

OTM Community Ministry Portfolio Worksheet

(Throughout the form, where you are asked for a number or amount, only a number or amount will be accepted in the system.)

GENERAL

Name of worshipping community: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Johnstown PA

Position Title: part-time Priest-in-Charge

Receiving Names until: ?

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA): 25

Number of Weekend Worship Services: 1

Number of Weekday Worship Services: 0

Number of Other per Month Worship Services: 1

Institution Phone: (814) 535-6797

Institution Email: stmarks@atlanticbbn.net

Institution Location

Street: 335 Locust Street

Additional:

City: Johnstown

State/Province: PA

Postal code: 15901

Country: USA

Contact Name:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone 1:

Contact Phone 2:

Contact Person Location

Street:

Additional:

City:

State/Province:

Postal code:

COMPENSATION, HOUSING & BENEFITS

Current Annual Compensation: \$

Current compensation includes the following: *(Bold or highlight all that apply.)*

- Cash Stipend:
(Mark if your worshipping community provides housing in the form of a cash stipend as compared to a specific place to live, such as a rectory.)

Cash Stipend Detail: \$

- Housing / Rectory
Housing Detail: \$

- Utilities:
Utilities Detail: \$

- SECA reimbursement:
SECA reimbursement options: N/A / Full / Half / Other
SECA reimbursement details: \$

Compensation Available for New Position: \$

- Negotiable?: N/A / Yes / No
- Additional Compensation Note *(100 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces):*

Housing Available for *(# of people)*:

Pension Plan: In compliance with Church Pension Fund requirements?

Healthcare Offered for: N/A / Full family / Clergy+1 / Clergy only / Negotiable

Dental Offered: N/A / Yes / No

Housing Equity Allowance in budget: Yes / No / Negotiable

- Annual Equity Amount: \$

Vacation Weeks: 4 / One month, including 5 Sundays (standard) / Other

- If "Other," Number of Weeks:

Continuing Education Weeks: 2 (standard) / Other

- If “Other,” Number of Weeks:
- Continuing Education Funding in budget: \$

Sabbatical Provision: N/A / Yes / No

Travel/Auto Account: N/A / Yes / No

Other Professional Account: N/A Yes No

Comments (*100 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces*):

FORMER RECTORS

Name: The Reverend Nancy L. Threadgill

Position Title: Priest-in-Charge

Date Begun: November 2014

Date Ended: March 2021

Position Title: part-time Priest-in-Charge

Date Begun: April 2021

Date Ended: n/a

Name: The Reverend Martin Wright

Position Title: Regular Supply

Date Begun: July 2011

Date Ended: October 2014

Name: The Reverend Vicente Santiago

Position Title: part-time Priest-in-Charge

Date Begun: January 2009

Date Ended: July 2011

CHURCH SCHOOL

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School: 2

Number of Students for Children School: 5

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School: 0

Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School: 0

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School: 0

Number of Students for Adults School: 0

DAY SCHOOL

Grade Range: Pre-K / Kindergarten / K-6 / K-12 / Other

Number of Students for Day School: 0

Number of Teachers for Day School: 0

Number of Total Staff for Day School: 0

Notes (500 char. limit, incl. punctuation and spaces):

CONNECTIONS

Your worshiping community's website: <https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/>

Media links to your worshiping community:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064806063544>

You may provide links here to other sites where you might be found:
(The first two links will be included in the PDF of your full portfolio.)

Languages significantly represented in your worshiping community: English

Total percentage of Average Sunday Attendance that worships in a language other than English: 0%

Provide worship or classes in the following languages: English

Do you have a strategic Plan? (If so, attach.) Yes, see attached.

NARRATIVE

*In our baptism we promise to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons. You are invited here to reflect on your ministry by responding to all of the following questions (**max 1200 characters** including punctuation and spaces). You may answer in more than one language, if appropriate.*

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

St. Mark's is dedicated to being a parish that "Shares Christ's love unconditionally through transformational worship and service." We have opened our doors to lesbians, gay men, and transgender women over the last seven years. We have been especially happy to confirm and/or receive these individuals. They all have become active participants in our parish and diocese, serving in numerous ways including as volunteers at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen) and our various fundraisers; as Vestry members, Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention, Diocesan Council members; and leading a Strategic Planning initiative at St. Mark's.

2. Describe your liturgical style & practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all:

We offer Holy Eucharist with a pipe organist and choir on Sunday. We also have a three-octave handbell set that is played on special occasions. We use Rite II most Sundays and Rite I on the fourth Sunday. We also have used liturgies from *Enriching Our Worship* and frequently use a psalm from *The Saint Helena Psalter 2004*. Lay-led Morning Prayer and Compline are also offered on a semi-regular basis. All services provide both in-person and virtual (Zoom) options.

We have many special services and traditions associated with Holy Days throughout the Liturgical Year. These include Lessons and Carols; a Blue Christmas Service; a Litany of Penance, a Service of Healing, Taizé, foot-washing, the solemn stripping of the altar, and Stations of the Cross during Holy Week; Christmas in July and Blessing of the Animals near the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

3. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our dedicated Acolyte, Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve at all services. Some are also licensed to lead Morning Prayer. One of our members is a novice sister in [The Anglican Order of Preachers](#). Our Altar Guild, Choir, Ushers, and Counters complement the worship service. Prior to Covid, our Lay Eucharistic Visitors carried the Sacrament to our home-bound parishioners. We hope to bring back this important ministry that connects the home-bound to Christ and the Parish. Our parish and community service volunteers package and distribute pet food for our monthly Pet Food Pantry; cook, serve and cashier at our fundraising take-out meals; serve lunch at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen); stuff and deliver Christmas Stockings for patients at Torrance State Hospital; package and deliver Holiday Meals to those in need, create our worship service bulletins and monthly newsletter, serve as administrators for our website and Facebook page, and publicize church events. Our parishioners also lead Bible and Book Studies.

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

Advent and Lenten Quiet Days –This respite away from the busyness of life, is a time to reflect, and rest in God's presence. During alternating quiet time and guided meditations,

participants find spiritual refreshment through prayer, reading, journaling, drawing, or walking meditation.

Coffee Hour – We are a city church that has welcomed homeless individuals and residents of half-way houses to worship with us, some return on a consistent basis. Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship and an opportunity to break bread (snacks) together, providing for the emotional and physical well-being of all.

Small Group Study – We gather to pray and study the Bible and other texts to understand the relevance of God's word today and guide and strengthen us as we strive to live as Jesus taught us. During Epiphany and Lent we offer a lay-led Bible study using *The Good Book Club* syllabus and resources. A book study group meets to discuss the current selection. Books we have read recently include Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, Henri Nouwen's *Here and Now*, Julian of Norwich's *Showings*, and Verna Dozier's *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*.

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

Members of our parish serve as lay deputies and Diocesan Council members and have participated in diocesan education initiatives, such as Love+Teach+Heal Leadership Academy and Seeing the Face of God in One Another.

Our Christmas Stocking Stuffer Project is conducted in coordination with over twenty churches and one synagogue and provides holiday stockings to over 200 patients at Torrance State Hospital. Three times a year the ECW provides funds for the groceries needed to cook a hot lunch and volunteers to serve the lunch at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen). Our Pet Food Pantry provides food for the beloved pets of 150+ low-income families residing throughout the geographic area.

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

As a downtown church St. Mark's is committed to outreach and service in the greater community and beyond. Our Pastoral Care Ministry focuses on feeding the hungry and assisting with their extenuating needs. Gift cards to local grocers are available in nominal amounts for those in need. Pastoral Care also provides referrals to social service agencies in our area. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, food baskets are distributed to a dozen or more needy individuals and families. Through their various fundraising activities, our ECW provides financial support for our Pastoral Care Ministry, Women's Help Center, Mom's House, St. Vincent DePaul's Food for Families Kitchen and other local organizations. Additional support is given through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund and Heifer International.

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

Our service of **Community Common Prayer** is an offering of varied worship to the Greater Johnstown Community. These monthly services are held in the early evening and are publicized widely. Among the most popular have been a Labyrinth Walk, a Taizé service, a Service of Thanksgiving and a special service for the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the Johnstown flood in May of 2019. The contact person is Lisa Bell-Loncella at etbell57@gmail.com or 814-241-1693 (cell).

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

Our current Priest-in-Charge has been serving us part time for the past several years. During this time, she has raised up the laity, encouraged and taught us how to take on more responsibility for the ongoing mission of St. Mark's.

Under the guidance of Canon Kim Karashin and Bishop Ketlen Solak, we have adjusted to the idea of sharing a priest with St. Francis in the Fields (Somerset) and have come to see it as a wonderful opportunity. In preparation our Priest-in-Charge is now providing Sunday Holy Eucharist for both parishes. So far it has been a success. Our parishes have begun sharing news of each other's events and fundraisers. These transition steps reflect our strong commitment to moving this partnership forward.

We now look forward to conducting a search for a new priest whom Bishop Ketlen, St. Mark's and St. Francis in the Fields discern to be the priest we are to call to lead us into a bright and vibrant future.

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

All our members are encouraged to give of their time, talent, and treasure. Parishioners give of their many gifts to support the church and its ministries.

The Finance Committee conducts an annual Stewardship Campaign. During the past several years, about 20 pledging units have made commitments totaling roughly \$65,000 annually. Our budget has been approximately \$105,000 in recent years. Much of our budget is spent on operating costs (salaries & associated personnel expenses, utilities) and upkeep (building maintenance).

We are blessed to have investment funds that have a total value of approximately \$350,000. Interest monies generated by these funds are utilized to supplement the pledges. We are frugal with expenditures, but in recent years we have had to take funds from the principal to balance the budget. This has made it necessary to move from a full time to a part time priest-in charge.

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

In January 2009, the rector, deacon and one third of the congregation of St. Mark's left the Episcopal Church and chose to affiliate with Robert Duncan and the Anglican

Province of the Southern Cone. Entire parishes throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh left the Episcopal Church. There was a rebuilding period for several years following the schism. St Mark's was served by our lay leadership, part time and supply priests. This was a painful chapter for us.

When our current priest was called, she brought with her hope for a period of healing and a new beginning. Since she came on board in November 2014, conflicts have occurred but have been resolved more easily. Our current priest frequently reminds us and insists that we resolve conflict as Jesus taught us. First talk to the person with whom you are in conflict. If that does not resolve the conflict, then have two additional people go with you to talk to the person. Finally pray and ask God to help you identify your commonalities and discern a mutually beneficial path forward.

11. 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 COVID pandemic compelled us to find new ways of worshiping and communicating with one another to survive. We upgraded our telephone systems and Wi-Fi. We learned how to record our worship services and allow people who were unable to come worship in-person to participate live via Zoom. Our staff and parishioners have learned to function in a new digital world. Several years ago, our attempt at soliciting contact information via Google Forms resulted in only three online responses. Our priest expressed great alarm when we told the Vestry that we intended to use an online survey for our Parish Self-study Survey. So, we offered both online and hard copy versions of our recent Parish Survey and 74% of our respondents used the online version. On the downside, we have learned that technology can fail to work properly resulting in disconnection literally and figuratively. Technology can bring together people who are physically separated but in person contact is the glue that binds.

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

Spiritual leader, pastoral care, compassionate, motivator

(Enter no more than four descriptions made up of one or two-words each. For example: administration, asset management, preaching, pastoral care. These skills are used to search community portfolios and are occasionally updated by administrators.)

This section provides you with the opportunity to present key words that describe the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community. You may choose any words you like and enter them with commas separating them. The word you begin to type will offer other words with the same letters that others have submitted; you may select one of these predetermined words or continue to create your own. What you submit will be added to the "pool" of words our church is currently using to describe our individual and corporate ministries.)

REFERENCES

Current Senior Warden: Lisa Bell-Loncella

Current Senior Warden Phone Number and Email Address: (cell) 814-241-1693;
etbell57@gmail.com

Previous Senior Warden Name: Colleen Curry

Previous Senior Warden Phone Number and Email Address: (cell) 406-224-2497;
potsie1008@hotmail.com

Search Co-chair Name: Richard Burkert

Search Co-chair Ministry: Discernment Committee

Search Co-chair Phone Number and Email Address: (cell) 814-241-2360;
rburkert89@outlook.com

Search Co-chair Name: Colleen Curry

Search Co-Chair Ministry: Discernment Committee

Search Co-Chair Phone Number and Email Address: (cell) 406-224-2497;
potsie1008@hotmail.com

Parish/Institution Leader Name:

Parish/Institution Leader Ministry:

Parish/Institution Leader Phone Number and Email Address:

Local Community Leader Name:

This is a leader in your town or city (e.g. mayor, City Council member, local Food Pantry coordinator, etc.) who is familiar with your ministry.

Local Community Leader Relationship:

Local Community Leader Phone Number and Email Address: