



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 24, 2024)

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

4030 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)
224

Number of Weekend
Worship Services
3

Number of Weekday
Worship Services
3

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$120000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan
**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Full family

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks
One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks
2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget
\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

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

Last July we held our third backpack giveaway community drive. There was a tremendous outpouring of support from our congregation for this event. Because of our congregation's generosity we were able to hand out 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to needy families in our community. Volunteers from our Food Pantry gave away food staples, and others from our Thrift Shop provided free toys and decorative items for the families to select to take home. We also had Bibles, Prayer Books and children's books available for our guests to take home. Several community ministries and services set up booths offering info and services for these families. Our Men's Grill Team provided free hotdogs, chips and waters in the heat of our South Florida summer. There were 40 or more volunteers from our parish helping the families in need who were able to attend. This was a very successful and rewarding event for our parish family.

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

The Church of the future might combine having members and visitors attend in person /or watching online via Facebook/YouTube. Christ Church began streaming our services online which allows us to reach our parishioners that are homebound or our winter visitors who are away during the summer months. Streaming services allows us to expand our reach to potential new members, including younger Christians who are looking for a church with worship and a mission like our own. We currently stream the Office of Daily Prayer each weekday at 8 a.m. on our Facebook page, soon to be Facebook live. Studies show that 30% of those who are not members watching online will attend in person the following year. Other studies show that 56% of young Christians research churches online before they make any commitments to a church body. We have updated our website to be more appealing and we have included the link to our online streaming and an easy method of donating online. We are hoping to grow our congregation with younger families in the future as we have an aging population.

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

engaging preacher, pastoral care, visionary leader, congregational development

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

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

We worship through multiple means and in different ways at our 3 differing services on Sunday mornings. Each service uses the current Book of Common Prayer so that each service is liturgical, biblical and participatory. Our 7:30 a.m. service follows Rite I and is offered in quiet with no music. The 9:00 service is a family-oriented service with music provided by our Praise Band featuring Contemporary Christian worship songs accompanied by acoustic piano, guitars, mandolin and conga drums as well as singers as worship leaders. This service uses BCP Rite II. Our 11:00 Service, also employing Rite II liturgy, offers choir, the fabulous LeTourneau organ and using traditional hymns and service music as well as special offerings of choral music, including handbell choir for special music.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Parishioners are always encouraged to participate in ministry activities through our weekly announcements, bulletins, our online newsletter (Chi Rho) and our website. We hold an annual Ministry Fair in early September, and all are encouraged to attend. All our Ministry offerings are represented and presented for the gifts and talents used in each ministry. Many of our ministries use volunteers who are involved in our church life including lay readers, acolytes, vergers, ushers, altar guild, chalice bearers, PowerPoint team, Praise Band and Choir all serve at worship service services. Daughters of the King, St. Anne's, Office Angels and the Building and Grounds Committee serve the church with other needed projects. Eucharistic ministers and pastoral care volunteers serve our members who are home-bound. We also have Pastoral ministries for our members who are suffering loss in our Stephen Ministry, Walking the Mourner's Path and Order of St. Luke. Our Thrift Shop and The Lord's Food Pantry need many volunteers to keep these ministries serving the greater community.

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

Our growing Stephen Ministry is adding new ministers after each training course to serve the emotional needs of our parish members who have suffered a loss of some kind. Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to equip and supervise peer counseling in a safe one-to-one Christ centered care to members who are experiencing life difficulties. We offer a Widow's Support Group who gather monthly and pray for one another and Walking the Mourner's Path course is offered once per year using workshops with exercises, reflections and prayers designed to lead participants on their own path to healing from grief in a step-by-step process.

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

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

We serve the greater community in a variety of different ways. A eucharist service is offered each Thursday at Westminster Manor Adult living facility for members and non-members alike. Christ Church provides a weekly meeting place for several AA, Al-Anon and NA groups for their meetings. Volunteers serve hot meals to the homeless population daily at Our Daily Bread in the downtown area and Christ church members volunteer there as well as support them financially. Our own Food Pantry serves canned food as well as fresh vegetables and bread to between 150 and 250 people each Thursday. Those qualifying for our free food may pick up their groceries from us 2 times per month. Our Thrift Shop not only provides low-cost goods including clothing, furniture, dishes, etc. but also profits provide funding for our Outreach Committee projects, including Our Daily Bread and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We currently rent our unused Sunday School rooms to a school, PACE Center for Girls while they are rebuilding their own facility. As mentioned, our Backpack giveaway is a great undertaking and serving low-income families to help them prepare for the coming school year.

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

Our Youth Minister, Deacon Bill Pardy, is making great strides in welcoming youth and families by inviting the greater community to special events like Family Movie Night, Scavenger Hunts, Minor League Baseball nights, Trunk or Treat Event for Halloween, and other events to attract more families to participate in Christ Church events. Our other community efforts also show the community that our church is a great place to sink deep roots as our late rector, Father Robert Baker was fond of saying.

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

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) was instituted 2 years ago with the early level offered to our 3- to 6-year-olds. Several volunteers spent 90 hours in training to learn this Montessori based teaching style. This early level, called Atrium, is a place of prayer, work and study for little ones being introduced to Jesus' love and care for the children. We hope to add level 2 in the near future as CGS has been a great success. Johanna Reilly can be contacted about this ministry. Contact info: jreilly@cecb.org We also began an AWANA program for older elementary students that includes fun, Bible memory and fellowship. The unchanging truth of the Gospel is used to equip our children and youth to adequately prepared to be resilient in a changing world. Contact for this program: Deacon Bill Pardy : wpardy@cecb.church 941-704-1262 or Evelyn Baker : lynndan_708@msn.com 941-993-8448

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

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

A Stewardship Committee of volunteers is assembled after Easter and they attend an all-day training session led by our diocese. A number of small home meetings are held at parishioner's homes to discuss our concept and impact of pledging. We provide a handout summarizing our financial expenditures by category and pledge cards are distributed in person and by mail. Stewardship committee members give pledging testimonials during service announcements, and we celebrate our success with a church-wide BBQ picnic. Thank you notes are handwritten to each member who pledges. We hope to grow attitudes of abundance and gratitude into our future Stewardship efforts.

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

When Christ Church sanctuary was redesigned and refurbished in 2006, while an interim rector was in charge, the church overspent and went into debt. With the next selected rector, extreme measures were taken to correct the debt issues and the debt was finally paid off. During the subsequent years, there seemed to arise conflict over how to handle expenses, repairs and budgeting going forward. With a dwindling and aging population, a priest who decided to leave and our Assistant becoming Priest-in-Charge who was unable to stay at our church, the parishioners felt very uneasy and unsure how to move forward. Conflict seemed to sabotage our best efforts and resulted in low morale and diminishing attendance. Through Father Robert Baker's focus on fulfilling Christ's command to love one another and Christ has loved us and his modeling this for all he served, we were able to move beyond our past. He encouraged us to get involved and always reminded us that "Christ Church is a great place to sink deep roots". His vision for the future of Christ Church has inspired the congregation to move forward to keep loving God and loving our neighbors in all that we do and all places where we serve.

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 sudden and shocking death of our beloved rector Father Baker caused unexpected change in Christ Church. We needed to rely on supply priests for several months, though the Diocese offered us excellent supply priests, even coming themselves on several Sundays, the members did feel very disoriented and unsure of our future. The congregation was attached to the Rector and his family and our concern for them deepened our own grief and sadness. What went well involved two things. First, Our Deacon, William Pardy stepped up in his own grief and led each weekday service and online daily offices with excellent sermons and comforting words for all parishioners. The second positive action that we took was to hire Canon Richard Visconti. His calm, confident and competent leadership as Priest-in-Charge has helped the congregation work through our grief and loss, while maintaining our ministries and mission, and even moving forward with a few initiatives. We learned that Christ is our focus and His mandate to love one another as He has loved us keeps us an active parish seeking God's will for our future. He is still our King.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Mar 24, 2024)

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact:

rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Canon Richard Visconti	Interim	2022-10	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Dr. Robert Baker	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2019-07	2022-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Joel Moersch	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-01	2018-09

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	5	27

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
3	12	5	50

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 24, 2024)

Christ Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/03/24.

Contact:
rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Worshipping Community Web site: [www.https://cecb.church/index/html](https://cecb.church/index/html)

Media Links:

Online References:

FB - Christ Church Bradenton
Instagram - cecbradenton

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev'd Douglas F. Scharf

email: dscharf@episcopalswfl.org phone: 941.556.0315

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev'd Canon Richard Norman

email: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org phone: 941.556.0315

Current Warden/Board Chair

Patrick Whelan

email: pwhelan@saintstephens.org phone: 941.932.0334

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Susan Knowles

email: sknowles17@gmail.com phone: 941.713.2373

Search Chair

Mike Zimmerman and Jeff Kalaman

Mike- email: zmannms@gmail.com; phone: 941.232.6374
Jeff Kalaman- email: jkalaman6@gmail.com; phone: 941.962.2243

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader