

Visitor Information

2011



The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
Saluda, North Carolina

Diocese of Western North Carolina

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

72 Charles Street
P.O. Box 275
Saluda, North Carolina 28773

Office Phone: (828) 749-9740
E-Mail: 1transfigsaluda.org@gmail.com
Website: www.transfigurationsaluda.org

The Rev. Paul C. Morton, Rector

Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday—9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Friday—9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Martha V. Smith, Parish Administrator
Dr. Carl Gilmer, Organist/Director of Music

The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor, Bishop
Diocese of Western North Carolina

WHO WE ARE

The congregation of the Church of the Transfiguration, is comprised of 113 baptized members during the winter. Our seasonal membership includes over 100 individuals who attend in warm weather months and is a rich cross-section of people. Among the membership are retired and seasonal residents, gifted artisans, and longtime Episcopalians as well as many newcomers to the Episcopal Church.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Church of the Transfiguration exists as a dynamic, growing, Christ-centered Church. We seek to balance our delight in the beauty of traditional Episcopal worship with love for lively Christian teaching and warm informal fellowship. We strive to nurture and develop each member as well as to reach out in leadership and service to the Community.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Rite I
	10:30 a.m.	Rite II with choir
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer Group
Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	Healing Service and Communion

Please call the Church office at 828/749-9740 if you would like more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT

Adult Spiritual Formation - A weekly forum which includes Bible studies, discussion groups as well as video presentations. **Sundays 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.**

Other classes are scheduled during each year.

CHILDREN

At this time there is not a Children's Christian Formation program at Transfiguration, but the Vestry and clergy are always anxious to provide opportunities as the need arises.

Summer Camp - Offered by the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Camp sessions for second through twelfth graders are held **June through July** at Lake Logan, our diocesan retreat center in Canton, NC.

An ecumenical summer enrichment program is given for five weeks in the summer by the churches of Saluda. In 2011 it will run from July 12 until August 4 and members from Transfiguration are providing breakfast and lunches on Tuesday and Thursdays.

WORSHIP: LITURGY AND MUSIC

Acolytes – Altar servers age 10 and up who assist in worship by carrying a processional cross, lighting candles, holding the gospel book and other tasks as assigned by the priest or acolyte chairman.

Altar Guild - Members prepare the altar, vestments, and vessels for all worship services.

Chalice Bearers - Licensed by the bishop of the diocese, these members vest and assist the priest in the serving of the Holy Communion and the reading of Scripture at worship services.

Greeters—Members who welcome church members and visitors at both services on Sunday and can answer questions about the parish and assist with Visitor materials.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors - Licensed by the bishop of the diocese, these members take Holy Communion to the ill and the homebound.

Lectors - Members who regularly assist in reading the First Lesson and the Epistle. Periodic training is required

Intercessory Prayers—members of the congregation lead the Prayers of the People at the 10:30 service. ...

Pastoral Care - Coordinates pastoral care in the church, including funeral receptions, food for those in the parish with need for occasional help.

Ushers - Greet worshipers and hand out bulletins, collect the offering and generally perform functions of hospitality and space management at Sunday and other services.

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Choir - Sings at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and at other services, offering anthems and special accompaniment. Rehearsals are **Wednesday** afternoons at 4:30 p.m. The choir is directed by the Organist and Music Director.

Music - The Organist provides music on Sundays during the 10:30 service and for special services; rehearses with choir on Wednesday afternoons.

Wedding Coordinator - Works with wedding parties in planning the service, coordinating with clergy, musicians, Flower Guild, and Altar Guild as needed; is present at each wedding.

Funeral Coordinator—Assists the clergy and families in preparing for burial services in the church.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rector/Priest - Responsible for worship, Christian education, and overall administration of the parish.

Vestry - Governing board of the parish consisting of seven elected lay persons. Vestry is responsible for the finances of the church and maintenance of all church buildings and property. Meets monthly and when a special meeting is called.

Senior and Junior Wardens - Nominated by the Rector and elected by the Vestry to serve annual terms as lay leadership in the church.

Treasurer -Elected by the Vestry and responsible for accounting of all church funds.

Church Administrator - Responsible for the parish office, financial administration and communication in the church.

Clerk - Elected by the Vestry and responsible for maintaining official records of the church.

ADDITIONAL ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

Daughters of the King – A religious order providing daily prayer, service and evangelism.

Foyer Groups – Foyer is a French word meaning “hearth or fireside” suggesting a small, group, relaxed, receptive and open to each other. Foyer meals are a great way to get to know other members of Transfiguration. A Foyer group consists of eleven people who meet in each other’s homes for a simple covered dish meal. Singles are welcome. New Foyer groups are formed every year when current, previous and new members are reshuffled. Foyer Groups have no agenda other than the meal and conversation among adults.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Provides knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need of prayer and comfort due to illness and other life situations. Shawls are blessed at the altar by our clergy.

Prayer Chain - A crisis prayer team that may be contacted at any time there is an urgent need for immediate prayer. Martha Smith, in the church office, will be happy to relay your requests to the team by e-mail.

Ladies’ Gathering— meeting in homes of members, the group meet for covered dish dinners and fellowship.

Men's Club - Meets the **first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.** for dinner and fellowship. The Men’s Club sponsors the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, hosts the Parish Holiday party during Advent, and meat for the Annual Parish Picnic.

Church Architecture and Terms

Narthex—The entryway or foyer.

Nave—The main seating area for the congregation.

Chancel—The first step up to the altar where the Lectern, pulpit are located.

Sanctuary—The area inside of the altar rail.

Epistle side—Facing the altar the Epistle side is on the right.

Gospel side—Facing the altar the Gospel side is on the left.

History of the Parish

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration was begun by two of South Carolina residents with summer homes in Saluda. One of these men was active in The Church of the Nativity in Union, South Carolina, where John McCollough was rector. McCollough (who was a missionary builder of many churches across South Carolina), assisted by a group of Sewanee students, and local Saluda craftsmen, started a project that culminated in a completed structure in 1889—a beautiful heart pine Carpenter-Gothic church with abundant wood carving. Many of these carvings were done by McCullough himself, who was renowned for this talent. The beautiful stained glass windows, open for the summer breezes, added a sense of God's majesty and serenity. The first Communion was celebrated by 13 communicants on August 4th of that year. The church was formally consecrated in 1891.

For many summers, preachers from all over the Carolinas and Georgia conducted services while vacationing with friends or at the several diocesan cottages that were built in Saluda. In the 1990's more and more visitors

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from all over the country made Saluda their year round home. The congregation doubled. To support this growth, Transfiguration, still a mission church, hired its first full time priest in 1996. Shortly thereafter, the church became a self-supporting parish.

In 1984 a parish hall was completed to bring the parish together for study and church family gatherings and in 2002 The Little House on the Hill above the church was acquired and remodeled for use as a church office. Recently the parish hall kitchen has been remodeled and the church interior restored with new carpeting, pews cleaned and windows restored. Handicapped parking near the church was added in 2007. The church family continues to welcome summer residents and visitors.

Communications

Website: www.transfigurationalsaluda.org

E-Mail—1transfigsaluda.org@gmail.com

Monthly Newsletter—*The View from the Hill*

Mailed if requested; Available on the website

E-News—A weekly or semi-weekly e-mail sent out to announce events and other timely news in between the monthly newsletter. This is sent to all who on the parish e-mail list or request to receive this communication.

How to Become a Member

WELCOME! We are very excited about your interest in the Church of the Transfiguration. Because of our location in the mountains of North Carolina, our members are in several categories, but they are ALL MEMBERS.

If you are a full time resident from a previous Episcopal Church. A "letter of transfer" is requested from your previous parish. This is a form which contains your contact information and informs your previous parish of your intent to join a new parish.

If you are a part-time resident, (3-9 months in Saluda). A meeting with the rector will get you on the right track. Typically part-time residents keep their "letter" at its present location. However, we allow part-time residents to vote for elections of the vestry and important issues at the annual meeting (see member in good standing).

If you are a member of another denomination, prior to our bishop's visit to Transfiguration there will be a series of inquirer's classes led by the rector to give you information about the Episcopal Church. When the Bishop arrives, he will formally "receive" you into the church during the Sunday service if you desire.

If you are not baptized, you may be baptized here at Transfiguration in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptisms occur when needed.

A Member in Good Standing. This category of membership refers to your eligibility to vote for vestry members and important issues at the Annual Parish Meeting. A pledge card stating your financial support for the yearly operating budget is encouraged. The amount of your pledge is between you and God and should be prayerfully considered. To be a member "in good standing" you must be known to the treasurer and participate in worship service at least three times in the past six months.

Regardless of the amount of time you spend here YOU ARE A MEMBER once you make your intentions known to the rector. **HOWEVER,** know that you are **always welcome** to participate fully in any event or worship service without becoming a member - simply show up!

We love visitors, thank you for coming, which is a great way to get to know the parish. It will be our pleasure to get to know you better.

The parish publishes a Pictorial Directory for active members, for which we charge a small fee for printing costs. The directory is produced in-house with photos taken in an informal setting at the church. Updated directories are available through the church office for new members.

Our Rector would love to get to know you better. A call to the church office to set an appointment is encouraged.

On the website, under FORMS, there is also an information form that you may fill out and click on SUBMIT to let the Rector and the office know more about you.

Revised July, 2011