Searching For Our Next Rector
Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church is a young church, the second Episcopal Church in Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida. It was founded in 1989 by the Diocese of Central Florida as a mission and sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church of Vero Beach. Approximately fifty people, mostly from New York, Massachusetts and Michigan met in 1990, for worship at the former Indian River Citrus League building. The Rev. Miles Cooper presided until 1996, when he retired. The Rev. Michael W. Goldberg was instituted in September 1997 and retired in July 2020.

From the time that small parish seed was planted in 1989 to the present day, our Eucharist-oriented parish has thrived and grown. Our parish extends genuine warmth and welcome, builds fellowship and community, and cherishes the Prayer Book, Hymnal, Organ Music and Choir. Both Rectors consistently recognized and encouraged lay leadership with fruitful results. Many programs continue to be in place; whether educational, outreach, choir, altar guild, ECW and others, begun by and supported by parishioners.

Florida’s Treasure Coast is blessed with Live Oak trees which are massively strong, extremely resilient with prodigious acorn production, and horizontal limbs that extend way beyond their roots. When strong winds blow away nearly all their leaves, they quickly regrow new ones. Young trees sprout in unlikely places where their root systems connect underground. The traits of the Live Oak tree remind us of the enduring nature and strength of our beloved parish.
In 1990, six acres of land was acquired. The original modern Gothic style structure was built. The total cost was $900,000, including two magnificent stained-glass windows.

The first service in the new church was held September 6, 1992. The Church was consecrated by The Right Reverend John W. Howe in November 1992.

Rapid growth of this second Episcopal Church in Vero Beach made building additions necessary. Thus, in March of 1993, with 350 members (up from fifty members four years earlier), $200,000 was budgeted for the second of three proposed construction phases; the parish memorial garden and columbarium; enlargement of the parish hall and additional classrooms; completion of the paved road area due to increased demand for parking and payment of the balance of the Diocesan loan of $60,000. A successful campaign was begun in March 1993 to obtain paid installments of pledges of $60,000 before construction could start in July and completed by early Fall 1993. The Diocesan loan was fully paid off by 1998.

**From the outset, St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church has been a healthy church, one that is growing and caring.**

**The Finance Committee**: An eight-member Finance Committee was formed in 2008. An invested endowment of $750,000 from three St. Augustine families doubled in value, enabling the church to borrow from its own endowment for building and other projects.

**Endowment**: Because the parish paid entirely for the third building renovation expansion by 2017, the endowment currently stands at almost $1,600,000.
In 2010, the need for expansion arose again. This impetus came out of Stewardship cottagers’ meetings, and was developed as a six-pronged program: 1) additional seating for 103 people in the church by expanding the south wall and creating the choir loft 2) closing in and renovating the old parish hall to increase space for Sunday School classes 3) expansion and modernization of office spaces 4) creation of a new choir room 5) a completely new Parish Hall with a state of the art commercial kitchen 6) a library for meetings, with book shelves and updated AV equipment.

Our new Parish Hall opened in November of 2011 and has the capacity to host 220 people for parish celebrations and activities, Sunday coffee hours, wedding receptions, bridal showers, family reunions and more. St. Augustine members and their friends have gathered here for the past few years for Thanksgiving dinner. With our state-of-the art commercial kitchen, and our audio-visual equipment, the Parish Hall is an often-used resource. We also rent it out to community organizations. This is part of our outreach effort to share our facilities with the larger community. In September 2012, the new building was consecrated by The Right Reverend Gregory Orrin Brewer, Bishop of Central Florida. The parish hall was renamed Goldberg Parish Hall in 2020.

“This is a non-judgemental church. Our agenda is following Jesus and the good news of the Gospel. We are an oasis for those who have been hurt at other churches. We are inclusive and loving, the joy of my life!”

- a comment from the Parish Questionnaire
The Rectors of St. Augustine of Canterbury

The Rev. Miles O. Cooper, Rector (1989-1996)
“His intelligence and dedication to our Lord Jesus Christ have guided us as we seek to spread the Gospel in our community...His interests as a priest are preaching, teaching and pastoral care.” Before becoming Vicar of St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church in 1989, Fr. Cooper was Curate, under The Rev. Canon David Charles Lord at Trinity Church, Vero Beach. He was Rector of St. Augustine from 1993 to 1996, when he retired.

The Rev. Michael W. Goldberg, Rector (1997-2020) During the 23 years that “Father Mike” led St. Augustine’s, much was accomplished. The warmest of welcomes continued, worship services increased in number and attendance, programs for both members and community outreach increased. As the parish grew, necessary building projects were undertaken. From 2005 to 2006, the parish doubled in size. His preaching, teaching and passion for pastoral care are legendary.

We seek someone who can assist us with living, sharing and growing in our Christian faith and obligations; a Rector who through preaching, teaching and guiding, will welcome all who cross the threshold of St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, finding an oasis in this troubled world.
PART TWO: OUR PARISH

Where a warm welcome awaits you, wherever you are in your faith journey.

Our Mission
We are a congregation that respects the dignity of every human being, in worship, in our fellowship, and in our caring for the community; we minister in such a way as to inspire young people's participation; to enable the ministry of the laity; and to further achieve effective outreach within and beyond our parish manifesting the life of Christ to the world.

The Narthex window depicts St. Augustine baptizing King Ethelbert of England in the late 6th Century. Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, and great missionary, revitalized Christianity among the English people.

From this beginning some 1400 years ago, has grown the Anglican world-wide Communion, which includes the Episcopal Church in the United States. It is appropriate that the message of mission greets everyone as they enter, and as they depart.

St. Augustine of Canterbury parish believes in sharing God's love as we understand that love in Jesus Christ. The window reminds us that we are to be in the world as present-day missionaries of our Lord.

Come and See

*John 1: 39*

St. Augustine of Canterbury is in a period of optimism, creativity and strength. We are excited about what our faith will make possible.
The way to see who we are is to watch how we worship, how we live, and how we care for one another.

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church embodies the fullness, diversity and wide range of the ministries of the Episcopal Church.
Our congregation is Eucharistically centered and features the use of liturgical vestments, acolytes, lay readers, chalice bearers and a vested choir.

Our 10:00 Sunday Service includes a full choir and procession, and is our most well attended service. Our 8:00 Sunday and 5:30 Saturday services offer a quieter and more contemplative setting.

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

- **10:00 am Wednesday**
  Healing Service with Eucharist

- **5:30 pm Saturday**
  Rite II Eucharist

- **8:00 am Sunday**
  Rite I Eucharist
  (with incidental music)

- **10:00 am Sunday**
  Rite II Choral Eucharist

**Religious Community Presence**

The Brotherhood of St. Gregory is the largest recognized men’s religious community in the Episcopal Church, serving dioceses throughout the United States. The only Gregorian Friar presently in our diocese is actively involved in the life of our parish.
Music has always been important at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church. Music is an integral part of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist, and our parishioners love to sing! Fluctuating seasonally from twelve to forty members, the Choir sings every Sunday of the year, including during the summer months.

St. Augustine of Canterbury Church utilizes the Royal School of Church Music curriculum in its modest Youth Chorister program who sing with the Adult Choir each Sunday.

The Choir joins forces with Voces Vero to offer an annual Advent Service of Lessons & Carols and a joint Choral Evensong.

Our worship is also enhanced by instrumental music in addition to the organ with instrumental solos and ensembles.

For Christmas and Easter, we augment the Choir and organ with a Brass Quintet and timpani.

In addition to Sunday morning worship, we offer monthly Choral Evensong from September through June (excluding the month in which Easter falls). Evensong is sung by Voces Vero, a collaborative of professional church musicians comprising choir members from the parish and many other churches along the Treasure Coast.
WORSHIP AND PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

We believe that everyone can contribute something to the life of the parish and to the life of the community.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Lay Readers
Chalice Bearers
Choir
Ushers and Greeters

COMMUNITY USE
Coptic Christian Church
Milestones Development Center for Autism of Indian River County
Sunbonnet Sue Quilters
T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Alcoholics Anonymous (Women)
Genealogy Group
Homeowners’ Association Meetings
Girl Scouts
Toastmasters
Jordan Thomas Orchestra

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES
Hospitality Guild
Health and Wellness
Fellowship Committee
The Vestry
Episcopal Church Women
Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Daughters of the King
Men’s Fellowship Breakfast Group
Prayer Shawl Ministry
iPhone Instruction Class

SPIRITUAL GROWTH
The Forum
Bible Study
Spiritual Book Club
Retreats
Hops and Heresy Discussions
Lenten Suppers
Christian Information Classes

Our Health and Wellness Team was formed in October 2019 to support and strengthen the mind, body and spirit of our congregation and the community. The team provides health education, health screening and lifestyle wellness workshops. Services included chronic disease and nutrition education, grief support, CPR training and blood pressure screening to name a few. The team is comprised of health professionals and spiritual leaders.
Our church is vibrant and strong. We pray for patience and guidance as we search for our next Rector to help fulfill God’s plan for us in the future.

At St. Augustine of Canterbury, you will find a diverse family of Christians who relish the sustenance of a rich worship experience and treasure the traditions of the Episcopal Church. Our community of faith has a sense of optimism and excitement about what is possible in our next chapter.

In assisting the Vestry, the Search Committee is charged with the important task of seeking a Rector who will be a good fit for our congregation.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not able to conduct many of the opinion gathering events that normally help with this process, such as focus groups, cottage meetings and face to face ministry interviews. Also, we are still faced with limited, in-person church attendance.

Additionally, many of the pictures included in this profile had to be gleaned from our archives. We had to rely predominately on responses to the Parish Questionnaire, which was diligently promoted, and the response by over fifty-six percent of active parishioners, was very gratifying and informative.

We hope that this profile will provide an overview of what our congregation values, believes and practices, which is the loving message of Jesus Christ, carried out in our daily lives today, and well into the future.

**PRAYER IN A TIME OF TRANSITION**

_O God, giver of every good gift, Look graciously upon your whole church and especially upon Saint Augustine of Canterbury parish._

_Guide us to use the diverse gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us that we may increase our commitment to one another and to the mission of your Church._

_May the Holy Spirit guide our search for a Rector grounded in faith who will lead us to love, serve, and grow in our community and in the wider Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen._

**Parishioner Membership Duration, in Years**
OUTREACH

St. Augustine of Canterbury is a generous parish and assists many non-profits at the local, national and international levels with donations and support. Many community organizations meet at the church and/or are supported by parishioners. From the outset, the Vestry and the Clergy have taken very seriously the relationship between community responsibility and this church. There is a line item in the annual church budget for Outreach; currently it is $30,000 with an additional $20,000 coming from the POPS Fund described below.

The Outreach Committee meets monthly to review applications received for financial assistance and makes recommendations to the Vestry for approval.

POPS Fund

- St. Augustine of Canterbury is blessed to have an anonymous benefactor who created the POPS Fund as a result of hearing a sermon at Trinity Church, NY, where the Rector told the story of Jesus telling the people of Nazareth to “tend to the Poor, the Oppressed, the Prisoners, and the Sick.” Our benefactor had received an inheritance from his father whom he called “Pops” with which he started the fund in 1995, when our church had no outreach program, hence the name POPS. He continues to give the fund $10,000 each year and matches up to $5,000 for any additional money the fund receives from the congregation. Every year, the parish has raised more than the necessary $5,000 to qualify for the additional $5,000 from the benefactor.

- Our guidelines charge us to tend to the poor, the oppressed, the prisoners, and the sick. The gifts are restricted to Indian River County and are made for specific needs on a one time basis.

- The primary POPS Fund Drive occurs every Fall but we solicit donations and evaluate requests from many organizations throughout the year. We thank our generous benefactor and all parishioners who have made contributions throughout 2020.

The POPS Fund is restricted to be given to local charities, for capital expenditures rather than for operating expenses.

Outreach Fund money may be spent for local, national or international agencies.

POPS Fund Local recipients include:

Hope for Families Center, Our Father’s Table Soup Kitchen, Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Redlands Christian Ministry Center, Childcare Resources, Feed the Lambs, Daisie Bridgewater Hope Center, Fellsmere Elementary School

Outreach Fund recipients include:

Camp Haven meals and donation, Scholarship for School Supplies, Hope for Family Center, Haiti Medical Clinic, El Hogar Ministries, United Against Poverty, United Thank Offering, Vero Beach Recreation Department Summer Camp, Gifford Youth Achievement Center, El Ocotillo (El Salvador) Scholarship, Society for the Increase in Ministry, Overseas Ministries, African Team Ministries, Fresh Expressions, Crossover Mission, Living Waters.
We are a vibrant Parish - a place where people with various viewpoints are treated like family and respected.

“Each one should use whatever gift he/she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in it’s various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

All people regardless of age, race or sexual orientation are invited to fully participate in the life of the Episcopal Church.

Educational Level

(of Parish Survey participants)

- High School
- Vocational
- College
- Grad. Degree
- PhD
- Other

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School program meets throughout the year at the 10 AM Eucharist. It is a God-filled blend of lectionary-based curriculum along with “The Godly Play” curriculum for children/teens, grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Children are also encouraged to participate in the life of the parish, including Advent Events, Christmas Eve Family Mass, Vacation Bible School, serving meals, and other activities. A current goal is to attract more young families to our parish.

Ways to Grow, Ways to Give Back, Ways to Glorify God.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Youth Group meets on Sundays after the 10:00 Eucharist. The weekly meetings focus on teaching the basics of the Bible and Christianity, while connecting it to the issues that arise in their everyday life. In addition, our youth have days of service where they volunteer at local non-profit organizations or charities, and serve as helpers at Vacation Bible School. We also have lock-ins, retreats, kayaking, summer camps, and a yearly trip to “Rock the Universe” at Universal Studios.

THE FORUM

Clergy-led discussions on current church topics are held on most Sundays between the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services. We have honest, charitable conversations and feature occasional guest speakers such as The Rev. Daniel P. Matthews and Dr. Omar Rahman. The Forum was established by Fr. Michael Goldberg in 1999 and has enthusiastically continued.
OUR PARISH BY THE NUMBERS

### Church Membership

Income vs. Expenses

![Graph showing Church Membership from 2012 to 2019 with bars for each year.]

### Endowment

Pledged vs. Non-Pledged Income

![Graph showing Endowment from 2012 to 2019 with bars for each year.]

### Outreach

![Graph showing Outreach from 2012 to 2019 with bars for each year.]

### Pledged vs. Non-Pledged Income

![Pie chart showing % of income from Pledge and Non Pledge.]

### Income vs. Expenses

![Bar chart comparing Income and Expenses from 2015 to 2019.]

### Expenses

![Pie chart showing various expenses.]

### Paid Staff

- One Interim Priest
- One Assistant Priest
- Organist/Choirmaster
- Financial Administrator
- Secretary to the Rector
- Receptionist
- Sexton
- Youth Advisor
- Three Staff Singers
OUR LOCATION

Vero Beach is a small, elegant Florida city with Atlantic beaches, barrier islands, and the Indian River Lagoon. We are known for golf, water sports, fishing, peaceful beaches, visual and performing arts, theaters, and museums.

The City of Vero Beach is the county seat of Indian River County, in a region known as the “Treasure Coast.” The Treasure Coast got its name when ships rich with gold, silver and treasure were shipwrecked off the coast hundreds of years ago. You can still find professional and amateur treasure hunters diving for treasure today.

Vero Beach’s motto is "Where the tropics begin." We are in the perfect location on the east coast, just north enough to be cool in the winter and just south enough to be warm in the summer. We are half-way between West Palm Beach and Orlando, a great location. Vero Beach is a relaxed but fast-growing town where families come to get away from the big city.

Vero Beach boasts of more houses of worship per square mile than most communities the same size. They range from Roman Catholic, Jewish, Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, to non-denominational. Vero Beach has one other Episcopal Church and three various iterations of Anglicanism.

In 2019, the City of Vero Beach celebrated its Centennial. Often referred to as “The Hidden Jewel of the Treasure Coast,” Vero Beach has not simply grown up overnight. What we see in Vero Beach today is a magical mesh of oceanside serenity intertwined with rich culture, plush landscaping, inventive cuisine, a plethora of outdoor activities and bountiful areas to enjoy education and history. This is the product of years of careful planning, dedication, love, and respect for the community’s needs. It is what our pioneering residents hoped to create for future generations, that they might grow and prosper.
St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church is a member parish of The Diocese of Central Florida, under the leadership of Bishop Gregory O. Brewer, in Orlando.

The Diocese of Central Florida is a multicultural diocese with a vibrant worship spirit and immense community outreach. It is comprised of over 30,000 people worshipping in eighty-one congregations across fifteen counties in Central Florida. It stretches from Crystal River, Ocala and Ormond Beach to the north to Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Lake Placid to the south. Orlando is a major metropolitan center, and the diocese includes the horse country of Ocala, over 150 miles of Atlantic beaches, and the Space Coast, as well as rural citrus and cattle country. There are dozens of schools, and Camp Wingmann, an adventurous retreat for young people. The Diocese has resources for people of all ages to explore and grow in their faith, such as Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center and the Institute for Christian Studies. For more information, please visit www.cfdiocese.org.

Our Parishioners come from many surrounding locales represented by their USPS zip codes.

- Port St. Lucie 34972: 0.6%
- Fort Pierce 34951: 5.8%
- Sebastian, Wabasso, Roseland, Fellsmere 32958: 2.9%
- Melbourne Beach 32951: 4.1%
- Vero Beach SW 32968: 13.5%
- Vero Beach Estates, Winter Beach, Wabasso, Gifford 32967: 9.4%
- Vero Beach West Corridor, Citrus Ridge 32966: 23.4%
- Vero Beach /Gifford 32960: 10.5%
- Vero Beach 32962: 12.3%
- Vero Beach (Barrier Island) 32963: 13.5%
PART THREE: A NEW CHAPTER

171 parishioners answered our Survey Monkey Parish Questionnaire. We have been able to learn what is most important to the parishioners of St. Augustine of Canterbury; what we value as a parish, and the attributes we seek in a new Rector.

What We Value as a Parish

Sunday Liturgy and Sermons

• The ability to choose either Rite I or Rite II Liturgies on Sundays.
• A high priority is placed on music as an enhancement of worship with the largest participation at the 10:00 am Choral Eucharist.
• Inclusion of the laity in the various liturgical ministries.
• Sermons that are biblically based in a style that is personal and applicable to our daily lives.
• A warm welcome extended to all, especially newcomers, encouraging them to participate in fellowship after the Liturgy.

Christian Education and Spiritual Development

• Bible study and Spiritual Book groups.
• Forum discussions.
• Religious instruction for all ages.
• Parishioners nurtured and encouraged to grow in faith.
• Faith-based youth programs.
• Guest speakers and retreats.

Outreach Programs

• Support of feeding programs for the poor.
• Financial assistance given to local non-profit organizations.
• Support of childhood education and after school initiatives.

What We Seek in a Rector

Pastoral Care

• Appropriate pastoral care provided in times of personal crisis.
• Parishioners trained to visit the sick and those in need.
• Clergy available for crisis management.
• Shut-ins visited on a regular basis by the clergy.
• Encouraging and attending activities promoting fellowship.

Administrative Leader

• Managing the affairs of the congregation in a professional manner.
• Working with the Vestry and Staff as a team.
• Encouraging and promoting leadership and talents of the parishioners through delegation.
• Maintaining open communication with the congregation.
• Working with the Vestry, establishing clear goals for the parish.
• Working to support stewardship along with the Vestry.

Pastoral Skills

• Is inclusive and welcoming to all regardless of age, race, or sexual orientation.
• Is an effective preacher and theologian, who has a sense of humor and ability to teach people of all ages about faith.
• Demonstrates a disciplined understanding of Biblical and historical revelation and the perception of God’s activity in the world.
• Helps people of all ages, especially young families, understand and live the Christian faith.
Our Parish Story: The Short Version

At St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, we pride ourselves in being a loving, accepting, and all-embracing congregation, following the teachings of Jesus Christ “to love one another as God loves us”. A place where a warm welcome awaits everyone and opportunities for fellowship abound.

Despite the largely senior population, there is a lot of involvement in many parish ministries. We have continued to grow, and currently have over 300 active members in our congregation.

Great importance is placed on the Liturgy, further enhanced with choral music, a sizable year-round choir, and strong congregational participation. We value sermons that are Biblical-based, relevant to our daily lives and often peppered with humor. We value spiritual growth and education, reflection, compassion and inclusion.

Our love extends beyond the confines of our parish, with an active Outreach Ministry, bolstered by a generous budget. We are financially sound and dedicated to maintaining a balanced operational budget along with the security of a sizable endowment.

Our campus is comprised of a well-maintained, 30-year-old Church building that can seat 325 parishioners and features newly installed audio and video equipment. It is augmented with an attractive education wing, choir practice room, office spaces and a handsomely appointed Library/Conference Room. A beautiful memorial garden with a recently enlarged columbarium is conveniently located next to the church. Additionally, we have a nine-year-old Parish Hall with state-of-the-art kitchen, meeting/reception hall with seating for 220 people. All buildings are mortgage free.

Vero Beach is an active city with a small-town feeling. It boasts of beautiful beaches, parks, a plethora of eateries, museums, art galleries, theaters, and musical venues as well as an assortment of sports and recreational facilities. Many high-ranking public and private schools and colleges, are locally available.

Our Vision for the Future

Life is ever changing and opportunities for growth and development should always be welcomed and embraced. We welcome a new Rector with “fresh eyes” who will not only recognize our successes, but can inspire and lead us into future endeavors.

We seek a Rector steeped in pastoral care - a kind, compassionate and loving shepherd; a capable and inspiring teacher, preacher, and administrator.

Inevitably most parishes are looking to attract young families as a source of growth and vigor. Given our demographic, that is indeed a great challenge and we hope for a Rector that can provide direction and some success in that arena.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CHURCH

“Where a warm welcome awaits you!”
Vestry
Chuck Covarrubias, Senior Warden
Steve Connell, Junior Warden
Clarence Clarke
Nancy Hernandez
Guy McKenzie
Sharon Raynor
Tony Tulumello
Cris Vaccaro
Pat Waskow

Search Committee
Tony Tulumello, Chair
William Adamany
Byron Curcio
Anne Dunn
Julie Dossantos
Jonathan Moody
Phillippa Norman
Jo-An Smukala
Cris Vaccaro
Br. Rick Lorino, BSG Chaplain
Canon Scott Holcombe, Diocesan Transition Officer

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