



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 15, 2024)

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Colorado

19580 Pilgrims Place, Parker, CO 80138, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/26/24.

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
81	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$88000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4	4	2 (standard)	2
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes		

Compensation includes 1/2 SECA;

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

Just prior to COVID, our longtime youth ministry leader departed from St. Matthew's. Unfortunately many families followed her to her new church. When the pandemic hit, we felt isolated and recognized the importance of connection with our children and youth. In addition to "Zoom" Sunday School each week, the Children's ministry leaders created activity bags that were delivered to each family's door. Despite our efforts, our numbers continued to dwindle to the extent that we moved to a one-room schoolhouse format. Well, when God closes a door, he opens a window. That was evident when one of our Sunday school teachers stepped up to fill the role of director. With her abundance of energy and passion for kids, our youth ministry has grown exponentially! Since the resurgence of youth ministry we have welcomed new families. Our growing team of teacher leaders enables us to once again, separate into groups for Sunday school. We have a thriving youth group that serves the local and broader community through mission work. The youngest children participate in Godly Play and faith formation is divided into older elementary and middle/high school.

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

In preparation for calling a new rector, our profile committee enlisted the services of a consulting firm to complete a congregational assessment survey. The results validated a sense of high satisfaction and high energy among parishioners — two key ingredients in a healthy change journey. Our congregation shows a refreshing level of adaptability. We understand that growth involves change, and we are prepared to evolve to accommodate the needs of the people we want to reach. One important next step that we feel is essential is to confront the ministry realities identified by The Episcopal Church in Colorado: climate change, racial oppression, LGBTQ+ inclusion, suicide awareness, and gun violence prevention. While these issues rose to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic, they remain critical as we look to maintain the health of our church while addressing, not denying, pressing modern social issues.

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

passion, empathy, humility

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

Our worship stands on the foundation of The Holy Eucharist Rite II from the BCP. We celebrate the Eucharist together every Sunday at both 8:00 and 10:30, following the Revised Common Lectionary, with readings from the NRSV. Lay volunteers serve at the altar and share the Lectionary Readings and lead the Prayers of the People. We offer three cups at each celebration: a common cup, a cup for intinction and a dedicated cup for members who receive a gluten-free host. Our organist/harpist plays music at both services and leads the choir at 10:30. The first Sunday of each month, the congregation gathers for a single youth-led service. Our youngest youth act as ushers while the lectionary readings are read by youth members from "God's Word, My Voice, A Lectionary from Children," making the service truly centered around our children. The overall feel of the service is more contemporary; the normal anthem is replaced by praise music played by our band. We also share a Wednesday morning Eucharist. The Psalms and Prayers of the People are read aloud in a round robin format so that everyone participates. In place of a sermon, we share a conversation and wrestle with the readings together.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We share an exciting vision of God's plans and pray for the Holy Spirit to call on us to use our individual talents needed to achieve His plans. When a parishioner is called to lead a ministry, they present their plans to the rector and vestry for their blessing and support. For example, a parishioner felt the need to more officially welcome new members into our church and created a newcomer's luncheon every quarter for members who have joined within the past three months. Each ministry leader attends, children from the youth group talk about their experience, giving new parishioners an overview of what St. Matthew's does and an invitation to join in. We pray that our new rector will further awaken and unleash the massive talent, resources, creativity, and energy that is found here at St. Matthew's. When this happens, our ministries will explode with growth at an unprecedented rate.

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

We are a warm family that takes care of each other. While we expect our next rector to possess empathy, compassion, and a genuine interest in pastoral care, they will not be expected to do this work alone. Our two Eucharistic Visitors bring communion and spiritual comfort to those who can't physically attend Sunday services. For example, we have recently begun extending the call for birthday prayers to those who join us virtually via YouTube. It's also extremely common to witness members of the congregation informally practicing pastoral care by offering prayers, meals, transportation to church, and simply companionship when they see a fellow parishioner in need of these gifts.

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

One of the things that we learned about ourselves via the Congregational Assessment Tool is there is a significant desire to expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. We don't do this well yet, but many people are eager to serve. Currently we support the Parker Task Force and The St. Francis Center by providing the congregation with a list of urgent and in-kind needs for both organizations. Members can bring their donations to the church and distributions are organized to the receiving agency. Additionally, the ECW has provided direct monetary gifts to the Parker Task Force to support distribution of food to those in our community that are hungry. Prayers and Squares is a ministry to provide prayer quilts to those who need to be wrapped in prayer. Anyone can request a quilt for someone in need and every quilt prayed over and tied by the congregation before being delivered. Since its beginning in 1998, more than 600 quilts have been made and given away.

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

Historically, St. Matthew's has been very involved in the Parker Area, contributing to the founding of the Parker Task Force and sponsoring a 5K and Fun Run during Parker Days. However, over the past decade, our congregation has become somewhat more insular; for example, beginning around 2018, our parish could no longer afford to contribute its tithe to the Diocese of Colorado, and we are still struggling to meet this mandate. Broader involvement with the wider Church and region is an area of opportunity for this parish, though we do have some success stories. Our youth group has gone on several missions within the state of Colorado over the past few years. This year, we are sending two people to the National Convention in Houston and three delegates to the Colorado Diocesan Convention. It is clear from surveys and interviews, though, that many in the church wish for greater involvement from St. Matthew's in our region.

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

In 2022, congregants proposed a combined Sunday service to let disparate attendees get to know each other and allow the parish youth to contribute more fully to the community. We now celebrate youth service one per month, during which we (in the words of our youth): Let youth usher, perform music, do readings and intercessory prayers. Provide a means for kids to be involved and know what it's like to do what the adults do. Keep the younger kids engaged. Help younger kids understand the big kids' (adults') church. Allow adults to see church through kids' eyes. Enjoy fun and relatable readings in language that youth can understand. Make kids feel like they are an important part of the congregation. On one occasion, a youth gave the sermon, showing amazing insight into the gospel reading. Please contact Youth Director, Kris Karge, for more information about Youth Sunday.

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

Stewardship shapes the life of our community by reminding us everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God and to be grateful and generous with those gifts. Each year, we conduct a campaign from about October 1 to November 30. The lay stewardship chairperson organizes a prayerful campaign that includes written communications as well as testimonials from clergy and parishioners on the importance and rewards of giving. We believe there is a need for our new rector to improve our stewardship methods by incorporating innovative techniques. Ideally, our new rector will have strong stewardship leadership experience including proven effectiveness in raising stewardship awareness, not shying away from talking about finances. With this energy, we expect funds to rise to meet the spiritual and operational needs of the church.

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

In the past ten years, our church has seen the departure of many families due to decisions initiated by the larger Episcopal Church, disagreements with clergy, and the pandemic. In the past year, we have started to look forward to a brighter future. This would not have been possible without the willingness of parishioners, old and new, to come together to share their stories. This occurred in a very raw and emotional way when our interim rector led the congregation in a series of parish meetings to discuss our history as a church and where we want to go next. This process required parishioners to be vulnerable and supportive of each other. Individuals had the opportunity to air their grievances, know that their voices were heard and begin to heal. St. Matthew's is a family, and like any family we have disagreements — which spur creativity and discussion. Our differing perspectives and the ability to disagree in a loving Godly way is a strength of our growing parish.

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?

For a very long time, change initiated by parishioners was not part of the culture at St. Matthew's. For this reason, our congregation has mixed feelings about change. Change goes poorly when we ignore it altogether. There have been several instances in the recent past when individuals in the congregation have desired to invoke change. Instead of opening dialogue to see how to bring these changes about, these desires were dismissed and our community suffered. We learned that we are stronger and more involved when our voices are heard. We have also learned that we handle change better when we embrace and move towards it together. Pre-COVID, we implemented Ministry Scheduler, giving volunteers more control over their ministry schedules. COVID forced us to develop a streaming ministry and offer outdoor services, and we still offer a streaming ministry because we have discovered that it works for our congregation. As we search for our new rector, we are trying to keep in mind that change comes, whether we like it or not. We wish to protect what we have as we grow, while embracing our potential to become even better.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Karen LaJoy Smith	Interim		

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Michael Richardson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge		

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Phil Webb	Interim	2002-01	2004-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	8	14

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	16		

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: smack.org

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas

Diocesan Transition Minister

vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org

The Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass

Current Warden/Board Chair

(720) 480-1930; rsmej@comcast.net

Martha Jentz

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Tim Flanagan & Jenny Shaffe

Tim - (508) 494-2643, timothyjflanagan@gmail.com; Jenny - (720) 256-6872, jennifermoncier@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader