

Office for Transition Ministry (OTM) Community Portfolio Information

Church Name St. Paul's in the City of Albany City Albany

Address 21 Hackett Blvd, Albany NY 12208 Phone 518-463-2257

Average Sunday Attendance 55 email stpaulsepalbany@gmail.com

Number of Worship Services Weekly: Weekend 2 Weekday 1 Other per month

Cash Stipend: \$ 78260 Housing Allowance/Rectory Rental Value: \$ 0

Utilities Included: \$ 5700

SECA Reimbursement \$ 5990 This is Full half

Total CURRENT Annual Compensation (total of above): \$ 89950

Total Annual Compensation available for NEW Position: \$ 89950 Negotiable (yes/no) yes

Additional Compensation Note: (20 words) Rectory provided: 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths

Housing available for 5 persons (if Rectory provided)

Pension Plan: Church Pension Fund Yes

Healthcare Options: Full family Clergy +1 Clergy Only Negotiable

Dental (yes/no) yes

Budgeted Housing Equity Allowance (yes/no) no If yes, amount \$

Vacation Weeks (check one) 4 weeks One Month (including 5 Sundays)

Continuing Education: Weeks - None 2 Other Funding \$

Continuing Education Details (numbers only)

Sabbatical Provision (check one) Yes No Negotiable

Auto/Travel account (check one) Yes Amount: \$ No

Professional/Business Account (check one)

Yes Amount \$ No

Previous incumbents in this position

Name Michael Greene Date Begun Mth/ Year 4/2022 Date Ended Mth/ Year 12/2024

Name Nixon McMillan Date Begun Mth/ Year 12/2009 Date Ended Mth/Year 7/2020

Name John Wingert Date Begun Mth/Year 2007 Date Ended Mth/Year 12/2009

Notes (100 words)

Schools:

Church School:

Children: Students 4 Leaders 1

Teens/Young Adults: Students _____ Leaders _____

Adults: Students 6 Leaders 1

Day School: (check those that apply)

Pre K _____ K _____ K-6 _____ K-12 _____ Other _____

Student # _____ Teacher # _____ Total Staff _____

St. Paul's, Albany, Albany

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

"A moment", turned out to be difficult to answer. Not because of a lack of responses but rather the number of responses. Recent ministries just in the last year meeting the criteria include, but are not limited to: after many years a confirmation class and confirmation during a regular Sunday mass, the strength and compassion of our lay leadership, our Cabaret, Ascension Evensong, participation in a local soup kitchen, our support of Pride events and the most frequent answer was our inaugural Autumn Faire which included community farm market vendors, our own sale of produce, mums, wreathes etc., a home cooked meal of Bangers and Mash and great fun and fellowship among the parish volunteers.

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

We have developed a significant "Digital Ministry" that has made St Paul's accessible beyond our walls and the local community. This ministry is presented in detail further on in this portfolio.

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

This question was presented to the congregation and of the many answers these were the most repeated: Compelling preacher, good listener, music – support/appreciation, empathic, administrator, visionary

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

St. Paul's practices a Rite II, eucharist based worship. We offer two services on Sunday. The first is a quiet and introspective service, without music, held in our chapel. The second includes organ and choir. We use the 1982 hymnal, and the choir performs music primarily from the traditional Anglican repertoire. Morning prayer is offered Monday thru Thursday in our chapel and is officiated by lay leaders. On Wednesdays at 12:10 a communion service is held in the chapel.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Members of the congregation participate in services as greeters, ushers, acolytes, chalice bearers, choristers, readers, and altar guild. Ministries also include Christian education, hospitality, building and grounds, Committee on Inclusion, Bowling for PAWS, Pride, soup kitchen, food pantry, community garden, prayer shawl group, Bible study, mitten tree and adopt a family(s) at Christmas.

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

This question was presented to the congregation and of the many answers one central theme rose to the top. The use of the word “Family” and how we care for and support each other. Not just on Sunday mornings, not just polite conversation, but a deep and sincere community of people, for some a “Chosen Family”, who depend on and enjoy each other’s company.

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

One of the most important, and sustaining, ministries our parish supports beyond our own walls is the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen in Albany, also known as “Loaves and Fishes”. Loaves and Fishes is an emergency feeding program that serves free meals and provides household and personal supplies to hundreds of the neediest residents of our city every week (with over 14,000 meals served in 2023). Both volunteers and donations from St. Paul’s represent a vital contribution to this service every month of the year, the need for which only seems to grow with each week.

St. Paul’s has also recently hosted fundraisers for Healing a Woman’s Soul, a nonprofit Christian ministry that helps women who are victims of domestic violence. Our parish is committed to social justice in all forms and regularly supports the most marginalized members of our community in the wider world with charitable giving and unabashed support at public events.

Far beyond the City of Albany, St. Paul’s is an active mission partner in supporting Christ the King Episcopal Church and Parish School in LaHoye, Haiti, and Father Nicholas Stebbing and the Tariro orphanages in Zimbabwe.

Closer to home, St. Paul’s is a welcoming home that always opens its doors to those outside of our regular parish membership. We host musical performances such as the Albany Gay Men’s Chorus, a resident organization. Our social events are often open to the public throughout the year, we provide a vital meeting space for those struggling with addiction and other issues, and we offer our building and grounds to other worship communities without a physical church of their own.

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

Our parish is not only one of the largest and most active in the Diocese of Albany, but also one of the oldest and most historic churches in the City of Albany. Several St. Paul's parishioners represented our diocese at the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2024 and our church is regularly involved in the conventions of our home diocese. In 2023, St. Paul's played an important role in the search for the 10th Bishop of Albany when it hosted a dinner, multiple Diocesan Deaneries, and the public as part of the diocesan Albany Bishop Candidates' meet and greet, Q&A Tour.

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

As a result of the pandemic, using a parishioner's iPad mounted on a tripod, we began streaming our 10:30 Eucharist on Facebook. This simple solution to attendance restrictions was extremely well received and as a result our "Digital Ministry" was born. The iPad has been replaced with a professionally installed streaming system using two multi-directional, professional quality cameras mounted in the front and back of the church. In addition to the Sunday morning eucharist, we video stream special concerts, holiday events, funerals and memorial services. The broadcast can be viewed live but is also available for viewing at any time on our Facebook page. While live viewers on Sunday mornings average around five, many more will view during the week. The average number of weekly viewers at our 8 Sunday services in October and November was 117. Viewers of our livestream include parishioners who are traveling, folks who have moved away, someone who is ill or recovering from surgery, shut ins, potential new in-person parishioners and frequently attendees of the actual service who wanted to enjoy a specific part of the service again.

More recently we added to our digital ministry strategy three 40-inch video monitors located in the narthex, our meeting room, aka The Blue Room and the library. We regularly display our upcoming events calendar as well as streaming special events, such as our Diocesan Special Convention for the Election of our new Bishop and subsequently his Consecration. For more information contact our Organist & Choirmaster Steven Rosenberry.

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

The parishioners of St. Paul's take pride in demonstrating Jesus' example, using all that God has given us, our time, talents, and treasures, to spread the glory of God to those in need. "Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God." – 1 Peter 4:10. We always have multiple Outreach opportunities,

church projects, and Christian education offerings that are organized, led, and staffed by the time and talents of our parishioners. St Paul's witnesses the glories and miracles of God and gives back to help others.

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

Being in unity with the National Church and an inclusive parish in the Diocese of Albany, since 1998, conflict has not been a stranger to us. On September 22, 2015 a parish meeting was held to discuss the polity of the Episcopal Church and more specifically the resolutions passed at General Convention approving Same Sex Marriage, the existing Albany Diocesan Canons which prohibit the same and Bishop Love's Pastoral Response to the Diocese. That meeting resulted in the formation of a committee to address the following 3 goals:

- 1) To discover concrete ways to show our unconditional support for the LGBTQIA community, their friends and families and to invite them into the St Paul's Family.
- 2) To reach out to alienated Episcopalians of the LGBTQIA community, their friends, family and supporters in the Capital District.
- 3) To engage in discussion with other like-minded parishes in the Diocese of Albany in order to coordinate efforts, encourage and promote our position within the diocese.

Our Rector at the time, having been sworn to impartiality as a condition of his ministry in the Albany diocese, heightened the situation. The committee formed as a result of that meeting continues to be an active ministry known as The Committee on Inclusion (COI) and has introduced several continuing annual Pride events in the calendar of St. Paul's.

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?

Over the last 5 years St. Paul's has been no stranger to upheaval and change. Covid in the beginning of 2020, our Rector of 10 years retiring in 2020, a 1½ year search for a new Rector to lead a liberal parish in a conservative diocese, the call of a new Rector in 2022, our current status with a Rector on administrative leave; we have continued to worship every Sunday and carry out all our ministries. While it has been difficult at times to continue all our ministries, we have passionate parishioners who step up to the plate and make things happen. Parishioners willing to be on a vestry that is running the church without a full time rector; volunteers who continue and even start new fundraisers to keep our building open for us, other parishes and community groups that meet in our building; and the many people who are involved in making Sunday services possible through their service as ushers, readers, altar guild, greeters, streaming technicians and choristers; our volunteers for Loaves and Fishes and our focus food garden. All these people have taken on the task in one way or another to be a leader in our parish and promote our mission to include all people in our worship and our outreach to the local community, that St. Paul's always be present and do the work God has called us to do.

CONNECTIONS

Your worshipping community's website

<https://stpaulsinalbanyny.org/>

You may provide the media links to your worshipping community, e.g. audio, video, YouTube, etc.

You may provide links here to other sites where you might be found, e.g. blogs, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.

<https://grainoncescattered.org/>

Languages significantly represented in your parish/institution (approximate # of people)

Languages English # of people 150

Provide worship or classes in the following languages - **English**

REFERENCES

Please provide contact information for the following references:

Current Warden Name

Current Warden telephone number and email

Denise Mason, 518-265-4006, Dmason46@yahoo.com

Mark Lowery, 518-459-0764, StPaulsWarden@Outlook.com

Previous Warden Name

Previous Warden telephone number and email

Daniel Halloran, 518-326-2232,

danielhalloran3@gmail.com

Search Chair Name

Search Chair's Ministry in Congregation

Search Chair telephone number and email

Robert Walenta, 518-441-8083, bobwalenta@gmail.com

Parish Leader's Name

Parish Leader's Ministry in Congregation

Parish Leader telephone number and email

Local Community Leader's 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 the church and its ministry

Local Community Leader's Position

Local Community Leader's telephone number and email