



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 15, 2024)

St. John Episcopal - Decatur IL, Springfield

130 W. Eldorado St., Decatur, IL, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

canon@episcopalspringfield.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

47

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

2

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$75000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Full family

Dental

No

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

**One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

\$1001-\$2000/year

Sabbatical Provision

Travel/Auto Account

Yes

Other Professional Account

No

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

In the last 12 months, our Fellowship Committee has stepped up in many areas of the church to carry out our mission both within the church walls and beyond our historic red doors. At the start of the school year, our parish adopted Dennis Lab School, a K-8 school that was shuttered from their 2 campuses at the end of the previous school year due to structural concerns. 550 students were then moved to a temporary location to serve the school during the current uncertainty of their primary locations in the heart of Decatur. "One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School" has brought together willing parishioners and a school in need to serve the students and their families through weekly volunteering at the school as well as a Christmas drive. Thirteen students were adopted and provided with Christmas gifts. Additionally, students in need were given warm winter jackets, gloves, and hats that were purchased or handmade by parishioners.

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

In preparing for the Church of the future, our parish prioritizes inclusive worship and faith practices, guided by the Episcopal Baptismal Covenant. We have expressed this in our Statement of Inclusion which affirms that all are welcome to worship and serve, this can be found on our website. We have recognized that the physical building has not always been conducive to those with physical ailments. This has prompted accessibility features to be assessed and replaced or repaired as needed. We also empower parishioners to take on non-clergy roles that allow the clergy to focus on spiritual growth and growing the parish. This commitment is demonstrated in the mentorship programs for Altar Guild and Acolytes. We also leverage our social media to expand our digital outreach, which is supported by our upgraded sound and streaming system. Together, we embrace technology to connect with our community and share our faith journey with God's help.

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

pastoral, teacher, inclusive, ecumenical, liturgical leader, communicator, facilitator, mediator, engaging, Supportive.

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

Our worship service is formal, Eucharistic-centered, and based on The Book of Common Prayer. Our Interim Rector leads the parish in our Sunday 8AM spoken Rite I Mass and our 10AM Rite II Choral Mass. Wednesday evenings at 5:30PM the Mass is also offered in our Chapel. A High-Church liturgical style can be experienced at all services, which may include the use of full vestments, traditional hymns on our beautiful pipe organ, choir, Anglican Chant, and the use of occasional incense. Acolytes of all ages assist our clergy in ushering the parish into worship by serving as Crucifer, Gospel bearer, and Eucharistic Ministers. During the Lenten Season, parishioners come together for Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament led by our Interim Rector. Services such as Tenebrae and Lessons and Carols are also scheduled throughout the Liturgical Calendar.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Parishioners of all ages are regularly encouraged to participate in any of the active ministries of our Church. Our Building and Grounds committee is comprised of members that may have backgrounds in handiwork or a skilled trade, they work with our Junior Warden to maintain our facilities. Altar guild members and Acolytes are mentored by current members on the practices, traditions, and liturgical reasonings for the way things are done under the direction of clergy. The Fellowship committee consistently hosts events and initiatives for parishioners to get involved in at all levels from cleaning up after events to planning the annual events calendar. We believe that every parishioner has a place in ministry as we are all called to the service of the church. As part of our annual stewardship campaigns, time and talents are also accounted for alongside financial contributions.

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

We support spiritual well-being through weekly worship of our Lord. A lay-led Bible study is held on Fridays where members come together over scripture and guided discussion serieses. We actively support Cursillo by being on staff, sponsoring parishioners, and group reunions have been re-initiated. Lay Eucharistic Visitors provide communion to our home-bound and physically limited parishioners. Prior to receiving our Interim Rector, lay-led devotional services were also provided during the week to fill the gap where weekday masses were previously held. This allowed for the church to come together in common worship while navigating the absence of regular clergy. For emotional comfort, our youth send cards to ill and home-bound parishioners. Several members have come together to create a knit and crochet prayer shawl ministry for the sick. New accessibility lifts have been installed to improve accessibility throughout our building. Training has been made available to parishioners to ensure their proper and safe use by anyone who may be in need of these assistive devices.

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

Through upgrades made to our sound system, and the addition of cameras in our Church, we are able to extend our reach via live streaming of our 10:00 a.m. Mass. This digital ministry has provided the opportunity for parishioners near and far to join in for worship while they are sick or unable attend the service. A meeting space is provided to three addiction and recovery groups that meet throughout the week. The “Banana Ministry” is one way we support our neighborhood by purchasing and delivering large bunches of bananas to Oasis, our neighborhood homeless shelter. This helps to provide a high source of potassium to those in need. Once a month, a group serves lunch at The Good Samaritan Inn, a soup kitchen just a few blocks from our church. This past Fall, a dinner was served to Potawatomi Native American descendants walking the ‘Trail of Death’ that goes through Decatur. A recent partnership with a local organization, Square 1, has allowed us to help bridge financial gaps between individuals and their needs. This has allowed us to maximize impact by ensuring they are getting connected to proper resources.

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

We have financially sponsored the Decatur Municipal Band, Decatur PRIDE, and the Five-Cities Baroque Music Festival. As part of our collaboration with Five-Cities Baroque Music Festival, we also host a portion of their performances and masterclasses. This is also followed by a reception and time of fellowship. Annually we participate in the Stained Glass Stories Tour organized by History of the Heartland. Along with our service at Good Samaritan Inn and partnership with Dennis Lab school, all of these activities and partnerships help us to extend our mission: To make Christ known to others. A portion of our recent growth in the average Sunday attendance and membership has been attributed to community members that attended an event that we hosted or were present for and them finding home in our worshipping community.

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

When our previous Rector retired, our parishioners stepped up to keep the community functioning together in common worship. Where Wednesday evening services were previously led by our priest, a few of our members got together to ensure midweek corporate worship continued. Evening Prayer, Compline, or The Rosary would be lay-led for a year until we received our Interim Rector and have returned to having a Wednesday evening Mass. Stefan Karrick-Woods spearheaded the lay-led worship and can be contacted at stefan.woods97@gmail.com. Our Adopt a School partnership with Dennis Lab school has been of great success and has built a bond with the parish and students that are impacted. Several parishioners visit the school on a weekly or monthly basis to volunteer in classrooms, assist in snack preparation to ensure students have something healthy to eat before leaving for the day, or assist with administration tasks in the office. Ken Hawley is the driving force between our newly formed partnership and can be contacted at Kenneth.hawley135@outlook.com

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

The Stewardship Committee launched a “Why St. John’s” Stewardship Campaign last year. Parishioners were scheduled over the course of a month to speak during the announcement time of service. They were asked to share what our parish has meant to them over their time as a member and why they continue to commit to St. John’s financially, with their time, and their talents. All ages of our membership were represented, from a 25-year-old that has been attending for 4 years to a 92-year-old that has spent the majority of her life at St. John’s. The Committee urged a 10% increase in pledges from all members for this year to meet the needs of the parish, and that goal was met and then some. We have shifted from only an annual drive to an ongoing conversation between the stewardship committee and the parish as needs arise and challenges to the budget are presented. As our congregation experiences life-changes, we recognize the need to be flexible and plan for the stewardship changes that come with them. Parishioner involvement in church ministries has increased as well. New acolytes, choir members, offering counters and ushers have stepped up following our revamped approach to stewardship.

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

As our parish began the discernment process around the needs and the future of our parish, a conflict over the need for ‘part-time versus full-time’ clergy arose. In the early stages, we were at a point where people were starting to return to church and involvement from parishioners was limited. A large group was leaning towards utilizing a ‘part-time priest.’ Several sessions were held to review and discern a book “Part-time is Plenty.” While a lot of pushback came from the start, the parish started to see that at that time, the possibility for hiring a part-time priest was a viable option. Through conversations, sharing of experiences, and statistical analysis the parish had now a majority in favor of “part-time being plenty” as the book stated. Since this book study, the needs of the parish have shifted. We have experienced nearly 20% increase in membership and parishioners have returned to regular attendance and involvement. The resolution of the previous conflict provided trust in one another as the shift has pivoted back towards a search for a full-time rector. Open, honest and transparent communication has led to the most fruitful changes in our parish when conflicts arise.

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?

Shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic, our Rector retired earlier than anticipated. We had a regular supply that navigated our parish through the pandemic before his inevitable retirement. During this time of change and transition, the parish remained flexible while we had a rotation of several supply priests that served faithfully when they could be secured. Laity stepped up to lead Morning Prayer services and deliver sermons from Sermons That Work when supply priests were not available. This irregularity was not met without uncertainty in the parish. The compromises that were made have brought us through in the end and our parish family grew stronger through the growing pains of operating without regular clergy. We recently welcomed our new Interim Rector with open arms as we return to the ability to fully embrace our Anglican faith. We have also learned through these transitions (and continue to learn) that effective, honest, and transparent communication is one key to success when addressing change. We have seen significant growth in our average attendance through our growth as a parish in our times of change.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. David Wells	Interim	2023-12	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Gene Stormer	Supply	2020-01	2022-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fr. Richard Swan	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-07	2019-11

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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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Worshipping Community Web site: stjohnsepiscopaldecatur.com

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 217.525.1876 bishop@episcopalspringfield.org
Rt. Rev. Brian Burgess

Diocesan Transition Minister 217.525.1876 canon@episcopalspringfield.org
Rev. Canon Mark Evans

Current Warden/Board Chair 217.853.2748 spykedancer@usa.net
Dr. Stephen Chadwick

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair 217.619.5951 stefan.woods97@gmail.com
Mr. Stefen Karrick-Woods

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader