



CHURCH HANDBOOK

St. Augustine's Edmonton

Easter 2022

We encounter a living God in the infinitely diverse ways that we are healed, forgiven, encouraged, transformed, resurrected, rebuked, enlightened, upheld, confronted, nourished, and surprised. The Lord is among us.

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Church Overview and Ministry Plan

Shaped in Epiphany 2018

St Augustine's is a small neighborhood church that began in a local basement and has grown up as a long-term church community in the Anglican tradition.

Why we do what we do.

The world needs people who live and breathe love – just in their own way and in their own place. Jesus clears the path of love for us, and we seek to follow him in his movement of bringing all the world into wholeness.

We imagine and work towards being a church that is a sustainable community center where people from birth to death encounter a living God and practice the ways of Jesus.

What are we doing now?

St. Augustine's is blessed with a small community of folk who take Christian spirituality seriously. It is a long list of all the personal ministries that people are engaged in whereby they serve God in their lives. Together we work in our communities for peace, share in Sunday morning worship, share land with a community garden and another church, learn together, and gather for fun and celebration. We care for each other's joys and sorrows alike. We seek to live Christ in community through service.

An Anglican shape of ministry

The Five Marks of Mission (from the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

1. TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM
2. TO TEACH, BAPTIZE AND NURTURE NEW BELIEVERS
3. TO RESPOND TO HUMAN NEED BY LOVING SERVICE
4. TO SEEK TO TRANSFORM UNJUST STRUCTURES OF SOCIETY, TO CHALLENGE VIOLENCE OF EVERY KIND AND TO PURSUE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
5. TO STRIVE TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION AND SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

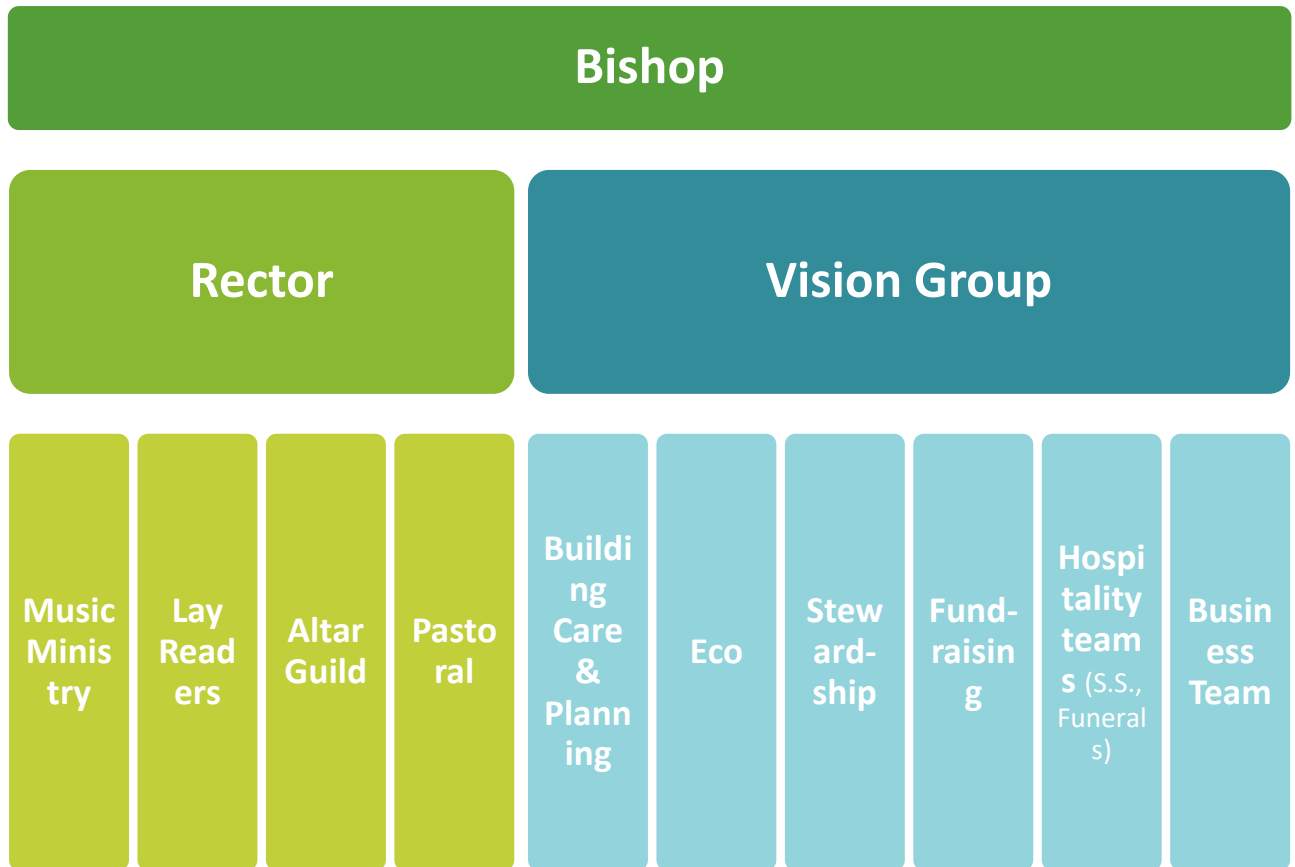
What does Success look like?

- When people are deepening in understanding of how God is calling them into ministry in their particular mix of gifts, passions, loves, and abilities.
- When people are doing the work of love and loving the work.

- When people meet God in our Sunday morning celebrations and other activities.
- When people know where and how to connect to the life of this church and when invitation to the life of the church is a joyful thing.
- When people (of any age or stage or baggage) know they are loved by God and by their church community.
- When the neighborhood pays attention to what we do next because we are making their lives better as the church next door



Church Ministry Structure



Church Governance Structure

FAQ

Who is welcome to come to this church?

The message of Jesus is not addressed to one particular type of person, but to all people in their humanity and createdness. Our hope is that whomever you are, whatever you look like, whatever your history is, no matter how you are feeling from this day to the next, that you will find at St. Augustine's people who greet you in the belovedness you deserve.

We acknowledge that the church and colonial society have had painful blindspots in our ability to genuinely welcome people of indigenous heritage, of sexual/gender diversity and, of other diversities in body, mind, spirit, and emotion. As part of the Christian Church we repent of this history, and step into a new way of relationship in all these diversities: we seek the voice of God in each person. We give thanks for the changes that are occurring across the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton in this regard as well.

Please help st. Augustine's to be a place where human dignity is held as central, tender, and vital.

What do people believe here?

St. Augustine's is part of a long tradition where our statements of belief is expressed through our acts of worship. The old phrase is: "Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi." or "As we Worship, So we Believe, So we Live." It is most true to say, if you wish to know what we believe, to come and worship with us. (Truly, one must spend at least a year with us to understand the full shape of our belief as a church since our worship takes on different shapes through all seasons of the Church Year.) It may be helpful to know the following:

- Anglican worship is deeply theological and biblical in its pattern and in its words. Our Anglican Book of Common Prayer, which forms the basis for our liturgy, is full of biblical words set to prayer. Theology is what happens when we let all the words of the Bible begin to stand together and speak to us. We do not pick and choose what we preach on, we follow a lectionary that presents biblical texts on a three-year cycle. We preach the scriptures and we pray the scriptures.
- Each Sunday includes four readings of scripture that inform our belief and our living. We study and wrestle with the story of God that comes to us through these honored and holy words. We acknowledge that they are from a different time, but still speak to us today. We acknowledge that there is tension within the scriptures, but that this tension and diversity invites us deeper into learning and acknowledgement of our humble place in God's world where we see only in part, but God sees in full.

- Through the church year we meditate and seek transformation through a different aspect of Jesus' life – Christmas: his birth, Epiphany: the breadth of his message in the world, Lent: his suffering and death, Easter: his resurrection, Pentecost: the power and teachings of the Spirit shared.
- We typically celebrate communion each week which is not only a remembering, but a participation in Jesus' presence. We receive the bread and wine and remember how Jesus was with his first followers, and how he is with us. God is present and active – we are along for the ride.
- We do not have a confession of faith articulating specific points of belief required for membership as some churches do. Our traditional confessions of faith used in worship are the historic Apostle's creed and the Nicene Creed. Anglicans tend to resonate with the motto of the Moravian church, "In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; and in all things, love." The "39 Articles" are some of our founding documents and are good to know about, but do not express the full picture today.

How did the Sunshine Garden get started?

Sherry Prokopuk, an engaged Fulton Place resident, discerned a vision of a community garden in Fulton Place. She gathered a neighbourhood group for about 3 years to plan and prepare. While looking for land, a connection was made at St. Augustine's to use the section of land on which the garden now stands. After working out all the necessary legalities and details with the City of Edmonton, Community League, and Church, a land-blessing service was held and ground was broken in the Spring of 2015. The church is in partnership with the Garden group, and some church members are gardeners, but the garden remains organized and run by neighbourhood members.

Garden beds are allocated to individuals or families by draw in the early Spring and gardeners use the produce for themselves. There are some joint garden areas and beds that provide shared fruit and a donation bed that provides food to be donated to the Food Bank. Anyone is welcome to attend the Wednesday night work sessions, or the Spring and Fall potluck events. There is also a garden tour hosted in June or July.

Since its inception, we have worked on a joint mural project on the North-East church wall, and we are joining forces to re-imagine and re-wild the South-West side of the church property.

What does "Anglican" mean?

Very simply, "Anglican" means that our history began in England when the Church of England was formed from the Roman Catholic church during the reformation. Yes, King Henry VIII did in fact break off from the Roman church to facilitate his divorce, but there was already much hope for a

reformed church in England preceding his act. The theological move from the Catholic church at the time is especially evidenced in the resulting “39 Articles” that can be found in the traditional Anglican Book of Common Prayer (Canadian BCP p698).

The ‘new’ Anglican church that formed in the 1500s became a blend of Catholic and Reformed thinking, and of Roman and Celtic spirituality. Anglicans have forever been a church that lives in the “middle” finding a balance between dualities and creating a “third way” between divides. We do not always live up to this of course, but it tends to be our strength among many Christian denominations. We are typically comfortable with breadth.

Churches in the Anglican tradition exist all over the world and in many languages (“The Worldwide Anglican Communion”). Anglicans express a wide variety of theological approaches and styles of worship. The Anglican tradition is further rooted in Monastic spirituality (esp. Benedictine) and worship which is itself rooted in ancient Jewish patterns of prayer.

What is a Diocese?

A Diocese (pron. “die-o-seese”) is simply the name for local geographic unit of the Anglican church. The word comes from the Greek for “Administration.” It is a structural concept shared with Catholics, the Orthodox, and Lutherans. Worldwide Anglicanism is broken up into Provinces (Canada has four) and each of these is broken into individual dioceses. Each diocese is led by at least one Bishop and is comprised of all the Anglican parishes and missions in that geographic space.

The Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, led currently by Bishop Stephen London, is the middle of three diocese in Alberta – a band of land sandwiched between Calgary Diocese to the South and Athabasca Diocese to the North. Our diocese represents 50 some parishes stretching from Edmonton west to Jasper, northeast to Cold Lake and south to Ponoka.

Unlike the Roman Catholic church which has a Pope, Anglican hierarchy ends with the diocesan bishop. Anglicans do have national bishops (Primates) and one international bishop (The Archbishop of Canterbury), but they function to provide a structure of unity and public communication rather than direct oversight.

Who was St. Augustine of Canterbury? St. Hilda?

St. Augustine of Canterbury (6th century), our patron saint, was a humble missionary to the English from Rome. He arrived in Kent and founded the Roman order and shape to Christianity in England.

St. Hilda of Whitby (7th century), patron saint of our upstairs Chapel, was the Celtic balance to the Roman pattern. She was a convent Abbess who at the Synod of Whitby helped negotiate the form of Christianity that would take shape in England.

Beautifully, this very-Anglican tension between Celtic and Roman spirituality is preserved in the very structure of our church! (an inspiration of Rev. Dan Ash in the 1990s)

What is church membership at St. A's?

Anglican churches do not have a formal membership structure like some other denominations. If you find hope and help here you are welcome! We do hope that you will provide contact information to be included on our parish list for church communications and prayer.

If you are connected to the church, and are baptized, and are not voting at any other church AGM, you are welcome to vote at the St. Augustine's February AGM.

The historical pattern of church membership in the Church of England is geographic. Still in parts of the UK you will find "Parishes" that form the civic structure of the area. Anglican churches may still maintain a sense that their charge is to care spiritually for all people within their local geographic area. This is an aspect of Anglican tradition that St. Augustine's aspires to reclaim by increasing service and involvement in local neighborhoods.

How is St. A's funded? How can I give?

St. Augustines relies entirely on donations to fund all our ministries. Staff salaries, building maintenance, diocesan apportionment (our sharing in the Diocesan/National-level mission work), and funding for activities are drawn from weekly, monthly, and yearly offerings.

Fundraising is also used, but usually for specific appeals or projects.

Donations may be given in three basic ways

- 1) In person giving on Sundays in the offering plate with cash, cheque. (Some appreciate using a weekly offering envelope for privacy which is available from the church office.)
- 2) Online via Tithe.ly. This is a credit card option that you administer yourself through the website or the Tithe.ly smartphone app. Click the "give" link on the website for more information.
- 3) Direct debit through the diocesan Pre-Authorised Giving (PAG) program. Forms are available for this on the website of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

Every fall a Financial Stewardship Program is held to invite estimates of giving for the coming year. You are always welcome to change the amount you give at any time or start giving at any time.

How is money handled?

Sunday morning funds are counted by volunteers after church, and the funds are deposited.

The accounting of this income is handled by our paid bookkeeper and tax receipts are distributed yearly by February. The bookkeeper also handles any accounting and check production needed for expenses. Monthly cheques go to the synod office to cover apportionment, clergy salary, and benefit amounts. The depositor also handles any monies coming in from rental groups or any non-donation income.

The treasurer produces regular financial statements to the Vision Group and alerts of any financial needs that arise. There are also several legal requirements and statistics needed that the treasurer takes care of.

Insurance, investments, PAG, salary disbursement, and other administrative supports are handled through the main diocesan Synod office.

Each year St. Augustine's applies for charitable status under Canadian Law.

How is this church governed?

If you would like to see the absolute resource on this, the Canons of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton can be found on our diocesan website at www.edmonton.anglican.org.

Spiritual and administrative leadership is shared by the diocesan Bishop ("Chief Pastor") and the people of the diocese acting through bi-annual synod gatherings. Ministry at the parish level is shared between the bishop, parish clergy and parish lay-leaders.

Within the parish an elected group serves to inform the priest's leadership and make decisions on behalf of the parish. This group is often called Vestry, but currently these requirements are being fulfilled by our Vision Group at St. A's. Within this group there are a few who are designated to carry signing authority for the church and form the parish Corporation. Other committees may be created or reorganized to care for other aspects of church life.

Every year the parish must hold an AGM to approve a financial budget and care for any other major business required.

Every two years when a diocesan Synod is called (Like an AGM for the Diocese) parishes send at least one representative (often more) to help make decisions at the diocesan level.

How do kids and youth fit into our church?

Kids are an integral part of who we are as a Church and are always welcome. The priest or worship leader invites all children up to the front near the beginning of the service to have a conversation about the week's topic. Sometimes it's a sing along for the whole congregation to join in, or a repeat-after-me prayer. After this time, the children have the choice to stay with the parents upstairs or join in 'Kid's time' downstairs, where they read the story for the day, watch a video, sing songs and colour. (Kid's Time programming varies through the year, please check with clergy to find out more) The children of St. Augustine's bring together the various generations within our group. They provide laughter, joy and simple questions about our journey with God.

We have a casual youth group that meets up about monthly to chat, experience a specific ministry together, or do some learning. Our focus is on building relationship, learning together, giving space for questioning, and enjoying experiences together. Our teenage years are so critical as we seek out mentors, determine what is important to us, and wrestle through what has been given to us as children and make it our own. It can be some of our most difficult years of life and also some of our most beautiful side by side. St. A's seeks to be a community that honours, marks, and participates in these critical years in substantive ways.

Why do we eat so often at St. Augustine's?

Sharing food with someone is a special event, an extension of the bread and wine we receive as part of our communion. At St. Augustine's, we try and share meals often. We love to have potluck meals after service and the young families often have social gatherings monthly on Saturday nights, where a potluck meal is shared, games are played and relationships are built and grown. Food is community, support, connection, generosity, and life lived together.

How can I get church news?

Our main church communication happens through a weekly eNewsletter. At the bottom of any page of the website you can sign up to get updates right into your email, like a usual email message!

The church website is: www.staugustinesedmonton.com

We also use Facebook for livestreaming on Sundays and for other interesting news updates.

The Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/staugustinesedmonton

What is expected of me at this church?

This is a good question that can be answered several ways.

- First off: be well here. If you can just give the gift of your presence at St. A's, that is enough. There is a health of balance that we must each find in our lives. Church should not exasperate you but be a place of strength and growth.
- It is also ok if you need to just come and be for a while especially if you are in a season of healing. That is really ok! However, when you move back into a place of strength, we do expect you to begin giving back to the community according to your gifts, abilities, and passions. In this way, church is like an extended family where we all chip in to help things go well. We help when we are strong, we receive help when we are weak.
- If you decide to plant down at St. Augustines it makes sense that you give some amount of donation to the financial needs of the church. The amount must be discerned and considered according to your personal financial status and commitments. We consider these donations a gift to God, and so individually we pray and discern spiritually what gift we wish to offer to God. If we all discern this truly, the church will have enough money to do what God is calling us to do. Some people find themselves giving the traditional 10% of their income, others less than this, some more. Give what you can give with a full heart.
- If you wish to be baptized or confirmed or if you wish to be formally received into the Anglican church, or if you would like to know more about your faith, please let the priest know.
- Stay connected! (see above)
- Be an owner not a guest. Even if you are new in the congregation you are a full part of the Church. Fuss over making church an open space for all people. Care for each other. Learn about yourself and be self-aware so that your actions leave a positive impact in the community. Discern how to give your perspective in a way that "builds up the body of Christ." Listen deeply and do not speak more than you ought. Disagree, but do not bite. Support others in their ministry even if it is different from your own. Take care of yourself so that you do not burn out. Tell someone if you need help. Speak up if there is a problem. Celebrate others often. Do not judge. Do not pay undue attention to social class, race, expression, or other realities that should never divide. Practice love in all things.
- Like a family there are some jobs that just need to get done for the functioning of the household. This duty is shared by all, as well, we invite you to discern how your specific gifts and abilities might serve the church. We need – God needs – each person to offer their gifts, abilities, creativity, passion, skills, and visions for the work of God in the world. We really hope above all that you will become intentional about discerning how God is working through you and to pursue a Jesus-shaped life in your own style as you learn and grow in God's love. The world needs this desperately, and you have much to offer!

What is the role of the priest?

The role of a priest is most centrally understood as a servant of a church community (have you ever been to the foot washing on Maundy Thursday?). Anglican priests are ordained as Pastors, Priests, and Teachers. Pastors as ones who care for a community, Priests as one who are concerned with the ceremonies of church and life, and Teachers who study the scriptures and help others live through them.

In an Anglican context, if he/she is present, the priest presides over communion, baptism, and funeral services and typically preaches. In a parish context the priest may direct others to lead worship, preach, and take on other tasks as seems right.

If you are new to an Anglican context, here are 20 ways to make your parish priest a resource for you:

1. Pray for them and their life with Christ as they pray for you.
2. Let them know how you sense God's work in your life.
3. Let them know if you have had a major family, vocational, or spiritual shift.
4. Let them know when you are sick, and if you would like them or others to visit.
5. Let them know if you are finding something at the church particularly difficult or exclusionary. (If *they* are the issue, talk to someone on the Vision Group)
6. Tell them how you would like to help at the church, where your gifts seem to fit.
7. If something seems forgotten or over-looked, let them know, priests often appreciate the help and have very likely just forgotten!
8. If you see something that needs doing around the church, and you don't think you need permission to do it – just do it! If you're not sure, check with the priest, but err on the side of just doing it. A priest should not need to micromanage.
9. Be bold and ask theological, biblical, or spiritual questions. Priests don't know everything, but they probably know where to look or how to help keep you healthy in your questioning.
10. Know that every priest thinks it is his/her job to a) hear confession and be utterly confidential, b) visit the dying or emergently distressed at any hour of day or night, c) help you work out spiritual issues, d) bless your home, e) help you find forgiveness, f) support you without judgement when you have failed, g) respond to community issues that come up within the church. You are not bothering them one bit if you ask them to do any of these things: it will be their pleasure and help them feel they are doing the work God has called them to do.
11. Let them know if you are feeling you need to move to a different church community (Please don't just disappear.) Sometimes an 'exit interview' over coffee can be very fruitful for both of you. God is always at work.
12. Know that every priest is different. As the old phrase goes, priests are asked to do 16 things, but probably only do three of them really well. And each priest excels at a different three!
13. If you become aware of your priest's weaknesses, consider how you can help 'fill the gap' for the sake of community. This is true for bishops as well – community completes the charism.
14. If you see your priest do something really helpful, tell them and thank them.
15. Let your priest know if you would like to talk or connect with them for any reason.
16. Tell them know how they can help you so they don't have to guess!
17. Let them know if you find out that someone else in the church is struggling, or if there is a specific need that has arisen.
18. Avoid getting them to make decisions for you, they will resist it, but they may be a good sounding board to help you articulate what God is calling you to do in a situation.
19. If you see them doing something that you could do, jump in and offer to do it instead. (they sometimes forget to delegate!)

20. Pray for them and their life with Christ as they pray for you

Our current priest, Rev. Jonathan, is happy if you call him Jonathan, Pastor Jonathan, Rev. Crane, Fr. Jonathan, “hey you,” or whatever makes sense to you.

How can I be involved?

If you would like to be involved at St. Augustine’s or engage in some learning, please talk to the priest or the leader of a specific ministry (list to follow).

Sunday Mornings: a community affair

- **Worship Volunteers.** We need help every Sunday reading the scriptures, serving communion, being an acolyte at the altar, greeting people at the door, setting up for coffee, and caring for our children. Some of these tasks are assigned on the day to whomever is there using a card system at the front door. Others are scheduled seasonally. Pick up a card on Sunday morning or get your name on the roster! Training events are held occasionally.
- **Lay Readers.** Lay readers are people who are licensed by the Bishop to help lead worship. If you are interested in this please talk to the priest.
- **Altar Guild.** Altar Guild is a group that helps prepare the altar and sanctuary for worship. They meet once every five weeks according to a rotating schedule.
- **Tech support.** Each Sunday we need people to set up the sound system and run the ppt and livestreaming software.
- **Bread makers.** A team of bakers prepare the bread fresh for each Sunday. The recipe and directions is provided.
- **Kid’s Time.** A team of individuals serve monthly, once every 6 months, or once yearly to support our children in their spiritual life and learning. Story videos, video songs, stories, and crafts are provided to make it really easy. You bring a passion for God’s love and love of our children. Security checks are required every three years.

Learning and Praying Together

- **Adult interest groups.** Often during Lent or Advent we host a video learning series. We have covered topics like Historical Biblical Context, Faith and Science, the Ten Commandments, Jesus and Islam.
- **Wednesday night sharing circle.** An open sharing circle reflection on a video, book, or member’s presentation.

- **Daily prayer.** If you are interested in being apart of daily prayer at St. Augustine's please contact Jonathan for details.

Neighbourhood Connections

- Sunshine Community Garden. (see FAQ's)
- Meals at St. Faith's. A group of dedicated folk provide a meal as part of the Friday community dinners at St. Faith's church off 118th ave in the inner city. They are often open for help and sometimes need to put together a team of servers.
- Church Sign. Every month we advertise different events and activities on our front sign. This is a great chance to connect with people driving by. A small group change this, but would love some more help to share the load.

World Outreach

- **GANG.** Grandmothers for A New Generation is a local expression of the Grandmothers to Grandmother's campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation fighting AIDS in Africa. The GANG is well represented at St. A's and they are always looking for help and funds.
- **PWRDF.** The Primate's World Relief and Development Foundation in our Anglican relief organization. Relying on volunteer efforts across our nation, PWRDF has one of the lowest overhead amounts of any relief organization. Donations are sought for specific or general appeals. There is also opportunity to advocate for the agency within the church.
- **GEA.** The Greater Edmonton Alliance is a community organizing group that advocates to pollical spheres through the power of its members. Encompassing churches, unions, and other organizations, GEA trains leaders and has advocated in the past for real change in seniors needs, land use, and other salient issues. St. Augustine's was one of the early supporters of this organization when it came to Edmonton a number of years ago.
- **LENT and ADVENT appeals.** Often during Lent and Advent, we will decide as a church to donate funds or items for local or international appeals. We have supported the Bissell Center, TERRA Center, Mennonite Center for Newcomers, and others.

If you are drawn to engage in any of these activities or opportunities, do not hesitate to contact the priest, the church office, or any of the leaders listed below. Please contact the church office if you need to be connected to someone. 780-466-5532 or office@staugustinesedmonton.com

Who to call

Rector (2013)

Rev. Jonathan Crane
rector@staugustinesedmonton.com; 780-619-3170

Music and Choir Director

Megan Crane (2014)

Vision Group Members

Peter Wightman
Bob Peel
Pat Jameson
Barb Ash (Treasurer)
Megan Crane
Val McCormack
June Miller
Joe Sparling
Sherry Prokopuk
Paul Fuellbrandt
Mikaela Hanley

Office Staff

Carmen McClung
Cheryl Arbury
Rita Yeo

Honorary Assistants

Anne Wightman, Bob Peel,
Ron Horst

Lay Readers

Pat Jameson, Val
McCormack, June Miller, Joe
Sparling

Altar Guild Chair

Eileen Fairbrother

Worship Supplies

Eileen Fairbrother

Kid's Time Contacts

Rebecca Yeo and Simone
Klann

PWRDF Contact

Camille King

Building Repairs Contact

Bob Peel

Building Planning and Vision

Vacant

Community Garden

Liaison

Sherry Prokopuk

St. Faith's Meal

Joyce Taylor

Church Sign

Clayton & Amanda Ernst

Tech Team/livestream

Jordan Yeo, Sherry
Prokopuk, Noah Crane, John
Prokopuk

Adult Interest groups

Val McCormack

Financial Stewardship

Val McCormack

GEA Liason

Vacant

Yoga

Clayton Ernst

Music Together

Jodi Howard

