



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 10, 2017)*

## Christ Church, Springfield, Southern Ohio

409 East High Street, Springfield, OH, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/05/17.

[Lcarter-edmands@diosohio.org](mailto:Lcarter-edmands@diosohio.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
106	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$68000		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
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
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

*SECA is included in the compensation figure*

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

Christ Church is located on once-fashionable High Street. A few blocks away, literally "across the tracks," is Irish Hill, Springfield's poorest neighborhood, home to mostly Appalachian and African-American families. Every August for most of the past 15 years, parishioners have walked these blocks to invite our neighbors to the Neighborhood Fair. On the parking lot, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on a Saturday, several hundred children and adults gather to share in free food, games, music, donated clothes and household goods, and information from municipal, educational, and social services organizations. It takes most of the afternoon for scores of volunteers from the parish and area high schools to make everything ready for our honored guests, who have come to know us mainly as "the church with the fair." Excitement builds on both sides as two worlds collide in a messy, noisy, and always hot annual celebration. Over quickly, the event charges our batteries and reminds us why we are Christians. As we peruse the beautiful photographs of our time together, we ponder how we might extend the feast and make more of the relationships it fosters.

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

We are an open and progressive church that strives to be meaningful in a rust belt community. In this time of discernment, we have opened our hearts to hear God's call through education, listening to each other, and "spring cleaning." We have learned. Last year we held a Springfield Today series. Community leaders including the mayor, the Springfield Police chief, the superintendent of Springfield City Schools, and the judge of the Juvenile Court talked with us about local challenges. We have listened. A vestry-led discernment process during our rector's sabbatical continues during the current transition period, informing the themes in our Parish Profile. Last fall, we asked our youth to articulate their dreams for our church. Their thoughts, presented at an adult forum, were enthusiastically received and caught the parish's imagination. We have also updated the workings of our food pantry to make it more manageable for those who lead it. We have cleaned. "Spring cleaning" is reminding of us our history and helping us make way for our future. We recall past work and the important things we have done together. We gain a sense of possibility as old spaces are seen with new eyes.

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

inspiring preacher, strategic leader, skilled administrator, trusted counselor

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

Christ Church offers three weekly services: • On Sunday, a Rite One service of quiet reflection is offered at 8:00 am. Rite Two, at 10:00 am, includes both instrumental and choral music. Youth serve as New Testament lectors, acolytes, and choir members. Children through 3rd grade have their own service of the Word in the chapel, led by volunteers. They return to the nave to bring forward the elements. Private prayers for healing are offered during Communion on most Sundays. • On Wednesdays, a service of healing and Eucharist is offered in the chapel at 10:00 am. We offer several unique services during the year, including: • a "burial" of the Alleluias and chocolate feast on the last Sunday before Lent • special services for families with children on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday • on "Procter Sunday" counselors and staff from the diocese's Procter Camp & Conference Center come to share camp music and details about the summer camping program • Christmas in July provides the opportunity to celebrate the joy of Christmas without the fuss, collect socks and underwear for distribution by local elementary schools, and distribute Christmas cookies to first responders in our community.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are an active and inclusive congregation that believes in lay leadership, inclusion of all people, and partnering with others to serve each other and our community. Our inclusive approach includes parish work. Lay volunteers lead and are involved in every ministry. We are also intentional in incorporation of youth. Besides participation in various services, youth serve on vestry and other church committees and are active in all of our outreach ministries. Christ Church has a long history of support for the LGBT community. We were the first congregation in Springfield to host the Dayton Gay Men's Chorus, the first to bless an LGBT union, and we provide the meeting space for Equality Springfield, which works to make Springfield a positive place for the LGBT community. We are active partners with other faith communities. Our food pantry relies on volunteers from our congregation and Covenant Presbyterian Church. We were a founding member of Interfaith Hospitality Network, a collaboration among Springfield churches that serves homeless Springfielders. We also participate in a Thanksgiving Interfaith Service that includes our local mosque, synagogue, and several churches.

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

The liturgy, sermon, and music from our services provide ongoing inspiration that keeps us connected with the message and works of Christ. During the 10:00 service, a private healing station is offered. After the 8:00 and 10:00 services, coffee hour occurs in conjunction with the education program. Food anchors many other activities, including welcome dinners for new members, a spring parish picnic, and a chocolate feast. The most raucous event is the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Talent Show. The men provide the meal, and everyone provides the talent, such as it is. It is a joyful time together before embarking on a journey of Lenten reflections. Volunteers knit prayer shawls, and there is a prayer chain for those who are ill or suffering from misfortune. Soup and bread are kept on hand for visitations to shut-ins, and Lay Eucharistic Visitors take the Sacrament to those who cannot be with us on Sundays. There are also an active altar guild, quilting group, ECW, and a monthly "Lunch Bunch" outing. Twenty years ago, construction of a new entrance allowed accessibility and elevator access to the sanctuary and lower levels where the Sunday school and parish activities are held.

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

We're an open, active community that cares about and ministers to the needs of our city. Our programs and outreach include:

- Feeding over 5,000 individuals in 2016 through our church's food pantry
- Outreach to a former downtown hotel, renovated to become affordable housing, now part of the Episcopal Retirement Homes community. We hold quarterly birthday dinners, provide gift cards to the residents at Christmas, and hold weekly Bible studies
- Serving hot meals to the homeless in conjunction with the local Interfaith Hospitality Network and at the local Rainbow Table ministries
- Hosting an annual Neighborhood Fair (see Question 1)
- Youth creating and assembling exam care packages of baked goods for Muslim and international students. These packages included a bracelet that reads, "Same God, One Family" and "Kindness Wins"
- Supplying baby food for the Rocking Horse Community Health Center at Christmas
- Delivering home-baked cookies to Springfield first responders, hospitals, and shut-ins as part of our "Christmas in July" celebration, as well as collecting new socks and underwear for emergency use at Springfield primary schools
- Holding worship services at local nursing homes

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

Christ Church is the only Episcopal church in Clark County, Ohio. We are deeply grateful for all our neighbors of faith. The Food Pantry would not be possible without volunteers from Covenant Presbyterian Church. We serve at Rainbow Table, a free Friday meal hosted by a Lutheran church. At Interfaith Hospitality Network, we work with volunteers from all area faith communities to serve the homeless. We take part in an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. We have co-sponsored with other faith groups a downtown billboard in support of our LGBT brothers and sisters. Christ Church has at various times weighed the possibility of moving out of downtown. Each time, we have discerned God's call to remain where we are. Many of the churches with whom we work have made the same decision. This has kept us all "close to the action" and actively engaged with a number of social service agencies. With new housing planned for near downtown, we look forward to the challenge of ministering with young millennial neighbors.

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

Under the leadership of our previous rector, the concept of "Pub Theology" was adapted for the youth of the parish (4th-12th grade). Also known as "Pizza, Pop and God" (as food is a crucial element of the discussions) the group meets monthly for an hour or so with the rector and another adult leader. Adults in the parish showed interest in having their own program. Since Pub Theology for youth is the original, the adult version is known as "Pub Theology 2.0." The adults also meet monthly, beginning with "Flash Compline" on City Hall plaza. Afterwards, the group moves across the street to a local establishment for refreshments and conversation. The rector is present to help guide the conversation. These opportunities to sit and talk with one another about things that matter, and to reflect on what is going on in our world through the lens of faith, have been a great gift to all involved. We would like to find ways to draw others in. Contact persons are Margaret Holt Sammons (Transition Priest-in-Charge) and Bonnie Shelburne (Senior Warden).

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

Christ Church has a strong tradition of stewardship. Annual pledges, endowment distributions, and volunteer participation allow the parish to spend time, talent, and treasure on activism, education, leadership, and service. Encouraging broader participation in giving has required a more transparent budget. After the previous rector's departure, leadership of last fall's campaign fell largely to the senior warden. As this is neither sustainable nor desirable, the vestry committed to forming a Stewardship Committee and reactivating year-round stewardship education. This fall we look forward to many opportunities for active discussion about our ministries and what it means to be stewards of our resources, as individuals and as a parish. Stewardship is central to our approach to outreach. In addition to in-gatherings at Christmas and Christmas in July, coins are received twice annually for the Day of Change. These, along with weekly donations of toilet paper, support the food pantry. A future focus is strengthening youth groups and cooperating with nearby churches in order to expand leadership and service within the community.

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

Christ Church prefers cooperation and tolerance to open confrontation. We don't recall any church-wide fights in the past several decades. Of course there are occasional disagreements, but they blow over quickly without lasting hurt feelings or families leaving the parish. As in the wider church, increasing acceptance of homosexual relationships has been fraught with potential for upset. Christ Church began very early to present information from multiple perspectives. We hosted the Dayton Gay Men's Chorus and celebrated a same-sex commitment ceremony. Although not everyone was enthusiastic, these events were broadly celebrated and passed without significant internal or external opposition. While the congregation tends to the liberal side of issues, there are members who are staunchly conservative on social, political, and religious issues. Their voices are heard and they are seldom marginalized. We strive for "grown-up conversations," and we meet people where they are. From a common desire to do good work, we agree to disagree or turn our attention to what unites us. It would be fair to say that here, when the question is "either/or," the answer is "both."

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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?

To some, change causes upheaval; to others it is not a big deal. We are most successful when we listen to each other with patience and understanding. Adult forum conversations have fostered change. We have navigated controversial subjects (same-gender marriage), altered our outreach ministries (starting/ending Reading Camp), and wrestled with our effectiveness as our city evolves. Through learning, listening, and dialogue, we brought about successful changes. Our struggles arise when individuals come to "own" a particular ministry. Our food pantry is a good example. Second Harvest, our main food supplier, mandated the use of an online database. Many volunteers were reluctant. Some quit. Others took training. Still others changed their focus from intake to fulfillment. Change was hard, but it resulted in a great reduction in paperwork overall. Volunteers can become "burned out." Their desires for change or help aren't always expressed or heard. In the early days of our Montessori-based Sunday school program, the work was shouldered by a very few who wanted and needed more help. Eventually we adopted a way to train and rotate teachers to more evenly distribute the workload.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Charlotte Collins Reed</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>2001-01</b>	<b>2016-04</b>

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Ruth and Robert Partlow</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>1992-01</b>	<b>1999-01</b>

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
<b>Edward Rich</b>	<b>Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>1985-01</b>	<b>1991-01</b>

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

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
<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>50</b>

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: [www.christ-in-springfield.org](http://www.christ-in-springfield.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

See icons on parish webpage

Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church @ ChristinSpringfield

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

**Thomas E. Breidenthal.**

[tbreidenthal@diosohio.org](mailto:tbreidenthal@diosohio.org) / 513.421.0311

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Lynn Carter-Edmands**

[Lcarter-edmands@diosohio.org](mailto:Lcarter-edmands@diosohio.org) / 513.632.6015 (direct)

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Bonnie Shelburne**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Matthew Smith**

Search Chair

**Fred Bartenstein**

Parish/Institution

**Margaret Holt Sammons**

[sammons.margaret@gmail.com](mailto:sammons.margaret@gmail.com) / 418.350.9517

Local Community Leader