



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 16, 2025)

St. John's Episcopal Church, Central Florida

610 Young Street, Melbourne, FL 32935, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/14/25.

mailjbh@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
53	54	53	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$81519	\$39519	\$42000	
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$85000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes	No	
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
up to/including \$500/year		Yes	Yes

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

Our sense of community as we participate in our various outreach programs was, by far, the most frequent response to this question. Whether helping on one of the Family Promise teams during our week of hosting, on a Daily Bread service team, providing baskets full of food for needy families in our congregation and neighborhood, or helping with our Concerts in the Park Series, our parishioners engage in doing good for others. Any money donated to outside organizations is 100% funded by our congregation members. Additionally, we have several newer efforts such as a twice-yearly Choral Evensong and a weekly Vesper service. When we work together in service to others, our bond grows stronger.

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

Recognizing that nearly every congregation had to find a way forward during the Pandemic, St. John's did the same. We upgraded our online presence on a very small budget during the Covid shutdown. This included improvements to our website and YouTube channel, as well as the equipment and software required. Our website is currently undergoing improvements. These are small steps helping us prepare for the future. We believe in the importance of maintaining our historic sanctuary and Memorial Garden so that it can be enjoyed for years to come. From a personal perspective, we serve with respect and reverence. We endeavor to maintain open minds for what the future will bring, knowing that our parish of today may look differently in the future. Our desire is to grow the parish, with a focus on young professionals and families. We appreciate the traditions of the Episcopal Church, yet we are open to embracing new customs. Above all, we believe that maintaining our sense of community, participating in good liturgy and promoting a loving family-like atmosphere will take us into the future. We look forward to a Rector who can help us now and to continually prepare for the future.

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

engaging leader, attentive administrator, compassionate pastor, Ambassador

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

Our parish utilizes the Book of Common Prayer Rite II for worship services. We generally consider ourselves to be a traditional style of worship, although some members prefer a blend of traditional, contemporary and older familiar hymns. Our music program follows the liturgy and relevant scriptures of the week. We observe traditions such as Lessons & Carols, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Parishioners feel comforted by the routine of standard liturgy. Because we are a relatively small parish, there is only one service on Sunday.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We actively invite parishioners to participate by using several methods such as announcements, having one-on-one conversations at coffee hour, and through our outreach programs. We encourage participation by serving as LEM or usher during worship service, serving on vestry, and various other leadership roles. We do our best to create an atmosphere where others want to participate. We strive to be loving, accepting and non-judgmental in our work at church and outreach programs. The practice of wearing our nametags helps aid newcomers with rapid assimilation into the fold. We rely on a core group of committed volunteers to carry out most of the work of the parish; this can sometimes work against us if we don't manage it properly.

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

We pray for and with each other seriously, continually and very intentionally, both corporately and individually. And our amazingly committed Daughters of the King pray for all of us, and for others by special request. Christian Education: weekly Men's Bible Study and breakfast, 40-minute Sunday AM sessions led by clergy in Parish Hall. Prayer at the altar after Sunday service, email and phone access to rector. We are like a small town where everyone knows everyone else - we genuinely feel their pain, joy, and anxiety and respond to the needs of others personally. During the worship service we recognize birthdays and anniversaries, we pray for our members who cannot be present, and for those who are protecting our country in the military. Our response to Covid was outstanding - masks, online worship, social distancing and outdoor worship. Equally important was our intentional recovery process as we returned to in-person worship.

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

As well as supporting the following ministries financially, we engage directly with many members' active individual involvement in: serving at Daily Bread; providing food and support for Family Promise of Brevard; providing daily living supplies for New Life Mission; and in conjunction with Seaside Stitchers, donating food for the Wholeness to Freedom Food Pantry. Other charities we support financially: Children's Hunger Project, Solar Light for Africa, Cub Scout Pack 726, Habitat for Humanity, Nana's House, Life Recaptured and Complementary Cancer Care. Many of us try also to provide pastoral care by wearing our crosses and nametags at these outreach programs. We pray diligently for those beyond our parish roster and include them in our prayers during our Live Stream broadcasts. We also provide meeting space for the Seaside Stitchers (a sewing group making goods for charity), local Veterans; AA; and sponsor the local troop of the Scouts.

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

In the past, we have both hosted and participated in services with the other Episcopal churches in our area. These services have included Epiphany, Good Friday, and Choral Evensong where members of choirs from other churches join forces with our choir to bring the liturgy to life through music. Our former rector used to provide communion to the residents of Victoria Landing, a retirement center at the end of our street. Another ministry that was crucial during the pandemic was when we held services and offered communion outdoors in our park across the street. Our farthest reach, globally, is our involvement with and support of Solar Light for Africa. This outreach partner leads mission trips to Africa where the team installs solar lighting in remote villages and in schools, hospitals and other critical sites where access to power is inconsistent. Several members of our parish have participated on these mission trips and believe the work is life changing. Our parishioners feel we are not really noticed by the Diocese but would like to see more involvement from the Diocese.

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

Former rector initiated "Tapping the Big Questions" at the local brewery and we recently began Evening Prayer on Thursdays. We revived our chapter of The Daughters of the King in 2019 after several years of dormancy. We currently have 10 members, an amazing fact considering the size of our parish. Our prayer life is active. Our Outreach Committee regularly reviews our monthly outreach partners to determine best fit for our parish. Each month we invite a guest speaker from the organization to talk about new initiatives or milestones they experience. Our largest ministry effort (although perhaps longer than five years since we began our involvement) has been our affiliation with Family Promise of Brevard. This organization provides shelter for entire families in financial crisis. Three or four times a year we hosted up to four families for one-week periods. This hosting included providing a place to sleep, providing all meals and offering the families a sense of caring community. We have temporarily suspended our hosting weeks while we are going through the transition to a new rector, however we still provide support in the form of food and cash donations.

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

As stated so eloquently by our Stewardship Team in their letter to the congregation, "As Christians, we believe that not only are we a gift from God, but that all we possess are gifts from God. We all possess time (in varying amounts), talent (of varying types), and treasure (our income and assets). At this time of year, we are asked to reflect and project how we can return these gifts to preserve, protect, and sustain the life of St. John's..." We encourage tithing during our annual stewardship campaign. Our stewardship is mostly through pledging, donating and volunteering, and we established an endowment fund. We have appealed to our members for financial support when special needs arise. Many members also pledge and donate their physical strengths, skills, mental capacity and devotion to these endeavors. There is a sense of volunteerism at St. John's whatever it takes to assist The Church to function efficiently and move forward to a common goal as a worshipping community. We want to serve in an environment where stewardship means "joining in" not just "showing up".

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

Two examples of conflict resolution that went well: 1) The vestry had letters from one person expressing their opinion of displeasure about the direction St. John's was taking. The vestry considered the information, then voted on how to proceed. 2) There have been issues when non-parishioners have mistreated our property. This was handled well by the former rector, vestry and members, in a kind but firm manner. Occasionally we have been too lenient, but no adverse outcomes have occurred. Conflict resolution has been difficult at times due to people not feeling like their opinions were valued. There has been a sense of secrecy and triangulation. Sexism being practiced by former rectors has been an issue. People impacted by this were hesitant to address this due to lack of approachability, rigidity and paternalistic style of former rectors. Many parishioners no longer attend services due to disagreements with church leadership. This has not been dealt with; open discussions have been nonexistent. Whether correct or not, perceptions shape opinions. We believe that transparency in dealing with the parish is crucial for our future.

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?

We feel that essential to addressing change in the church is transparent communication regarding both parish and diocesan information. Secrecy and triangulation should be avoided to prevent unnecessary concern within the congregation. We require the ability to transition during unexpected events or changes in diocesan directives. During the pandemic, our shift from no in-person worship services to online, then hybrid services, and ultimately returning to in-person services was handled effectively by St. John's. When there is a perceived lack of focus on organization improvement it can lead to ambivalence within the parish. If a segment of the Vestry meetings could focus on this element it would keep members more engaged. Leading and encouraging involvement in Eucharistic ministries can elevate feelings of knowledge, inclusion and involvement. Using active listening and appropriate feedback is a primary concern of the parish. There is an indication that some felt a lack of desire for input and when given, it was not listened to or communicated back effectively.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Eric Turner	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2004-11	2024-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	2	3

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
2		2	15

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: stjohnsmlb.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmlb/>
www.youtube.com/@st.johnsepiscopalchurch6249

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S.
Holcomb**

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Ellis Brust

Phone: (772) 302-9661 Email: ebrust@cfdiocese.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Mrs. Kathy Oas

Phone: (321) 693-2378 Email: kmoas40@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Jamie Hamilton

Phone: (250) 447-3996 Email: mailjbh@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader