

# Parish Profile

## for Church of the Holy Spirit (Anglican), Leesburg, Virginia

[www.HolySpiritLeesburg.org](http://www.HolySpiritLeesburg.org)

**INTRODUCTION:** Church of the Holy Spirit (“CHS”) is an Anglican Church in the evangelical and charismatic traditions. We are known for our lively blended worship experiences, loving embrace of one another, healing prayer ministry, as well as our mentoring and teaching ministries. We are at the northwestern edge of the Washington DC metroplex, in the Dulles tech corridor, in the fast-growing, wealthiest, and most highly educated county in the US - Loudoun County, Virginia. We are part of the Anglican Church in North America (“ACNA”), in the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic.

**ABOUT US:** Our **distinctive** is that we are a Three Streams church – evangelical, charismatic, and sacramental. We encourage everyone, both individually and corporately, to use and be trained in both scripture and spiritual gifts. We strive to embody the adage “in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.” Regarding essentials we are conservative regarding divisive social issues; regarding non-essentials, we generally embrace and celebrate our differences and are quite diverse in many ways, including age, race, nationality, economics, politics, and some points of doctrine. During Sunday service we have people who dress up and those who dress down. While we lean toward contemporary music, we also sing traditional music. We genuinely like each other and exhibit rich and vibrant fellowship before, during, after, and outside of worship.

Our convictions behind our statements regarding Vision, Mission, and Strategy have truly shaped our culture. Our **vision** is to be an Acts 2 church, like the first church in Jerusalem. Our **mission** is to invite nations and generations to experience God’s love and power. We are an “experiencing God church.” Our **strategy** is to “Connect, Grow, and Go!”; Connect (with God and church through worship and prayer); Grow (deeper in discipleship and equipping); and Go (on mission, in evangelism and service). Our **values** are: loving God and neighbors; embracing the manifest power of the Holy Spirit; following the Bible as our infallible authority; emphasizing conversion and holiness; equipping for ministry and supporting in prayer; and finally, authenticity, flexibility, humor and respect. We make disciples that make disciples, and plant churches that plant churches.

Financially, we have maintained a high percentage of tithers and a correspondingly healthy income and budget for a congregation of our size. Given the busy lifestyle of Northern Virginia, we have prioritized funding staff positions (mostly part-time) to serve our congregation. We also prioritize funding for missions and our youth/child ministries.

While we are in a healthy, growing diocese that ordains women to the presbyterate, our leadership and many of our people believe our priests ought to be male – a minority view in our diocese.

**THE NUMBERS:** We are recovering from Covid-tide. Our in-person average Sunday attendance (ASA) now is about 125 in one service on Sunday mornings, with another 15 watching online. Just before Covid, we averaged 155 in two services. Prior to planting a thriving daughter church in 2018, and sending many members out, we had an ASA of 170. We currently count around 170 as regular attenders, with a roughly 50% male/female split and a rough age break down of slightly above 40% over 55, slightly below 40% between 18 and 55, and 20% under 18. We are diverse ethnically, and in social class. Several new families, including young families, have joined us since 2022. We have 3 clergy who serve us (1 full-time priest, 1 part-time priest, and 1 part-time deacon), 5 seminarians presently, and 10 additional staff, including: Church Administrator, Youth Pastor, Children’s Minister, Music Minister, Healing Administrator/Rector’s Secretary, AV/Tech/Alpha/Communications Coordinator, Nursery Coordinator and workers, Bookkeeper, and Custodian. Our current budget is just under \$1 million, with 6.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, and we have healthy reserves. We just received over \$2.4 million in commitments for purchasing land for our first permanent facility, and we hope to build as soon as we are able. As defined by our last Natural Church Development survey, we are in the top 5% of churches worldwide for church health. Most of our visitors come through personal recommendations, a good sign of health.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** We currently have a single service on Sunday at 10AM that lasts about 90 minutes. We follow the ACNA prayer book with flexibility for additional prayer and worship. Our Music Minister leads a volunteer music team using primarily contemporary music. Liturgy and lyrics are displayed on screens. Pastoral staff shares preaching responsibilities. Eucharist is celebrated weekly. Following services, we host a well-attended reception with great food and fellowship.

**OUR HISTORY:** God called our founding and current Rector, Pastor Clancy Nixon, to leave legal practice and plant a church. After seminary, he joined Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax with the aim of planting. Eight families came with him to start our church in 2001, worshipping in an elementary school in Ashburn. We grew quickly to 160 in attendance until, in 2003, the Episcopal Church fell into doctrinal crisis. After a long process, we left the Episcopal Church in 2006 and gratefully came under the oversight of the Church of Uganda. After a few years of shakeout, from an ASA of 85, we began to grow again in 2008. In 2009, the ACNA was formed, and we happily joined. In 2011, we moved to our current 24-7 rental office space in Leesburg, with about 11,000 square ft. of space. We grew quickly again in this location, and many ministries have flourished among us.

**MISSION & MINISTRY FOCUSED:** We have planted two daughter churches, two campuses of our church, a semi-monastic community, and are now helping to plant a granddaughter church. We're funding several church plants in our Diocese. We are busy with many ministries locally, nationally and abroad. Among these is Tree of Life, an ecumenical ministry to local needy people, and LaCroix mission in Haiti. We have many small groups, and accountability groups. Most of our people are in at least one such group, and most also have a service role through the church. We've run the Alpha Course over 20 times, seeing many converts. We have seen over 300 people come to new life in Christ here in Loudoun, and thousands overseas. We support several missionaries. We teach a Core Curriculum to equip the saints for the work of ministry. We have regular retreats and occasionally host conferences. We have a robust MOPS ministry for young moms. Our healing ministry is well known locally, serving many outside of our congregation, and reaches North America via our Zoom training sessions and our leadership of the Healing in Mission Network of the New Wineskins missions conference.

**OUR CHALLENGES:** Some visitors have a difficult time understanding our unusual identity as a Three Streams Church. While we are charismatic, many of our people identify as evangelical, and are not particularly charismatic. Because we are unusual, we attract many new people who love it and stay, but some only stay for a season before leaving for other areas or expressions, making our ASA hard to grow. Covid was hard on us. We are a politically diverse (purple) church in an area that is increasingly segmented by politics. As we've grown older, we need to attract more young families. While we are ready to embrace a new, younger Rector, we've had only one Rector from our founding 22 years ago, so this process is new for us.

**TO EXPRESS INTEREST:** If you or someone you know is interested in more information about us, or to apply for the Rector position, please go to our website's home page, [www.HolySpiritLeesburg.org](http://www.HolySpiritLeesburg.org). If interested, click the Rector Search button, fill out the forms, and send your resume and other materials to [rectorsearch@HoilySpiritLeesburg.org](mailto:rectorsearch@HoilySpiritLeesburg.org).