

A circular wreath of various botanical illustrations surrounds the central text. The wreath includes green ferns, red maple leaves, yellow marigolds, purple cornflowers, and large green lily pads.

Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica

Parish Profile

Welcome to St. Andrew & St. Monica





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Welcome to the Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica

We Welcome You to join us at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica. The Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica is a thriving cosmopolitan church. We are nestled in the southeast corner of Baring Street in the Powelton Village of West Philadelphia. Our church is surrounded by the activity that comes from being neighbors to Drexel University and University of Pennsylvania as well as the comfort of families that live in the neighborhood. The church is made up of many nationalities from African, American, and the Caribbean Islands. We currently have around 200 members.

Church services are held every Sunday at 9:30AM. During the week Bible Study is held on Monday's at 6:30 PM. To ensure youth participation in the service, we also provide Sunday School on most Sundays. Usually on the last Sunday of the month we conduct Youth Sunday in which the youth of the church participate in the Bible readings and receive blessings during the service and on occasion deliver the sermon.

To all who would do His Will: to all who would live to serve Christ and would make a Christian world: to all who would seek comfort and find rest: to the old and young: wise and unlearned, saint and sinner, this Church opens its doors and in the Name of Jesus Christ bids you.

WELCOME TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE!





Our History



History of our Parish

The church was first organized as St. Marks Mantua in 1819 located at 36th and Wallace Street in Philadelphia. A church building was erected and consecrated by Bishop White on August 9, 1921. Earlier services were held in the homes of local residents in what was then a small village on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, Powell's Woods. By 1830 the number of parishioners had dwindled, and the church property was sold at a Sheriff's sale.

A fire destroyed the building in 1834. Rising from the ashes, on December 2, 1850, the parish was reorganized as St. Andrew's, West Philadelphia. The original site of St. Mark's was repurchased, and the fire-gutted building was rebuilt and made usable. Services began once more at this site in 1852. As the congregation grew, plans were under way for a larger structure, so St. Andrew's again sold the property in 1865. In October of 1965, a cornerstone was laid for a new church building at 36th and Baring Street, our current location. During construction, the congregation met in the ballroom of Powelton House, which was the home of one E. Spencer Miller, an active parishioner and prominent Philadelphian.

A parish hall was built as an addition to the church building in 1876. The congregation, then some 500 strong, soon outgrew the available space and around 1880 voted to build yet another new structure. After three years of steady canvassing, funds were in hand by 1883 to construct the present church building. Church records indicate prominent Philadelphia neighbors such as A.J Drexel and Lamont du Pont contributed to this effort. Part of the new building was designed by Joseph Miller Wilson, a noted Philadelphia architect who had earlier overseen the design and construction of the Main Exhibition Building and Memorial Hall for the Centennial Exhibition in 1876. Today, the church building remains on the National Register of Historic Places. The new church building was designed to seat 800 people, and services were held there for the first time on Easter Sunday in 1885.



Changes in Time

With the passage of time, the surrounding Powelton community witnessed an exodus of people to the suburbs, a rise in business establishments in the neighborhood, and the conversion of private residents into apartment houses. In 1942 the church rectory on 3602 Baring Street was sold to pay for repairs to the church's heating system. By 1954, the parish had only 56 supporting members and the vestry voted to turn its future over to the bishop. For about a decade, facilities, priests, and services were shared with Calvary Church at 814 North 41st Street. Then in 1965, St. Andrew Parish was joined by the members of St. Monica.

The Merger

The Church of St. Monica had begun its existence as a settlement house and mission in 1912. By 1914 funds had been collected to build a structure, and the cornerstone was laid at 42nd Street and St. Mark's Square, Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia in 1915. The final service held at St. Monica was on August 29, 1965.

The members of St. Monica then joined the members of St. Andrew, and the parish was renamed the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica one week later, on September 5, 1965. On January 1, 1968, the parish gained independence.

Over 50 years have passed since the merger of the two congregations, and today the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica is a vibrant, growing community of about 200 members.



Our Beautiful Sanctuary



Nave



Lady's Chapel



Baptismal



High Altar





Who We Are



Who We Are



The Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica (SAM) is a diverse congregation of prayerful people that have a joyful spirit. Our deep commitment to prayer is constant and strong throughout the congregation. From praying for our members who are sick, a couple who is newly married, to starting off prayer to begin our bible study, we know how strong prayer is. We understand the power of prayer for our lives.

The people of SAM are family oriented and take pride in community and inclusion. The community of SAM not only consists of those who are in the church but the surrounding neighborhood as well. Powelton Village has slowly become very racially mixed with a broad spectrum of ethnicities and nationalities. Much of this has stemmed from the two universities, University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel University right next door.

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica was never a neighborhood church, but more a community parish. Our members come from a number of neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia, local suburbs, and parts of New Jersey. Fr. Ramenta, the church Rector, during this time, was very involved and highly respected in the local communities of Powelton and Mantua.

We embrace our differences instead of using them as a defense against one another. We believe that this is one of the great things that make up the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica. We come from different economic statuses, countries, regions of the country, races, sexual orientation and we still manage to share so many ideas and interest. Our diversity is what makes us better as we reflect the world and community, we live in.

The children of SAM really bring forth light and hope for a better future, not only in our church, but also in our world. The work they do in Sunday School and the participation in service give a sense of excitement. Over the years we have had new programs formed for the youth, new community outreach, and a youth choir was also formed. Among the various organizations and committees here at the Church of St. Andrew & Monica, for approximately twenty years, our Scholarship Committee has given monetary awards of \$500.00 to our promising students graduating from high school and going on to higher learning. Jean Wrice and many other members conducted Vacation Bible School each year, with a full staff of teachers and a full array of activities. Seeing them learn about the Lord and Jesus Christ through their eyes allows us to see how pure and simple life really is. Our children are truly a bright light that make up the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica.

We also like to have a good time at SAM! Christmas and Easter programs bring new excitement to our Parish. Our full array of acolytes have participated yearly at the Acolyte Festival in Washington D.C. We have many excursions, including wine festivals, shopping, and theater events. We have even had groups journey to Africa. Praise dancing and fashion shows featuring ethnic dress and history are unforgettable. Black History performances featuring The Stuart Sisters, Oris Stuart, Julius Brown, and youth presentations have been presented each year. The Christmas Eve Services are heavily attended, rejoicing, praising God, bringing in the Birth of our Savior. Palm Sunday has historically been a spectacle as this Parish marches around a full square block to ceremoniously bring in the gift of Easter. Our Parish has traditionally conducted High Mass most Sundays of the year, with the full singing of the Eucharistic Ceremony.

The people of SAM serve the Lord with reverence and love. This love is shared not only among the congregation but also among visitors and friends of the community. SAM's congregation is always willing to step in to help a fellow member in their time of need. We are here to volunteer our services to assist with a new initiative with the church. We are full of resources and are willing to share to better the future of the church. We welcome others to share their gifts with us as well.







Guilds & Ministries



Guilds and Ministries



Acolytes – Our acolytes are a dedicated group of young persons who are committed to serving on the altar. Because of their various responsibilities, they make a genuine effort to be in church regularly.

Scholarship Committee- In 2004, the Scholarship Committee was formed. Since then we have continually given \$500 scholarships to our graduating high school students.

Acolyte Sponsors- Provide training/support of acolytes financially & morally. The members of this committee are usually the parents of the Acolytes.

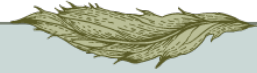
Music Ministry – A group of members who sing a variety of music. Because of our diverse congregation, we incorporate traditional and contemporary gospel music in our service.

Food Cupboard- A group of church members and volunteers who coordinate the ordering, storage, and distribution of foods to persons in need in both the community and our own church family. Many Saturdays, we serve from 175 to 200 persons.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry -Visit and give communion to the sick & shut in.

Lay Readers- Members of our congregation, both young persons and adults who are responsible for reading the scriptures during church services.

Guilds and Ministries Continued



Pastoral Care Ministries- Our new Pastoral Care and Lay Eucharistic Ministry have similar outreach goals. They will be a listening ear for the persons in the homes they visit. This group of parishioners will also visit with the sick and shut-in to share God's word.

Christian Education —We have a vibrant Sunday School as well as a lay led Bible Study that meets weekly. Seasonal Bible study is also a part of the curriculum.

Tech Team- Members are responsible for streaming and recording church services and meetings for those who are not able to attend in person.

Ushers- Our Ushers are our welcoming committee to our service. These are the first persons our visitors and congregants see when they enter our church for the service. They are responsible for assisting our guests who may be unfamiliar with our service.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)- All female parishioners are a part of this ministry. The women of this ministry hold several fundraisers throughout the year as well as plan Seasonal (Advent/Lenten) Retreats.

Men's Fellowship- All male parishioners are automatic members of this ministry. One of the visions of this group is to cultivate a prayer life among the men. The men work together to do outreach and fundraisers throughout the year.



Fun Times at SAM



Events at SAM



Vacation Bible School

In 1994 the church started a vacation Bible School with funding from the Diocese. The Bible School was held every summer for a week. Students who participated in the vacation bible school were from the local Powelton community as well as from the parish and ranged from all ages. As part of their studies the students were taken on several road trips including to Bible on Stage in Lancaster, PA and to visit the historic Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia. Other trips were made to the Philadelphia Zoo and the Jewish Museum.

Annual Acolyte Festival

For many years, the Acolytes of the church have been represented at the Annual Acolyte Festival held at the Washington National Cathedral. The Acolytes gather with other Acolytes from all over the United States and nearby islands to participate in this annual festival in Washington, D.C.

Sunday School Closing

An annual ceremony conducted by the Sunday School Teachers and the students of the Sunday school. The ceremony is usually held in June, and it celebrates, through song and scripture, the lessons they have learned throughout the year. Students are presented with certificates to recognize their accomplishments.

International Day

Over the years, we have celebrated International Day where we celebrate the many cultures that make up our congregation. It takes place on a Sunday after church, in the Great Hall, with a colorful array of foods and arts from various countries and cultures on display.



ECW Retreat





Financial Summary

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

During the pandemic we were unable to have our regular activities to supplement our income. However, because of the dedication of our congregation, we were able to meet all our obligations.

ROOF LOAN

In 2019, we received a \$50,000.00 loan from the Diocese of PA to repair our roof. As of December 31, 2022, the congregation has paid \$30,695.00 on this loan. No monies were taken from the operating fund but from donations from our parishioners. It is our prayer to have this loan paid off within the next two years.

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income | | | | | | |
| Parish Offerings | \$177,608 | \$188,239 | \$202,595 | \$192,218 | \$201,114 | \$177,715 |
| Other Contributions | 7,2786 | 4,8877 | 4,0268 | 4,8250 | 9,242 | 18,132 |
| Parish Organizations | 2,162 | 2,275 | 3,644 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Parish events | 2,397 | 5,133 | 8,064 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | \$254,953 | \$244,524 | \$254,571 | \$240,468 | \$210,356 | \$195,907 |
| Endowment | | | | | | |
| Merrill Lynch Acc't | | | | | 240,506 | 254,181 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| Dio.Assessment/Pledge | 8,743 | 8,675 | 8,775 | 8,701 | 9,701 | 9,701 |
| Salaries | 167,735 | 158,150 | 158,659 | 140,345 | 108,392 | 73,905 |
| Taxes | 25,237 | 23,143 | 23,237 | 22,695 | 8,890 | 6,283 |
| Utilities | 20,169 | 22,560 | 22,776 | 19,828 | 12,783 | 18,519 |
| Property Ins/License | 12,097 | 10,733 | 10,252 | 10,745 | 11,810 | 15,127 |
| Repairs/Supplies | 1,062 | 862 | 3,992 | 5,768 | 18,067 | 24,454 |
| Office/Altar Supplies | 6,237 | 3,117 | 3,090 | 3,100 | 1,988 | 4,324 |
| Other Expenses | 6,232 | 5,276 | 2,927 | 5,944 | 6,995 | 20,570 |
| Total Expenses | \$247,514 | \$232,517 | \$233,708 | \$217,126 | \$178,625 | \$172,883 |
| Roof Loan | | | \$50,000 | | | \$19,305 |





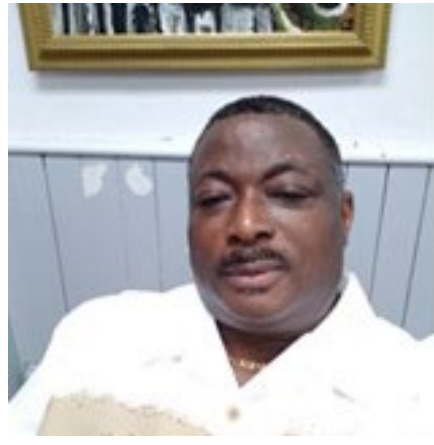
Meet Our Vestry





Janice Jervay

I am the Senior Warden. I have been attending SAM for 8 years. My vision is to have a church that increases its membership and has activities that appeal to the young adults and children of our church. SAM is a church that embodies a warm and inviting atmosphere making newcomers feel welcomed. It is also a church rich of diverse ethnic groups that embraces the various cultures and adds to its uniqueness.



Joshua Crabbe

I am the Junior Warden. I have been attending SAM for about 15 years. My vision is to have a vibrant church with great youth presence. I envision a dynamic and progressive congregation that will accept the challenge to make more disciples for the Lord's ministry.



Andrea N. Simpson

I am currently the Secretary on the Vestry and a member of the Executive Committee. I have been attending/a parishioner at The Church of SAM for over 30 years.

My vision of the Church of SAM is a vision of growth and involvement. My vision is that we increase our membership. This increase membership would energize the parishioners which would then pour into our surrounding communities of Mantua and the Powelton Village as a part of our Outreach. This would be an awakening of old parishioners that left but have returned as they have heard the buzz... that the Church of SAM is back better than before...Church of SAM 2.0!

My life here at the Church of SAM is one where I've grown spiritually and cultivated my relationship with God over the years. I have lots of wonderful memories as I've been a part of many successful fundraisers, events, and ministries to one of the greatest milestones – when we became an Independent Parish. Life here is what you put into it. The more you give the more you will receive – tenfold!



Sherrie Tatman

I am the Finance Chairperson. I have been attending SAM for 40 years. My vision for SAM is to have a church full of activities for both the young and older members. Even though the Powelton Village Civic Association has their Annual Christmas party here, I would love for SAM to be open for more neighborhood activities as well as for us to be a hub for college students to feel free to have their activities here. I have found SAMS to be a spirit filled praying family church. We are blessed to have members who are quick to respond to the needs of fellow parishioners.





Adoley Allotey

I am the Youth Representative on the Vestry. I have been attending Sam for 20+ years. I hope to see more Stewardship and fellowship among more young adults of SAM. SAM is a vibrant church community that I am proud to be a member of. I personally grew up here for the majority of my life and there isn't another church more dedicated to praising and worshipping God, as well as promoting ministry and fellowship. I hope for Sam to elevate from this point and to reach out and gather more people to celebrate the Word of God.



Nicole Foster-Mbonu

I am a Vestry member. I have been attending SAM since 2001. My vision for SAM is for the church to secure stellar leadership in the next Pastoral candidate who will lead this congregation to maintain financial independence while growing church membership and strengthening the congregation and surrounding communities spiritually. I have grown very fond of the Congregation at SAM. The church is a Gem. St. Andrew and St. Monica has a very rich cultural base with uniquely talented individuals that have shown how resilient we are through many diversities. I can't imagine attending any other church than The Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica.



Michael Grannum

I am a Vestry member. I have been attending SAM for 9 years. My vision is to find a new Pastor to continue our journey. This is a loving, family-oriented Church where Christ is our leader, and His direction is followed.



Danika Hernandez-Stubbs

I am a vestry member, and have been attending SAM for 46 years, as a forth generation parishioner, being Christened at SAM at birth. I envision SAM to be an active place, one to attend any day of the week, regardless of age/generation. My hope is to see a thriving congregation with help from the surrounding community and from those that may travel from elsewhere, to bring the message of the importance of God's work through community service to the surrounding areas and beyond. I envision SAM to have that family connection, as to what I had witnessed while attending as a child, continuing the love and friendship for many generations. I adore SAM and want to see it grow. It has always been a pleasure to attend services and fellowship with congregants, inside of the church and externally. Getting to know the congregation and to share in their personal lives, helps us grow spiritually, as we continue to help lift each other up in prayer for those specific needs, continuing to draw each of us closer to God.





Charles Lamptey

My position on the Vestry is that we continue what we have been doing for years and try our possible best to include the kids more and more when it comes to Prayer Partners and Bible study. I have been attending SAMS for 21 years. My vision for SAM'S future is that God will increase us, and we will grow spiritually with the Youth playing a major role. I have grown a lot since I've been here, and I owe it to God and my SAM family.



Mikhail Miller

I am an Auxiliary Vestry member. I have been attending for 5 years. I hope that SAM continues to grow in membership including a return of members who have stayed away since the start of the pandemic. As a relatively newcomer, the thing that drew me to SAM and kept me returning was the sense of community that exists here. The congregation has a way of making you feel at home. It is our greatest asset.



Renae Rutherford

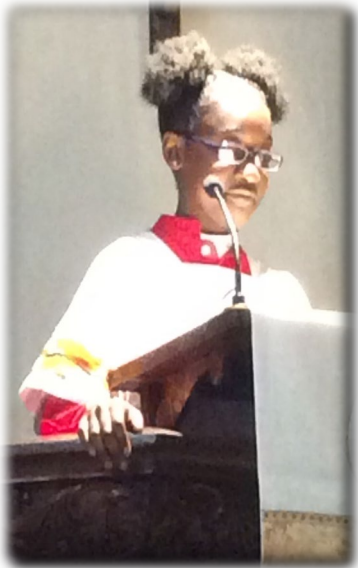
I am the Technology Director. I have been attending SAM since 1987. My vision for the future of SAM is for us to become a communal space where those who live in this area and beyond are familiar with and are frequent users of this church on Sundays and other days of the week. With this, we should see further development with all church ministries. As many churches have been lost, post COVID, it is a pleasure to see SAM moving along with vibrancy. This is a true testament to our fortitude and familial demeanor.



Ato Tachie-Menson

I have been a vestry member at SAM since 2020. My membership or attendance of SAM spans over three decades. My vision for SAM is to see the church grow in membership comparable to thirty plus years ago when I joined the church, and to see the younger members actively involved and assuming leadership positions. SAM is extremely accommodating. The members are affable and hospitable. Needless to say, I have always felt at home at SAM.









What We Seek

This area of Philadelphia where SAM is located has a tradition of change and diversity. Religious communities have been readjusting to serve the needs of people who reflect gender, age, economic and cultural differences.

Relocating to Powelton allowed for the beautiful edifice that is now the Church of St. Andrew and St. Monica. The mission of the church has not changed: it is to serve the needs of people. Our congregation has always answered immediate needs like a place for teens to play basketball or dance. Now, the needs of our young people can be much more complicated. Safety, mental illness, homelessness, unemployment issues face our families. So, we need to pray while we do something.

The church size and other limitations are just some of the realities we face, but we are looking toward the future with hope. We are looking for a rector that leads with God's word, with love, and grounded in the Lord's work. We would like someone who is willing to move us forward in evangelizing in our community and broadening how we can share our love of Christ with others. We hope to have someone who shares our sense of community and love of family. One who can bring in a new generation of congregants that have innovative ideas and motivation to get involved. Tradition is also important to who we are so we would want someone who respects the foundation that has been set and builds upon that foundation.

We feel that much of our future will depend on our choice of our new rector. We do not plan to place all our challenges on his/her shoulders; but we truly believe that we must look at our need for growth and stability as a goal while our mission to serve must not change. A new rector can fulfill both goals: growth and mission. They may use their time and talent and our treasures to infuse a brand-new energy to help us to be better stewards for our neighborhood and our city.





Thank you



Parish Profile Committee Members

Michael Crabbe

Earl Jefferson

Jackie Leonard

Gail Mitchell

Patricia Robinson

Sherrie Tatman

Sharon Webster

Herbert Welles III

Jean Wrice

Special Mention: Jackie Brady-Prince