



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Nov 29, 2012)

Trinity, Spruce Pine, Western North Carolina

15 Hemlock Avenue, Spruce Pine, NC 28777, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 2012-09.

jimpritchett1@me.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
51	1	1	2
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$12156	\$12156		
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$15857	2 Persons	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable			
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
up to/including \$500/year	Yes	Yes	

Rectory valued at \$450/month is available. Cash would be reduced by that amount to \$10,457.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Holy Week Services of 2012 were particularly moving. We had a supply priest for the full complement of services. We added a 12 hour vigil following the Easter Even service, followed by a baptism. While we won't have a baptism every year, it was wonderful. The Easter Day service was beautiful with more flowers than usual. The congregation and altar guild worked hard and pulled together to prepare for the services and meet the needs of two different priests for Holy Week. After the Easter service, there was an Easter Egg Hunt, the first one in years. One of our parishioners brought some of the children he tutors in the community schools program who had never experienced an egg hunt before. The congregation agreed that Holy Week this year was very spiritual and renewing.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We are the church of the future—vital and firmly grounded in the Episcopal tradition. The Church is “yesterday, today, and forever.” Our church and its liturgy help teach the meaning of a sacred place where God dwells, not just an assembly hall for fellow believers. We are lay centric, taking care of most of our own requisites. Some members are discussing the possibility of the perpetual diaconate, which would be very helpful. We acknowledge that we need to better organize our Eucharist Visitors and have a more active newcomer visitation program. Trinity has an amazing wealth of talent. We represent every political stripe. We are married and single. We are reaching out to members of the Latino community. We welcome anyone of any nationality or any different lifestyle at our church. We recognize that culturally and economically our country is undergoing a paradigm shift. We are staying current with new ideas and technology. But we have no desire to move from the liturgical-based worship that we now conduct. Sometimes, as the great C. S. Lewis warned, progress is not following every fad that comes along.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Support lay ministries, pastoral care giver, excellent preacher, Unifier

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

We value the full depth and breadth of the Episcopal tradition with the understanding that sacramental worship is central to our life in service to God. We enjoy the Book of Common Prayer and periodically use other rites provided in it. We are open to contemporary music but are most comfortable using the traditional Episcopal Hymnbook and the Lift Every Voice hymnbook. We have an organist and a small choir, and anyone who wants may join. Because we have had visiting priests so often in the past years, we have been exposed to a variety of liturgical styles of conducting a service. Most members are flexible in terms of worship; however, all feel that any liturgical practice should come from the prayer book. The Wednesday evening service is less formal than our Sunday morning service. Because we only have two services a week, we are obviously limited in what we can offer. Trinity has never welcomed the mixture of religion with politics. Our "passing of the peace" is a loving one, and we do the best coffee hour in Western North Carolina! Visitors are warmly received into our religious community

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

A very large portion of our congregation (from young to mature) participates in the public life of the parish, either as an crucifer, acolyte, lector, chalcist, usher, choir, altar guild, or vestry member. For our various jobs, such as Altar Guild, we have a yearly sign-up program in which new members to existing members who want to do something new are invited to join. If a project is begun, we always put announcements in the bulletin and sign-up sheets in the back of the church. New people are invited to join at their own comfort level. For special events, such as the Blessing of the Animals, the local newspaper and local radio station are notified. One of our strongest points as a congregation is the inclusion of everyone. Our church administrator provides scheduling twice a year for crucifers, ushers, lectors, acolytes, chalcists, and coffee hour providers. Individuals have ample time to prepare or swap with someone else if there is a conflict. Altar guild members sign up for the entire year at their annual meeting. There is always support for other guild members during the times of high involvement. At Christmas, the whole church is invited to help decorate.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

This is one of our strongest areas. We take care of each other. We have an unusual mixture of liberal and conservative thinkers at Trinity, yet we respect each other. Many people in the church send birthday cards to all the members. The community is small and illness and problems are rarely secret, so no one suffers alone unless they want to. Like any family, there are occasional squabbles, but everyone is always welcome with open arms at Trinity. There is a prayer list at the back of the church to which anyone can add a name (member or not). Anyone can stand up and make an announcement during the service. The church doors are always open, and the building and grounds are devotedly maintained. Our part-time administrator is very good about sending out emails and making phone calls and provides good and bad news between Sunday services. He also updates the phone directory yearly so that names, numbers, emails, and addresses are current. Lastly, we have dinners in which we come together for support and fun-raising! Our traditional Mardi Gras Pancake Supper is highly anticipated every year. People from other churches join us for our special events.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

We pray for them; we both welcome and minister to everyone our church can reach. We try to provide firm ground for faith in a shifting, superficial, and often trying world. We are active with Mitchell County Shepherd's Staff, contributing food and heat assistance during the winter months. We are also involved in prison ministry. Currently, our interim rector provides a Holy Eucharist service on two Wednesdays a month. Our church facilities are used by several organizations such as: AA, Al-Anon, Spruce Pine Rotary Club, Fresh Start, Mayland Community College, Community in Schools (CIS), Toe River Arts Council (TRAC), and a local philanthropic educational chapter (PEO). Some Trinity women along with women from other local churches of various denominations have participated in several Bible studies, held both at Trinity and a local Methodist church. Since we are a small community, we often join with other congregations in special activities or fundraising events. Services beyond the regular Sunday service, such as Holy Week, Easter Vigil/Even, and Ash Wednesday are advertised in our bulletin, website, newsletter, local paper, and on Facebook.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

We join other churches to prepare a Thanksgiving Day meal for shut-ins and those in need. We also collaborate with other churches to provide a Christmas meal to inmates at one of the local prisons. Trinity has taken an active role in the Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) event which is held each July, raising awareness and monies for cancer research. We have at least one fundraising event per year for which the money goes to help local charities. In addition, many of our parishioners individually volunteer with charitable organizations. Trinity takes its place in the community very seriously. We are always open to both working with other churches to give to the community and to suggestions from the congregation for ideas. We are active in a missionary flight program called JAARS and have a huge dinner, all of which is donated, with the money raised going to the missionaries. Despite our small numbers, we are an integral part of our diocese. Trinity provides a substantial diocesan pledge compared to other churches in the diocese. Over the past ten years, we have had a number of parishioners (non-professional to professional) provide services at a hospital in Haiti.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

For three years, Trinity was actively involved with the Angel Food Ministry, a reduced priced food program. Locally, our program was successful and provided reduced priced food and some free food to the needy. Our region has a high percentage of low income workers (8% plus unemployment rate), thus creating a need for food assistance. Unfortunately, Angel Food Ministry closed its doors in September 2011. We now are exploring other programs that might take the place of Angel Food Ministry. Trinity has an ongoing emergency heat assistance program in place. We have the desire, the leadership, and the trailer just waiting for the next opportunity to carry out Jesus' commandment to minister to those in need.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Stewardship is a private issue. If the church is active in causes in the community that one cares about, he or she is likely to give regularly to the church. If the church nurtures the family and those who are in trouble, sickness, or grieving, he or she will tithe faithfully. If the church provides Christian education and a variety of opportunities and ways of worship, the support will follow. The church needs to encourage stewardship by being faithful stewards of the church funds and using them for worship, outreach, and Christian education. Trinity does that. Trinity has creative people who have promoted stewardship by giving personal stories and convictions of their own stewardship, by example of being a good steward of time and talent, and by giving prayerful consideration of their financial support of the church.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

No church is without conflict. Like any family, congregations and members will have conflicting ideas and views on money, outreach, music, worship, etc. Thankfully, these conflicts have been few and far between for Trinity. When conflict does arise, we are a church that believes in addressing it 'head on' and involving all in the conflict resolution. Generally, the vestry attempts to resolve any conflicts, but if needed, Trinity will have pot luck dinners (tough conversations are always easier over good food) and all are welcome to the table for the food and the discussion. We offer opportunity for all voices and opinions to be heard. Letting conflicts 'fester' untreated can mean problems for the congregation. Timely and open conversation and resolution is the goal. We are a loving congregation and usually can resolve any conflicts.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

If change is presented appropriately before it occurs, it generally goes well. In the past we had Morning Prayer once a month, but many missed Eucharist so now we celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday. We have reinstated Wednesday evening services. As our congregation has aged, we have fewer children in our church so we changed our outreach programs to reflect nurturing and supporting programs for heat assistance, prison ministry, and other local outreach ministries. A change that did not go well involved a directive to move to contemporary music with guitars, banjos, etc. Most of us prefer the Episcopal Church hymnal. If this had been presented in a positive manner, we believe it would have been considered, but we were told this is what other churches were doing and that we had to do it. When we tried to encourage more of the familiar hymns, we were viewed as negative and unwilling to change. Change is not always preferable, especially when members feel they are not given a voice. We determined the need to re-instate our Worship committee so the worship styles of all could and would be considered. From this we learned that we need a priest who leads by nurturing consensus.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Alex Comfort	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2009-08	2010-11

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
LaRue Downing	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2006-07	2008-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Thomas Morris	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-10	2004-09

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	1	2

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
1	2	1	12

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Contact:

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Worshipping Community Web site: www.trinitysprucepine.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. G. Porter
Taylor**

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Cn. Jim Pritchett

jimpritchett1@me.com. 828-450-7500. No postal mail, please.

Current Warden/Board Chair

Connie Sedberry

(828) 385-0406 sedberry@sedberrypottery.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader