



## Church of the Word

7500 Logos Way  
Gainesville, VA 20155-3628  
Phone: 703-754-9673

### CHURCH PROFILE

Church of the Word is both liturgical and contemporary in worship, biblical in preaching and Spirit filled in ministry. As our name implies, we value scripture as the Word of God. The Bible guides us in every aspect of our life. Our mission is the great commission<sup>1</sup> and the great commandment<sup>2</sup>. We recognize Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, the Head of our church, and the Lord of all creation.

### Worship Style

Our corporate worship invites the presence of the Holy Spirit and we welcome the use of spiritual gifts. Our service emphasizes celebration, prayer, contemporary Christian music, Holy Communion, and practical, biblical teaching. Sunday morning services begin with songs of praise and the calling of the Holy Spirit. Fittingly, Church of the Word gives prominence to the ministry of God's Word with scripture readings and a sermon/teaching for youth and adults. The Holy Eucharist is standard at both the 8:15am and 10:30am worship services.

A distinctive feature of Sunday Morning worship is our use of contemporary Christian music from the charismatic, evangelical, and liturgical traditions. At Church of the Word you will not find hymnals, an organ, or a robed choir. Instead, a band of Christian musicians leads the congregation into deep, meaningful, and sometimes extended worship. The text of the liturgy, including our songs of praise, is projected onto a screen to make it easy to follow. You will hear enthusiastic clapping, see raised hands, and experience occasional words of prophesy.

An occasional feature of our worship style is to personalize the prayers of the people by inviting everyone to gather in small clusters and briefly pray for each other. This open sharing of prayer requests and thanksgivings is in keeping with the warm, family atmosphere of our services. We are a welcoming community of believers who will engage you from the time you are welcomed at our doors by our greeters, throughout the worship service, and into our extended coffee and fellowship time at the end of our service.

### Location

Church of the Word is a regional rather than a geographically local church drawing people from Prince William and surrounding counties with a congregational center of population somewhere west of our physical location in Gainesville, VA. This is a vibrant, growing community with many young adult families and with wide racial and ethnic diversity.

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<sup>1</sup>"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>2</sup> "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

## **Our Church History**

Our church began when several Home Groups of parishioners from Church of the Apostles in Fairfax, VA, felt led to unite and form a new congregation in the Manassas, VA area. It was this unity provided by the Holy Spirit that provided the basis for a new mission church in 1986. During our first two years we had three temporary homes in public school buildings.

Our original pastor, Rev. Ken MacGowan, left in November 1990, and Rev. Alison Barfoot took over as our interim pastor and later accepted a call to be our permanent rector/vicar. At that time we had a high percentage of young people in our church, and we started a dynamic youth and children's program that continues to this day. In December 1993, we moved into the Leading Creek Nursery building and converted it into our current church home. Rev. Barfoot left in February 1997.

In January 1998, the Rev. Robin Adams accepted our call, and has been our faithful pastor for nearly 20 years. Under his guidance:

- Church of the Word has expanded its ministries implementing ALPHA as a program to draw new Christians and enrich and expand the faith of ongoing believers.
- Church of the Word started MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) and AWANA programs.
- Church of the Word adopted Little Lambs Village Preschool, which had been using our physical facilities and brought it under the oversight of Church of the Word

In December 2006, Church of the Word voted to withdraw from The Episcopal Church (TEC) and, after an enforced five-year period without denominational association, Church of the Word is now part of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic in the Anglican Church in North America.

Robin has now accepted a call to a new ministry overseas. Although we will greatly miss the spiritual guidance that Robin and Donna Adams have provided us, we look forward to our continuing mission here in Gainesville, VA.

## **Church Programs and Ministries**

- **Little Lambs Village Pre-School (LLVP):** LLVP has been a ministry in Gainesville since 1995. This ministry offers an academic preschool in a nurturing Christian environment. LLVP has served thousands of families in the community. Our goal is to prepare children for the next step in their academic growing process and to teach them about our loving Savior. LLVP offers scholarship and service opportunities for families who may need assistance with tuition. We also support other charities including: St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, Comfort Cases, and Operation Christmas Child.
- **Youth Program:** Youth ministry is an integral part of our church. We provide the youth with weekly meetings, where they are involved in teachings and lessons that will encourage them to grow in their faith and learn how to be productive Christians in the community. The youth have been involved in many outreach programs such as assisting

in Operation Christmas Child, providing thank you gifts to local fire and police departments, work projects at the church for elderly neighbors in need, assisting in Vacation Bible School, as well as serving on mission trips.

- **Children's Ministry:** The Children's Ministry includes programming for about twenty children ages newborn through fifth grade. On Sundays during the 10:30am worship service, we offer both nursery and Sunday School. Nursery is a free-play time for about three to seven toddlers led by one paid childcare worker and a team of rotating volunteers. During the sermon, the children leave the main worship service for Sunday School. They learn a Bible story, a memory verse, play a game or create a craft, participate in dramatic role-play, have prayer time, and take home a page to read with parents.

During 2017, we offered a Wednesday Night children's program during Lent. All families shared a meal together and then split off into groups of adults, teens, and children. The children participated in a director-created series called "Bible Memory Challenge," which centered on a weekly memory verse and a service project.

For many years Children's Ministry has partnered with the Music Team to perform a Christmas show. This year we took our musical talents outside our walls and offered a family event to sing carols at a nursing home facility.

We offer Vacation Bible School every summer. However, our attendance has fallen by about five to 10 children each year over the course of four summers. It is our goal in the coming year to build bridges with other churches and organizations in the community and invite both their children and adult volunteers to join us.

- **Music Ministry:** The music ministries are a prominent characteristic of who we are at Church of the Word. The Praise band plays a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary Christian music throughout the 10:30am worship service and inspires the congregation to deeper worship and to be drawn closer to the Lord. We also partner with "The Braeded Chord," to teach and provide opportunities for the youth to participate in the church's music ministry. The Braeded Chord, a local Christian music ministry team not formally affiliated with Church of the Word, works with our youth and perform with them one Sunday of every month. This encourages youth participation in our worship services and helps prepare them for future leadership opportunities.
- **Church Fellowship:** We love to gather together for fun, fellowship, and food. Our special church family activities include chili cook offs, no-talent talent shows, Valentine dances, neighborhood and countryside group hikes, and frequent pot-luck lunches. Over the years, we have also had opportunities at different times for special teachings via adult Sunday School between worship services; Wednesday-at-the-Word that provided a light meal plus classes for adults, youth, and children every Wednesday; as well as outside speakers and ministers we were able to schedule for seminars.
- **Home Groups:** Church of the Word began out of 6 Home Groups from Church of the Apostles in Fairfax (then called Cell Groups) that were meeting weekly in the Manassas

area and met collectively once a month as a separate, Manassas area sub-congregation. Our first Rector, Ken McGowan, desired for our church to grow based on home groups, especially since we were meeting for worship in schools we rented. The Home Groups were the conduit for pastoral care within the congregation, and Ken met with the Home Group leaders once a month, just as he met monthly with the Vestry for business affairs. Home Groups did continue, but as new leadership brought in different priorities and we acquired a building we could use for purposes other than Sunday worship, Home Group participation started to dwindle. As time went on, the number of Home Groups decreased such that there is now only one group that continues to meet. A few Home Groups have been activated for short periods of specific study, but have not continued.

- **Healing Prayer:** Church of the Word believes that God heals today by the power of the Holy Spirit. From the beginning, the church has had healing prayer ministry teams available at almost every worship service. The teams pray for anyone seeking physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. The group of healing prayer ministers now meets weekly for mutual encouragement and to pray for the needs of the church.
- **Intercessory Prayer Chain:** A separate but partially overlapping group of prayer warriors takes on the task of ongoing intercessory prayer for personal needs within the church. As needs arise, they are shared discreetly through the prayer chain for immediate and ongoing coverage and uplifting.
- **Outreach:** At Church of the Word we believe that we are called to world mission and local outreach. We have been part of the international, world mission scene for many years with both our spiritual and financial support to many African ministries. One of those is Bishop Given Gaula in his ministry in Kondo, Tanzania, whom we have supported by providing financial assistance, books for their pastoral training school, and mission teams who have gone on visits to his diocese. Locally, our congregation members reach out at different times to support fund raising drives for the Care Net Pregnancy Resource Centers, Youth for Tomorrow, Haymarket Food Pantry, BARN Community Housing, SERVE (Securing Emergency Resources through Volunteer Efforts), and Operation Christmas Child. We conduct community outreach through our summer Vacation Bible School and our annual Fall Fun Festival. The youth of our church are involved with annual summer mission activities and other community outreach as noted above. Through the use of our building, we provide facilities for various community groups including Vision Community Church (VCC) Korean congregation, five addiction support groups, and Musically Creative children's Christian music classes.
- **Redemption Diner Meals Ministry:** In April, 2006, the Southern Fauquier County Home Group started "Redemption Diner." This ministry meets once a month, prepares and delivers home cooked meals to between 40 and 60 families. During Christmas holidays we often give out gift cards from local food stores. This ministry is supported by donations from church members and is a shared ministry with St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Catlett, VA.

## Vestry

The main responsibility of the nine-member Vestry is to manage the finances and property of the church and to assist the Rector in the broader aspects of our church programs.

Membership is for three years with three new members selected each year. Each Vestry member serves as liaison to one aspect of the mission of Church of the Word, i.e., creative worship, loving community, relational evangelism, lifestyle discipleship, and hands on service. We also add building & grounds and development to the list of Vestry liaison responsibilities. Our budget and financial reports are organized around these ministry areas.

## Church Finances

The following reflects projected financial numbers for 2018 as well as some data points on our existing financial status as of December, 2017.

Anticipated Income	
Tithes/Offerings:	\$155,000
Little Lambs Village Preschool (LLVP):	\$185,000
Rent income <sup>3</sup> :	\$58,000
Designated Giving:	<u>\$17,000</u>
Total Income	\$415,000
Anticipated Expenses	
Payroll Expenses (non-LLVP):	\$149,000
Payroll Expenses (LLVP):	\$145,000
Building & Grounds Expenses:	\$69,000
Finance & Administration Expenses:	\$26,000
Ministry & Missions Programs Expenses:	\$14,000
LLVP Operating Expenses:	<u>\$12,000</u>
Total Expenses	\$415,000
Other Data Points	
Property Value (land, building, etc.):	\$2,600,000
Mortgage Balance:	\$414,000
Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	80

## Desired qualities for new Rector

- Must be committed to the Bible as the infallible word of God.
- Must be relational, personable, outgoing, and able to build bridges within our community and surrounding churches.
- Must embrace Anglican doctrine as defined by the constitution and canons of the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic (DOMA) and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).
- Must show evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and is capable of leading by example on a personal level.
- Must believe in the sanctity of life for the unborn.
- Must be firm in his or her belief that biblical marriage is a sacramental union, recognized by Christ as being between a man and a woman.

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<sup>3</sup> Trans Auto Dynamics rents space for their transmission repair business, and we are responsible for upkeep.

## **Gainesville and Prince William County**

Prince William County is located in Northern Virginia with Gainesville being about an hour's drive West of Washington, DC. Major transportation infrastructures affecting Gainesville are Interstate 66 and Route 29. The nearest major airport is Dulles International Airport.

Prince William County is the second largest and fourth fastest growing county in Virginia. Between 2000 and 2010, Prince William County's population increased by 43% to 402,002 in 2010. The most recent December 2016 estimate is for 454,238 residents. Continued growth is anticipated and the county's population is expected to approach 559,000 residents by 2040. More than half of the County's population is either African American, Hispanic (22%), Asian, or some other racial/ethnic background. Approximately 30% of the County's population speaks a second language – a higher percentage than the average for Virginia and the United States. The County's median age is 34, younger by comparison to Virginia as a whole (37.6). Its population age 65 and over is lower at 7% as compared to 13% for the United States. Young professionals (ages 25-44) make up 31% of its population, a high average.

## **Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic**

Church of the Word is a church within the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic. The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic is a regional diocese of the Anglican Church in North America dedicated to reaching North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. The Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic consists of approximately 40 Congregations, Missions, and Mission Fellowships in Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Delaware, and northeastern North Carolina. Several more are in formation. Our diocesan bishop is The Right Reverend John A. M. Guernsey whose offices are located in Woodbridge, VA.

For more about Church of the Word

Web site: <http://www.churchoftheword.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Church-of-the-Word-Gainesville-Virginia-147585431932512/>

LLVP Web: <http://www.littlelambsvillagepreschool.org/>

LLVP FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Little-Lambs-Village-Preschool-145708975459877/>

Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic web site: <http://www.anglicandoma.org/>

Anglican Church in North America web site: <http://anglicanchurch.net/>

## **Application process**

To facilitate your application, please send your resume, a statement of faith, links to sermons that may be available online, and ministry references to [cotwsc@gmail.com](mailto:cotwsc@gmail.com).