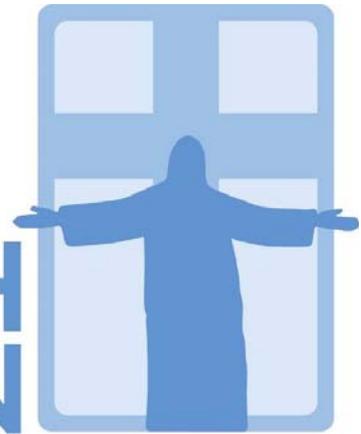


theCHURCH
atCLARENDON



Church Profile



*The Church at Clarendon
1210 N. Highland St.
Arlington, VA 22201*

www.1bc.org

Executive Summary

The Church at Clarendon is a Baptist church located in an urban neighborhood of Arlington, Va. We are a group of imperfect people journeying together in pursuit of loving the Lord, each other, and our community more fully. The church's beliefs most closely align with the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. That's the simplest way to describe our beliefs, but our church attendees come from a wide variety of faith backgrounds, some outside Christianity. We celebrate the diversity of spiritual opinions in our church and encourage open discussion in a loving atmosphere as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Church members and attendees describe our church as a down-to-earth and welcoming place that "feels like home." The church averages 115 attendees at our weekly worship services at 11 a.m. on Sundays. A small portion of the congregation are short-term residents, with some living in the area for only a few months or weeks. A larger portion of the congregation grew up outside the Washington, D.C. metro area, and often find themselves moving away after several years. The church location lends itself to many new visitors every Sunday morning. Many church members make a Sunday commute from the Garfield Terrace neighborhood in Washington, D.C. as part of the Capital Area REACH program that serves disadvantaged youth.

The church is largely led by elected lay leaders, including the Council of Deacons, a Board of Trustees, and the Church Administration Team, which consists of representatives from groups working on various aspects of church life, such as finance and education. Though we have a limited staff at present, we have typically engaged three full-time employees and a part-time worship leader, and our passionate congregation extends our reach to help us accomplish a great deal for the community.

The church has many denominational and community connections. The church is part of the NorthStar church network, as well as the Baptist General Association of Virginia. We also work with the Baptist World Alliance, whose headquarters are nearby. The John Leland Center for Theological Studies is located on church grounds, as is the First Baptist Church of Clarendon Child Development Center, the largest child care center in Arlington County. The deacons maintain a benevolence fund to help members of the congregation in need and contribute monthly to various community groups.

In the 2000s, the church building underwent a radical transformation. Our aging sanctuary, dating back to 1950, was torn down. The church was rebuilt and completed in 2012 as a multi-use building with eight stories of apartments on top of the church sanctuary, a welcome hall, offices, and classrooms. As part of our commitment to our community, 60 percent of the units are designated as affordable housing for low-income tenants. The church steeple remains in place, a beacon that shows the building is a place of worship.

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Our Vision and Mission

Our Mission: Inviting people to discover a life of purpose and passion through Christ.

Our Strategy: Worship, serve, grow, connect.

We Value:

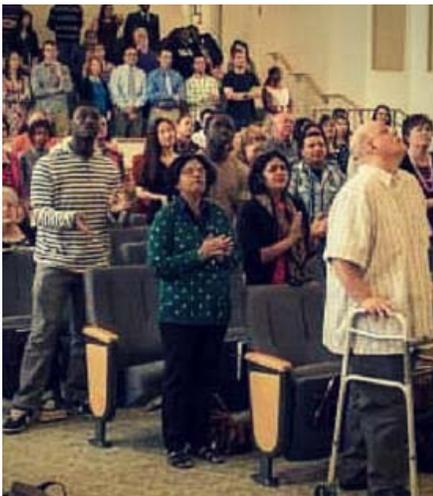
- Embracing Community: We reach out, welcome, and include our neighbors.
- Journeying Together: We seek authentic relationships, supporting each other in our quest for God.
- Putting Faith into Action: We challenge and prepare each other to participate, lead, and partner with others in God's service.
- Commitment to God's Word: We anchor ourselves in God's truth and love.

We Are Becoming People Who:

- Worship in Community
- Read, Pray, and Listen to God Every Day
- Walk the Talk with Friends
- Exercise Spiritual Gifts
- Serve and Give Generously
- Reach Out, Invite, and Show the Way

Our Vision: To be a training ground for God's disciples, preparing us to live out our faith.

Our Beliefs: See the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message for a general outline. While our church is guided by these beliefs and rooted in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, one should note there are a wide variety of opinions regarding specific details of the faith. We encourage discussion and personal and group study of the Bible, as well as a focus on the basic tenets of Christianity that call us to live out our faith in this world with a spirit of love.



Church History

Humble Beginnings and Growth: Twenty-three members organized our church in 1909 as the First Baptist Church of Clarendon. Our physical growth, congregations, and ministry connections through the years tell the story of our history. Our first church building was completed in 1915, and an education building was added in 1936. After the growth of the war and post-war years, we moved into a new sanctuary in 1950. We acquired our present parsonage in the 1950s and built a new education building in the 1960s.

Building Project: After housing costs in the area skyrocketed in the late 1990s and early 2000s and church attendance declined, we made the decision to tear down our aging sanctuary and rebuild our church as a multi-use development to include eight stories of apartments on top of the church, with 60 percent of the units designated as affordable housing. We turned down lucrative buyout offers and overcame four lawsuits opposing our project to build the multi-use building, which was completed in 2012. The apartment building houses individuals from many different cultures and ethnicities, in addition to other persons who work in the area but otherwise could not afford to live in the area. The apartments are owned and operated by a separate non-profit housing corporation that has a working relationship with the church, but the church does not earn any revenue from the apartments. During the building project we also renovated our Education Building, which was built in 1962.

Our updated facilities provide space for our congregation, the Ethiopian and Hispanic congregations, the Child Development Center (CDC), and the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. We also occasionally host events for outside organizations, a requirement of the site plan. Our parsonage is located across the street from our education building and has also served as a gathering place for church barbecues and Bible studies.

The Neighborhood Today: The Clarendon neighborhood presents great potential as well as challenges. Clarendon is one of the most desirable locations in the metro area as a walkable urban village with a subway stop a block and a half in front of the church. The neighborhood enjoys a nice mix of single-family homes, apartments, condominiums, townhomes, multi-ethnic restaurants, offices, and retail businesses. Clarendon is known for its lively nightlife scene. There are several churches of various denominations in neighborhoods surrounding Clarendon.



The neighborhood and the metro area attract young, ambitious individuals who want to make a meaningful difference in the world. The most populous age groups in the neighborhood are adults in their early 20s to 45 years old, with the majority of residents having a bachelor's or graduate degree. Arlington County, of which Clarendon is a part, has been called the most educated county in the United States. In 2013, almost 80 percent of Clarendon residents held a bachelor's degree or higher, and more

than 40 percent held a graduate or professional degree. The median household income for Arlington County is estimated at \$110,900 for 2016, and the typical income earner earned \$64,000 in 2015. Like many areas, income gaps persist between young and old and workers of different races. The majority of residents in the neighborhood (more than 70%) live in one- or two-person households, perhaps in part due to long work hours and the high cost of living space. There are many short-term residents in the area who come here to attend graduate school, work in internships, or serve tours of duty with nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, or the military. This transience provides the opportunity to reach a large number of people, but the short tenure of many members of our church presents challenges developing lay leadership and we tend to rely on a stable few.

We have great opportunities to invite these persons to discover a life of purpose and passion in Christ, and they in turn can spread that influence in this metropolitan area or as they move away, in other parts of the country or world. With the work-driven culture of the area, so many influences competing for their attention, and many with a lack of church background, it can be challenging to attract residents to our church or to any church. In decades past, the question facing new residents was “Which church do I go to?” Today, many new residents don’t even ask the question “Should I go to church?” In order to reach the many residents who do not come from a Baptist background or any church background, the congregation voted in 2005 to change its business name to The Church at Clarendon. While retaining our Baptist identity and beliefs, we wanted to encourage more area residents to visit our congregation. We seek a Baptist pastor who can help us reach and engage the neighborhood with the relevance of a life in Christ.

The Church Today: Our members and attendees are diverse in many different ways. We come from all walks of life, which, as one member of the congregation put it, is “how church should be.” The vast majority of U.S. churches draw the majority of their congregation from one ethnic group. We are uniquely multi-ethnic, with church members and attendees from many states and all over the



world, including two deacons from India and two from Iran. Our congregation is also economically and politically diverse and includes members with disabilities. We are multi-generational and enjoy a blended worship service with both contemporary and traditional music. We also come from religiously diverse backgrounds. Many of our members did not grow up in a Baptist church. Some grew up in other Protestant denominations, the Catholic Church, the Muslim faith, or without any church or faith background. Despite our different backgrounds, we are united by our common faith in Christ and love for one another. Church members and attendees describe our church as a friendly and welcoming place that “feels like home.”

Community and Denominational Connections

From our humble beginnings in the early 1900s until today, The Church at Clarendon has maintained a mission focus that has sought to meet the changing needs of the community and metro D.C. area. As the Clarendon neighborhood has evolved from farmland with grazing cattle to one of the most desirable urban villages in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, our church has witnessed and responded in service to many landmark events in our nation's history.

To meet the needs of working families, we established a Child Development Center in our education building in 1969, which today is the county's largest childcare center.

Another initiative housed in our building is the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. Leland was founded in 1998 as a broadly evangelical, pan-Baptist institution whose students and faculty have ties to a wide array of denominations and churches. Leland Seminary became fully accredited to award its masters degrees by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in 2006.

Worship:

- We worship at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings in a combined service. In the past we have had separate traditional and contemporary services, but during the time of transition, we combined into a single service to promote unity of the body.

Connect:

- We offer free yoga classes for the community every Monday. Class starts with a devotional reading and a prayer. We provide a qualified teacher and the class performs yoga together.
- We host a weekly Friday night coffee house with music and refreshments for residents of the apartments and others in the community.
- Denominational connections include the NorthStar church network, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Baptist World Alliance, whose headquarters are nearby in Falls Church, Va.

Serve:

- For more than 20 years we have offered college tuition support to members of our congregation through the Virginia Alderson Scholarship Fund. Students pursuing higher education can apply.

This fund provides roughly \$10,000 each year to students.



- Several church volunteers serve dinner once a month at the Three Strands Church in the Foggy Bottom community of D.C. Many of the Three Strand church attendees are college students and those experiencing homelessness.

- We participate in a Panera Bread ministry to serve residents of the apartments, as well as children and young adults from the Garfield Terrace neighborhood in D.C. who attend our services, and teachers at the CDC.

- We give a monthly benevolence donation to area organizations that serve the homeless, the hungry, and those with emergency financial and medical needs, and also give to international missionaries serving children abroad.

- Several members of our congregation participate in the charitable organization REACH, which is committed to helping young people in the metropolitan area become successful in school, work, and the community. Many of the children served by REACH attend our church worship services and Sunday school classes. Several volunteers from The Church at Clarendon mentor children through REACH's Garfield Terrace program, Football Dads program, and Camp AJ soccer camps.

Grow:

- We offer several leadership opportunities. We have a lodge in Eagle Eyrie, a Baptist retreat and conference center, which is located near Lynchburg.
- For several years now another leadership opportunity is the Global Leadership Summit. Members can participate and use their spiritual gifts to further the word of God.
- Our children's Sunday School serves our congregation and children from the Ethiopian congregation. Some of the children come from the apartment building.

Our mission focus has inspired multiple individuals in our congregation to dedicate their lives to full-time ministry, including in recent years two missionaries now serving in South Africa and Honduras, and four pastors, including a former member who is the associate pastor at the Three Strands Church. Some of these individuals attended Leland Seminary in our Education Building.

Leadership Structure

We affirm the calling of both men and women to leadership positions of the Church and adopt the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

The Church's decisions are determined by the congregation directly or via elected lay leaders. Four main groups (the Council of Deacons, the Board of Trustees, the Church Administration Team, and Staff) work together to lead and oversee the work of the Church. In addition, there are a number of volunteer teams which support that effort.

The Council of Deacons is composed of 12-24 individuals and is charged with promoting harmony and Christian fellowship among the entire membership and encouraging church members in individual devotions, stewardship, and cooperative public worship.

The Board of Trustees consists of five members and act as the legal representatives of the Church in matters concerning the Church property, subject to the direction of the Church.

The Church Administration Team coordinates the ministries and management of the church. The Administration Team has the authority to hire, set the terms of the employment, and terminate the employment of administrative and support staff. Membership of the Church Administration Team consists of:

- Representatives of Personnel matters, Finance matters, and Premises matters;
- The Chair of Deacons;
- A delegate from the Board of Trustees;
- Ministry representatives (Christian Education, Small Groups, and the Child Development Center);

- Four at-large members;
- The Church Clerk;
- The Assistant Moderator; and
- The Moderator, who chairs the Administration Team and presides at quarterly and called business meetings.

Currently, the staff consists of one interim senior pastor (who is not a candidate for the permanent position), one sexton, one church administrator, and a part-time worship leader. As the church grows we hope to expand as necessary.

By the Numbers...

Official Membership on the Rolls: 314. We have approximately 40 committed members.

Average weekly attendance: 115. Attendance sometimes rises to as many as 300 for holidays or special events.

Total givers in 2016: 91 as of November 3, down from 98 total in 2015

Tithes & Offerings in 2016: \$209,559.46.

Rental incomes in 2016: \$250,075.85 (from the CDC, Leland, the Hispanic congregation, the Ethiopian congregation, and Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center)

Budget deficit in 2016: \$25,996.56. This amount is significantly less from prior years, largely due to the lack of a full-time senior pastor for most of the year. The church has several hundred thousand dollars in savings to meet building obligations, but our operating reserve funds have dwindled.



Aspirations

In line with our mission, vision, and values, The Church at Clarendon has the following short-term aspirations:

- We had more small groups in the past, and have had visitors asking for more topic-specific small groups (such as for young married couples). We would like to create and sustain more church member-led small groups to build and maintain stronger community. There is also a desire for more staff-led Bible studies.
- We have many new visitors to the church every week, but many of them are in the area for only a short period of time because of school, Foreign Service, fellowships, etc. We would like to increase visitor retention and utilization by building clearer paths to the many volunteer and service opportunities within the Church, and ultimately encourage membership.
- We recently completed a focus on identifying spiritual gifts and would like to build on the momentum to continue helping people identify and utilize their gifts to live out their calling within and beyond the church.
- We would like to improve our community outreach efforts.
- We would also like to have a year where we do not have a deficit at the end of the year.

