



# St. George's Episcopal Church

Brooklyn, NY

Rector Search

# Our Parish

“St. George’s Protestant Episcopal Church in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn is one of New York City’s distinguished Victorian Gothic structures. On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that St. George’s Protestant Episcopal Church as a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City, thus making St. George’s Episcopal Church, Brooklyn a Historical Landmark.” (Commission Report, January 11, 1977)

Established in 1869, our parish has been a cornerstone of spiritual life in the community for over 150 years. We are a diverse congregation representing various backgrounds, ages, and life experiences. Our parish is actively involved in community outreach programs, including food drives, homeless shelters, and support for marginalized groups. We offer a range of ministries and activities, including youth groups, bible study, and social justice initiatives. Our worship services blend traditional elements with contemporary expressions of faith, fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.



Photo taken inside SGC Sanctuary

## Our Mission & Vision

*“We, the baptized of St. George’s Episcopal Church, following the command of our Lord, seek “to restore the Last, the Least and the Lost in unity with God and each other in Christ through Fellowship, Worship, Education, Discipleship, Outreach, Care Giving and Evangelism.” (Revised May 2010)*

*To Gather all God’s people into the Body of Christ, to Nurture individuals to become living, growing disciples of Jesus Christ, and to Equip them for ministry and mission in the world.*

# Who We Are

St. George's has a deep history rooted in the Anglican traditions of music, prayer, and mission to our broader community. We are a multicultural, multigenerational, inclusive, and welcoming congregation in the heart of Bedford Stuyvesant. Our members are made up of 60% senior adults (65+), 28% middle-aged adults (35-64), 4.8% young adults (18-34), and 7.2% youth and children. Our membership is 98% Black and 2% White as of 2023.

We hold Holy Sung Eucharist worship services every Sunday at 10 AM from September to June. In July and August, we offer Holy Said Eucharist at 10 AM. We use both Rite 1 and Rite 2 services throughout the liturgical year as appropriate to the seasons. We encourage regular attendance to our Sunday services, which includes our streaming services provided on both YouTube and Facebook. Every service concludes with prayer for those celebrating birthdays and/or wedding anniversaries, those traveling, and those desiring special blessings. It is a moment in our service that draws us closer as a community and fosters a sense of spiritual, emotional, and physical care.

Our prayer ministry provides similar support, allowing congregants to have their concerns or blessings lifted in prayer. The music in our services uplifts our congregation - we use the 1982 Hymnal as well as Lift Every Voice And Sing to reflect the cultural heritage of our present parishioners. Additionally, we provide a coffee hour after the service to encourage fellowship.



Photo taken Mother's Day 2024

# Life at St. George

We are a vibrant community, full of ministries catering to our parishioners and our community.



Sunday School Black History Presentation



Chancel Choir with Organist & Choirmaster



St. Luke's Guild Mammogram Screening



Ushers



Brotherhood of St. Andrew Food Pantry

- Mother's Union
- Episcopal Church Women
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- Men's Dav Committee
- Sunday School
- Chancel Choir
- Blessed Mother's Soup Kitchen
- Visitation Group
- Altar Guild
- Patronal Festival
- Founder's Day
- Acolytes
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- International Day
- St. Luke's Guild
- Usher Board

# 5 Things That Define Us



ECW Tea Party 2024



## History

*We unify the traditions of the Episcopal Church with the historic community of Bedford Stuyvesant and its surrounding neighborhoods. Our dynamic community is poised to welcome new congregants while nurturing the legacy members of the church.*



## Diversity

*Our parish is multinational, multicultural, and intergenerational. We value inclusivity and are welcoming to all people.*



## Outreach

*We have a tradition of providing hot meals through the Our Blessed Mothers Union Soup Kitchen and the St. Martin de Porres breakfast programs. Our Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter distributes groceries weekly. The St. Luke's Guild regularly run informational health programs and host yearly screenings for various illnesses.*



## Music

*Our Sunday services are full of song! Our state-of-the-art organ and vocal assistants, join our choir and congregants in making a joyful noise unto the Lord every week.*



## Dedication

*The core of our parish life is in the life-long dedication of our church members who continually choose to show up for God, the church, and each other in service and in love.*

# Our Challenges

St. George's is not unique in comparison to the broader church when it comes to the challenges we face looking toward our future. Our areas of concern were heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been areas of discussion with our current and former vestry.

- Ensuring permanent financial stability for the future of our church to truly live out our mission to the broader Bedford Stuyvesant Community.
- Membership: Demographic shifts in our neighborhood have made St. George's primarily a commuter church, and we need to attract new members from our immediate vicinity. We also need to keep our youth engaged once they graduate high school and reach out to past members and invite them back into the fold. (Demographics, retention, and ongoing engagement)
- Utilize Our Space: Our buildings are presently underutilized and could support more vital ministry, outreach, and community programming if we invest time and money into them.
- Maintaining Our Property: Our church is a New York City Designated Landmark and, on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. So, there is significant administrative burden associated with managing it.
- Stewardship: How do we get current and new members to give back some of their treasure with which God has blessed them? A commitment of all member's time, talent, and treasures is needed to maintain the buildings, community, and services of St. George's for future generations to worship and continue our mission in the community.
- Preparing for Disaster: the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of proactively developing comprehensive emergency plans that address mass communication with our parish, work from home policies and capacity for our employees, clergy, and lay volunteers, and support modernization efforts.



# Our Opportunities

Our greatest opportunities lie in the strength of our past that we can bring to the future. We see, and appreciate, the tremendous value in the depth and breadth of knowledge held by our lifelong congregants who continue to support us in many ways. Their wisdom and social connections can be harnessed to grow St. George's into the powerhouse it historically has been.

We are in a section of Bed-Stuy that is blossoming with new neighbors of diverse backgrounds and businesses of all kinds. We fully own our buildings and parking lot in this vibrant area where we can provide communal space and service our community at large, while also utilizing the properties as a source of income.

Our music ministry and new organ are also ripe with possibilities for expanding our concert offerings and other creative uses (providing rehearsal space for organists, hosting external arts groups, etc.)

We have kept up with advances in technology and are preparing to further improve our streaming capacity so that we can continue to spread the word of God in the digital age.



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# The Rector We Seek

The people of St. George's Church, Brooklyn, NY, seek a rector who will continue to build upon the rich traditions we hold dear and expand our ministry in ways we have yet to tap into. We desire a priest who:

- Has Compassion for **ALL** God's people.
- Is Committed to doing the work God has commissioned our parish to do.
- Leads with Humility and Graciousness to Unify the Parish.
- Counsels parishioners with empathy and discretion.
- Has Administrative expertise that can be applied with Pragmatism and Creativity.
- Will Teach the Bible in direct connection to our present lives.
- Provides Pastoral Care to people in all stages of life across all demographics.



## Our Vestry

**Wardens:** Raymond Leconte\*, Gabrielle Boatswain

**Treasurer:** Joyce Henry **Assistant Treasurer:** Freda Bacchus

**Clerk:** Averille LeGall **Assistant Clerk:** Lindsay Brents

**Members:** Sandra Padmore-Lewis, Natasha Radix\*, Charmaine Alleyne, Jeffrey Gardner, Heather Moseley

\* Not pictured

# Our Neighborhood

Bedford-Stuyvesant has a rich history and culture as a center of African American life in Brooklyn. Long-standing small businesses throughout the neighborhood create a strong sense of community and connection to residents, with many business owners living in the neighborhood. Those businesses boast a significant number of minority and women-owned industries among them that reflect the African American, Caribbean, and Hispanic culture of the area.

With six subway lines and eight bus routes serving it, Bed-Stuy is easily accessible by public transportation. It is home to multiple community development corporations, many of which were formed by local activists combating institutional neglect in the 1970s, that are dedicated to supporting the neighborhood. The built environment is composed of lots of beautiful historic brownstone architecture and walkable streetscapes.

This information is drawn from the latest [Bedford-Stuyvesant - Commercial District Needs Assessment](#). You can find a complete copy at the end of this document.



**BEDSTUY BID**

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**BEDFORD AVENUE**

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**Restoration Plaza – Billie Holiday Theater**

Photo Credit: Susan De Vries from Brownstoner.com

# Our Buildings

**800 Marcy Avenue  
Sanctuary**



Worship space where weekend and weekday worship services are held.

**Marcy Avenue  
Parking Lot**



Adjacent parking lot accommodating ~ 15 vehicles.

# Our Buildings

**452 Gates Avenue  
Residential/ Commercial**



Fully occupied building, with three residential apartments and a commercial space used as an art space for children.

**454 Gates Avenue  
Parish Offices**



Currently location of parish offices, parish hall extension and library. We are actively working to reimagine floors two through four as future apartments with a potential rectory. The parish offices will likely relocate to the library on the ground floor for easier accessibility.

**456 Gates Avenue  
Parish Hall**



Our commercial kitchen and parish hall function well. However, both need updates to accommodate growing needs of our soup kitchen and to allow for more rentable space of our hall.