



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Nov 8, 2020)

St. John's Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

906 South Orleans Ave., Tampa, FL 33606-2941, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 01/01/21.

rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
287	3	5	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$150000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Clergy only	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes	Yes	Yes

Compensation and Healthcare are negotiable

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

During the pandemic, our worship community has come together in amazing ways, with God's help. St. John's clergy, staff, and Vestry have worked creatively and dynamically to reach as many parishioners as possible with our ministries. Prior to the pandemic, we launched Invite-Welcome-Connect, a new ministry that aligns with our mission of evangelism. We encourage our current parishioners to invite new members, to welcome them wholeheartedly, and to connect them in deeper ways with our community in Christ. A large and committed group of parishioners came together to begin implementing Invite-Welcome-Connect, which has continued on Zoom and via social media during the pandemic. We continue to work together to create intentional ways of welcoming new members to St. John's in a variety of ways. Dedicated members of our Pastoral Care ministry have reached out to parishioners to help soften feelings of isolation during the pandemic. Our volunteers make phone calls to every parishioner to check in and identify any needs with respect to meals, transportation, referrals, etc. Our parishioners have been very grateful.

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

Change is expected and constant and we realize that to best serve the people of St. Johns we must embrace change. At this time, our congregation is focused on youth and adult formation programs with the goal of encouraging younger families and young adults to fully engage in our parish. In order to widen our reach, we have made an investment in AV/streaming equipment to meet immediate needs related to the pandemic closure. This will provide enhanced opportunities for connection with a wider community in the future and enable more varied forms of liturgy. Members of the congregation connect at home with a live stream of Sunday services and evening prayer. Finally, we have implemented Invite-Welcome-Connect that begins by intentionally being a welcoming church family always open to adding another family member. This vital program is led by a team of clergy and lay leaders. Its success has been contagious, despite many participating virtually

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

Strong spiritual leader who values liturgy, worship, and music traditions, strong social and communication skills, Good Steward, supports open-hearted pastoral care

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

Our liturgical style is traditional, high church, choral tradition and is based on the Book of Common Prayer using both Rite I and Rite II. We incorporate music from the 1982 Hymnal and have a highly trained and talented choir and organist/choirmaster. Occasionally we use incense on high holy days. There is lay involvement through Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, Acolytes, Ushers, Altar Guild, and Vergers. Our 8 a.m. liturgy is a Rite I said service. Our 9:15 a.m. liturgy is Rite II with choir. Our 11:15 a.m. liturgy is Rite I with choir. During the pandemic, we have combined our 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. services into a 10 a.m. Rite II liturgy with a choir quartet; this service is live streamed on social media and our website. We also offer weekday services, Holy Day Eucharist, and daily liturgies for St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At St. John's we incorporate others in ministry in several ways, both formally and informally. Every fall we hold a Rally Day ministry showcase following a combined 10 A.M. service. Rally Day is designed to celebrate our ministries and give parishioners the opportunity to sign up where they feel called to serve. Each ministry has a table display and representatives on hand to explain the ministry and recruit new volunteers. We have found that our parishioners like to be asked to volunteer, and Rally Day provides the perfect forum to do just that. We have worked hard in the past two years to invigorate Rally Day, and our efforts have met with great success: the atmosphere is energetic and celebratory, and parishioners are excited to participate. Additionally, we routinely distribute printed and digital communications explaining our ministries to visitors, newcomers, and parishioners. Our website and weekly digital newsletter highlight our ministries and provide information about joining to interested parishioners throughout the year. Throughout the year clergy and lay leaders encourage and invite others to join specific ministries.

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

Our Pastoral Care ministry, which includes dedicated clergy and lay members, regularly reach out to parishioners in need. Eucharistic Visitors take Holy Communion to church members who are unable to attend Sunday services. Our Grief Support ministry offers prayers and other support to families who have experienced a loss. The Faithful Friends team offers phone calls, birthday cards, and bereavement support. We participate in retreats and special programs for Advent, Lent, and other church seasons. The Meals and Newborn ministries provide meals to those who need support, including families with newborns. St. John's has an active Cursillo community, Stephen Ministry program, and many Adult, Youth, and Children's Formation groups. Both clergy and lay leaders facilitate Bible studies and book clubs. Finally, Holy Hospitality is a group dedicated to providing a welcome coffee hour to members and visitors between services in the courtyard.

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

St. John's provides weekday services that are offered in nursing homes and retirement communities (e.g. Canterbury Tower, Brookdale Bayshore)—these services are open to all residents. Clergy and lay pastoral care team members visit assisted living facilities/nursing homes.

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

St. John's parishioners are active and passionate about participating in the wider Church, local, and global communities. Some serve in Diocesan governance and as delegates to the General Convention. Many of our parishioners are active in service to community nonprofit/social service organizations (Love INC, Faith Café, Metropolitan Ministries, Cornerstone Kids Inc., and more) either as part of church teams or individual discernment. St. John's ensures that volunteer opportunities—including workdays and projects in the community—are made available to our adults and youth. Our parishioners participate in Tampa Deanery mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Our youth engage in summer mission trips to various locations. Our Parish also donates time and financial support individually and collectively through our Outreach ministries.

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

Our Holy Hospitality ministry grew out of our successful "Taste of St. John's" food-themed Rally Day in 2018. That event served as a reminder that food, fellowship, and service go hand-in-hand, and feeding one another, as Jesus and his disciples model throughout the Bible, is a vital part of Christianity. Building on that event, a group of Vestry members and lay leaders set out to re-energize our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour, a once-vibrant time of connection that had recently dwindled. In early 2019, we introduced Holy Hospitality, recruiting volunteers to bring an array of foods each Sunday, which encouraged churchgoers to linger for coffee, delicious treats, and fellowship between services in our beautiful courtyard or Parish Hall. The positive impact on our Parish community, including our ability to welcome newcomers, was strong and immediate. The ministry's initial base of 20 volunteers more than doubled by March 2020, and the number of individuals and families staying to enjoy this coffee hour increased as well. Holy Hospitality has become a vital time of connection in our Sunday tradition. Contact Heddy Brown at heddymb@gmail.com.

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

Annually the Stewardship team develops an organized campaign, which culminates in members making a solemn financial promise/pledge to our parish community. A few members are invited to witness before the congregation and to share what St. John's has meant to them. We have been blessed with a steady increase in annual contributions over the past 10 years. Our clergy preach sermons that encourage gifts of time and talents to the church. Toward the end of the Stewardship effort, the Vestry and other volunteers call parishioners who have pledged in the past but have not yet done so this year. As needed, the Rector may also call parishioners who have not yet pledged.

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

In 2013, our Rector retired suddenly following a time of conflict in the congregation and among leadership. The conflict and the Rector's subsequent departure proved painful for many people on all sides, including the Vestry, parishioners, and our retiring Rector. The challenges were addressed through a series of meetings with the Vestry, past wardens, and in consultation with the Bishop. The conflict among us was significant and required guidance from the Canon to the Ordinary and the Bishop. As a result, soon after our Rector's formal farewell, we were able to celebrate the calling of our new Rector, Charles Connelly, who had previously served as our much-loved school chaplain. This was a joy-filled occasion, followed by the beginning of the healing process almost immediately. Many parishioners who had left St. John's returned. Over the last seven years, our parish has been unified, healthy, and happy under Father Connelly's leadership and through his retirement on October 31, 2020.

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?

Due to our strong leadership and excellent clergy and staff, St. John's has also fared as well as possible during the challenging changes brought about by the pandemic. Though we had to close our doors for a period of time, we were able to continue delivering online services and other online outreach to our parishioners. The continued generosity and financial commitment from our parishioners during this difficult time has been a testament to the faith and strength of our spiritual community. Our Vestry formed a special committee to study, determine, and outline what was needed to reopen, and we have been able to successfully do so. Our parish community has been supportive and cooperative in following our published guidelines. We have learned that we can look to God for guidance and work together as a community to overcome difficult circumstances.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Charles Connelly	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-08	2020-10

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Douglas Remer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2002-12	2014-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. John Peterson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1979-01	2000-12

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	7	30

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
4	20	8	60

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
K-12	529	38	45



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Worshipping Community Web site: www.stjohnstampa.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnstampa/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

941-556-0315

The Rt. Rev Dabney T. Smith

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Richard H. Norman

Office 941.556.0315; Mobile 941.212.8009; E-mail: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Mr. Gregory A. Hearing, Esq.

Phone: 813.273.5082; E-mail: gregory.hearing@gray-robinson.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Dr. John Marston

Phone: 813.956.3180; E-mail: jmarst41@gmail.com

Search Chair

Paul Brokaw & Jan Kelley

Phone 813.629.1780 (Paul) & 813.334.6861 (Jan); E-mail pbro132@gmail.com (Paul) & revkelleyjr@gmail.com (Jan)

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader