Office for Transition Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio *(last updated Aug 19, 2016)*

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Iowa

2011 23rd St, Spirit Lake, IA 51360, United States

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/01/16.

Contact:
sgodfrey@iowaepiscopal.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
56	1	1	1

Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities

SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	$57500		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	

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

With the recent resignation of our former rector, we have quickly developed lay leadership of ministries to continue the services we were providing. We established a worship committee to schedule priests for Sundays and weekday services. We have taken responsibility for visits to shut-ins and taking communion to people who are unable to attend services. We have continued the medical missions to Haiti and our youth's ministry to the St Paul Indian mission in Sioux City.

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

We are diligently working to maintain the energy and involvement of all members while we are unable to rely on the central figure of a rector and offer multiple ministry opportunities to our members. We are making maximum use of the resources available, so we can celebrate Holy Eucharist almost every Sunday and on Tuesday mornings. We have initiated new ministries during this time of transition and doubled the size of our columbarium. We have used current technology to inform our members through e-mails, our website, where we post sermons, and our Facebook page. We have a technology group investigating enhancing our digital presence, including live video, podcasts, and developing the infrastructure to support these features. To support and encourage our youth, we recently initiated the Saint Alban's Episcopal Church Scholarship Fund in the church. The applicant must have demonstrated a compelling desire to further their education, increase their abilities, and serve humanity. The applicant must show acts of Christian service during further education opportunity if planning to reapply in future scholastic years.

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

mission and outreach, Sacraments and liturgy, fellowship and friendship, biblical foundation

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

We are a traditional community with full vestments for the priest. During our Sunday services, we use rite II, except during penitential seasons. For the Prayers of the People, we use form III. We have hymn singing during Sunday services, but no "pomp and circumstance". We recently started using the RCL for lessons and psalms; previously we used the prayer book lectionary. Our last rector's sermons were always based on the gospel reading. We usually ring bells during the prayer of consecration. For taking communion, parishioners either drink from the chalice or intinct themselves. As part of our music, we have occasionally had special musical groups and solos during the services; we do not have a choir. Our Tuesday morning service has no music and uses rite I. During summers we have had a low-key, Saturday evening service with no music. We have an annual outdoor service on the Queen II, a commercial tourist boat on Lake Okoboji. We have also had outdoor services at our church and a local state park. When there is no priest available, we have had Morning Prayer, led our lay ministers.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

All members are invited to share their gifts. We have a 12 person vestry and a 9 person search committee with 3 vestry liaison members. We have included "summer members" on the vestry. Lay people lead bible studies and this year's Lenten program. Lay members assist during services as lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers, providing the music, and through the altar guild. Lay members lead several of our outreach and other outside programs. We have a youth group that regularly does mission work and is led by lay members. By having outside services, we have invited the community to join us in worship. Other ministries provide support for local and other worldwide charities. These include missions, both overseas and in the diocese, comfort dolls through the Mother Bear project, "My Own Books" and book sales, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Soles4Souls. We have supported Upper Des Moines Opportunity by providing food and serving at the Community Table dinners, and with donations for their annual Back to School program, Christmas "Adopt A Family" program, and regular food donations. In the past, we have provided a weekly lunch for schoolchildren and rummage sales.

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

We provide regular services and bible study to nurture our members' spiritual health. We have a midweek Eucharist and frequent special services on Holy Days. During Lent, we have had a midweek service and soup supper; a lay member of the church has led our Lenten study program. We are a friendly, welcoming community that notices the absences or emotional problems of members and lifts them up in public and private prayer. We arrange for visits to sick and ill members and include them in our prayer lists. We have a chapter of the Order of St. Luke that has held regular healing services in the church. One of our members is a dentist who provides free dental care in the community. We encourage our parishioners to use their professional talents in our church and in the community. We are exploring a plan for a new ministry with a parish nurse.

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

We have an active chapter of the Order of Saint Luke, based out of the church. The members have taken part in the Relay For Life in Dickinson County and Clay County. We regularly have services at the local care centers. We arrange for visits to and communion for shut-ins. We provide worship at the local Care Centers. We support our youth group in their activities and missions. As noted in question 3, we have supported Mother Bear project, "My Own Books", Prayer Shawl Ministry, Soles4Souls, and Upper Des Moines Opportunity.

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

Members of St Alban's have taken part in the Swaziland Healthcare Ministry and the Haiti Companions' Healthcare Mission. Our youth have worked at the St Paul Indian Mission in Sioux City. We have supported the Upper Des Moines Opportunity organization with food drives and Christmas gift giving. We have served meals at the Community Table and at Spenser's Underground. Our members have provided strong, multi-year representation on deanery/chapter and diocesan committees, and at the national convention. We have been strong contributors to various diocesan and national church fund drives. Our church facilities are used by several outside groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Weight Watchers, and a bridge group. We have a playground, which has been used by both church members and others. It has been our custom to provide funeral services for people who were not members and did not have a church of their own. We have baptized children whose parents were not necessarily members of the church. We have worked through the Dickinson County Ministerial Association and continue that relationship even though we do not have rector.

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

Members of the church initiated a chapter of the Order of St. Luke (OSL). This ministry provides a healing ministry to our congregants and the nearby community. Healing services are held at St Alban's quarterly. There are about 5 members of St Alban's who are part of the OSL and the healing services include ministers from other denominations. The OSL members have taken part in the Relay For Life in both Dickinson County and Clay County.

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

Our parishioners' response to the annual "every member canvas" for pledges has always been enthusiastic. We have also been careful to maintain the physical plant as well as the two acres of property in an efficient manner. Recent projects include a new roof, new siding and repainting the outside of the church, new windows for the offices, and an underground sprinkler system for the very large grass area. We have had successful drives to raise funds for special requirements, such as the new scholarship program and the new sprinkler system. On a smaller scale, we recycle cans and plastic bottles. We have been blessed with large endowments over the years, which the Finance Committee has invested well. We offer opportunities for individuals to fulfill their spiritual needs.

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

We have had very limited experience of this at St Alban's. The typical type of conflict within a church that frequently tears a congregation apart has not occurred at St Alban's in the last 42 years. Those conflicts that have arisen were personal in nature and involved at most a couple of families. We have shown ourselves to be respectful of the opinions of others and able to absorb differences of opinion. We have had no violent disagreements. Our recent experiences of conflict have centered around the national church's decisions on homosexuality and same sex marriage. This led to the resignation of a vestry member, even though our previous rector was not in favor of the national church's decision.

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?

The changes in the church – acceptance of gays, same sex marriage, women priests, new hymnal, new prayer book, etc., have, for the most part, been taken in stride, although sometimes not quickly. Through these events, we have proved to be a very resilient and adaptable congregation. Like most Episcopal churches, we are rector-centered, but diverse in our beliefs. The changes have not been allowed to affect our equilibrium; we are flexible, open-minded, and adaptable. Leading while we do not have a rector has provided the most recent experience. In general this has gone well, as we have been able to provide priests and Eucharist most Sundays. However, there are those who are not as happy when we only provide Morning Prayer.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Carl Mann	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-06	2016-03
Martha Rogers	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2000-08	2006-02
Larry Gatrel	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1985-09	1999-07

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	8	4

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
5	7	2	11

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: http://www.stalbansepiscopalchurch.org/

Media Links:

Online References:
> https://www.facebook.com/stalbansspiritlake

Languages Significantly Represented:
English

Provide Worship or Classes in:
English

References

Bishop:
Alan Scarfe
515-277-6170, ascarfe@iowaepiscopal.org

Diocesan Transition Minister
Steve Godfrey
515-277-6165, sgodfrey@iowaepiscopal.org

Current Warden/Board Chair
Glenn Preston

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair
Steve Heaton

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader