



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Gallup, New Mexico

Here in Gallup, NM, on the far western edge of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, we are looking forward to meeting the woman or man or couple whom God has already chosen to serve as the next vicar(s) at the Church of the Holy Spirit. Our small (about 75 active members), warm, and loving congregation is diverse in all ways. We truly seek to know Christ and make Him known through love.

In the following pages, we hope you will learn more about us as, together, we listen to discern God's call on our lives.

GALLUP

Founded in 1881, Gallup is a trading center for both McKinley County and the neighboring Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo. Tourists travel through Gallup, the “Indian Jewelry Capital of the World,” on Historic Route 66. Many Native Americans work as artists and craftsmen. The weekly Gallup flea market, on Saturday, is a fun place to buy Indian handcrafts, fry bread, mutton stew and tamales. At an elevation of 6500 feet in northwestern New Mexico, Gallup enjoys cold winters with some snow, warm summer days with cool evenings, and 11 inches of rainfall per year.

GALLUP AND MCKINLEY COUNTY

Gallup's 22,000 residents have Native American, Hispanic, Italian, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern roots. In Gallup, the population is 36% Native American, 35% Hispanic and 24% White. McKinley County, with 77,000 residents, is 72% Native American, 13% Hispanic, and 10% White. Social problems include poverty, substance abuse, and homelessness. Here are characteristics that distinguish Gallup-McKinley from most of the US (Source: US Census Bureau, 2014):

	McKinley County	Gallup	United States (average)
Percent of persons age 25 years+ with Bachelor's degree or higher	11%	21%	29%
Persons in poverty, percent	36%	24%	15%
Language other than English spoken in the home	57%	34%	21%

Gallup has a daily newspaper, a monthly community arts magazine, radio stations, two hospitals, three nursing homes and dental providers. There are movie theaters, a monthly Arts Crawl, and Nightly Indian Dances in the summer. The Gallup-McKinley County school district serves the entire county. There are also parochial schools and two charter schools in Gallup. The University of New Mexico and Western New Mexico University operate branch campuses here.

In August, Red Rock Park hosts an Intertribal Indian Ceremonial, with dances, a juried art show, and rodeo. In December, Red Rock Park hosts the popular Red Rock Balloon Rally. For recreation, Gallup and McKinley County offer hiking and biking trails, an indoor pool, a shooting range, a rock-climbing facility, tennis courts, and an 18-hole golf course. Families will find youth sports leagues including soccer, baseball/softball, basketball, and football. The mountain biking is some of the best in the west. Cibola National Forest, El Morro National Monument and Chaco Canyon National Park are nearby.



OUR MEETING PLACE

Episcopal services were first held in Gallup, New Mexico, in 1892. After meeting for three years in temporary locations, the cornerstone for the first church building was laid at the corner of 2nd & Aztec, in 1895. In 1945, the parish became self-supporting. To meet the needs of its growing congregation, the Church of the Holy Spirit built a new church facility in 1953. This building, of southwestern modern design, can seat, with the current layout of pews, about 120 people. The L-shaped one-story structure, located in a residential neighborhood, includes the nave, sacristy, parish hall, offices, Sunday School rooms and a kitchen. In 1977, and then again in 2010, the church nave was refurbished. In 1986, the church installed beautiful stained glass windows created by the artist Barbara Chavez-Stromberg. A Navajo sand-painting of the Last Supper also hangs in the nave. The church walls are adorned with beautiful hand-painted stations of the cross. An icon of the baptism of Christ hangs in the rear of the nave. The altar and lectern have a Holy Spirit motif with turquoise and coral inlay, reflecting both the beauty of Native American craft and the blue skies and red rocks of Gallup. The building and grounds are all debt-free and in good condition. The church grounds include sweeping views of local landmarks, such as the hogbacks to the east of Gallup and Pyramid Rock.

OUR SERVICES

On Sunday, worship services are at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. With the two services, our average Sunday attendance is 35-40. Both services follow Rite II, with the exception of Rite I services observed during Lent and Advent. The 8:00 AM service is without music. Our volunteer organist and choir provide music for the 10:30 AM service, often singing the Psalms. Our versatile choir and singers also sing folk hymns and spirituals to the accompaniment of piano or guitar. On Sundays at 9:15 AM, we offer Christian Formation for adults. We are beginning to experiment with lay-led Christian Formation on Sunday morning. Christian Formation for adults is also offered on Wednesdays on an occasional basis, but especially during Lent. We have Evensong two or more times a year at 4:00 PM on Sunday, with the October Blessing of the Animals and the Advent Evensong well attended. Our congregation fully supports the canons and policies of The Episcopal Church, USA. In short, our intention as part of the Body of Christ is: "To Know Christ and Make Him Known, Through Love."

WHO WE ARE

To help in our search for a new vicar, our parish participated in group discussions and completed a survey, with 27 survey respondents in all. The results of the survey point to who we are, who we want to be, and the qualities we value in a priest.

Our members describe Christian Formation, clergy and worship style as the top three reasons they were first attracted to Church of the Holy Spirit. In answer to: “What keeps you coming?” the top three answers included: the people, worship style, and love & openness.

Most of our members are between the ages of 51 to 75, about half of whom are retired. About half of us are married. Twenty percent of the survey respondents have children under age 18 and many of us have adult children. The congregation includes both long term Episcopalians as well as others who joined the Episcopal Church in the last 5 years. About half of our survey respondents expect to live in Gallup for another 7 years or more. Our members work in education, law, health care, and the private sector (construction and business). Hobbies enjoyed by members include: hiking, hunting, fishing, photography, painting, writing, reading, music, crafts and cooking.

Although not a survey question, we can vouch for the fact that our congregation includes people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including not only Anglo-American, but also Navajo, other Native American, African-American, African, Hispanic and Asian participants as well. We also share a diversity of political beliefs and socio-economic backgrounds. We are LGBT-friendly.

Our worship benefits from the members who volunteer their services as members of the Bishop’s Committee, the Altar Guild, lectors, lay Eucharistic ministers, lay worship leaders, acolytes and musicians. Healing prayer is an important part of our worship and outreach. Our church loft is equipped with a rebuilt 3-manual organ with digital Hauptwerk sound technology, as well as a Yamaha digital piano. The five vocalists in our choir sing the Psalms in Anglican chant along with choral anthems on holy days and special occasions. Instruments played in our church on an occasional basis include guitar, dulcimer, recorder, saxophone, trumpet and ukulele. Christmas Eve and Easter services are well attended by community members and friends.



In recent years, our **Christian Formation** activities have included Sunday morning and sometimes Wednesday evening Christian Formation classes for adults. We recently updated our nursery equipment to provide a quiet haven, as needed, for parents of young children. We have several volunteers working to improve our Sunday School for young children, which meets during the sermon time. For many years, we also hosted Popcorn Theology (movie, popcorn & discussion) as a branch of our Christian Formation program. We have encouraged Bible study and prayer. We have held retreats, which were opened to community members. Our men’s prayer breakfast meets monthly.

Fellowship and hospitality activities are popular and well attended. We host a birthday potluck once every two months. The Joy Seekers plan outings to nearby restaurants after church and on weekend nights. During Lent, members take turns preparing soup for Wednesday night suppers. Foyer Group dinners have been held in the past.



Also, since 2014 we have hosted Community Coffeehouses three times a year. These coffeehouses are an opportunity for church members to have fun while sharing a talent; it is also an opportunity to engage with community members.

Our mission and outreach events and fundraisers support the work the Community Food Pantry, Battered Families Services, and local organizations serving the homeless. . Members of our congregation have served on the boards of Battered Families Services and other groups. During the summer of 2014, six of our members staffed a table at the Gallup Farmers Market, selling handcrafts to raise money for Battered Families Services.



In 2014 our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner raised money to support a local organization providing services to those suffering from HIV. In 2015 and 2016 the Shrove Tuesday fundraiser supported the work of the Thai Burma Border Health Initiative, a non-profit founded by Gallup physicians to serve refugees and immigrants living along the Thai Burma border. In 2015 we inaugurated a concert series, hosting two concerts. Our first concert featured classical trumpet and organ and raised money for two organizations working with the homeless in Gallup: St. Joseph's Shelter, run by the Missionaries of Charity, and Howard Chapel, an African Methodist Episcopal mission in Gallup. Our second concert, a fundraiser for Battered Families Services, featured Polyphony Marimba of Santa Fe, an ensemble of 8 marimba players who blend African rhythms with New Mexican voices. Our concerts, offered at no charge to the community, received free advertising by local media, attracted 60-80 attendees, and raised both money and awareness. As part of our mission and outreach, we have hosted a Diabetes

Support Group, Overeaters Anonymous, AA, Weight Watchers, Battered Families Services board meetings and Girl Scouts.

WHO WE WANT TO BE

In answer to the open-ended question: “What, if anything, is missing at Church of the Holy Spirit?” many of us expressed a desire for increased membership as well as a need for more youth outreach. Although we appreciate our traditional worship style, most of us are also comfortable with the idea of adapting both our worship and music styles to engage youth. Our members are generally enthusiastic about any activities or programs offered, but we sometimes lack leaders who are able or willing to organize these events or programs.



In terms of new avenues to explore or programs to strengthen, we identified a great need for focus on youth activities and Sunday School. We often have 3-5 children on Sunday. We would like to see children as acolytes, a brief children’s sermon, and more family friendly activities intentionally planned to incorporate youth. We would like to reach out to students at UNM-Gallup, our local branch college. Although some of us study or teach there part-time, we have not yet found an effective way to reach out to students there. Another area of outreach is ministry to our local indigenous population, finding a way to bring a greater number of Native people to our church while also honoring their traditions and culture. We appreciate the beauty of our worship and desire that changes in our worship incorporate and build on that beauty and the traditions nurtured by the BCP.

PERSONNEL

We have no salaried employees. Our current Co-Vicars are non-stipendiary; their actual vicarage living expenses are reimbursed up to \$1000/month. One Co-Vicar serves as parish administrator and bookkeeper. Our Organist/Choir Master is a volunteer, as are our other musicians and choir members.

Most of our grounds work and some of our building maintenance is performed by volunteers from the congregation. Our sexton, who cleans once a week, receives a set monthly fee. On occasion we employ a handyman for small jobs in and around the church.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Our projected total regular income and expenses for 2016 is just over \$50,000, with an additional \$24,000 projected in designated gifts. Our unrestricted savings amount to approximately \$100,000. Two

endowment funds, one for Outreach and one for Christian Formation, total approximately \$44,000. Approximately \$20,000 are available (with diocesan approval) for capital improvements. Our vicarage is a lovely, well-maintained, furnished home, which is a five-minute walk from the church. Although our regular income and savings would only support a part-time/bi-vocational priest, two options for further funding are being explored. The hopes and prayers of Church of the Holy Spirit are to expand the position from part-time to full-time in five years.

QUALITIES WE VALUE IN A PRIEST

Our members believe that worship should emphasize the Eucharist. We would like our priest to be a strong preacher and spiritual guide, inclusive of diversity, who empowers lay leaders to do God's work. We would also like our priest to be committed to reaching out to youth and young adults, and to working with our local Native population. We believe that whether you are male or female, married or single, God will help guide you—the priest already chosen for us by God—to our parish. We have deeply benefitted from the love of our current vicars, a married team. If you are divorced or separated and feel a calling to Gallup, New Mexico, we want to hear from you. Although our finances necessitate a part-time or bi-vocational priest at this time, we hope to increase both membership and stewardship over the next few years so that we can support a full-time priest. Until then, we want to be sure that we can support you with our gifts of time and money. We want to dialog with you so that you can share both your vision and your concerns with us, as we have shared ours with you.



Priests interested in applying should email the following to:

the Rev. Canon Raymond Raney, rraney@dioceserg.org

1. OTM profile 2. Personal Resume or CV 3. Letter of Interest

NOTE: A preliminary “red flag” check will be conducted on all applicants prior to forwarding materials to the search committee.