Our Mission

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is to create worship, ministries, education, and social gatherings which support our deepening discipleship with Christ. We believe it is important that our experience of “church” reaches beyond the confines of any building or worship service; and that it must be relevant to how we live our lives—how we raise our families, care for aging parents, mend broken relationships, approach our vocations, and participate in the needs of our community and the world.
Dear friend,

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. As you get to know us better, I hope you will find Holy Spirit to be a community of faith ready to meet your spiritual needs through worship, study, ministries, and fellowship. Holy Spirit is one of the newest parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. We were founded in 2002 and began as a storefront church on Highway 31 in Alabaster. Now, we have close to 200 baptized members, and we are growing. One of the things people love most about Holy Spirit is that, as soon as you walk through the door, you feel like part of the family. No matter who you are or where you are on your journey with Christ, you are welcome at Holy Spirit. We believe our shared life together as a Christian family continues to empower us to nurture each other’s growth in Christ and to have an impact on the wider community and the world. As our parish mission statement proclaims, we believe that "church" reaches beyond the confines of any building or worship service. The purpose of this Newcomer's Guide is to acquaint you with the various aspects of our parish. If you are looking for a new church home, I hope you will consider us. If you have any questions about Holy Spirit or the Episcopal Church, please do not hesitate to call the parish office or e-mail me directly. Contact information can be found on the back of this booklet.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Eric N. Mancil, Rector
Who We Are

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit is more than just a building with a nave, narthex, and parish hall. We are a loving, diverse, and growing community of believers. We live our lives filled with hope, energy, and determination to fulfill our mission to be the Body of Christ on earth as we strive to honor the two great commandments: love God and love our neighbor. The Holy Spirit Family is welcoming to all, inclusive in our beliefs, empowered by our faith, and grounded by Scripture, *The Book of Common Prayer*, our traditions, and our identity as faithful Episcopalians.

We celebrate the fact that we have members who come from all walks of life. We have young children, youth, young adults, middle-aged adults, and those who are in the later stages of life. We have married and partnered couples, families, and singles. We represent a variety of different beliefs, backgrounds, and ethnicities. We have "cradle Episcopalians" and those who come from different faith traditions (or no tradition at all). In the spirit of radical hospitality, we welcome all, no matter who they are, who they love, or where they come from. Holy Spirit is a spiritual home for all people, a place where you can belong.
The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church in the United States is a fellowship of 2.2 million Christians in 108 dioceses throughout the United States as well as Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Micronesia, Taiwan, and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church is the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry. Bishop Curry, previously the Bishop of North Carolina, was elected during the 78th General Convention in June of 2015.

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, a global fellowship of 73 million Christians in 38 self-governing provinces. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby. While he is sometimes compared to the Roman Catholic Pope, a more accurate description of Archbishop Welby's role is that he is “first among equals” with his brother and sister bishops from throughout the Anglican Communion. Holy Spirit is a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, a diocese within the national Episcopal Church. The Bishop of our diocese is The Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry, whose office is located in downtown Birmingham.
Our Weekly Schedule

SUNDAYS
8:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Without music)
9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am - Christian Formation for all Ages (September-May)
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite II (With music)

*Children's Chapel for ages 4 through 2nd grade is offered during the 10:30 service.
Childcare is available in our Nursery for ages 4 and under, beginning at 8:30 am.

TUESDAYS
10:00 am - Rector's Bible Study with Father Eric (Parish Hall)
8:00 pm - An Order for Compline (Live-streamed on Facebook)

WEDNESDAYS
9:00 am - Coffee with the Priest
12:00 noon - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

THURSDAYS
8:30 am - Morning Prayer: Rite II

For a complete calendar of events, visit our parish website at holyspirit-al.org.
Our Ministries

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

At the Church of the Holy Spirit, there are many different ways to serve and get connected. On the next several pages, you will see a list of the various ministries at our parish, along with a brief description and contact person for each. To contact any of our ministry coordinators, please e-mail the Parish Office.

SERVING ONE ANOTHER

Christian Formation: Classes are available for children, youth, and adults each Sunday morning, beginning at 9:30 am in the Parish Hall. Please note that Sunday classes typically only meet during the program year (September-May). For more information, please contact Father Eric (Adults) or Lindsey Austin (Children and Youth). Special Wednesday evening programs are also offered throughout the year during Advent (late Fall/early Winter) and Lent (late Winter/early Spring).
Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Our youth group for middle school and high school students. For more information, please contact Lindsey Austin.

Parish Life: This ministry team works behind the scenes to coordinate special events throughout the year, such as the annual parish birthday celebration, our back-to-school ice cream social, and much more. For more information, please contact Sharon Greer.

Coffee Hour: Coffee Hour is the time after each service when we gather for fellowship and refreshments. Coffee Hour hosts help prepare for Coffee Hour each Sunday. For information, please contact Sharon Poset.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 am in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Jason Portney.

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Care team is a group of lay persons who help support the clergy in providing pastoral care to the members of our parish who may be sick, in the hospital, or homebound. For more information, please contact Mary Hodgetts.

Cursillo: Cursillo is a community of faith that is dedicated to exploring the love of God and sharing God's love with each other. It begins with a three-day weekend at Camp McDowell. For more information about Cursillo, please contact Mandy Curry.

Daughters of the King (DOK): A group of Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of fellow sisters. For more information, please contact Mary Hodgetts.
Clean/Mow Team: A group of volunteers who help keep the church's building and grounds looking clean and tidy. For more information, please contact the Junior Warden.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Acolytes: This group of dedicated children and youth serve as torchbearers and crucifers during worship. They also assist the priest in setting the altar during Communion. For more information about acolytes, please contact Ryan Leonard.

Lectors: Lectors serve as readers and intercessors during worship on Sundays and for special services throughout the year. For more information, please contact Father Eric.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs): LEMs are appointed for three years and licensed by the Bishop to help administer the sacrament during Communion. For more information, please contact Father Eric.

Ushers: Ushers are responsible for welcoming members and newcomers, distributing bulletins, and making sure worship is a safe experience. For more information, please contact Matt Roth.

Greeters: Greeters are responsible for offering hospitality to everyone who walks through the doors, making sure they have a name tag and providing materials about our parish to visitors. For more information, contact Matt Roth.

Altar Guild: This team is responsible for ensuring that the altar and worship space are prepared for services on Sunday mornings and for special services throughout the year. For more information about the Altar Guild, please contact an Altar Guild member.
Holy Spirit Choir: The choir serves by providing leadership in music during the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings and for special services throughout the year. For information about the choir, please contact Peg Thompson.

SERVING THE WORLD

Beans and Rice Ministry: Our Beans and Rice Ministry occurs on the third Saturday of each month. We distribute bags of groceries to those in need of assistance with food. For more information, please contact John Williams.

Laundry Love Ministry: Laundry Love is a ministry co-sponsored by Suds-Ru-Us, a local laundromat in the community. Quarterly, we invite anyone in the community to come and do loads of laundry, completely free of charge. For more information, please contact Mandy Heatherly.

Vacation Bible School: A special summer program for children, open to members of the parish as well as children from the community. For more information about VBS, please contact Lindsey Austin.

Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC): This team is dedicated to the ministry of evangelism, particularly "getting the word out" to the community about Holy Spirit, making people feel welcome when they walk through our doors, and helping them get connected. For more information, please contact Rick Langley.

Where do your spiritual gifts fit in? How is God calling you to serve?
Membership at Holy Spirit

If you have been baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church or baptized in a church other than the Episcopal Church, please contact our Parish Administrator to arrange a letter of transfer.

BAPTISM IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the Episcopal Church, we baptize people of all ages, including infants and young children. If you would like more information about how to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak with Father Eric.

CONFIRMATION and RECEPTION

Confirmation is a sacramental rite where persons who have already been baptized are prepared to make a mature, public affirmation of faith and receive the laying on of hands by a bishop. If you have already been confirmed in another church (Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox, etc.), you may be received by the Bishop. If you would like more information about how to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, please speak with Father Eric.
Clergy and Staff

Rector
The Rev. Eric Mancil
rector@holyspirit-al.org

Minister of Music
Peg Thompson
pegthompson@aol.com

Dir. of Children and Youth
Lindsey Austin
lindsey@holyspirit-al.org

Parish Administrator
Mandy Golightly
mandy@holyspirit-al.org

To contact any of our various ministry coordinators, please e-mail the Parish Office: office@holyspirit-al.org.