



St. JOHN'S
Episcopal Church

Springfield, Missouri

2025

Parish Profile

Striving to Share the Light of Christ

Table of Contents

Rector Search Prayer	3
Our Congregation	4
Worship and Music	6
Schedule of Masses	7
Our History	9
Stewardship	10
Financial Overview	11
Christian Formation	12
Our Rectory	13
Welcome Home!	14
Calling our 20th Rector	16
Next Steps	18



Saint John's Rector Search Prayer

Lord of abundant love, Creator of all that is good and provider of all our needs, you have always raised up prophets and priests to lead your people, foremost of all, Christ the Good Shepherd. You have enlivened and surprised your people by the Holy Spirit and know better than we do the needs of this parish.

Bless and guide the hearts and minds of the search committee, the vestry, and the parish, granting us the gifts of wisdom, discernment, listening, trust, and mutual regard that we might be led to to a faithful priest who will care for your people and equip us for our collective journey, guiding us closer to you through liturgy and service. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



Our Congregation

We are a vibrant and growing congregation that spans all generations. While our community once faced the challenge of aging membership, in recent years we have experienced an influx of younger members in their twenties, thirties, and forties. This demographic shift has brought renewed energy and engagement, particularly in our outreach efforts and special programs. We host a quarterly brunch after the 10:30 service and offer special coffee hours organized by various ministry groups, including the Stewardship Committee, Legacy Society, and Green Team, often tied to key church events.

Our Outreach Ministry Group is the cornerstone of our church's activity. As our largest and most active committee, Outreach partners with a different local charity or non-profit organization each month to meet specific community needs. For many years, we have sponsored three families during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, collecting and distributing food and household items for these families. Each year, Outreach selects one charity for our major fundraising initiative, with our Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction providing lively participation and raising over \$1,000 annually.





A newer but equally impactful group is the Green Team, now in its fifth year. This team is dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainability. In 2024, the Green Team focused on the importance of pollinators and how to enhance our landscape to support them. The team have been instrumental in redesigning the garden surrounding our corner sign and improving the landscaping around the rectory. Notably, a linden tree was added to the churchyard, and a hawthorn tree will soon be planted in front of the rectory. The team is committed to planning for the eventual aging of the mature trees on our grounds. In addition, they have hosted two native plant sales, distributed wildflower seeds, and organized quarterly litter clean-ups along Division Street.



Recently, our congregation participated in a survey conducted by a national church consulting group to gain insight into our identity as part of the larger body of Christ. The results were remarkable: we have a higher-than-average confidence in our leadership, strong energy, a deep commitment to Christian education, and a readiness to increase our involvement in church activities. The survey saw an exceptional response rate, with 127% of our average Sunday attendance participating.

As we look to the future, we feel we are on the cusp of a new chapter in our church's history. Energized and well-prepared, we are poised to embrace the revitalization of our neighborhood and warmly welcome new neighbors into our faith family. We are seeking a rector who is ready to lead us into this exciting future.



Worship and Music

Our beautiful English-Gothic style church provides the ideal setting for our worship tradition, which emphasizes the catholic aspects of the Anglican Communion while maintaining a welcoming space for all people to serve at the Altar. We place a strong emphasis on the Eucharist and traditional liturgical elements, including chant and incense, which help deepen our worship experience.

St. John's is home to a diverse group of individuals, including former Roman Catholics, members from various Protestant denominations—ranging from Assembly of God to Southern Baptist—as well as individuals who are newly churchened. In addition to our rich liturgy, we prioritize lectionary-based preaching at each service, ensuring that our teachings are rooted in scripture.

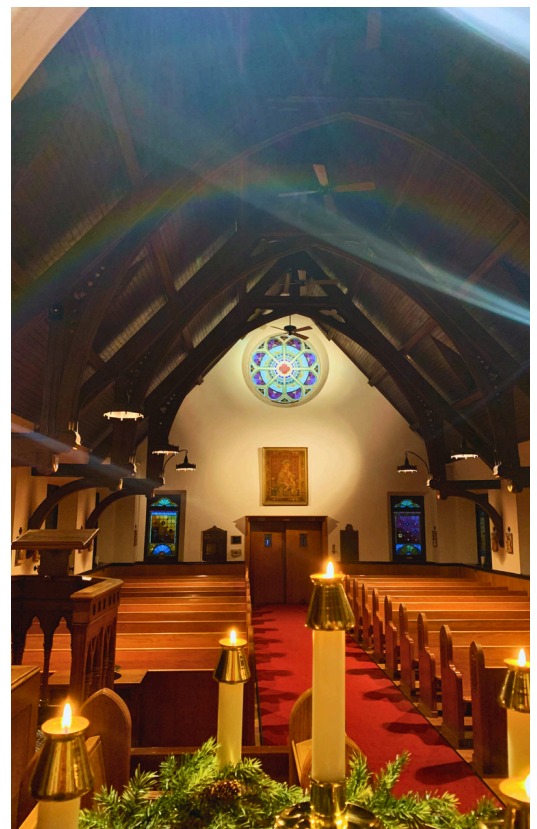
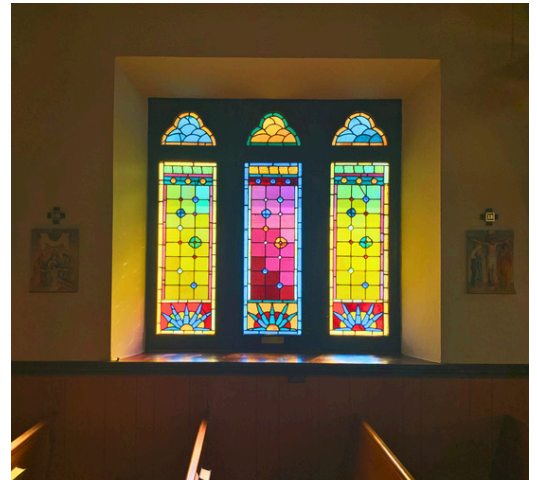
We have several liturgical ministries at St. John's, including a sub-deacon ministry and lay eucharistic ministers who assist the priest with setting the table and administering the sacrament. Our church also boasts a dedicated team of acolytes, crucifers, thurifers, and vergers who serve during worship. Our choir, led by our Organist Choirmaster, is made up of both volunteer parishioners and paid Choral Scholars from local universities, setting a high standard for excellence in liturgical music. The altar is meticulously prepared for each service by our devoted Altar Guild, who work to uphold the excellence of our traditional worship.



Schedule of Masses

At St. John's, our worship schedule reflects both the reverence and rhythm of our faith. We gather for the Said Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4:00 pm, and on Sunday mornings, we celebrate the Sung Mass at 10:30 am. These are typically a Rite Two service followed by a lively coffee hour where we enjoy fellowship and conversation. On Wednesday evenings, we come together at 6:00 pm for the Said Mass, which is followed by dinner, choir practice, and various Bible studies or other parish meetings and activities. Additionally, every Thursday at 12:00 pm, we offer a Said Healing Mass, providing a quiet and reflective space for prayer and spiritual renewal.

The liturgical seasons at St. John's are marked by thoughtful observances that invite deeper connection with our faith. During Advent, the four Sundays closely resemble a typical Sunday service, except for the use of Rite One in preparation for Christ's coming. A recently revived tradition, Lessons and Carols, adds to the season's spirit, offering a blend of scripture and music to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas.

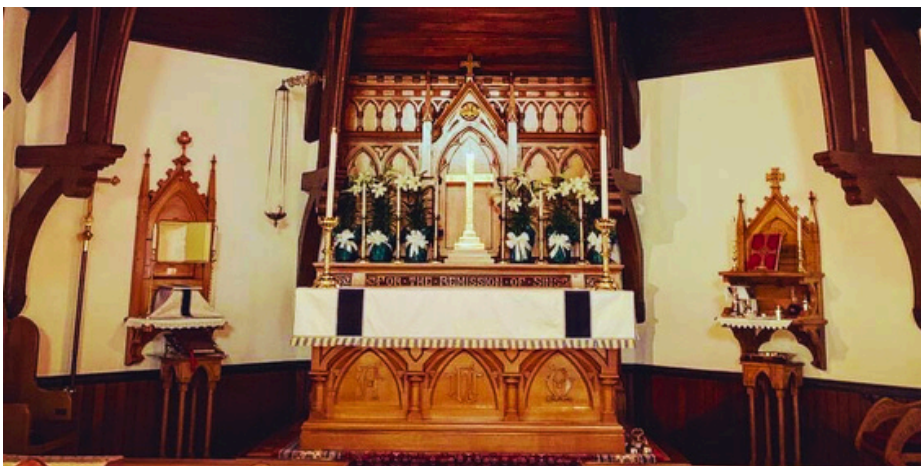


Schedule of Masses



Ash Wednesday offers multiple service options to mark the beginning of Lent. Throughout the Lenten season, our Sunday services follow the typical format but are conducted in Rite One to reflect the season's penitential nature. Additionally, Stations of the Cross are offered at various times throughout Lent, providing an opportunity for reflection on Christ's journey to the cross. On Palm Sunday, we celebrate with a blessing and procession of the palms, followed by the reading of the Passion and Mass. Maundy Thursday is a solemn occasion, featuring the traditional foot-washing ceremony conducted by the priest, followed by the Stripping of the Altar. This service is followed by a Vigil at the Altar of Repose throughout the evening. On Good Friday at noon, we observe the traditional Good Friday service, with the choir present to enhance the solemnity of the day. The Great Vigil of Easter marks the high point of our liturgical year, including the lighting of the Easter Fire, the procession of the Paschal Candle, followed by the vigil and Sung Mass.

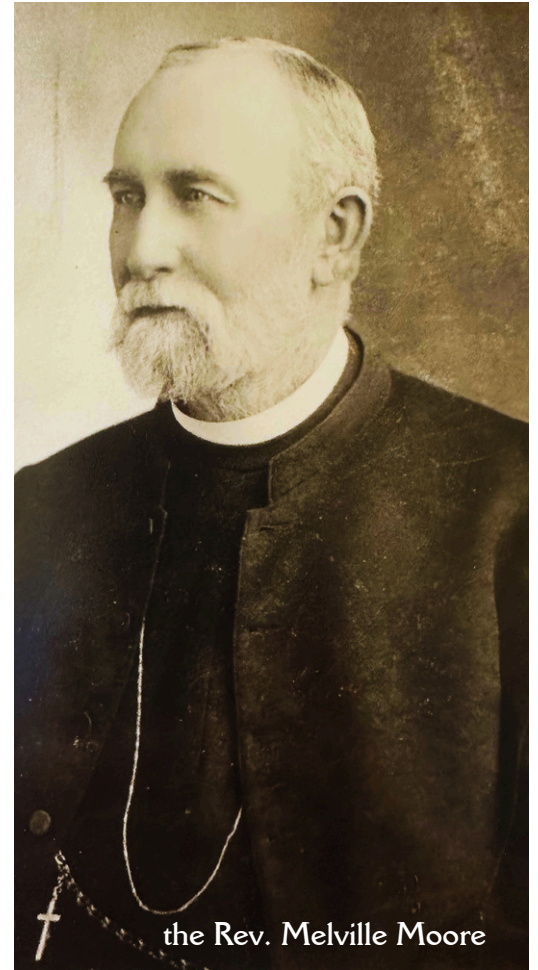
During mass, the priest is vested in alb, stole, and chasuble and is assisted by a sub-deacon and altar servers. Often during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, our beautiful collection of copes make appearances. Though incense is not a weekly occurrence at St. John's, it is used on principal feast days and other services throughout the year. There has also been a Daily Office both in person, and virtual at various times throughout the years at St. John's, and it is always a welcome addition to the weekly schedule.



Our History

The history of St. John's Episcopal Church in North Springfield began with a vision to serve the growing community centered around the recently arrived railroad. In 1881, the Rev. Octavious Parker, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield, recognized that some residents of North Springfield were too far from his church to attend services. In response, he began a Sunday School and held occasional services at an unknown location in North Springfield.

In 1886, the Rev. W. H. Osborne, a later Rector of Christ Church, led Evening Prayer and then chaired a meeting to establish a new parish in North Springfield. On the night of March 29, 1886, the Canonical Articles of Association were drawn up, and a vestry was elected. This marked the official beginning of the new parish, which was admitted to the Diocese of Missouri in May of that year. A call was extended to the Rev. Melville Moore of Nashville, who held the first service of the parish on Trinity Sunday, June 20, 1886, in a building located on Commercial Street.



the Rev. Melville Moore

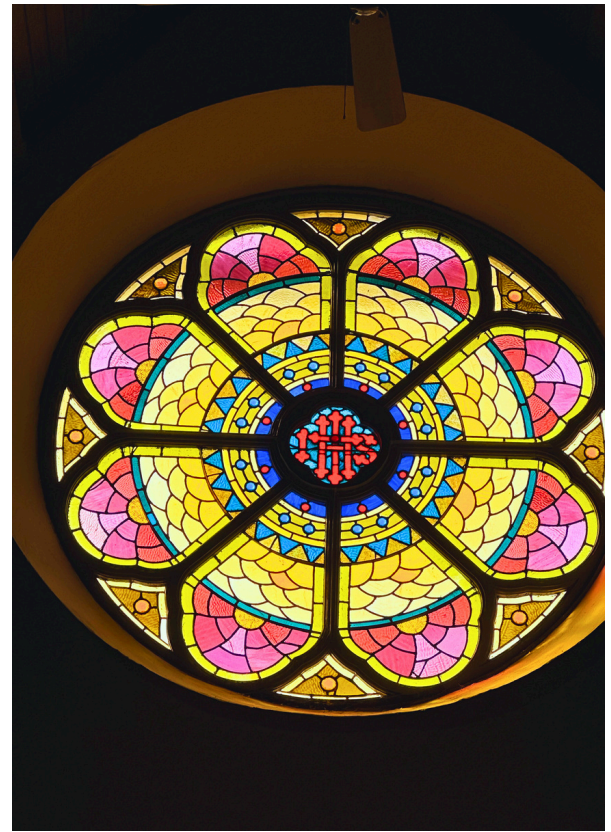


Children's Choir, 1955

In 1888, construction was completed on the church's permanent home, a beautiful new structure facing Division Street. This building served as the heart of the parish, offering a place of worship, community, and spiritual growth for the people of North Springfield.

From the incorporation of North Springfield in 1871, there was competition with the neighboring city of Springfield to provide businesses and services. The two cities merged in 1887, and this brought new opportunities and challenges for St. John's as it sought to serve an expanding and diverse population.

Despite various shifts in the community and the surrounding area, St. John's has remained a steadfast presence in the neighborhood. Throughout the years, the church has continued to be a place of spiritual renewal, providing a foundation for worship, service, and community.



Stewardship and Legacy



The Stewardship Committee meets monthly to prepare key information and initiatives for the congregation, including selecting message boxes for the weekly service bulletin insert, preparing an article for the monthly newsletter, and giving a short presentation during services once a month. The committee also highlights special gifts of time and talent in the monthly newsletter. Each year, the committee conducts a fall pledge campaign, which concludes with a special coffee hour. Materials for this campaign are provided by TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) and other resources.

The Legacy Society informs parishioners about the options for including the parish in their estate plans. It hosts special events for members and promotes planned giving during coffee hours in the spring.

Our experienced treasurer and assistant treasurers prepare quarterly statements for registered givers and provide detailed monthly reports (while maintaining confidentiality) at Vestry meetings. These reports are then posted on a bulletin board accessible to interested parishioners. The treasurer also chairs the Planning and Budget Committee, which drafts the proposed annual budget for the Vestry. Each year, representatives from the trust department that manages the parish's endowment fund meet with the Vestry to present a report and address any questions.

Financial Overview

Full-Time Staff

- Interim Rector

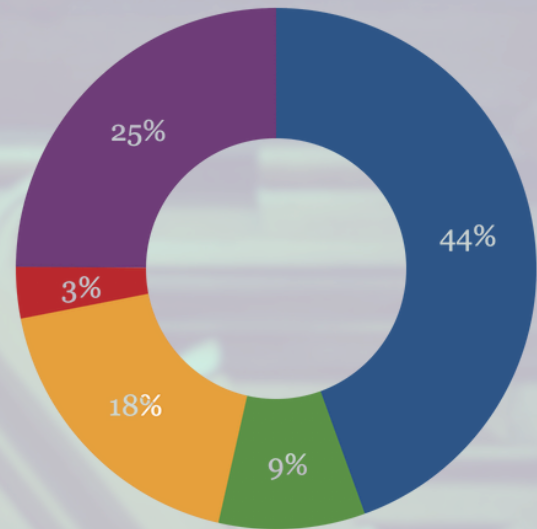
Part-Time Staff

- Director of Music and Organist
- Parish Secretaty
- Sexton

Volunteer Positions

- Treasurer and Assistant
- Membership Coordinator

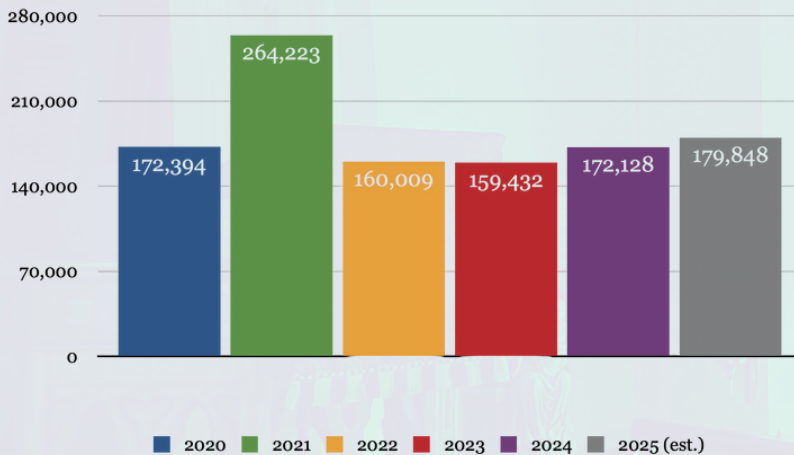
Expenses



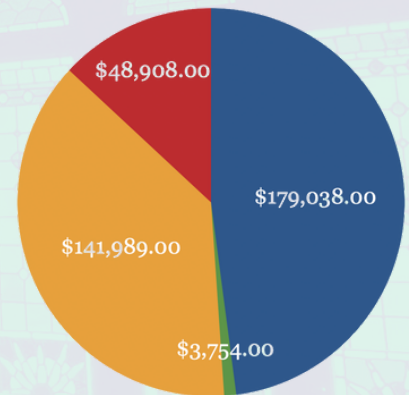
- Staff Expense
- Diocesan Apportionment
- Operating Expense
- Budgeted Outreach
- Rector Expense



Pledge and Non-Pledge Giving



Sources of Income



- Pledge
- Plate
- Endowment Earnings
- Special and Non-Pledge

Christian Formation

St. John's offers a variety of Christian Formation opportunities throughout the year. During the school year, experienced teachers provide church school for children before the 10:30 Sunday service. At the same time, a lectionary-based adult Bible study is led by a retired professor of Religious Studies.

On Wednesday evenings, following the service and a catered meal, an adult study class explores a book of the Bible or church history. This class is led by a retired literature professor with a Master's in Religious Studies.

In addition to these regular offerings, St. John's hosts various Lenten study programs, led by the rector or other knowledgeable leaders. The church also hosts book study groups, including a summer book club. A special event, "A Conversation about Death," held in November 2023, attracted nearly 40 participants, fostering both learning and fellowship.



Our Rectory

St. John's first rectory was a private home purchased for its proximity to the church, facing historic Benton Avenue. In the late 1950s, the original rectory was replaced with a classic ranch-style home on two adjacent lots. The home features natural materials like wood and stone, large windows, a stone floor in the entrance foyer, oak floors, a wood-burning fireplace, and built-in cabinetry. It is currently undergoing renovations to enlarge the kitchen, update the master bath, and add a new patio door and expanded deck to connect better with the backyard.

The church also owns an adjacent third lot, providing an expansive front and side yard. The rectory is the only home on the east side of Benton Avenue in the 1500 block. In 2024, the landscaping was redesigned with native plants and wildflowers that bloom from March to November, while the large lawn is maintained without chemicals. The backyard includes a mix of natives and nativars, along with a perennial bed.

Just three blocks from the rectory, Boyd Elementary is an International Baccalaureate World School, with Central High School and Drury University nearby. The neighborhood is experiencing revitalization, with five homes being remodeled within three blocks of the church. Commercial Street, just a block away, features a thriving mix of businesses, including restaurants, coffeehouses, and a farmer's market. Future developments include a luxury hotel and new homes.

A community garden, a short block from the rectory, allows neighbors to grow food for local pantries or their own use, supported by community and university gardeners. Several city parks are within walking distance, and families from our congregation enjoy walking and socializing in the neighborhood.



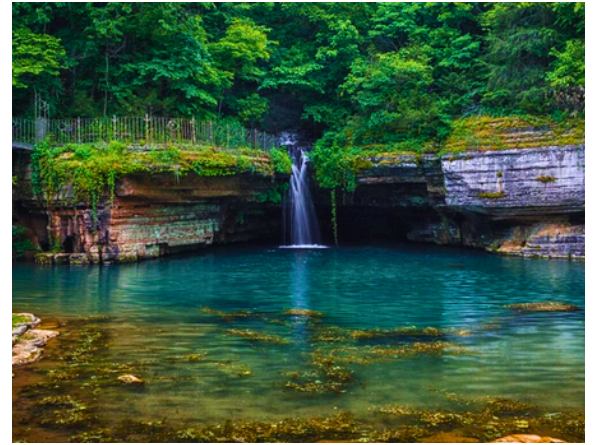
Welcome Home!

Your Ozarks Adventure Awaits

The Missouri Ozarks offers countless recreational opportunities for individuals, couples, and families. Whether you're exploring activities you already enjoy or discovering something new, there's plenty to see within an hour's drive. Springfield, Missouri, the "Queen City of the Ozarks" (pop.170,188) offers a mix of modern growth and historical charm. With affordable housing, great healthcare, and vibrant cultural life, it's an appealing destination for young professionals, retirees, and everyone in between.

Explore the Area

Drive through bustling towns, scenic landscapes, and picturesque hills and hollows. Friendly locals are always ready for a chat. From the city or a quiet hamlet, to the fields of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, The Ozarks is small-town America on a grand scale. For outdoor enthusiasts, Springfield offers walking, running, and biking trails, with more challenging options in nearby state parks, along with hiking trails that explore the region's flora and fauna.



Eating Local

The Ozarks is a great place for farm-to-table dining, with local vegetables, fruits, and meats available through farmers markets and community-supported agriculture. A new generation of farmers is making it easy to connect with local food producers via online platforms.

Family Fun

Branson, just an hour to the south, offers family-friendly national attractions like Silver Dollar City and White Water. The area also boasts great golfing, dining, and fishing. Bass Pro Shops, and the Wonders of Wildlife Aquarium offer a range of entertainment while remaining in Springfield. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board maintains accessible greenways, and the Nathaniel Greene/Close Memorial Park features botanical gardens and a Japanese Stroll Garden. The small but growing Missouri Institute of Natural Science is home to the world's largest Triceratops specimen and other fascinating collections.

Education

Missouri State University, Drury University, Evangel University, and Ozarks Technical College create a diverse student component for the greater community. Springfield Public Schools (SPS), the largest public school district in the state, is known as “The District of Choice.” A collection of programs allows students to determine learning paths that match their goals, interests, career-path, and learning style.

Crafts and Art

The Ozarks is a creative hub, perfect for those interested in arts and crafts. Whether you’re into painting, knitting, or metalworking, local communities offer opportunities to join groups and attend seasonal fairs and festivals to showcase your work. The City boasts an art museum, First Friday Art Walks showcasing local talent, and The Springfield-Greene County Library.

Water Adventures

Rent a canoe or kayak for a day on the Finley or James river. These scenic floats offer a glimpse of the Ozarks’ natural beauty, teeming with wildlife both above and below water.



Fishing and Hunting

The Ozarks is known for clear streams and rivers, perfect for bass, catfish, and trout fishing. Missouri’s four trout parks, blue-ribbon streams, and Lake Taneycomo, provide top-tier fishing opportunities. Hunting for deer, turkey, bear, and elk is also available, with special permits for youth and veterans.

Cultural and Performing Arts

The Springfield Symphony offers modern and innovative programming. The Ozark Lyric Opera and Missouri State University Opera Theater also provide excellent performances. From high school plays to touring Broadway shows at Juanita K. Hammons Hall, Springfield offers rich cultural experiences.

Calling our 20th Rector

St. John's Church is searching for a rector who will be for us:

- a guide and companion on our spiritual journeys as individuals and as a parish family, who through word and deed inspires us to greater faithfulness, deeper humility, increased generosity of spirit, thoughtful stewardship of gifts and a culture of abundance and gratitude.
- a teacher, preacher, and mentor well-grounded in knowledge of the scriptures and the historical beliefs and traditions of the church, who has the skills to communicate and to educate people at all stages in their faith journeys and supports the Christian formation already occurring
- a supporter and encourager of our rich liturgical tradition, blending the practices of the present with new opportunities for increased meaning and spirituality, supporting and maintaining the excellence of our music ministry
- a comforter and presence for those who are struggling with physical, mental or spiritual challenges, supporting the ministries already in place and supplementing or growing them as needed - in particular, one who regularly visits the elderly or disabled or hospitalized.
- a facilitator who develops strategies to increase the engagement of new and current members in various ministries and develops ways to acknowledge and honor their work
- a presence in the neighborhood who represents us to our new friends and discovers opportunities for outreach and mission for our congregation





- a model of clear, honest, and appreciative communication, casting a vision, setting priorities and boundaries, and assuring follow-through on decisions
- an administrator with demonstrated managerial skills in hiring, development, provision of training and regular feedback and evaluation of the performance of all employees, assuring their continued professional development and the smooth running of the daily operations of the church
- an advocate for the lost, the last, and the least in the greater Springfield area, welcoming our visitors and seeking ways to meet their needs.
- an innovator who will challenge us to try out new ideas, assured that we are a supportive community open to new approaches and concepts.

We believe that we are poised for growth in numbers and new opportunities for engagement and spiritual growth, and hope that we will find a rector who can lead us into a bright future.



St. JOHN'S
Episcopal Church

Next Steps

We thank you for taking the time to read through our profile. As you can tell, we think St. John's is a special place—we hope you do too.

We are seeking a full-time rector to lead worship, celebrate the sacraments, provide pastoral care, and oversee the administrative functions of the parish. Compensation is negotiable and includes paid vacation and an allowance for continuing education. Healthcare options comply with diocesan guidelines. A rectory is provided, with parish-paid utilities included.

If you sense that God may be calling you to St. John's, please send your resume and cover letter to:



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