Arlington Region Report to the
232nd Convention of the Diocese of Virginia

As of September 18, 2026, the Arlington Region consisted of seven congregations: Iglesia San Jose, St. Andrew's, St. George's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Peter's, and Trinity. A long-time eighth member, St. John's, closed permanently; see below for details.

Regional highlights since the 231st Convention include the following:

- On February 12, St. Mary's hosted the diocesan commemoration of Absalom Jones and Barbara Harris.
- St. Michael's sponsored an Education for Ministry (EfM) group that attracted members from multiple parishes in the region.
- The region is pleased to offer some form of public worship at a member congregation every day of the week.

Iglesia San José: In June 2025, the Rev. Fr. Bryan Vélez García joined our community as Vicar of San José Episcopal Church, while also serving as Vicar of Cristo Rey Episcopal Church in Springfield. Over the past year, our congregation has been developing a renewed pastoral and missional vision that will allow us to respond more effectively to the needs and realities of the Latino communities in our region. One of our greatest challenges has been providing pastoral care and support to individuals and families affected by the current immigration situation, seeking to be a community of welcome, hope, and support. In the midst of these challenges, we have been deeply strengthened by the solidarity, prayers, and support of other congregations and partner communities throughout our region.

Looking toward the future, we hope to continue strengthening San José as a vibrant, welcoming, and engaged Latino Episcopal community while deepening our collaboration with Cristo Rey and other congregations in the region. We hope to develop new opportunities for evangelism, formation, lay leadership, and community outreach that respond to a diverse and changing Latino population. Our vision is to move toward a more collaborative, sustainable, and missional model of ministry in which we can share resources and gifts, strengthen our existing communities, and expand the presence and witness of The Episcopal Church among Latino communities in Northern Virginia.

St. Andrew's, Arlington continues to embrace its calling as a welcoming, vibrant community of faith, grounded in worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and service to others. Under the leadership of the Rev. Alyse Viggiano, Priest-in-Charge, the parish is entering an exciting season of renewal and opportunity as she converts to rector. St. Andrew's remains committed to its ministries of Christian formation, music, pastoral care, and outreach, including the Garden of Hope and its longstanding partnership with Haiti.

The parish is also exploring new ways to engage the wider community through expanded worship opportunities, including a new Sunday evening contemplative service. With the addition of an Interim Music Director, St. Andrew's looks forward to strengthening its music ministry and developing a concert series. As the congregation looks to the future, it remains focused on deepening relationships, welcoming new members, nurturing faith across generations, and discerning how God is calling the parish to grow in ministry and service. St. Andrew's moves forward with gratitude for its faithful community and with hope for the opportunities ahead.

St. George's, Arlington continues to thrive as a vibrant, inclusive, and multigenerational community of faith, deeply committed to embodying Christ, building community, and pursuing justice. In May 2026, the parish joyfully welcomed the Rev. Dr. Karin J. Ekholm as its new Priest-in-Charge, marking an exciting new chapter in its life and ministry.

With a strong tradition of beautiful liturgy, outstanding sacred music, Christian formation, and community engagement, St. George's continues to welcome newcomers and nurture the spiritual lives of longtime members. Its ministries of outreach and social justice, including its food pantry and commitment to racial reconciliation, remain central to its identity. Looking ahead, the parish is especially excited to strengthen its growing ministries for children, youth, and families, expand opportunities for service and discipleship, and welcome its new Associate Rector, Rev. Luke Selles, to help guide these efforts.

Sharing its campus with San José, a Spanish-language Episcopal mission congregation, St. George's continues to embrace opportunities for collaboration, hospitality, and meaningful engagement with its diverse Arlington community. The parish looks toward the future with renewed energy, faithful leadership, and a deep commitment to being Christ's heart and voice in Arlington and beyond.

St. John's, Arlington held its last regular Sunday service on August 30, 2026. The Rev. Julie D. Bryant, Rector, and the Rev. Mary E. Cushing, Deacon, ended their ministry at St. John's in the preceding weeks. A final worship service to commemorate 136 years of faithful presence in the Glencarlyn neighborhood was held on September 17, with Bishop Mark Bourlakas presiding and clergy of the Arlington Region participating. The clergy also ministered to St. John's parishioners in its waning weeks and have since welcomed them as they have dispersed to other congregations. The diocese will henceforth make decisions about the disposition of the St. John's property.

St. Mary's, Arlington continues to thrive as a vibrant, welcoming, and growing community of faith. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2026, we give thanks for a century of faithful worship, service, and outreach under the theme "100 Years of Love in Action." After our longtime rector retired following 40 years of devoted leadership,

St. Mary's is navigating a season of transition with hope, prayerful discernment, and a strong sense of purpose.

Our Discernment Committee is actively searching for our next Rector. (Link to St. Mary's Parish Profile: https://www.stmarysarlington.org/rector-search). Meanwhile, our more than 40 active ministries continue to flourish, encompassing worship, Christian formation, pastoral care, fellowship, and community outreach. Our commitment to generosity remains strong, with 25% of pledge and plate offerings dedicated to diocesan and outreach ministries.

Through it all, St. Mary's remains focused on deepening relationships, welcoming newcomers, nurturing discipleship across generations, and serving our neighbors with compassion. We look toward our next chapter with gratitude for our rich history, confidence in God's abiding presence, and excitement for all that lies ahead.

St. Michael's, Arlington has undergone a year of transition and building up of its ministries. Rev. Beth Franklin departed as rector in September 2025. Rev. Mark Furlow arrived shortly thereafter to serve as Interim. The parish did a thorough self-study of its history and mission, carefully discerning the next steps of its ministry. Its focus is on deepening relationships both in and outside the parish in tandem with its outreach and ecumenical partnerships. Rev. Andrew VanBuren was called as the parish's next rector and will begin on the First Sunday of Advent 2026.

Saint Peter's, Arlington has been experiencing a season of spiritual and numerical growth over the past three years. We have embraced several Invite-Welcome-Connect strategies, which have borne fruit: we welcome more than 150 visitors each year. Since 2023, our membership has increased by over 230 people, mostly among families with young children. We are launching a Year of Discipleship for the 2026/27 program year, anchored by an initiative to read more of the Bible throughout our life together. We are currently launching a RenewalWorks initiative to discover where we are on our spiritual growth path and to discern how we might continue to grow in our life in Christ. In 2027, we will begin a Volunteer Accelerator program to increase parishioner engagement in the life of our growing congregation. We continue to expand our outreach to neighbors with our hands, feet, and voices, and with financial support, sending about 20% of our budget each year to support local and international partner organizations as well the mission of the wider Episcopal Church. We are a congregation gathered by Christ, transformed by God's grace, sent out to serve.

Trinity, Arlington has been celebrating the goodness of God since November 2025 while, in the words of E.B. White, plotting the resurrection. We concluded work with Virginia Episcopal Real Estate Partners to study the feasibility of undertaking redevelopment of the property and land we hold in stewardship for the Diocese. We are moving forward with selecting a developer and creating a partnership agreement and proposal for the development of affordable housing for seniors that will go before

the Standing Committee for approval. Meanwhile, we continue our robust community outreach through the Columbia Pike Thrift Shop, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, our Mothers' Union Branch, and partnership with Girl Scout Troop 60155 to feed the hungry through a Community Mini Food Pantry. We deepened our connection with Holy Scripture and God's call to do justice by completing the Social Justice Bible Challenge, and we continue our relationship to pursue anti-racism with Nova Catholic Community. Our contributions to the larger church included spearheading for the Diocese the first Shades of Faith Conference for all persons of color in the diocese and seeing the dream of God within the Rev. Joy Y. Warburton come to fruition as she was ordained to the diaconate, graduated seminary, and then was ordained to the priesthood. Rev. Joy is the first member of Trinity presented for ordination and represents what we pray will be the first of many disciples who, under the nurture and care of Trinity Church, find their vocation in serving Jesus, whether lay or ordained.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Mary E. Cushing, Deacon,
with contributions from the parishes