Denton Downtowners Facebook group and other downtown activities)
- college students and faculty at both universities, including musicians who value the rich tradition of Anglican music and those seeking a spiritual home in an inclusive environment
- the LGBTQ+ community and family members, who may not have found acceptance in other faith traditions

We can also see ourselves reaching out to a more diverse ethnic community in the future—particularly, the Hispanic community, which is currently underserved in the northern sector of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

Additionally, we see opportunities for increased outreach to downtown organizations, such as Wheeler House for Women and Children and Our Daily Bread, as well as opportunities for increased engagement in downtown civic and recreational activities (see Appendix D for a list of these).

The sections below detail our thoughts about restoring our parish to full health and about the rector we seek to work collaboratively with us toward our ministry goals.

## Worship and Liturgy

While most St. Barnabas parishioners seem comfortable maintaining the tradition of an early, spoken Rite I service and a later, sung Rite II service, many also seemed open to alternating both services between the two rites as practiced during September through early November of 2020. In the past, rites would occasionally be alternated on the fifth Sunday of the month. Other occasional service offerings have included instructed Eucharists. Most parishioners also seem to accept moving the time of the early service from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the last few years to the service's current time of 9:00 a.m. although some still prefer the earlier time. To accommodate college students and adults who work on Sunday mornings, the parish might, at some point, consider offering an additional weekend service on a Saturday or Sunday



# Where We Want to Go

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evening. However, increasing attendance at and widening parish participation in current services is a priority for the present.

## Staff, Finances, and Stewardship

Our hope is that with growth, St. Barnabas can be an ever-more-visible representative of Jesus Christ, here in Denton. We would love to be in the position of needing to add staff in order to accomplish that mission.

St. Barnabas has the space to host a robust Children's and Youth Ministry: We can envision adding a Children's and Youth Minister.

St. Barnabas has a rich musical heritage and a large choir loft: We can envision a larger choir made up of both paid and volunteer singers and musicians, supported by enthusiastic parish members.

St. Barnabas has a long history of generosity: We can envision creating a culture of giving of ourselves, our souls and bodies, in service to our Lord.

St. Barnabas has the space and internet bandwidth to add polish and professionalism to our Sunday worship experiences and our social media presence: We can envision adding a Director of Technology to oversee these efforts, making sure that our videos and social media posts present a unified message, are accessible to all, and look and sound fantastic.

To do these things we envision requires time, talent, and treasure, to be sure. But first and foremost, it requires people, people united in the mission of serving our Lord through worship, service, and giving.

In recent years, stewardship efforts at St. Barnabas have been more in the nature of making one-off appeals at the end of the year, rather than pursuing a weeks- or month-long campaign. When the pandemic subsides, we can envision a more robust stewardship campaign, headed by a finance committee overseen by the Vestry, designed to conceive and implement a more comprehensive strategy for securing a sound financial future for our parish.

## Christian Education

Below, we describe possibilities we see for expanded Christian education at St. Barnabas.

### Adults

While St. Barnabas has typically offered more Christian education programs for adults than for any other age group, over the years, parishioners have expressed a desire for extended studies of the Bible and studies that focus on spiritual growth in addition to the types of studies previously offered. We also recognize that engaging in outreach provides educational opportunities as well, and we seek to include more parishioners in outreach as we move forward.

# Where We Want to Go

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## Canterbury

While various circumstances (including the way student groups are managed at the two universities in Denton), make the formation of a viable college ministry difficult, St. Barnabas has hosted successful college programs in its past; moreover, reaching out to college students is a natural extension of the parish's inclination to inclusion and openness to spiritual and intellectual inquiry. Further, we are just steps away from the boundary of the TWU campus, and only a few minutes' drive from UNT. As the core ministries of the parish become more secure, St. Barnabas might consider working to re-build its college outreach by offering a weekly event on campus – perhaps, borrowing space from the Wesley Center (United Methodist on-campus space) to offer a meal, discussion, and Eucharist – and finding ways to collaborate with college groups from other similarly inclined denominations (for example, Methodists and Lutherans). Many students are deeply interested in social justice issues and might find working with other college ministries to address concerns, such as student food insecurity, meaningful.

## Youth

St. Barnabas has not provided a youth ministry for over a decade. While we look forward to the day when we are able to provide this ministry again, we are currently better equipped to support other programs for which we already have existing membership and volunteers or staff in place who can lead these.

## Children

While St. Barnabas has used the Godly Play curriculum for a number of years, our implementation of Godly Play itself could be improved by discussing parish goals for the program, providing policies regarding how the leader should interact with children and parents, and considering other ways the leader could help children participate in church. Further, the parish should work to provide the program with two Godly Play staff members, a leader and a door keeper, so that our program observes best practices for children's ministry.

We see several possibilities for improving parish outreach to children, including the following:

- Advertising that we offer the Godly Play curriculum – particularly, on the parish website and the parish Facebook page, with pictures of the room and an explanation of the program. Young families with children who are actively looking for a church will most likely look online to find a church that suits them.
- Hosting children's programming in the church that is not necessarily related to the church, thereby showing the community that our church is a place where children are welcome and that we provide a safe and clean environment where children can socialize.
- Ensuring that the Godly Play room is inviting, that all materials are ready, and that the room is devoted to Godly Play to show that children's ministry is a parish priority.
- Offering virtual Godly Play lessons. Virtual lessons would serve families who cannot bring their children to church because of COVID and affirm that we prioritize children's programming.

# Where We Want to Go

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## Parish Family Activities

Post-pandemic, we see the return of parish fellowship activities as an important counterpart to Christian education. In the past, the parish has enjoyed multi-generational activities such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, La Posadas and other Advent activities, Karaoke nights, Newcomer's Luncheons, and the annual St. Barnabas Day Picnic. We can also imagine new activities, such as open houses, to which we can invite the surrounding community.

## Our New Rector

Under God's wisdom and grace, we seek a rector who hears God's call to join our inclusive community and to guide and collaborate with our parish as it works to rebuild itself and expand its ministry. We recognize that each candidate for rector brings a unique set of gifts and skills. We also acknowledge that a vital parish succeeds in ministry not only through the rector's efforts, but also through the gifts, goodwill, and sustained work of the parish membership.

Finding ourselves at a crossroads and standing committed to return our parish to health, we seek a priest who

- Welcomes the challenge of composing sermons that engage both the heart and the mind and that speak to a congregation of adults from multiple professions, including education, technology, and medicine, as well as students and retirees
- Values the rich tradition of Anglican liturgy and music
- Holds a record of successful collaborative administration (in a parish or lay environment, previous career, or volunteer organization) to promote creative, responsible stewardship of church finances and facilities and to foster the gifts and skills of parishioners
- Demonstrates a record of /commitment to inclusive ministry, affirming all persons regardless of race, class, ability, or gender identity
- Demonstrates a commitment to oversee and help expand our ministries of fellowship, pastoral care, formation, and outreach and to nurture experienced and novice lay leaders determined to restore a dynamic and inclusive parish community
- Values the connections and support available through the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, the community of like-minded churches in the Denton area, and the civic and religious outreach community within Denton

# Appendix A: Our History

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## The History of St. Barnabas: Building and Rebuilding

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, or St. B's, as it is referred to by many of its parishioners, is the oldest existing Episcopal congregation in Denton County.

The church began in the 1870s as a preaching mission with worship held in a dilapidated room over the Olympia Confectionary on the second floor of the Scripture Building, which still stands on the west side of the Denton Courthouse Square. The first church structure to be known as St. Barnabas Episcopal Church was dedicated by Bishop Harry T. Moore in 1923. In 1933, its status changed from a preaching mission to a mission. The congregation moved to its current location in 1938; in 1946, the mission was designated a parish with the Reverend Homer F. Rogers serving as its first rector. The Anglo-Catholic or "high church" character of the services at that time drew people to St. B's. St. Barnabas is not nearly as "high church" now as it was under Father Rogers and his successors through the early 1970s when, for example, parishioners were expected to practice the sacrament of confession on a regular basis and daily masses were offered.

It was also during the Rogers era that the congregation began to serve both local colleges, as Father Rogers, affectionately known as "Padre," was designated chaplain to both TSCW (now Texas Woman's University) and NTSC (now the University of North Texas). In part because of the influence of "Padre" and later, of Father Emmett Waits, St. Barnabas had a strong college ministry and saw at least 20 members of the parish enter the priesthood or religious orders.

In 1951, a majority of families left the parish in part due to resistance of some members to the high church services practiced. These members established a new mission congregation that would later become Denton's second Episcopal church, St. David of Wales. As a result, St. Barnabas began rebuilding the congregation with the remaining half-dozen or so families.

On August 16, 1967, the church was partly destroyed by fire. The parish made a conscious decision to remain on Elm Street to continue its downtown ministry, and the building was restored and enlarged. Adjacent property was purchased for a rectory, and on October 13, 1968, St. Barnabas was re-consecrated by Bishop Charles Avery Mason.

St. Barnabas has been served by various rectors who have made lasting contributions to the church building, the building up of the congregation, and the building of community service. In 1975, with the encouragement of the Reverend Charles Walling, Ann's Haven Hospice of Denton County, was established. A study group at St. B's led by Dr. Robert Lockwood, whose wife Ann had died of cancer and for whom the hospice is named, developed the idea and provided the impetus. Ann's Haven Hospice still serves Denton today.

Despite the building restoration done in the late 1960s, having an older building has always presented challenges. In 1988, the parish discovered that church walls were collapsing because the external buttresses were cosmetic, not load-bearing. Supporting bars were installed, but additional repairs soon became a critical need and financial burden. The Vestry decided in 1989 that the rectory was no longer a satisfactory family dwelling. In response to this decision, a housing allowance was added to the clergy pay package, and the building on North Locust was designated as the Christian Education Building. For many years, Cornerstone Cooperative Day Care used this space during the week, paying rent and contributing "sweat equity" to building maintenance.

# Appendix A: Our History

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From 1989-1993, the parish was served by Father Charles Williams, who had a keen interest not only in setting the intellectual tone of the parish but also in enhancing its artistic environment. Father Williams encouraged the remodeling of the altar area, and the church often became a performance space for local arts ensembles. He also advocated a strong lay ministry and attention to outreach and social issues, setting an example for the acceptance of diversity and urging parishioners to make St Barnabas a safe place to question and inquire. These values have marked St. Barnabas's ministry ever since, with the parish extending acceptance to the wider community. For a time, the parish provided office space to AIDS Services of Denton.

Sustaining and encouraging the values of inclusiveness and openness to spiritual inquiry, Father Donald K. Johnson served as rector from May 1995 through August 2020. Early in his tenure, the parish was blessed with a number of young families with children, and through the efforts of the Vestry, two youth directors were hired for a short time to work with the EYC. But the children grew, and the families moved away. Even with multiple lay efforts to engage college students in a Canterbury program shared with St. David's, attendance was sporadic and campus ministry did not flourish. We became an older congregation, and our physical plant required extensive work.

In response to the generous bequests of parishioners Elisabeth and Alonzo Jamison and Chardean Newell, the lay leadership (with brainstorming sessions, surveys, house masses), supported by Father Johnson, embarked on plans for building a new church structure on the existing property. Again, strong lay leadership shepherded the parish through this difficult financial challenge, bringing stage one of the new building to completion in 2019 and stage two in 2020.

St. Barnabas's long history of building and re-building continues to give its parishioners hope: the sustained emphasis on a strong lay ministry and Christian outreach continue; music to support the liturgy remains important; we value the contributions of ALL in the worship service. In recent years, we have watched beloved friends and family leave us and welcomed the arrival of new members, but recently few, if any, young families. We are an aging congregation, yet we are a caring, welcoming, socially responsible small downtown church – open to all.

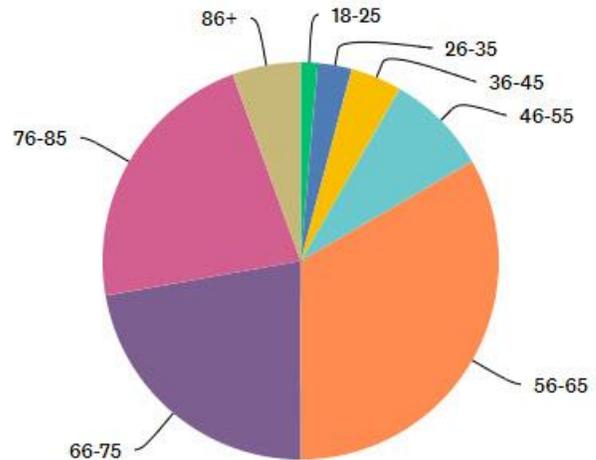
Despite our size and current limitations, we have successfully built a new church facility. Early in the building process, we highlighted four areas as part of our mission:

1. Gathering for Worship – Glorifying God and building the Body of Christ through liturgy, the sacraments, and sacred music
2. Gathering for Fellowship – Building a church community of family and friends
3. Gathering for Education – Building programs for all ages to teach, learn, and spread the Gospel
4. Gathering for Outreach – Building opportunities to support and serve others in need

Committed to these mission ideals, we are now poised and eager to build up the Body of Christ and to welcome new members and a new rector as our shepherd and spiritual guide. On this historic journey, we offer ourselves as an inclusive, welcoming downtown church in Denton County dedicated to Christian love and service.

# Appendix B: Parish Statistics

This pie chart shows the age distribution of respondents to the 2020 Parish Survey. Approximately 70% of those receiving a survey invitation participated.



## Parish Statistics Presented at the Annual Parish Meeting, January 2020 St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Denton, Texas

### 1. Summary of services for 2019

102 Sunday Eucharists  
89 Weekday Eucharists  
1 Marriage  
4 Burials  
13 Other Services

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Total for 2019 209

### 2. Membership Summary as of December 31, 2019

315 Members at the end of 2018  
1 Baptism  
6 Transfers in  
8 Added to baptized member list  
2 Confirmed/Received  
3 Transfers out  
4 Death  
17 Other removals

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308 Total membership on December 31, 2019

3. The average Sunday attendance in 2019 was 71. This is up from the previous year by 3. However, this number is somewhat inflated by our dedication of the new building on Sunday, September 15.

4. The average attendance on Wednesday evenings was 7. This is up by 1 from the previous year. However, number is also affected by a special service. In addition to Ash Wednesday, which inflates this number each year, we also hosted the Red Mass in 2019 on a Wednesday night.

# Appendix C: Finance Report

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Denton, Texas					
Statement of Financial Activities End of Year					
	BUDGET 2021	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2019	YEAR 2018	
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Offerings	\$ 182,990.00	\$ 201,218.13	\$ 177,415.36	\$ 155,427.32	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,441.00	\$ 8,987.39	\$ 2,931.22	\$ 2,754.08	
Diocese Assessment Rebate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,644.00	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 185,431.00</b>	<b>\$ 210,205.52</b>	<b>\$ 181,990.58</b>	<b>\$ 158,181.40</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>					
General/Diocesan Assessment	\$ 16,952.00	\$ 15,904.54	\$ 19,295.38	\$ 20,527.98	
Office Expense	\$ 9,950.00	\$ 8,578.96	\$ 11,155.91	\$ 10,108.30	
ACS Realm Software	\$ 1,032.00	\$ 946.00	\$ 1,008.00	\$ 1,258.92	
Computer Hardware	\$ 175.00	\$ -	\$ 173.19	\$ -	
Maintenance					
Organ/Piano Maintenance	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL ADMIN</b>	<b>\$ 28,859.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,429.50</b>	<b>\$ 31,632.48</b>	<b>\$ 31,895.20</b>	
<b>PERSONNEL</b>					
Clergy and Staff	\$ 112,274.00	\$ 106,528.81	\$ 101,889.11	\$ 101,101.61	
Music Program	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 12,275.00	\$ 15,105.00	\$ 10,500.00	
Building Maintenance Staff	\$ 3,226.00	\$ 3,126.92	\$ 4,465.71	\$ 5,014.56	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$ 131,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 121,930.73</b>	<b>\$ 121,459.82</b>	<b>\$ 116,616.17</b>	
<b>BUILDING AND GROUNDS</b>					
Security Guard Fee	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 480.00	\$ -	
Property Insurance	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,443.00	\$ 12,467.00	\$ 9,084.00	
Utilities	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 12,221.85	\$ 12,970.02	\$ 12,228.66	
Sexton Supplies	\$ 180.00	\$ 143.76	\$ 345.07	\$ 595.74	
Pest Control	\$ 520.00	\$ 530.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 520.00	
Fire Extinguisher Maint.	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	
Yard Maintenance	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,265.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 1,880.00	
Furniture & Finishing	\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL BLDG AND GROUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 36,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,603.61</b>	<b>\$ 28,702.09</b>	<b>\$ 24,388.40</b>	
<b>PUBLICATIONS/CONFIRMANDS</b>	<b>\$ 60.00</b>	<b>\$ 160.00</b>	<b>\$ 60.00</b>	<b>\$ 190.45</b>	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<b>\$ 2,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,546.96</b>	<b>\$ 1,573.42</b>	<b>\$ 1,519.72</b>	
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 360.00</b>	<b>\$ 212.34</b>	<b>\$ 745.57</b>	<b>\$ 983.45</b>	
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,877.64</b>	<b>\$ 2,899.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,537.00</b>	
<b>OUTREACH/FUNDRAISING**</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 201,679.00</b>	<b>\$ 185,760.78</b>	<b>\$ 187,072.88</b>	<b>\$ 178,730.39</b>	
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (16,248.00)</b>	<b>\$ 24,444.74</b>	<b>\$ (5,082.30)</b>	<b>\$ (20,548.99)</b>	
2020 "Offerings" Account Includes Unanticipated Legacies					
**Currently a Designated/Restricted Account					

# Appendix C: Finance Report

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<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
	<b>1/1/20 to 11/30/20</b>	<b>End Of Year 2019</b>	<b>End of Year 2018</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Operations Checking	\$ 69,918.50	\$ 28,478.37	\$ 28,734.30
Investment Accounts	\$ -	\$ 179,530.52	\$ 1,060,465.15
Accounts Receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,648.88
Fixed Assets/Land_Bldg	\$ 2,653,345.00	\$ 2,653,345.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,723,263.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,861,353.89</b>	<b>\$ 1,091,848.33</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Payroll Taxes	\$ -	\$ 667.82	\$ 663.34
Prepaid Pledges	\$ -	\$ 11,950.00	\$ 5,800.00
<b>NET ASSETS (EQUITY)</b>			
Operating Fund Reserve	\$ 37,897.59	\$ 37,897.59	\$ 42,979.89
Designated Funds*	\$ 32,020.91	\$ 157,493.48	\$ 1,042,405.10
Fixed Assets/Land_Bldg	\$ 2,653,345.00	\$ 2,653,345.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,723,263.50</b>	<b>\$ 2,848,736.07</b>	<b>\$ 1,085,384.99</b>
*Designated Funds include Outreach, Fundraising, Columbarium, Church Flowers, and others.			

# Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

Denton, the county seat of Denton County, is located forty miles north of both Dallas and Fort Worth. With a 2020 population of 142,173 permanent residents and more than 50,000 university students, Denton is the 24th largest city in Texas and the 191st largest city in the United States. Denton has grown 25.39% since the 2010 census. In 2012, Business Insider named Denton the Best Small Town in America, and in 2020, the financial firm SmartAsset ranked Denton second among Boomtowns in the US.

## Population Growth

From 2014 to 2018, Denton’s population grew 8%, and household income rose 36%. Denton County’s median household income sits around \$86,000 – above the national median of almost \$62,000. By 2030, it is estimated that the population will reach over 207,000 people. Further, since August 2018, the city’s unemployment rate has fallen 0.2%. In 2020, SmartAsset also ranked Denton as one of the most affordable cities in the U.S., with great school districts.

Since 2006, Denton has ranked in the top 25 of the nation’s fastest growing cities. The most recent racial composition is 57.3% white, 25.9% Hispanic or Latino, 9.7% Black or African American, 4.7% Asian, 1.9% two or more races, 0.3% Native American, 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.01% Other race alone. Ethnic diversity is likely broader than these figures indicate due to the large number of international students and their families associated with the two universities in town. The median age in Denton is 29.1 years for males, and 29.5 years for females.

## Access to Dallas and Fort Worth and Easy Travel Connections

Living atop the “Golden Triangle” where the eastern and western segments of Interstate 35 rejoin, Denton residents are uniquely situated to take advantage of what Dallas and Fort Worth have to offer: professional sports, shopping, entertainment, and world-class art in both cities. Travel is easy from Denton with DFW International Airport located 25 miles south and Love Field Airport 40 miles south. Denton also offers public transportation with connections to Dallas, including connections from the Downtown Denton Rail Station. The A-train stops several times in Denton as it heads toward the junction with the Dallas Area Rapid Transit System in Carrollton.

## Employment

While Denton boasts a number of large employers – both public and private – it also values small businesses – including local restaurants, small antique stores, vintage boutiques, and shops selling wares by local artisans. Denton’s thriving downtown features many one-of-a-kind, locally owned businesses, supported by the Denton Main Street Association. During non-pandemic times, the downtown square offers a variety of activities each week. Further, the downtown “footprint” is a mixture of commercial and residential structures. Denton also has a number of aspiring entrepreneurs, many of whom share coworking space at Stoke Coworking, which is located just steps from the Downtown Denton Rail Station.

Top Five Private Employers		Top Five Public Employers	
Employer	Employees	Employer	Employees
Peterbilt	3000+	University of North Texas	4500+
Presbyterian Hospital	1000+	Denton ISD	4400+
Medical Center Denton	1000	Texas Woman’s University	1800+
Sally Beauty	1000	Denton State Supported Living	1700
Safran Electrical and Power	700	Denton County	1600+

# Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

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## Housing

Housing in Denton and the surrounding communities can be found in a wide range of prices and architectural styles, with the median price for a home being \$270,000 in Denton proper. Denton offers several historic districts and conservation districts. Additionally, there are many new developments and apartment complexes under construction in response to Denton's growth among the general population, as well as the student population. Average rental costs in town are \$1046 per month. Texas has no state income tax, and Denton's property taxes are relatively low compared to other cities in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

## Education

Denton has four high schools and one alternative high school, eight middle schools, 24 elementary schools, two early childhood centers, an advanced technology complex, and other specialized schools and centers. Additionally, Denton boasts three higher educational institutions: North Central Texas College, a two-year institution with a branch in Denton; Texas Woman's University, a Ph.D.-granting institution with an enrollment of close to 16,000 students and a highly respected nursing program; and the University of North Texas, an R1 Doctoral University with an internationally renowned College of Music and an overall enrollment of 40,000.

## Healthcare

There are two hospitals in Denton. Texas Health Denton staffs 196 beds, and Medical City Denton staffs 185 beds. Moreover, the number of general and specialized physicians and diagnostic and treatment facilities has grown steadily in Denton, with recent additions of heart and cancer centers.

## Religious Institutions

Denton is home to over 75 Christian churches, as well as Unitarian, Jewish, Baha'i, and Islamic organizations. The community is home to two Episcopal churches: St. Barnabas and St. David of Wales. The largest churches in Denton, with over 2,000 members each, include Denton Bible Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church.

## Politics

Denton County, like most suburban counties in Texas, is reliably Republican in statewide and national elections, although it has become less so since 2018. The city of Denton is somewhat more balanced politically than the County. In the 2020 general election, Denton County recorded 53% of the presidential vote total for Donald Trump and 45% for Joseph Biden.

## Parks and Recreation

The Denton Parks and Recreation department has developed walking trails and bike paths throughout the city, large spaces for softball and soccer, tennis courts and driving ranges, and a bike path that runs from Denton to Lewisville; moreover, Denton lies within 25 miles of three Texas Parks and Wildlife spaces that provide areas for swimming, boat ramps, and fishing and camping facilities.

## Performing Arts and Cultural Events

Denton has a strong reputation for its performing arts, often drawing on students from the College of Music at UNT, one of the largest schools of music in the US. Additionally, Denton has both a community band, as well as a band for seniors called the New Horizons Band, and community choirs – the Denton Bach Society and the Denton Community Chorus. Further, Denton is home to the American Baroque Opera Company. Denton's theater offerings include plays and musicals performed throughout the year at the Denton Theatre on the Square, as

# Appendix D: Denton and Its Community

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well as theater performances at both universities. Additionally, Denton supports many live music venues, concerts on the downtown square lawn, a large Halloween festival called the Day of the Dead, a community Christmas tree lighting festival, the Denton Blues Festival, a Cinco de Mayo festival, and the Denton Arts and Jazz festival – a three-day event in April that brings 300,000 people to Denton.

## **Cultural Events with Potential Outreach Opportunities**

**The Day of the Dead Festival** – a free, multicultural, family-friendly festival held just east of the square. It honors the hallmarks of autumn, including the harvest, Halloween, and Dia de los Muertos, and many attendees come wearing their costumes. Highlights of this festival include the uniquely decorated coffins for the day's main event: the coffin races.

**Christmas Tree Lighting on the Square** – a major event held downtown in early December. This event for all ages attracts many thousands of residents who come to sample wassail from shops on the square, listen to live Christmas music, visit with Santa, and usher in the Christmas season with their friends and neighbors.

**Turkey Trot** – a 5k race held on Thanksgiving Day.

**City's Egg'Stravaganza and Easter Egg Hunt** – an event for children of all ages.

**Redbud Festival** – Denton's official Arbor Day celebration, held each spring and featuring a variety of plants for sale, live music, food trucks, kids' activities, Redbud tree giveaways, and educational gardening workshops.

**Denton Community Market** – a farmer's market held each Saturday morning during April through November, and located just south of the Square. The market features live music and activities for children, as well as venues for local farms, artists, and food trucks.

# Appendix E: Our New Building

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# Appendix E: Our New Building

