



All Saints' Episcopal Church | Littleton | NH

OTM Profile

1. Describe a moment in your worshiping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment

In November, our Community Cares Committee was planning a potluck and silent auction with proceeds going to a local charity. In the midst of this planning, Fr. Curtis asked us to pray for a couple in our parish who were injured in a devastating house fire. They lost everything and were in the burn unit of a Boston hospital. True to our mission, to honor our Lord Jesus Christ by practicing our Christian faith through prayer and acts of love and unconditional kindness, many parishioners sprang to action and organized the blessing of prayer shawls and it was decided that the proceeds from the silent auction would support them. We prayed for them during our services and individually. The silent auction donations grew and the enthusiasm of the parish spread. Everyone wanted to help support our dear friends. In typical All Saints' style, we gathered around the tables at the potluck to pray for them and enjoy each others' company as the loving community we are. The silent auction was a tremendous success due to the generosity of the talents and treasures of our congregants. We continue to pray for them and donate to their medical bills and rebuilding expenses.

2. Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all

- Our liturgical style is prayerful and traditional, and also creative, inviting and interactive. Congregants are encouraged to participate in the liturgy, in the music ministry, altar guild, and as ushers, lectors, acolytes and eucharistic ministers, and of course praying and singing from the pews. We also bring the prayers and eucharist to the homebound.
- We have two Sunday services. Our 8:00 am service is smaller and quieter, while our 10:00 am service attracts a larger gathering. This service includes music and is followed by a coffee hour and seasonal book and bible studies. One young parishioner calls the services "Quick Jesus and Sweet Jesus"!
- We love music! Our parishioners sing. Our music director plays piano and organ, leads singing during the service, and directs our choir that sings once a month and on special occasions.

- We have several engaging and inspiring preachers in our parish, so we benefit from hearing different perspectives on the readings and current events. The sermons reflect a deeply spiritual and reverent perspective.
- Our liturgical style encourages intelligent, accepting, approachable, caring and prayerful involvement in planning liturgy.

3. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

- We hold "Ministry Fairs" each year where folks can meet with members of All Saints' ministries to ask questions and volunteer or try out a ministry.
- We have several leadership opportunities including being part of the Vestry or a member of a subcommittee of the Vestry: Finance, Buildings & Grounds, and Time, Talent, and Treasure (T3) Committees.
- Members of All Saints' serve on diocesan groups such as the Northern Convocation, Diocesan Counsel and as Delegates to Convention.
- Members of the congregation also participate in leading Adult Formation programs.
- We have a variety of Liturgical Ministries. During services parishioners act as lay readers, chalice bearers, acolytes and ushers. Our dynamic choir sings monthly and on special occasions. Outside of the service we have a dedicated altar guild and several eucharistic visitors.
- To grow closer to our Lord, we participate in a diverse group of activities such as Centering Prayer, book and Scripture studies, card ministry and on coffee hours teams. Participation in the Worship, Pastoral Care, Community Cares, and Creation Care committees provide opportunities to develop a closer relationship with God, our planet and each other.

4. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

- During weekly services we are blessed with enriching and meaningful sermons and liturgical music that enriches and invites deeper contemplation and prayer. Monthly anointing provides those in need of healing with comfort and blessing.
- Every week we offer a Centering Prayer time and we always seem to have a Scripture or book study happening during the week or between services.

- We connect with our homebound and infirm members with cards, phone calls, care packages, Eucharistic Visitors, meals, and rides to appointments. During the pandemic, this outreach inspired the Vestry to initiate a phone call list to contact our members and those in need of hope, prayers and connection. Our contact with those not able to attend services continues with weekly mailings, visits from Eucharistic Ministers and members of the Pastoral Council, and with Community Cares baskets.

5. Describe your worshiping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region

- We have well-known and respected feeding ministries. Our Food Pantry is open three days per week and we host the weekly Dinner Bell Meal with meals provided by us and other community organizations.
- We have strong connections with local schools, Littleton Parks and Recreation, Toys For Tots, ChIPs, our Children's Little Free Library. The connection between The White Mountain School and All Saints' has been close, providing Chaplains and speakers to the school and members of the school community attend services at All Saints'. We use the school's campus for retreats and bonfire caroling.
- Members of All Saints' participate in a variety of local choral groups throughout the year and special ecumenical services. In times of tragedy, All Saints' has been a safe space for prayer and has hosted and participated in prayer vigils. Contemplative Prayer and some book studies are open to the local community. The Parish Prayer List includes folks from outside the church, relatives, friends and former parishioners.
- Members of All Saints' participated in Sacred Ground and RenewalWorks and currently serve as Delegates to Conventions and as members of the Northern Convocation and Diocesan Council.

6. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshiping community?

- **Our feeding ministries:** Food Pantry and the weekly Dinner Bell meal are well-attended. We maintain our commitment to helping the youth in our community and beyond. We have strong connections with local schools. We sent origami "Thank Yous" to school staff and students made origami stars for a Covid Star Project. During the summer we provide Snack Packs for students and provide the students at Littleton Parks and Recreation with cooking classes. We have a Little Free Children's Library that we keep stocked with books for children. We provide a space for Toys For Tots and donate gifts to Children of Incarcerated Persons (ChIPs)

- As mentioned above, our Community Cares Committee offered Christmas Cheer Baskets to folks who are alone or unable to get out during the holidays. We participate in Ecumenical Liturgies like the Thanksgiving service hosted by one of the local churches. Centering Prayer is open to the public and we have held prayer vigils and opened the sanctuary for the community at times of need. The chaplains at The White Mountain School are often deacons at All Saints’.

7. Tell about a ministry that your worshiping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

- We have developed and implemented several initiatives to reach the young folks in our community. We have invited Littleton High School students to participate in a Toastmasters program, invited campers from the Littleton Parks and Recreation program to learn to cook in our kitchen during the summer, and we keep a free library stocked with children’s books outside the church.
- But we are most proud of our YES! (Youth Enrichment and Supports) program. It started during the pandemic to offer academic support to students struggling with remote learning. We held seminars on the effective use of technology and helped students with homework completion. It has transitioned to our involvement with the Littleton Parks and Recreation providing volunteer support at the elementary school’s after school program and cooking classes during the summer. Contact Terri Fillion at [@stanterfillion@gmail.com](mailto:stanterfillion@gmail.com)

8. How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Our Vision for the Future:

We will continue to expand the spiritual nourishment and sense of sanctuary that is pervasive at All Saints’ Church. We will help facilitate bringing people to Jesus by intentionally removing obstacles and building upon our reputation as a loving, accepting, caring, welcoming, non-judgmental worship community.

To grow and diversify our All Saints’ Church we will strengthen intergenerational ministries and programming, both within our parish and the wider community; we invite everyone, including the marginalized, forgotten and sometimes threatened folks in our community and the community at large to feel welcomed and safe. To accomplish this, we need to examine and advance our uses of communication outlets and technology, provide more opportunities for lay leadership and expand our strong partnerships with outside community initiatives.

9. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

The congregation at All Saints' Church is excited to participate in a wide range of stewardship opportunities throughout the year. Then in the autumn, folks take the opportunity to renew or update the ways they pledge to share their Time, Talent and Treasure with the parish through this pledge drive. At All Saints', stewardship is about a lot more than money; it's about sharing our gifts to build community and relationships with God and each other.

We have significant resources both physical and financial because people before us loved and cared for All Saints' Church and helped us prepare for the future; now we acknowledge and accept the responsibility to pay it forward. Further, we maintain buildings and grounds effectively and we have proven to be good stewards of our gifts and assets. For example, Creation Care, is a passion that is an emerging "ministry" of many at All Saints' addressing how we take care of each other and our planet.

10. What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

From within our community we share a parking lot with the town's Community Building. They felt an encroachment when our cars were parked there on those days when no services were held. They became more adamant but our response was to listen, respect the town's authority but effect change incrementally until both parties were satisfied. The issue was resolved.

When conflict arose in the wider Church with the ordination of LGBTQIA+ clergy, we did lose some communicants but the majority, even those who were conflicted, remained.

At All Saints', all conflicts, major and minor, are resolved through listening to parishioners with patience and through open discussion from our Christian perspective.

11. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

- All Saints' rolls with the punches. We embrace all clergy and congregants whatever their race, gender or sexual orientation.
- We adapt, particularly if the need for a change has been clearly articulated.
- The leadership at All Saints' addressed the everchanging impacts of Covid-19 in a timely and compassionate manner. We followed CDC guidelines and the standards set forth by the Bishop regarding services.

- We saw some success with our Virtual Church and coffee hours, meetings, book groups and prayer services on Zoom. During the warmer months we held outdoor services. We were not as successful live streaming services. We need to improve our technical skills and infrastructure.
- Since 1990, we have transitioned through three priests, so we are familiar with leadership change.

12. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshiping community (enter no more than four descriptions made up of one or two words eg “exhilarating preaching”).

- Spiritual & Prayerful
- Engaging Preaching
- Inclusive & Fun
- Experienced Administrator