

**ONE PARISH FAMILY WORSHIPING, SERVING, AND CARING
IN TWO LANGUAGES (ENGLISH & SPANISH) SINCE 2010**



PARISH PROFILE - MAY 2022

SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL
SAN CRISTÓBAL



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*Chapel Stained Glass
behind Altar*

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

10233 W. Peoria Ave
Sun City, AZ 85351
(623)972-1100

StChristophers-AZ.org
fb.com/StChristophersaz
Search@StChristophers-AZ.org

WEEKLY AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

Pre-pandemic (ASA): 111 Post-pandemic (2021): 67

WEEKLY SERVICES:

Sunday English	9:30 am
Sunday Spanish	11:15 am
Wednesday	10:00 am



Stained Glass Reflected into the Nave on Pentecost

In this ever-changing world, God calls each of us to work and to love in Christ's name. At St. Christopher's, we offer many opportunities for parishioners, friends, and neighbors to answer God's call in meaningful ways.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE is how we:

- Care about each other, helping one another grow
- Are a multicultural church worshiping, learning, working, and loving in English and Spanish
- Expand our services to individuals and the community

Helping others serve and connect is our passion. With your help, God's redeeming and reconciling love will continue to flourish in this parish, in the community, in our region and in you, in new and exciting ways.

Yours in Christ's Love,
The Congregation of St. Christopher's

WHO WE ARE

OUR MINISTRIES

CARING - CHILDREN & YOUTH - EDUCATION - OUTREACH
SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP - WORSHIP - ADMIN - HOSPITALITY

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - VISITORS - WOMEN'S CLUB - MEN'S CLUB - LANDSCAPE - PHONE TREE
CARDS & CALLS - COLUMBIAN - LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS - PRAYER CHAIN - CHECK-IN
S - C H R I S T I A N S - T O P I C S - C H U R C H

WE ARE a multicultural congregation, predominately English and Spanish, located in the Phoenix West Valley. Sun City is primarily a 55+ community with easy access to Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, and Scottsdale.

We are a collaborative congregation that treasures its past and is hopeful about its future. We have challenges but are resilient and eager to move forward – past Covid – past our search process – to what God and the Holy Spirit have in store for us!

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID

- We stopped all in-person activities in March 2020.
- Within days we created a phone tree. We contacted most all of our families nearly every week.
- Within the first week we created a check-in ministry for designated parishioners to walk the campus daily.
- Once we realized the closure would not be short-term, we identified several infrastructure projects that were necessary to reopen or to maintain our campus.
- Our Covid response was further affected by the death of our beloved Priest-In-Charge in August of 2020.
- We held in-person services for the first time in more than a year on Palm Sunday, 2021.
- Over the next several months, we slowly resumed our normal schedule of services and faith activities, including our thrift store, Bargains Galore, and our bookstore.
- In spite of Covid, in spite of the death of our long-time priest, we've moved forward, working with our search consultant and our search committee.

WHO WE ARE



*Statue of St. Christopher
in the Front Yard*

The Rev. John H. Hamilton of Roanoke, VA, retired and he and his wife, Mabel, came to Youngtown in 1954 – to pioneer in the first retirement village of this country. The Hamiltons met community members, especially Episcopalians and graciously welcomed newcomers and comforted the sick. The Rev. Hamilton conducted several funerals as there were no other local Episcopal priests. On January 31, 1961, a community met in the Hamiltons' home. They organized and

held the first worship service on Palm Sunday 1961 in the Youngtown Community Center. Fr. Harold Adams celebrated the first service and suggested the name as "St. Christopher's."

St. Christopher's, 60 years later, continues that pioneering spirit. In 2010, Bishop Kirk Smith encouraged about a dozen congregations to create "Hispanic Ministries." For some, the organizational model was to create and maintain separate Hispanic

ministries apart from the original congregation (separate but equal within the church). For some, the model was to treat Hispanic Ministry as an outreach to others outside the church. At St. C's, we began, remain, and look forward to strengthening our *One Family, Worshiping and Serving in Two Languages* model. We have received national notice from TEC for this and have shared our model, our lessons learned, and our materials with other churches across the country.

*A history likened our
start to a children's
nursery rhyme:*

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the beautiful land.

And the little moments,
Humble though they be,
Make the mighty ages
Of eternity.

So our little errors
Lead the soul away
From the path of virtue,
Oft in sin to stray.

Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make our earth an Eden
Like the heaven above.

Little deeds of mercy,
Sown by infant hands,
Grow to bless the nations,
Far in heathen lands.



WHO WE ARE

DEMOGRAPHICS

OUR AGES	
UNDER 18	23%
18 TO 34	11%
35 TO 54	16%
55 TO 64	6%
OVER 64	44%

OUR LANGUAGE PREFERENCE	
ENGLISH-ONLY	50%
BILINGUAL	16%
SPANISH-ONLY	34%

MILES TO CHURCH	
LESS THAN 5	36%
5 TO 10	33%
MORE THAN 10	31%

STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, & CHALLENGES

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Our resilience and persistence. We nearly closed due to financial circumstances in 2011. In 2020 our priest died. Each time, we dug deep, trusted in God, worked, and took care of each other.
- Our committed, engaged parishioners – Over 70% of parishioners actively participate in ministries.
- Our church family where our clergy and leadership know parishioners by name and care for each other.
- Our welcoming and friendly atmosphere of worship where all are welcome!
- Our location – Maricopa County is consistently one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S., attracting individuals and families of all ages.
- Our willingness to think and step outside the box – as part of our *Invite | Welcome | Connect* strategy, parishioners and friends, walk around the neighborhood near the church and ring doorbells. We introduce ourselves to our neighbors, and invite them to concerts, talks, and neighborhood cookouts.

CHALLENGES

- While many want to *do*, few want to *lead*. Our leadership is strong but the bench is thin; little or no backup for most positions.
- Our deficit budget – While our financial status has steadily improved since 2012, we continue to manage a deficit budget.
- Our size – At just over 200 parishioners, with one full-time clergy, part-time staff, and volunteers we are stretched, but we are unable to add staff or clergy given the deficit budget.

During Covid, we held all worship services as well as vestry and ministry meetings via Zoom. Worship services were also linked to FaceBookLive where no account or sign up was necessary. Many other churches chose to broadcast from their sanctuary with a minimal number of individuals. It was important to us to see. It made for a less formal worship and liturgy, but many in our congregation live alone, and the connection has been important.

We offer two worship services on Sundays. The English service at 9:30 am follows Rite Two in the Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common Lectionary. Most service music includes traditional Anglican hymns from The 1982 Hymnal and more contemporary hymns from the Wonder, Love & Praise song book. The choir provides an anthem, sometimes accompanied by various musical instruments.

The Spanish service at 11:15 am follows El Libro de Oración Común, hymns from Flor y Canto, sung joyfully and whole-heartedly with guitar and bass.

The healing Eucharist service on Wednesday morning in the chapel at 10:00 am reflects a more contemplative aspect of our worship. The readings are followed by a homily that often includes open discussion.



Home Communion



Ushers

HOW WE GROW IN OUR FAITH

STEWARDSHIP

At St. Christopher's, we are working toward year-round stewardship. Stewardship is not just about the fall giving campaign. God calls each of us to share of our time, talent, and treasure. In the past decade, our Stewardship Ministry has expanded beyond Annual giving to include time and talent, and occasional giving.



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT / BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Workbench has been meeting weekly since Jan 2015 year-round. The study is open to all men of any denomination.

Women's Bible Study Group

The women learn through lessons, homework and group discussion. The group is open to women of any faith.

Advent & Lenten Studies

We share a short study each year, after a simple meal.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

We are committed to living our faith by supporting those in need, in our church family, in our community and around the world and to connecting our members of all ages to needs beyond our walls. We look for meaningful opportunities for knowing and serving others in a

variety of life-changing outreach ministries. A few examples of our work are the Valley View Food Bank, lunches for the homeless at the Salvation Army and our Summer Water Drive for the Phoenix Rescue Mission.



*Lunches for Homeless
(With Salvation Army)*



Bargains Galore is our thrift store. Our little tienda really helps many people find household goods and clothing that are affordable. Our leaders and volunteers do a wonderful job of sorting and pricing donations from the congregation and community. Our bookstore is an active community gathering place on Saturday mornings. A group of regulars meet to share coffee, books and puzzles, solving the world problems along the way.

for more info, see: StChristophers-az.org

Five-year Income Statement

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operating Income					(Proposed)
Plate	2,641	2,950	615	1,262	2,033
Pledges	150,866	148,448	146,559	137,766	155,930
Other Offerings	4,823	2,587	10,476	10,232	10,013
Non-Pledge Giving	14,083	10,912	2,508	22,268	14,268
Total Contributions	172,414	164,897	160,158	171,527	182,244
Other Income	6,498	6,506	1,743	3,433	6,600
Total Operating Income	179,034	171,403	161,901	174,960	188,844
Expenses					
Salaries and Benefits	109,220	111,521	98,538	108,976	140,870
General Expenses	76,290	71,678	65,607	70,969	80,986
Total Operating Expenses	185,509	183,198	164,145	179,945	221,856
Net Operating Income	-6,475	-11,795	-2,244	4,985	-33,012
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	-6,475	-11,795	-2,244	4,985	-33,012

Although our Stewardship Ministry does a great job, we usually have a gap between our income and expenses of about \$12,000. Sometimes ministries are able to help (Women’s Club and Men’s Club). Since 2014 we’ve used a Capital Reserve account, borrowing throughout the year to cover expenses.

At the end of the year if we cannot repay the loan, we declare the borrowed funds as income and pay a “mission share” to the diocese. We received \$21,700 from the Federal government as a PPP loan in 2020, and the full loan and interest have been forgiven.

We began saving for our current search process in 2016. We also went solar in 2018, saving us about \$6k annually. Paying for health insurance and retirement for our new rector will again challenge us financially.

MISSION AND VISION



WE ARE SEEKING A RECTOR WHO:

- Is an enthusiastic Servant Leader who will recognize, equip, support and/or guide the development of lay leaders.
- Appreciates and creatively seeks to further our bilingual / multicultural intergenerational parish. We are one family / two languages.
- Helps us achieve financial self-sufficiency.
- Successfully addresses our communications and technology challenges.
- Helps us integrate and engage our ministries so we are known as a caring, loving, vibrant community both in person and online.
- Continues to increase our membership to better live out our discipleship.
- Helps us create a comprehensive Christian Development / Bible Study opportunities for all ages.
- Re-energizes our English music ministry balancing traditional and contemporary hymns and growing our choir.



THE DIOCESE OF ARIZONA

We exist to encourage and connect leaders as they grow Christ's church – Diocesan Mission



The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall
Sixth Bishop of Arizona

The Diocese includes 64 worshipping communities: parishes, missions, college chaplaincies, schools, and the cathedral congregation. Worship is regularly held in the diocese in both English and Spanish in many communities, while other languages are embraced and used in various congregational contexts.

The diocese seeks to promote an environment of inclusion and diversity and recognizes that the current ethnic makeup of our clergy does not adequately mirror the diversity of the people of the state of Arizona. Of all of the canonically resident members of the college of presbyters, only 5% identify as African American, 4% as Hispanic, 1% as Asian American, and 1% as Native American. The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona is one of the few dioceses in the country that is growing.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is located at the southern edge of Sun City, bordering Peoria. Sun City's population was about 39,000 as of 2019. The major city nearby is Phoenix, the fifth most populous city in the U.S. with an estimated population of 1,680,992. The metropolitan area has a population of approximately 4,737,270 and is known as the Valley of the Sun.

Phoenix was incorporated as a city in 1881 and served as the capital of the Arizona Territory from 1889. It is in the northeastern part of the Sonoran Desert, and while it has a hot desert climate, its canal system has led to a thriving farming economy with the original settlers' crops, such as alfalfa, cotton, citrus, and hay. Cotton, cattle, citrus, climate, and copper were known as the "Five C's" of the Phoenix economy. The city averaged a 4% growth rate from the mid-60's to the early 2000's; growth slowed with the reces-

sion of 2007 to 2009 but has rebounded slowly since. High tech companies have been moving to the area since World War II, especially as air conditioning made summers more bearable.

When Del Webb created Sun City, AZ, on January 1, 1960, he was embarking on a brave new venture: a master-planned retirement community built specifically for active adults, 55+. Up until then, retirees were expected to retreat from life so they could sit at home in their rockers on their porches. The notion that you would pull up roots, move to a vacation spot, and surround yourself with fun and pleasure in a community of people just like yourself was a new idea. Sun City's motto is the "City of Volunteers." Over time, more and more seniors are retiring earlier, healthier, and desiring to give back. St. C's is ideally located and historically situated to provide that opportunity.



Our Website

StChristophers-az.org

Our Facebook

fb.com/stchristophersaz

Diocese of Arizona Website

azdiocese.org

Diocese of AZ Facebook

fb.com/azdiocese

Diocese of AZ YouTube

youtube.com/c/azdiocese1/featured

[National Geographic Article](#) - Sun City during Covid - St C's is on 2nd screen

Education

Arizona State University - asu.edu

Maricopa Community Colleges - maricopa.edu

Western Maricopa Ed Center (West-MEC) - west-mec.edu

Peoria Unified School District - cusd80.com

Cheyenne Elementary - peoriaunified.org/Cheyenne

Country Meadows Elem - peoriaunified.org/CountryMeadows

South Mountain Environmental Education Center - smeec.org

Professional Sports

Arizona Cardinals (NFL) - azcardinals.com

Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) - mlb.com/dbacks

Arizona Rattlers (Indoor Football) - azrattlers.com

Arizona Coyotes (NHL) - nhl.com/coyotes

Phoenix Mercury (WNBA) - mercury.wnba.com

Phoenix Rising (Soccer) - phxrisingfc.com

Phoenix Suns (NBA) - nba.com/suns

Tour State Farm Stadium -

visitphoenix.com/event/state-farm-stadium-tour/107302/

Maricopa County - maricopa.gov - Sun City is an unincorporated community in Maricopa Co



State Farm Stadium

West Valley Cities

Avondale - avondaleaz.gov Phoenix - phoenix.gov

El Mirage - elmirageaz.gov Sun City - suncityaz.org

Glendale - glendaleaz.com Sun City West - suncitywest.com

Litchfield Park - litchfield-park.org Surprise - surpriseaz.gov

Peoria - peoriaaz.gov/home

Culture and Entertainment

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park - adobemtndesertrrpark.com

ASU Gammage - asugammage.com

Cerreta Candy Company - cerreta.com

Desert Botanical Garden - dbg.org

Heard Museum - heard.org

Herberger Theater Center - herbergertheater.org

Musical Instrument Museum - mim.org

Phoenix Art Museum - phxart.org

Phoenix Chorale - phoenixchorale.org

Phoenix Symphony - phoenixsymphony.org

Phoenix Zoo - phoenixzoo.org

Sahuaro Ranch Park - glendaleaz.com/SRPHA/

Tempe Center for the Arts - tempecenterforthearts.com

White Tank Park - surpriseaz.gov/2039/White-Tank-Mountain-Regional-Park

Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium - wildlifeworld.com

Information for Candidates



Our search process is being carried out under the authority of the Bishop of Arizona, the Right Reverend Jennifer A. Reddall, with the assistance of the Diocesan Deployment Office. All interested candidates are requested to submit applications to:

The Rev. Anita Braden, Canon to the Ordinary,
Diocese of Arizona
114 West Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Anita@azdiocese.org

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