



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 3, 2018)

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

jchambers@diocesemo.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
135	3	0	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$70000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$80000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	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
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

Contact:
jchambers@diocesemo.org

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

In 2015, our then Assistant Rector had a simple idea that would bring our church community together across all generations, raise money for outreach, support the Youth Group's Mission Trip, and boost our community visibility: order a thousand pumpkins from a Navajo reservation halfway across the country, and convert the front yard of the church into a site for pumpkin sales. Thus, the Pumpkin Patch was born. Pumpkins arrive from New Mexico in October, and 30 parishioners of all ages work for hours to unload 1,095 of them, in an assembly line that begins inside a semi, and ends with pumpkins placed out for sale. Parishioners sign up for selling shifts for three weeks. Wireless technology and an iPad card reader allow us to keep accurate books and accept credit cards. And our location near a busy intersection in west St. Louis ensures brisk sales. Working the Pumpkin Patch helps parishioners connect and spreads the mission of the church to the community. Money raised goes to the Navajo Reservation, and then our Youth Group and other community outreach. Most importantly, people buying our pumpkins appreciate their money is going to a good cause, encouraging them to return each year.

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

In 2014, the Vestry realized that because it was often focused the church's near-term needs, we were not thinking enough about the vision of who we wanted to be as a church of the future. As a result, the Vestry commissioned the "2020" Committee, made up of a diverse group of parishioners who formulated recommendations on where we wanted to go and who we wanted to be by the year 2020. After 2 years of interviews, research, outside benchmarking, and discernment, the committee presented the Vestry five recommendations: 1) Community Ministry: Develop a discernment process toward a unified parish-wide ministry; 2) Fixing the Church Facility: Implement a deliberate program to refresh and repair the physical plant; 3) Ministry by Ministry planning: Support ministries and the vestry in their strategic planning efforts, ministry by ministry; 4) Congregational Development: Increase parishioner ownership and engagement in church priorities. 5) Programming for Families: Enhance ministry programming that serves younger families in the congregation. We use these recommendations as a filter for making decisions and planning, and we have made good progress with some of them, but not on all.

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

A servant leader, who champions change, is spiritually energetic, and builds diverse and thriving communities

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

Contact:
jchambers@diocesemo.org

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

We offer three services each weekend: one at 5:05 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on Sundays. Our 5:05 Saturday service was the dream of our Assisting Priest who had a vision of a relaxed, contemporary service in an intimate setting in the chapel. This service of Holy Communion attracts all ages and includes interactive participation by the congregation who are invited to read portions aloud and respond to the Gospel. Our 8 a.m. Sunday service follows Rite 1 and is a quiet, contemplative gathering that does not include music, and offers a deep, spiritual calmness. Our largest service is our 10:15 a.m. service. This service follows Rite 2, and includes joyous music plus a short children's sermon. The choir is often accompanied by instrumentalists from the congregation (string and wind), and we also have a bell choir. Recently, the choir has purchased the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" hymnal to offer greater musical spirituality through a diverse lens. We believe the variety of liturgical services at St. Martin's is one of the many gifts we offer to all who are seeking a worship style that helps them make their own personal and spiritual connection to God.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our wide array of ministries allows all seeking to serve God to do so in a way most meaningful to them. Our Youth Group goes on an annual mission trip, with last year's mission to Heifer International in Arkansas, where they cooked over an open fire, slept on a dirt floor, and retrieved their own water. Our Outreach Ministry helps evangelize to the west St. Louis community through supporting individual needs and donating to local charities. Our Altar Guild is a dedicated group of members who set up for weekly services, weddings, funerals, baptisms and special occasions. Our three different Bible study groups meet throughout the week. Our Music Ministry continues to grow and improve their singing ability, music leadership and breadth of musical styles. Our Prayer Chain consists of three groups extending confidential prayers to those in need. Our Garden Ministry is in its second year, cultivating food grown in the church's back yard, and donating 1,725 pounds of vegetables to a food pantry last year. And the list goes on. Our variety of ministries and welcoming spirit allow all members, new and old, to share their gifts and join the ministry that best speaks to them.

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

We care for each other in body, mind and spirit, as a community. Every Sunday, we bless and send off Eucharistic Visitors for those not able to travel to church. Our "Take Them a Meal" ministry provides home-cooked meals to parishioners recovering from a hospital visit. Our Bible Study groups meet during the week, providing respite, study and prayer for those seeking a deeper spiritual connection with the Word. Our prayer chains (urgent, cancer and chronic pain) are a life-giving ministry for all requesting prayers for God's healing. As a church community, we offer a complimentary monthly brunch after our 10:15 service, prepared by a caterer to whom we loan our kitchen. These meals are fun, supportive and provide a forum for fellowship. To help our parishioners physically, we offer free chair yoga for older people, and traditional yoga for others. Our Lunch Bunch retiree ministry meets once a month at fun spots throughout the St. Louis area, such as museums, historic sites, and concerts, in addition to community service events. We donate our unused office space to counselors working with patients with psychological and emotional needs. Body, mind and spirit - we have it covered.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

Contact:
jchambers@diocesemo.org

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

In 2011, we partnered with Kohl's in Ellisville to join the nationwide Project Linus, which provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children seriously ill or traumatized, through gifts of new, handmade blankets. Using grant funds from Kohl's, parishioners purchase fleece and cut and tie dozens of blankets, which are draped over the altar railing and pews for blessing before distribution to community first responders. Our Men's group works with Episcopal City Mission to coordinate birthday parties for inner city youth incarcerated and awaiting trial, and many say it was the first birthday party they have ever been thrown. We support Magdalene St. Louis, providing women recovering from addiction and abuse with household goods and support. Last year, as St. Louis was hit with devastating floods, the Diocese of Iowa sent a team of 12 help, and we provided them all their meals for a week as they sent blessings to our community. Finally, we bought residents of Deaconess Anne House a scooter. Our parishioners realize the comfort and gifts of our daily lives, and are compelled to make a difference beyond our worshipping community. Of course, we can always do more.

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

In 2014, we hosted "A Conversation with Bishop Gene Robinson," which highlighted strides made for LGBTQ brothers and sisters, and continued the dialogue of civil rights for all. Our Saturday Bible Study Group ventures beyond our immediate community four times a year, to feed 150 homeless family members in the city of St. Louis. Our Garden Ministry provides regular donations of vegetables to local food pantries. We open our church to six different support groups (AA, OCD), offering free space as those groups work to stay on the right path. When racial strife occurred in Ferguson, we organized a fund-raising bike ride through the town, and collected feminine and baby products for their local food pantry. Each year, we host 100 Episcopal youth from Memphis, who travel to St. Louis for a ski trip and a place to sleep in our church. Globally, we regularly send gifts to the Diocese of Kenya to pay for school uniforms, medicine, books and animal feed. Our "Change the World" ministry collects change from parishioners to buy livestock through the Episcopal Relief Fund. We open our diverse hearts and doors to all in the local, national and global community, because Jesus calls us to do so.

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

At the epicenter of the current civil unrest, a group of parishioners bonded over this persistent question: What can we do? Our Social Justice Commission launched November 2015 to learn more and explore what committed Christians and their churches can do. The commission is a platform for education and action among parishioners concerned about injustice and seeking ways to improve society. Since our formation, we have watched documentaries, read and discussed articles, and heard guest speakers—all to help us understand issues of racism and unfair treatment of others. We've hosted diocesan-wide events at our parish: a January 2016 anti-racism workshop; a December 2016 congress of similar parish groups; and an Absalom Jones Celebration in February. We're creating a children's library reflecting St. Louis' diversity. We've raised money and applied for grants to purchase the Lift Every Voice and Sing hymnal. With 20 individuals participating regularly (so far!), we have more in the works: additional training and outreach; field trips; partnerships with other social justice organizations; and parish events such as movie nights. The work is just beginning. (kurt@igreenbaum.com)

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

jchambers@diocesemo.org

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

We are blessed by the support of generous members, who offered and continue to offer gifts of time, talent and treasure. We have a solid endowment, with two funds that provide day-to-day support and long-term financial security. Each year, we attempt to foster a culture of year-long stewardship, but we recognize this as an improvement opportunity. We can fall into a trap that stewardship is a seasonal initiative, and not an ongoing conversation. Our Stewardship giving has been stagnant in recent years, and we welcome ideas to reverse that trend. We are active users of resources from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and have sent parishioners to attend their conference and bring back ideas. But, the question asks, "how does it shape the life of our worshipping community?" This is a puzzle we are trying to solve, a challenge that we want to move from an annual exercise to an ongoing conversation. We have the wealth in our congregation to exceed our goals. We all offer many gifts of time, talent and treasure. But there is certainly untapped potential in our midst. We need to the right person to help us realize the gifts that God has provided us.

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

Honestly, this is an improvement opportunity for us. We are a kind, welcoming and friendly parish, which can make it difficult for us to be candid, direct and open, when we disagree. In times of conflict and stress, we can regress into a "church of whispers" as a parishioner stated. We tend to build alliances in the parking lot with those with whom we agree, as opposed to building bridges in the Sanctuary with those with whom we disagree. We have named this as a dynamic that exists in a church of nice well-meaning people, and we are taking steps to address it. For one, we have committed to more frequent open church meetings and forums where we allow ourselves a safe space to be open and honest, even when we disagree. We have committed to more face-to-face conversations, instead of missives sent via email. We reach out and connect over coffee with others instead of complaining to our friends and spouses. These are small examples, but we look forward to a leader who can help us grow spiritually and psychologically in times of change and conflict, and who can help us see Christ in each other and truly live out God's second great commandment: "To love our neighbors as ourselves."

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?

One example of change that has gone well was the introduction of our 5:05 Saturday service. A service that was a vision of our current Assisting Priest, it has grown to a faithful following with a contemporary, participative liturgy, offering renewal on a Saturday evening, where at the end, everyone helps put away the chairs set up in the rear of the Sanctuary, facing the chapel. Where has it gone poorly? Three years ago, clergy had the idea of developing a "soft space" in the Sanctuary, providing a comfortable place for families with small and wiggly children, and to allow those children to be closer to the liturgy. This project involved removing the right front pew, and reconfiguring the far right front of the Sanctuary. A soft rug was placed in the space, with small chairs, and books and toys in baskets. As the project unfolded, we learned many parishioners have a strong connection with the church's physical space, and changing that space can make them uncomfortable. Some also asked, if we have a nursery, do we need this? The project moved forward, and the soft space in front is still used every Sunday, as a place to families to gather and children to be closer to the liturgy.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 3, 2018)

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

jchambers@diocesemo.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jon Hall	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2010-01	2017-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Larry Horroper	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2000-03	2007-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Howard Park	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1965-01	1998-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
---------------	--	--

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
---	---	--	--------------------------------------

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 3, 2018)

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Missouri

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/18.

Contact:
jchambers@diocesemo.org

Worshipping Community Web site: www.stmartinschurch.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith

bishop@diocesemo.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Joseph Chambers

jchambers@diocesemo.org, 314-231-1220

Current Warden/Board Chair

Tom Allen

314-578-9726 Thomas.allen@wfadvisors.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Ralph Trieschmann

314-401-6004 Ralph.m.trieschmann@ehi.com

Search Chair

Contact Senior Warden

Parish/Institution

Kay Fletcher

214-212-3594, kfletc1031@aol.com

Local Community Leader

Beth Goad

314-436-3545, ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com