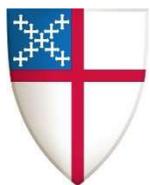


# St. Mary of the Angels



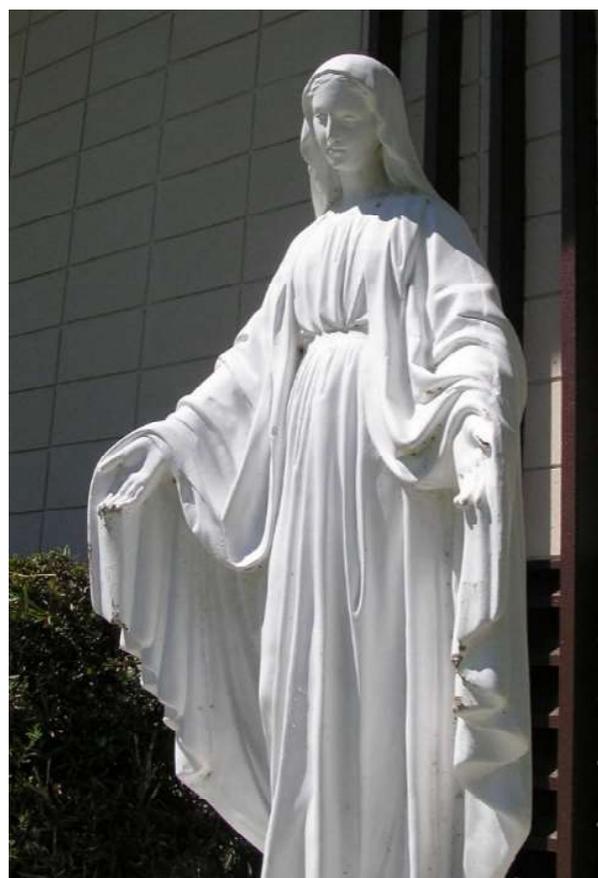
**Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida**  
**Orlando South**



On the cover: the west side of the church, with narthex. At top: The east side, facing Matchett Road – and Jerusalem.  
Above: Procession at a recent ordination service. Narthex at left; education buildings directly behind.

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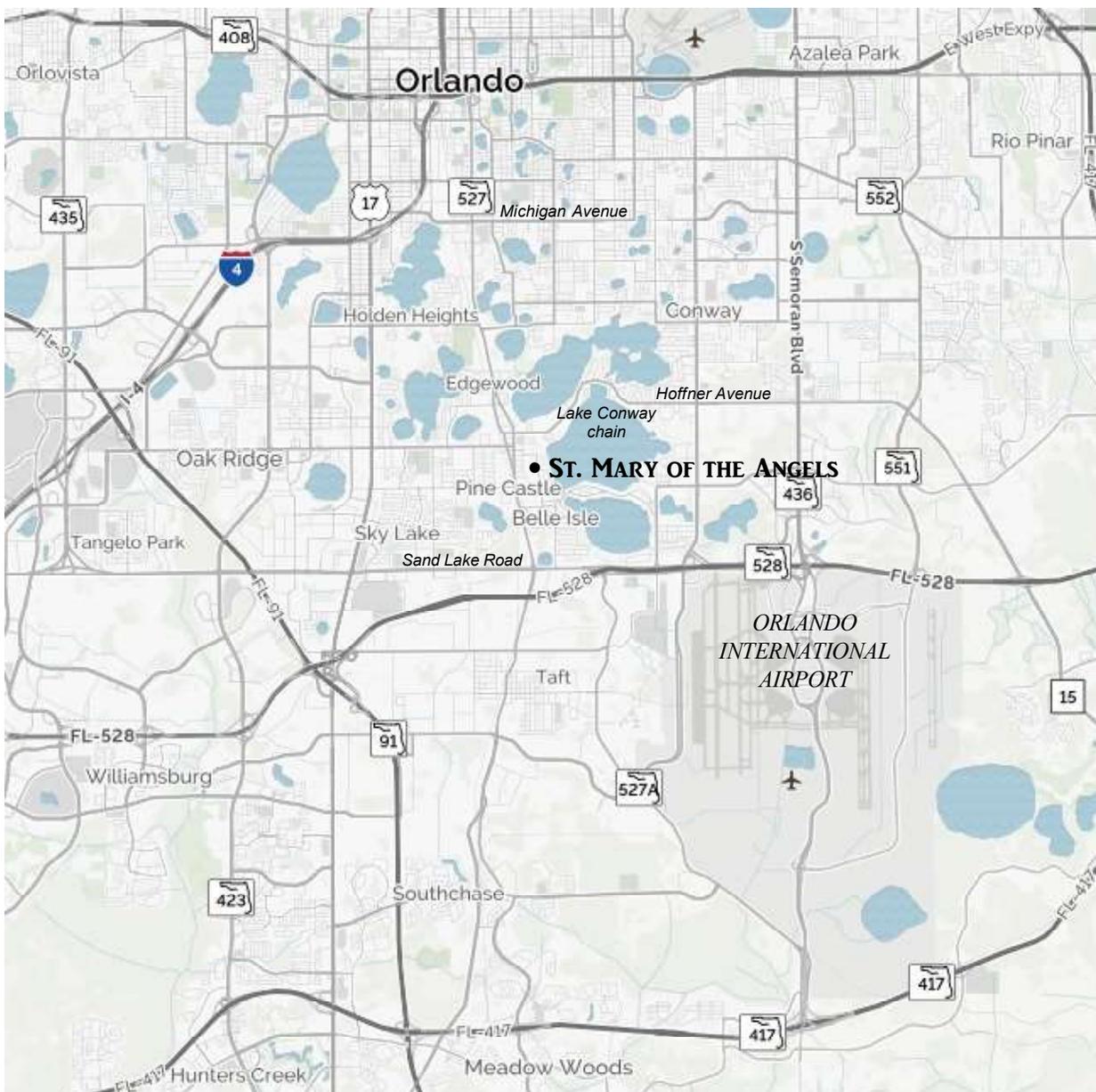


The Blessed Virgin, east side of the church.

# INTRODUCTION

**St. Mary of the Angels** is a constituent parish of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church of the United States, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. We are located **about three miles south of Orlando** in the historic community of Pine Castle, adjacent to the residential lake city of Belle Isle, at **6316 Matchett Road (32809)**. Geographically our parish is **one of the largest in Orange County**, comprising most of the area south of Michigan Avenue in the map below. We have communicants from the city of Orlando, Conway, Edgewood, Pine Castle, Belle Isle, Sky Lake, Tangelo Park, Taft, Williamsburg, and Hunters Creek.

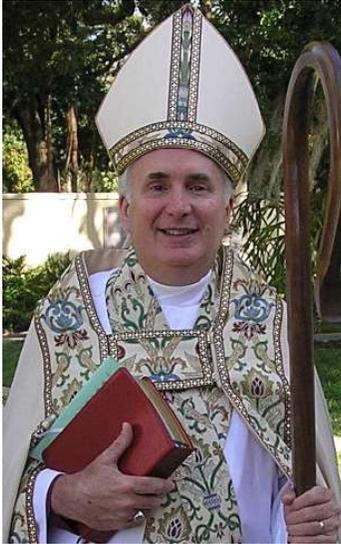
Though St. Mary of the Angels may seem “hidden” in a neighborhood, we are more than just a neighborhood church. We are a family. And we are committed to reaching far beyond our walls for the love of God and His people. We represent many cultures and bring a variety of gifts and talents. But we are joyfully united in Christ and desire to become a true center of worship, discipleship, fellowship, and prayer for our neighborhood and wider community. Through excellent worship, faithful teaching, our various programs, ministries, and our Preschool, we are committed to honoring the Godly legacy of our past while we look forward together to “marvelous things, praising Him with a new song.”



to Kissimmee

# LEADERSHIP: THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida is comprised of over 30,000 people worshipping in 73 parishes and 14 missions across 15 counties in the midsection of the Florida peninsula – from Ormond Beach, Ocala and Crystal River along the northern tier to Port St. Lucie and Okeechobee in the far south. There are five deaneries: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest. Orlando is the cathedral city. The Cathedral Church of St. Luke is located five miles north of St. Mary of the Angels.



The Right Reverend Gregory O. Brewer was consecrated the fourth bishop of Central Florida in 2012 and is canonically resident in the parish of St. Mary of the Angels – as was his predecessor, the Rt. Rev. John W. Howe (1990-2012). Bishop Brewer’s plan for his episcopacy focuses on strengthening relationships with one another so that we become, more deeply, a diocesan family; raising up new leaders, both clergy and lay; looking at our neighborhoods and facing the missionary challenge before us; and taking our place within the councils of the Episcopal Church.



## LEADERSHIP: THE PARISH

### Our Past Rector, Interim Priest, and Next Rector

St. Mary of the Angels thrived for six years under the dynamic leadership of its seventh rector, the **Rev. Andrew Petiprin** (right). A young writer, teacher, devoted priest, and member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, Father Andrew recently answered a call to the Diocese of Tennessee as Canon to the Ordinary, Bishop John Bauerschmidt.



Father Andrew lovingly prepared this parish for a time such as this, teaching us to depend fully on God’s grace and igniting a devotion to each other and to the parish.

The **Rev. Gary L’Hommedieu** (left) is God’s latest blessing to St. Mary of the Angels, accepting our invitation to serve as our interim priest. He retired in 2015 from 36 years as a parish priest in the Episcopal Church, most recently as Canon Pastor at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Orlando. Father Gary continues to serve as a hospital chaplain and has entered his Ph. D. program in sociology at the University of Central Florida.

**We seek in our next Rector** a servant leader to dwell with us and truly be part of our parish family, heartily supporting Bishop Brewer’s vision for the Diocese as a whole and our mission as a parish. We are ready to collaborate with and follow the sort of wise, prayerful leader who can bring out our diverse gifts to their utmost in the service of our Lord and the Church. While we had seen growth in our congregation in recent years, the next Rector should be prepared to equip God’s saints so that we might all respond in service, outreach, and evangelism to our local population boom. We believe that our resources and the local area are favorable to growing St. Mary of the Angels into a program size church over the next decade, and are eager to work alongside a loving Godly shepherd to lead us and care for us.

## The Vestry

While the Vestry is the legal representative of the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish and its clergy, here at St. Mary of the Angels they are much more. They are the heartbeat of the parish, seeing that all the considerations necessary to make a church family thrive are maintained strong and healthy. Their skill and dedication is evident in the harmony of our congregation and the many capital improvements we've realized in our campus and facilities.

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Carrie Hendry – Senior Warden     | Jeff Ferguson |
| Vincent Sandiford – Junior Warden | Chasse Greene |
| Dave Almstead – Treasurer         | Joe Haig      |
| Michele Guest – Secretary         |               |



Carrie Hendry  
Senior Warden



Vincent Sandiford  
Junior Warden

## The Search Committee

Comprised of a mix of relatively recent and more longtime parish members, the committee assigned to call our next rector receives the prayers of our congregation each Sunday. Most of the committee members have participated in a previous rector search. Three are former senior wardens.

*Name, and years active at St. Mary of the Angels*

|                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairman: Dave Almstead (since 1989) | Mary Peoples (since 1961)           |
| Hon. John Antoon (since 2000)        | Vincent Sandiford (since 1978)      |
| Annamaria Fiola (since 1997)         | Betsy Ulbrich (since 1989)          |
| Chasse Greene (since 2013)           | John Watts (1961-77 and since 2000) |
| Michele Guest (since 2011)           | Pauline White (since 1979)          |

## Raising Up New Leaders

Under the Rev. Petiprin, St. Mary of the Angels engaged in discernment with two young aspirants to professional Christian leadership and assisted with initial sponsorship for a third.

**Alexander Earl** (Yale University). Pastoral Assistant at St. Mary of the Angels, 2013-14. MAR, 2016. Recently married and now pursuing a PhD at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California.

**Kathryn Gillett** (Duke University). Pastoral Assistant at St. Mary of the Angels, 2014-15. MDiv expected 2018.

**Jessie Lassiter** (Nashotah House). Discernment through the Cathedral Church of St. Luke. Pastoral Assistant at St. Mary of the Angels, 2015-16. MDiv expected 2019.

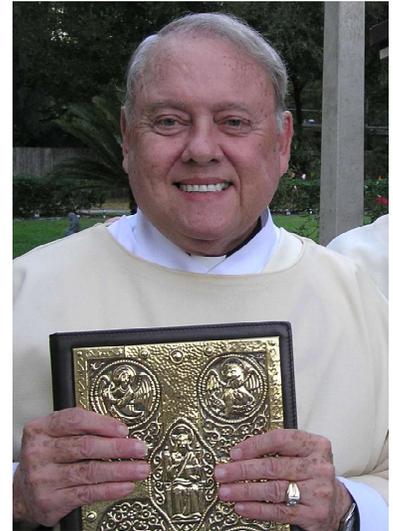


Left to right:  
Alexander Earl,  
Kathryn Gillett,  
Jessie Lassiter

## PARISH STAFF

### Deacon – Rev. James Whitten

Deacon Jim is a selfless servant, not only to our parish but to our community. In 2016 he was recognized for serving 10,000 volunteer hours as a Spiritual Care Volunteer at the Orlando Regional Medical Centers, where he visits multiple hospital locations around the city. Deacon Jim, his wife Peg and their family have attended St. Mary of the Angels since 1996. He became a deacon to our parish in 2011. We always look forward to his commanding parting commission each Sunday at the end of the 10:00 a.m. service.



### Preschool Director – Brandi Lavoie

Brandi has been working in the field of early childhood since 1995, and has been the Director at St. Mary of the Angels Preschool since 2006. Her goal is that every child leave St. Mary's loving school, excited about kindergarten and able to cope with his/her emotions in a positive way. She is responsible for the entire Preschool facility plus staff, training, compliance, curriculum and safety. Brandi has a BS in Early Education Leadership, is a member of the national Association of Episcopal Schools and is on the Board of the Central Florida Association of Episcopal Schools.

### Parish Administrator – Mary Gillett

Mary has been a parishioner at St. Mary of the Angels since 2000 and began serving as parish administrator in 2012. She is a great asset to the Rector and is dedicated to serving the Church. She is also the Director of our Altar Guild and a Daughter of the King.



### Musical Director / Organist – Douglas Spike

Doug became Music Director at St. Mary of the Angels in 2007. He collaborates extensively with the Rector in the planning and execution of a music program that is fully supportive of the parish's worship life. He maintains our strong tradition of Anglican sacred music, while also embracing the opportunity to introduce new and diverse offerings as circumstances allow. Doug is a member of the American Guild of Organists and currently serves on the Executive Council of the Central Florida Chapter.



Easter Day, 2017.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday – 8:00 a.m.** Rite I Said Eucharist

**Sunday – 10:00 a.m.** Rite II Eucharist with music

**Wednesday** (September to June) – **5:00 p.m.** healing service (Eucharist) followed by potluck supper at 5:30 and Bible study or a special Christian education series at 6:00

**Morning Prayer and Eucharist** – Tuesday and Friday (currently on hold)

**Evensong** – four times per year, Sunday at 4:00 p.m. (currently on hold)

### *Proper Liturgies and Services for Special Days*

**Ash Wednesday** – imposition of ashes (at least two services)

**Holy Week** – services Monday through Holy Saturday (Great Vigil)

**Christmas Eve** – early and late evening Eucharists

# MINISTRIES

St. Mary of the Angels is blessed with parishioners who have a generous spirit of service. Their talents are abundant and vary widely. From those that lift the Church in prayer to those that tend to the gardens, there is a love for each other and Christ that prevails.

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors

St. Mary of the Angels has enthusiastically encouraged the active participation of lay members in our services. We currently have six Lay Eucharistic Ministers who administer the chalice at Eucharist and assist with other duties during services. We have three Lay Eucharistic Visitors who take communion to our homebound parishioners and their families, as well as those in hospitals and nursing homes.



## Acolytes

Our acolyte program may be small but it is steadfast. Our young acolytes are more than competent, taking their role in the service seriously and compassionately. They serve as torch bearers, bell-ringers and sometimes assist the celebrant with sacraments at the altar.



## Lectors

The Word is the source of all wisdom. We have a team of twelve lectors who prayerfully prepare and present the Word with love and precision. They are an asset to our worship experience.

## Greeters

St. Mary of the Angels is known for its hospitality, and that begins at the front door. We have a team of fourteen volunteers who are greeters – though every member is commissioned to the welcoming committee!

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prayerfully upholds the sacred beauty of our Christian faith. They serve to glorify God and His church from preparing the sacraments, caring for the linens and vestments, to tending to every detail of services for weekday morning prayer, Sunday services, Evensong, funerals, baptisms, weddings, confirmations and ordinations. St. Mary of the Angels is fortunate to have a very skilled and dedicated team.



## The Choir

*Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing His praises from the ends of the earth!*

– Isaiah 42:10

Harmony, the perfect blend of music and the perfect blend of hearts. God's grace. St. Mary of the Angels has a dedicated choir of 10-12 vocalists led by Doug Spike, Music Director and Organist. We are blessed to occasionally enjoy the accompaniment of a violin or saxophone, both played by members of our parish. The choir performs at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Special performances are offered at Christmas and Easter seasons, as well as Evensong.

## St. Monica's Guild

St. Monica's Guild is open to all women of the church and supports ECW nationally (Episcopal Church Women). They meet monthly to simply enjoy fun and fellowship. Their annual Holiday Bake and Craft Sale is a highlight of the festive fall season. From the proceeds they are able to support the parish in many ways. They are a blessing to our congregation.



## Daughters of the King

As part of the worldwide Order, our members dedicate themselves to daily intercessory prayer for the parish. The Chapter meets monthly and has started an intercessory prayer team that is available to pray with individuals following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. In addition, DOK hosts receptions for family and friends following funeral services at the church. The Chapter currently has 15 members and a Junior DOK chapter. Our president is the Deanery Director for Junior DOK. We have a very active and enthusiastic chapter. In fact, we had the highest number of members from a single chapter represented at the 2015 Daughters of the King Triennial in Utah!



## Men on Mission / Men's Fellowship

Our men are always there for TLC (tote, load and comedy). We know we can count on them for everything from repairs to hosting amazing barbeques and picnics. They meet monthly for breakfast at a local diner.

## Daily Bread Outreach

*"When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind, and you will be blessed." – Luke 14:13-14*

Volunteers from St. Mary of the Angels serve monthly at the Christian Service Center on West Central Avenue, Orlando. Daily Bread offers a free nourishing meal to anyone in the community who is hungry, serving approximately 500 meals a day.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

This dynamic ministry has thrived over the last five years, donating more than 300 prayer shawls annually to Orlando Regional Medical Center. Chaplains and Spiritual Care Volunteers can provide comfort by presenting a shawl to patients and/or their families in their time of need. Special ones are made for Christmas (red, white and green) and veterans (red, white and blue). Each shawl is blessed, tagged with a lovely cross and includes a presentation card with a prayer from St. Mary of the Angels.





## Habitat for Humanity

We are honored and privileged to have volunteers participate in Habitat for Humanity projects. The feedback from those who volunteer is inspiring more to participate every time. We are excited about this growing ministry.

## Holiday Baskets for Shut-ins

Each Easter and Christmas volunteers prepare baskets for our shut-ins. They include gifts, homemade baked goods, fruit and candy, as well as a personalized greeting from the Rector. While our shut-ins may receive regular visits from our Lay Eucharistic Visitors, they miss seeing other members of the congregation. We emphasize this as an important opportunity to reconnect and we seldom have a shortage of volunteers to deliver some holiday cheer.

## The Julia Nation Memorial Garden

This beautiful garden was established through a gift from Edward (Ted) Nation in memory of his wife. Today it blesses the campus richly and is tended to by devoted volunteers throughout the year. Adjacent to the Rose Garden is the Memorial Garden and Columbarium, a sacred place for our departed to rest. The grounds include a beautiful statue of St. Francis and a calming water feature as well.



## St. Mary of the Angels Community Garden



This newly established community garden comes from the inspiration of Pauline White's "Garden of Eatin'," a parish garden she tended for years. Today we celebrate a new phase of that ministry – a broader community project – a place where members of the parish and our neighbors can share the excitement of growing food and enjoying the fruits of earnest labor; not just the harvest but new friendships and enriched relationships. It was funded through a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida, anticipating that this will be a place for families to grow in spirit while learning that from careful nurturing comes a beautiful and plentiful harvest.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*As it is written in the Scriptures, they will be taught by God. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him, comes to me. – John 6:45*

## Adult Education

St. Mary of the Angels has enjoyed a wide variety of programs over the past several years, ranging from a single seminar session to long in-depth studies lasting 10 weeks; done in large groups, as well as sponsoring small group studies in homes. Listed below is a synopsis of some of these programs. The interest and participation has been exciting; our congregation is hungry to learn. The **Heart of Faith** project drew 50 participants for 10 weeks. Small group studies sponsored by the church netted a total of five home study groups for two different series, **The Crucified Life** and **The Resurrected Life**. The most recent study, **War Room**, has more than 30 for a six-week series.

In addition, we have an ongoing study on Wednesday evenings following the healing mass. A potluck supper is served, after which the Rector leads a discussion on the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.

### *Study Title*

Heart of Faith  
The Eucharist  
Evangelism  
Discerning the Voice of God  
The Crucified Life  
The Resurrected Life  
C.S. Lewis: The Screwtape Letters  
C.S. Lewis: The Great Divorce  
C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity  
Paul's Letter to the Galatians  
The Catechism / Book of Common Prayer  
Study of the Prophets  
My Darkness, My Desert, My Deliverer  
War Room

### *Resources*

Utilizing the video series *Catholicism* by Bishop Robert Barron  
Video series & discussion: Bishop Robert Barron  
Video series & discussion: Bishop Robert Barron  
Video series & discussion: Priscilla Shirer  
Video series & discussion: Rev. Charlie Holt  
Video series & discussion: Rev. Charlie Holt  
Group discussion led by Fr. Andrew Petiprin  
Group discussion led by Fr. Andrew Petiprin  
Group discussion led by Fr. Andrew Petiprin  
Study led by Katie Gillett, Seminarian  
Discussion led by Fr. Andrew Petiprin  
Discussion led by Fr. Andrew Petiprin  
Presented by Fr. Jerry De Jesus  
Motion picture & 6-week study: Priscilla Shirer

## Childhood Education / Nursery

*Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings. – Psalm 17:8*

St. Mary of the Angels has a Preschool associated with the parish and located on our campus. Most of the children that belong to the church are present or former attendants of the preschool. In addition, we have offered **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** curriculum and have all the materials required for the program. Currently we do not have a facilitator who is trained to teach Catechesis. We provide nursery care and Sunday School for both services on Sunday.





## ST. MARY'S PRESCHOOL

St. Mary of the Angels has been educating the smallest learners for more than 50 years in the Pine Castle-Belle Isle area of Orlando. They strive to instill a love of learning, as well as integrating important life lessons into the daily curriculum. The curriculum targets all areas of a child's development; and allows teachers to individualize lessons for their students. A low student-to-teacher ratio, dedication to each child, and family involvement gives students the foundation to achieve success throughout their school careers.

Developmentally appropriate classes are offered for children ages 2-4 years old. St. Mary's Preschool is also a **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)** provider. This allows for all Florida residents with children that are age 4 by September 1st to participate in a quality Pre-Kindergarten program free of charge.

We use the **Beyond Centers and Circle Time Curriculum** in the 2- and 3-year-old classes; and **Nemours BrightStart** in our VPK classes. It is a theme-and-play-based curriculum that focuses on the whole child's development including spiritual, emotional/social, cognitive, and gross motor development.

In addition to these curricula, we incorporate a developmentally appropriate handwriting curriculum in our Pre-K4 classes – **Handwriting Without Tears** ([www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com)). This program is a wonderful way to teach children handwriting skills in a fun and age-appropriate way.

The Preschool and Church work together to minister to the larger community. The Rector leads weekly Chapel for the preschool in the church, leading prayers and sharing a short Bible story. In the past, the Rector has attended many preschool events, providing an opportunity for the families to become familiar with him. The students always love seeing the Rector on campus.

St. Mary of the Angels Church has been considered "home" to many families over the years, those who were members of other churches and some who did not have a church home. One of the Director's favorite stories is of a family who asked Fr. Andrew to provide a memorial service for the grandmother of one of the students. They didn't have a

church home but chose to celebrate the life of their loved one here where they felt welcome and safe. St. Mary's has also baptized many of the students from the preschool whom, likewise, did not have a church home. It is truly a part of this community. "The Preschool and Church are connected to the larger community sharing God's love and message in ways outside of the building on Sunday mornings," says Brandi Lavoie, Preschool Director.





St. Mary of the Angels is an eating church! Above, Thanksgiving lunch in the parish hall, 2013.

## FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

St. Mary of the Angels has a long record of big-time fellowship activities. Twice-yearly barbecues have given way in recent years to more thematic celebrations (Caribbean lunches, “Mystery” dinners, Parish School kickoffs; Thanksgiving lunches) and an annual fall festival, which is open to the community.

St. Mary of the Angels’ annual **Fall Festival**, usually held near the end of October, is a favorite family-focused outreach to our immediate community. The Fall Festival features bounce houses, story-telling, arts and crafts, visits by local fire and police and, of course, food – better yet, free food! There is no charge for the festival and we stay busy with guests from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The casual **dinner on the grounds**, fun for everyone, style of the Fall Festival draws between 100 and 150 visitors and attendance is growing year over year. As visitors enter the festival, they are greeted and given a goodie bag which includes information about our church, our service times, outreach opportunities and educational offerings. Volunteerism for the Fall Festival is robust among parishioners, making this event a highlight for both the parish and the community.



Among the newer initiatives in the past year or two: a **Veterans Day** celebration with a parish hall display of vintage photographs and articles showing how members of our parish family have served in the various branches of our military. Another new event was **Get to Meet Your Pewmate** where our parishioners were invited to bring in and display some of the things they do the rest of the week, such as crafts, hobbies and things we spend our time on. Finally we've had a **Wedding Celebration** where we shared pictures and mementoes from our family weddings. The goal of these events was to celebrate our diversity and get to know a little more about those we worship with each Sunday.

## Quiet Day

*Silence is the language of deeper, infused prayer that the Holy Spirit gives to God's children who hunger and thirst for his word. Ultimately it is the ability to live in mystery. For those who enter into this mystery there is real communication, deep love, healing and growing maturity.*

– George A. Mahoney

Quiet Day is a day for personal experience. There are five locations around the campus to spend whatever time one chooses. Each location is centered on a particular topic: Forgiveness, Prayer, Seasons of Life, Relationship with God, and Hope. Our youth group draws a labyrinth in the parking area which serves as one of the stations. The garden chimes are rung at the intervals to signal a time to move to another location, which is optional. Otherwise, the experience is in silence. Each station has cards that include scriptures and a place for personal notes. It is our prayer that participants discover the beauty of solitude and the joy of intimate communion with our Lord.



# FACILITIES



At left: the rectory. Above: the kitchen and a bathroom were completely remodeled in 2011.

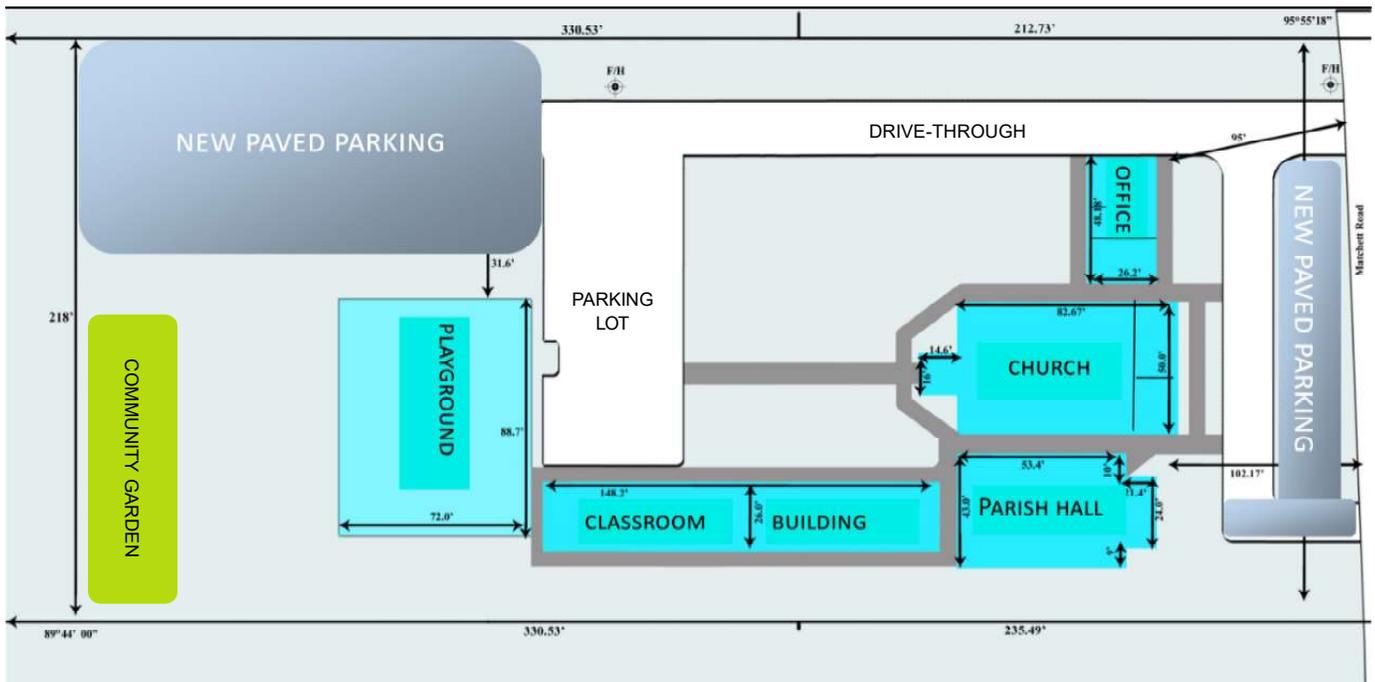
## The Rectory

7142 Lake Drive, Belle Isle, FL is a single-family home that contains 1,308 sq ft built in 1955 with hardwood floors and sits on a beautiful treed lot. It contains 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, has central air conditioning/heating and a 1-car garage. Located on the west side of Lake Drive facing South Lake Conway, it is within walking distance of the lake pier at compact Bateman Park (about 1/2 acre).

## The Church Campus

The campus includes four main buildings: church administration, sanctuary, parish hall and preschool. **The administration building** (St. Anne's House) has a separate entrance on the front side of the property and houses a private office for the priest, work space for the Church Administrator, a bathroom, and storage area. **The sanctuary** is lovely, simple and inviting. The pews can seat at least 180 people without feeling jammed, with an **organ** and **elevated choir area** at the west end which can accommodate 15 or more. Behind the **altar** at the east end is a well-equipped **sacristy** and a private **parlor** which is used for small meetings and as a family gathering space for funerals. There is a beautiful selection of vestments for every season of the church.

Connected by a covered walkway is the **parish hall** (interior photo, page 15). The main common area was renovated in 2015. The parish hall serves many functions for our church and community. Almost every Sunday there is an abundant offering of coffee and refreshments following the 10:00 a.m. service. It is used for dinners throughout the year as well as bible study classes. The preschool utilizes the facility for occasions such as holiday parties, teacher-parent orientation, school book fairs and other special events throughout the year. Various community organizations hold meetings in the parish hall including AA, Al-Anon, Pine Castle Garden Club and the Barbados Association, to name a few.



St. Mary of the Angels Campus

The **education wing** (labeled “classroom building” above; see page 2, bottom photo) is a one- and two-story classroom facility with two children’s Sunday school rooms on the second floor and at least three preschool classes on the first floor. In addition, the music/choir room is located on the first floor of the wing. Nursery facilities for Sunday worship services are provided in one of the preschool classrooms.

The grounds are beautifully appointed with several gardens and respite areas previously described. The campus is a lovely property nestled in the historic community of Pine Castle.

## THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Location

As stated earlier, St. Mary of the Angels Episcopal Church is nestled in the community of **Pine Castle**, just across the street from the city of **Belle Isle**. Pine Castle, a variously zoned community, was settled about the same time as Orlando during the 1860s, and residential Belle Isle was incorporated around Lake Conway in 1924.

There are many events to enjoy in this locality, such as the **Edgewood Farmer’s Market** where you can be entertained by great music, experience a food truck adventure, get fresh local produce and just simply relax! In addition, there are many local festivals throughout the year such as **Pioneer Days** and **Ductoberfest**. This is a wonderful family community.

As Florida’s largest inland city, Orlando is one of the top tourist spots in the United States. Popular attractions include three major theme parks and a slew of water parks and outdoor recreational areas geared at young families and adventurous adults. We are a mere one to two hours from beaches to the east and west.



## Parks and Recreation

**Belle Isle’s parks** are perfect for recreational activities including picnics, exercising, dog walking, bicycling, etc. There are ten parks in Belle Isle and four public boat ramps with access to the Conway chain of lakes.

**Warren Park**, the largest, offers several picnic tables under large shady oaks, playing fields, tennis courts, a children’s play area, and swimming on the north shore of South Lake Conway.

## Schools and Colleges

The closest school is **Cornerstone Academy** in Pine Castle; K-8 and 9-12 Charter Schools, both rated “A” in the 2015-16 academic year by the Florida Department of Education. The **Trinity Preparatory School**, affiliated with the Episcopal Church, is located in Winter Park, just north of Orlando. The **University of Central Florida** in Orlando East is one of the largest public state universities in the United States. **Rollins College** in Winter Park is a venerable liberal arts institution, and **Valencia College**, a public state institution in Orlando, was named the top community college in the United States by the Aspen Institute in 2012. Several smaller colleges and trade schools have campuses throughout the area.

## Entertainment

In addition to the many theme parks, we have a state-of-the-art performing arts center, an arena, and sports stadium. Basketball and soccer have major league franchises here. There is a thriving and eclectic arts scene. Venues include the **Orlando Museum of Art**, the **Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Amway Arena**, **Morse Museum** (world’s largest collection of Tiffany stained glass), and many more. The city has a major public arts program as well. Orlando is also home to the Orlando Ballet, Broadway Series, Orlando Symphony, the Shakespeare Festival, Orlando Film Festival and the Orlando Fringe Festival (a weeklong event featuring independent plays), just to name a few. Close by is a vineyard and we have a thriving micro-brew culture. Any “foodie” will be happy in Orlando, with featured chefs opening restaurants all over the city.



## Transportation

The closest aviation facility, **Orlando International Airport**, is only a 10-minute drive from Belle Isle. Airport noise is virtually nonexistent, apart from infrequent reroutes around bad weather. **Orlando-Sanford Airport** is an easy 30 miles to the north, and has several regional carriers. There is an **Amtrak** station five miles north, and the **Sunrail Commuter Rail** station is in Pine Castle. One mile away is the entrance to State Road 528, which is a straight line east to the beaches and west to the theme parks and the Interstate 4 corridor.

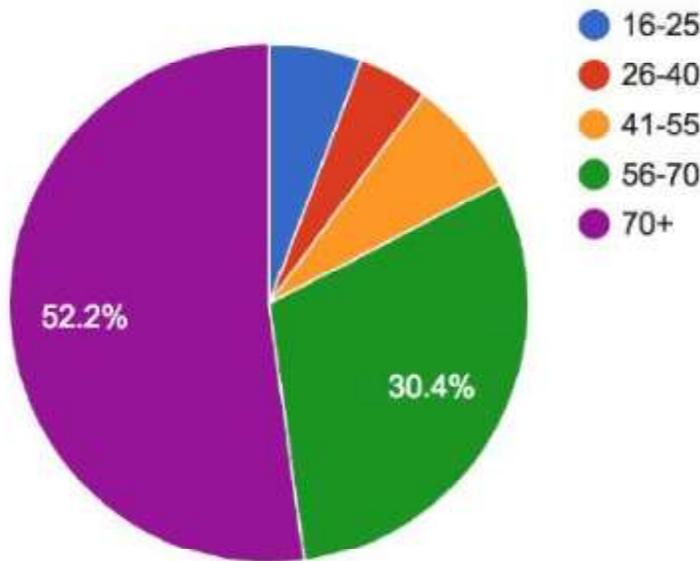
## Hospitals

**Orlando Regional Medical Center** is an 808-bed hospital in downtown Orlando and home to Central Florida’s only level one trauma center. On the campus are five major facilities including the University of Florida Health Cancer Center with the most advanced proton technology available, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, and Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. Just 12 miles away is one of the region’s newest gems. It’s been called a new chapter in Orlando’s history: the 650-acre health and life sciences park known as **Lake Nona Medical City**. The park is anchored by the University of Central Florida Health Sciences Campus, the Orlando VA Medical Center, Nemours Children’s Hospital, and a University of Florida Academic and Research Center.

# 2017 PARISH SURVEY

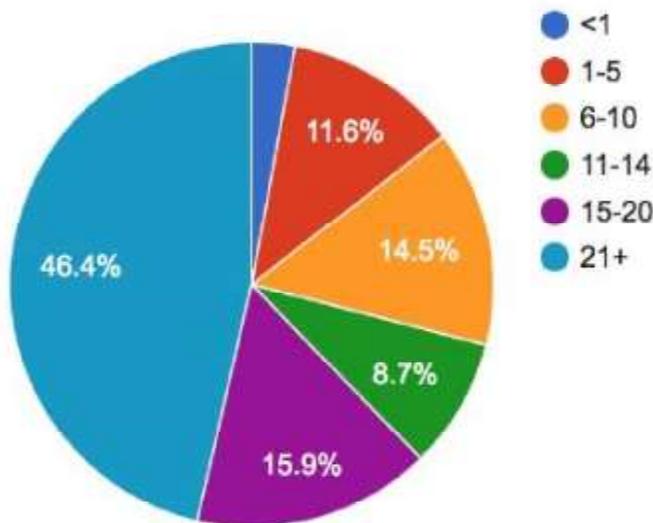
This survey of our congregation was open from mid-August through September of 2017. All adults (age 16+) were eligible to participate. Selected results are presented in charts on the next three pages along with some additional knowledge.

## Age Distribution



As with many Episcopal churches, more than half of our congregation is older with 57% retired, while 1 of 4 are employed full-time.

## Years Attended



Slightly more than 25% of our current congregation began attending in the last ten years. More than 60 percent have been attending for at least 15 years, and therefore experienced our last three or more rectors.

# 2017 PARISH SURVEY

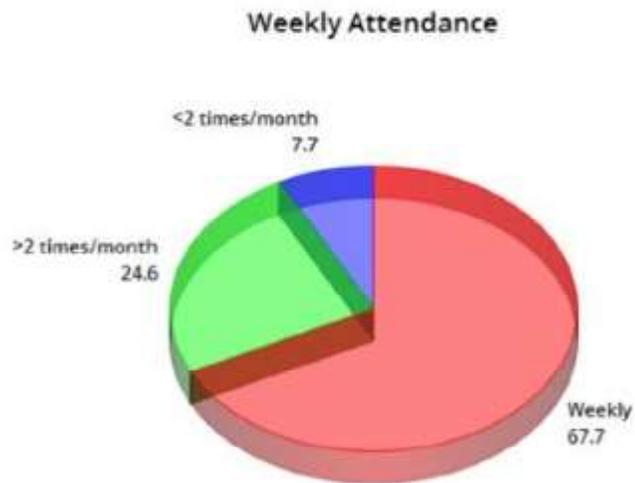
## Members Baptized and Confirmed



Almost all of our survey respondents are baptized, and a huge majority are confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Confirmations usually occur every two years, with classes preceding the visitation of the Bishop.

## Weekly Attendance

More than two-thirds of our parishioners attend services weekly. It is possible that sporadic attendees are underrepresented in the survey.

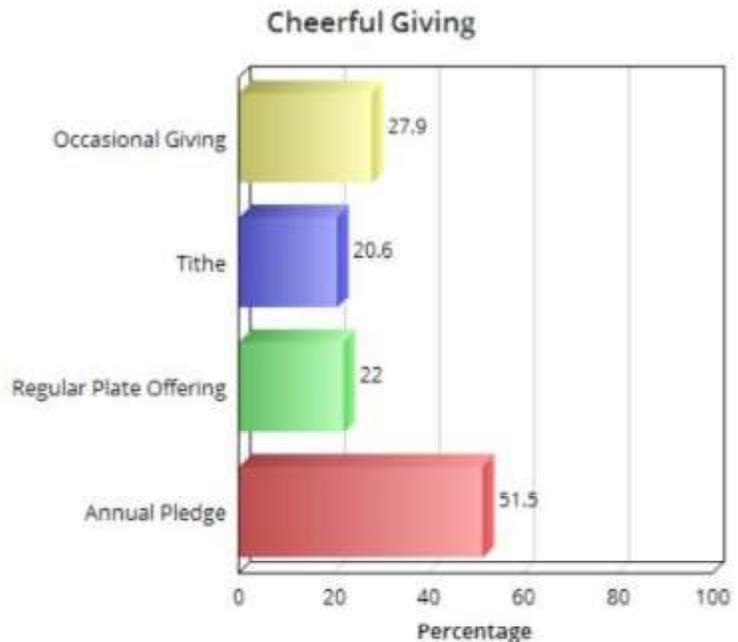
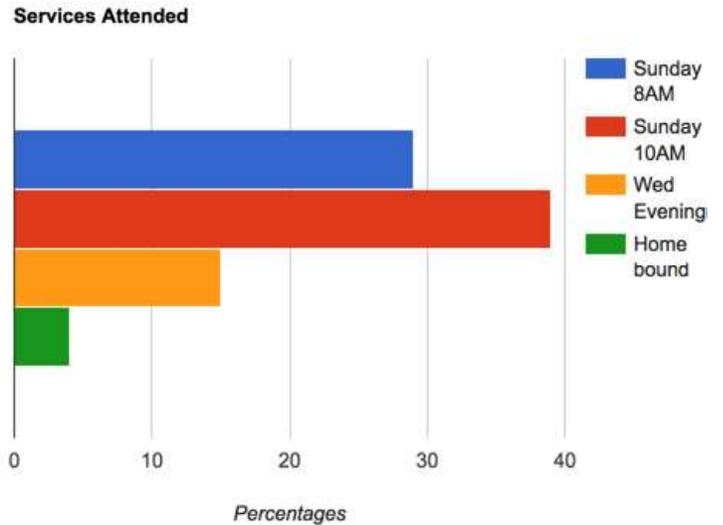


# 2017 PARISH SURVEY

## Attendance (continued) and Financial Support

Since June 2017, when Can. Petiprin commenced his new ministry in the Diocese of Tennessee, attendance at our 10:00 a.m. Sunday service has declined while attendance at the 8:00 a.m. service has held steady. This trend is similar to the interim periods our parish experienced in 2005-06 and 2010-11. From 2012 through 2014 attendance at our 10:00 a.m. service was in the range of 90 to 110. Ordinary departures (relocation, disability, mortality) exceeding new arrivals reduced the usual attendance to 75-85 by early 2017. Easter Day 2017 attendance at 10:00 a.m. was 159. Weekly attendance at 8:00 a.m. is typically 35-45. The Wednesday services with potluck supper and Bible study can draw up to twenty participants, an improvement from the prior decade. The periodic Sunday Evensongs, instituted by the Rev. Petiprin, typically drew about 20-25 and were judged a success.

A majority of our parishioners provide financial support through the annual pledge. While only a fifth of survey respondents report tithing, anecdotal knowledge suggests that our giving as a percentage of income is above average nationally. Our non-pledging givers tend to be steadfast in their support. Total annual giving has consistently exceeded \$200,000 in this decade through 2016.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS



Four years before his consecration as a bishop, Can. Hargrave planted our parish.

During the 1950s the population of Orange County more than doubled. The Episcopal Church acted to meet this remarkable growth by planting several missions. St. Mary of the Angels was one of these, founded by Episcopalians desiring the church's presence in the South Orlando area. The Rev. Canon William Hargrave, executive secretary to Bishop Henry Louttit of the former Diocese of South Florida, personally planted the mission along with members of the downtown Cathedral Church living in this area.

**Mission years.** The first worship service was held April 28, 1957 at the Pine Castle Woman's Club. Ten months later the small group acquired and relocated to its present property on Matchett Road in Pine Castle, worshipping in a converted residential house. Sunday school was taught in a disused chicken coop. Early growth was rapid as the local defense industry and McCoy Air Force base flourished. A second acquisition of adjacent property enabled St. Mary's Preschool to open in 1960. The rectory on Lake Drive in Belle Isle was acquired in 1961.

**Campus growth.** The church received parish status in May 1963, and in October construction commenced

for the present church building which opened Palm Sunday, 1964. The large pecky cypress cross over the altar was installed in 1967. The parish hall and annex (education wing) were completed in 1970 and the memorial garden established in 1975. Mortgages on all church property were paid off by 1982. Additions continued in the 1980s: a two-story education building extending the annex, and the narthex at the church entrance replacing two sets of double doors. Stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary in 1990; the chancel was enlarged in 2003 (tiles replacing red carpet in 2015); a columbarium was added to the memorial garden in 2010; a new pulpit was installed in 2013; and paved parking was expanded considerably in 2016.



The Rev. Leroy Soper was our first full-time priest.

**Ministries.** Over the decades St. Mary of the Angels has initiated and supported many Christian ministries to the homeless, children and youth, students, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, and the poor. We have received families fleeing persecution in other lands (Cuba, South Vietnam, Sudan) and sponsored church growth in the Diocese of Honduras. In the 1970s Bishop Hugo Pina-Lopez of Honduras named his largest new church Santa Maria de los Angeles after ours. Our parish had a Hispanic mission congregation from 1996 to 2008 and again from 2011 to 2016, both planted with the late Rev. Aquilino Vinas. We look to commence a third mission in the future, in recognition of the significant Hispanic population of this parish.

All of our priests have made a positive contribution to spreading the kingdom of the Lord. While challenged with local economic changes and broader demographic transitions in this century, we nonetheless look forward to doing "marvelous things, praising Him with a new song" (after Hymn 412) in this growing region.

**Further reading.** A more detailed history of our parish was compiled and published privately in 2000. Ruth Linton's *Pine Castle: a Walk Down Memory Lane* (1993), available from the Orlando public library, provides valuable perspective on our local history. Any priest new to the state or the Diocese of Central Florida is strongly encouraged to consult Joseph Cushman's two-volume history of the Episcopal Church in Florida (*A Goodly Heritage, 1821-1892; The Sound of Bells, 1892-1969*), available through the diocese or the Orlando library. In many ways, Cushman's work is like our Book of Acts!

# Pastors of St. Mary of the Angels Episcopal Church

| name                                 | tenure             | notes  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Rev. Can. William L. Hargrave</b> | <b>1957 – 1958</b> | <b>1st Vicar</b> (part-time); Canon to the Ordinary, South Fla 1953-61, Bishop Suffragan of So Fla 1961-69, Bishop of SW Fla 1969-75 |
| <b>Rev. Alfred L. Durrance</b>       | <b>1958 – 1959</b> | <b>2nd Vicar</b> (part-time); Rector, Maitland Good Shepherd 1964-68, Rector, Ocala Grace 1968-81; renowned for healing ministry     |
| <b>Rev. Leroy D. Soper, Jr.</b>      | <b>1959 – 1964</b> | <b>3rd Vicar</b> (1st full-time) 1959-63; <b>1st Rector</b> 1963-64; Rector, Sanford Holy Cross 1964-86                              |
| <b>Rev. Charles F. Caldwell</b>      | <b>1964 – 1966</b> | <b>2nd Rector</b> , later a professor of theology at Nashotah House  |
| <b>Rev. Lisle B. Caldwell</b>        | <b>1966 – 1973</b> | <b>3rd Rector</b> , unrelated to Charles Caldwell  |
| <b>Rev. A. Robert Rizner</b>         | <b>1973 – 1995</b> | <b>4th Rector</b>  |
| Rev. Michael T. Stichweh             | 1995 – 1996        | Interim Pastor (12 months)   |
| <b>Rev. Arthur L. Dasher IV</b>      | <b>1996 – 2005</b> | <b>5th Rector</b>  |
| Rev. Richard E. Grant                | 2005 – 2006        | Priest in Charge (12 months)   |
| Rev. Dr. Lloyd L. Olsen, Jr.         | 2006               | Priest in Charge (6 months)  |
| <b>Rev. John J. Leahy</b>            | <b>2006 – 2010</b> | <b>6th Rector</b>  |
| Rev. Dr. Leander J. Ecola            | 2010 – 2011        | Priest in Charge (12 months)   |
| <b>Rev. Andrew K. Petiprin</b>       | <b>2011 – 2017</b> | <b>7th Rector</b> , now Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Tennessee  |
| Rev. J. Gary L'Hommedieu             | 2017 –             | Interim Pastor   |

## Assistant and Associate Priests

|                                 |             |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Rev. John P. Wilkins            | 1963 – 1967 | Assisting Priest (retired) for our first three Rectors |
| Rev. Charles E. White           | 1973 – 1980 | Associate (retired) for Rev. Rizner                    |
| Very Rev. Osborne R. Littleford | 1976 – 1987 | Associate (retired Cathedral Dean) for Rev. Rizner     |
| Rev. Carl A. Hoch               | 1983 – 1993 | Associate (retired) for Rev. Rizner                    |
| Rev. Colbert M. Norville        | 1998 – 2005 | Assisting Priest for Rev. Dasher                       |
| Rev. Geraldo (Jerry) De Jesus   | 2014 – 2016 | Assisting Priest for Rev. Petiprin                     |

## Vocational Deacons

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Rev. Peter B. Brigham     | 1972 – 2014 |
| Rev. Benjamin "Pete" Wait | 1975 – 1977 |
| Rev. John (Jack) Stevens  | 1980 – 1982 |
| Rev. Alton B. Witham      | 1997 – 1999 |
| Rev. Marianne M. Ball     | 1997 – 2010 |
| Rev. Edward R. Horton     | 2000 – 2010 |
| Rev. Karen E. Howe        | 2004 – 2009 |
| Rev. James A. Whitten     | 2011 –      |

## Hispanic Mission Priests

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Rev. Aquilino Vinas      | 1996 – 1998 |
| Rev. Oscar D. Carroza    | 1998 – 2005 |
| Rev. Roberto Morales     | 2003 – 2006 |
| Rev. Raul Rubiano        | 2006 – 2008 |
| Rev. Aquilino Vinas      | 2011 – 2014 |
| Rev. Geraldo J. de Jesus | 2014 – 2016 |

## Haitian Mission Priest

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Rev. Gabriel Tassy | 2005 – 2006 |
|--------------------|-------------|

## Episcopal Priests Who Grew Up at St. Mary of the Angels

Very Rev. David Peoples, ordained in 2000, is Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lakeland, Florida, and Dean of the Southwest Deanery of the Diocese of Central Florida.

Rev. Elizabeth Hendrick, ordained in 2009, is Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Snellville, Georgia in the Diocese of Atlanta.



The original house church on Matchett Road was used for worship services from 1958 to 1964.



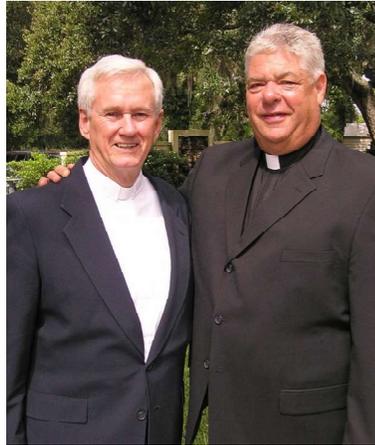
Confirmation class in 1965; with Bishop Henry Louttit in the rear at left, and the Rev. Charles Caldwell behind the girl on the far right.



The Rev. Lisle Caldwell



The Rev. Robert Rizner



The Rev. Arthur Dasher and the Rev. John Leahy



The Rev. Andrew Petiprin with the Rt. Rev. John Howe



Father Rizner performs a baptism, 1988.



Eucharistic participants, 2005.