



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 7, 2019)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Michigan

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/08/19.

jgettel@edomi.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

110

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

0

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

2

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend
\$65000

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement
\$4973

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$75355

Housing Available for
0

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
\$1001-\$2000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

Salary according to diocesan guidelines and commensurate with experience

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

St. Michael's Outreach Ministry has in many ways supported Mariners Inn, a residential treatment facility for men struggling with addiction. Over the years, we have gathered toiletries, underwear, socks and other supplies for them. The ECW has hosted luncheons and bingo parties, and the Mariners Inn Chorus has performed for us. The Little Thrift Shop sends suits and attire to help prepare residents for job opportunities. In 2015 we began a Christmas tradition of providing gifts for the men's family members, most of whom were children. We usually receive those lists from the men around Thanksgiving, but in 2016, wish lists for 40 individuals came just two weeks before their party. St. Michael's folks eagerly accepted them all, and in only ten days, gifts were purchased, wrapped and collected for delivery to Mariners Inn. We are always pleased to be represented by our Outreach Committee members who connect with these families during their Christmas celebration. When new opportunities to help arise, our congregation will respond with love.

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

During this time of transition, we examined who we are and what God is calling us to do. The CAT Survey told us that we are inwardly focused and without a clear mission. We analyzed our ministries and discovered those focused on outreach are the most vibrant. We gained two new families, both interested in outreach. Our confirmation class demonstrated great passion while discussing what it means to "Seek and serve Christ in all persons loving your neighbor as yourself". As a whole, these instances seemed to clearly indicate that we are being called to an increased focus on outreach. Just as we began to recognize and speak of these things as examples of the presence of the Holy Spirit among us, leading us to the future, we received an unexpected gift of \$10,000 from someone outside of our congregation. The donor asked only that we use the money to love and serve our neighbors! This is a time of joyful anticipation and gratitude as we look to a future of sharing God's love. The gift has inspired and enabled us to form multi-generational ministry teams, expand existing ministries, and partner with a local, underserved elementary school to support students and their families.

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

administrator, collaborative, enthusiastic, inclusive, joyful, listener, pastoral, liturgical, spiritual, resourceful

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

Our goal is to worship in ways that promote a sense of belonging and acceptance. We are striving to bring a more spirit-filled experience to every worship service, and we are pleased to have our new organist, who brings a deep appreciation for our rich Episcopal liturgy. This summer parishioners were asked to choose favorite hymns, and our joyful noise became louder! Ashes To Go was offered at our Mack Avenue entrance on Ash Wednesday with surprisingly good community response. With the Grosse Pointe Ministerial Association, we participate in an ecumenical, community-wide Stations in the Street liturgy on Good Friday. On New Year's Eve 2017 people were invited to Step Into a New Year by walking an indoor labyrinth. Recently we've been encouraged by comments from two teenagers. The first came from one of five graduates recognized with special prayers during a Sunday service. He said, "I think I've been missing something by not coming to church more often." At confirmation, Bishop Gibbs asked supporters of the eight confirmands to lay hands on their family members as they were being confirmed. After this experience, one young lady said, "This is how it feels to be loved by God."

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

The Communications Group simply asks individuals to assist in sharing and broadcasting information about our parish. Each group member has some part in sharing parish news, according to interest and skill. We have incorporated amazing individuals by simply asking them what they like to do. We learned that Jan likes to write and encouraged her to write a blog for the website and the newsletter. Holly has captured amazing images around the church that are clear signs of our journey. In 2006 three of us started meeting weekly at a local coffee shop to talk about the website. Over coffee and bagels we thought out loud about content, appearance and structure, as well as the tools and technical skills to develop www.stmichaelsgpw.org. We continue to meet and invite others to the conversation. Now there are usually six of us on Thursday mornings, but we have a wider focus than the website. We have a growing list of good ideas, and we are seeking people to explore them with us: Instagram, drone photography, updating the parish website and parish identity. Our strength is in our willingness to collaborate, learn together and share enthusiasm for our tasks.

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

"Prayer Works!" was formed by a small group of parishioners who met weekly to pray for our community and the wider world. Soon, they began sending postcards to the sick and homebound, following up with a visit or phone call. They were further inspired when they learned how happy the recipients were to receive their simple message of care and concern. Now the group also sends birthday cards to all parishioners. With the help of the Pastoral Care Committee, Prayer Works! has expanded its reach to our homebound family and friends. The members deliver altar flowers from Sunday worship and give seasonal plants at Easter and Christmas. The group distributes hand-crafted prayer shawls that have been blessed and manages a loan closet of wheelchairs and walkers. Lay Eucharistic Ministers coordinate with Prayer Works! to take Communion to individuals and to a local senior living community. Our goal is to identify all members of our faith community who are ill, homebound or facing hardship. We welcome anyone to join our mission of grateful hearts, sharing and caring for others.

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

Sometimes it begins with a blanket. Long-time parishioner Don suffered a stroke and has been in a long-term care facility ever since. He was quiet, angry and unhappy. One day the rector and a couple of others visited and took him a handmade lap quilt. Don asked what he had done to deserve this gift, and was told it was because we love him and miss him. He was so touched that he showed it to everyone. Don helped us to see the impact of simple acts of kindness and faith, and we began to look for other ways to serve him and other residents. We now offer a monthly Episcopal service at the care facility. Our parishioners are delighted to see their priest and lay eucharistic minister (LEM). At other times the LEMs make home visits, taking communion. The home-bound tell us they are grateful to receive the sacrament and to hear news from the parish. All are blessed.

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

In 1958 the Episcopal Church Women of St. Michael's opened The Little Thrift Shop as a consignment shop to raise money to help support the church and to fund that group's outreach projects. Consignors receive 60% of the sales price of their merchandise. This past year, its sixtieth year in business, the shop earned \$26,000 from its 40% of sales, allowing the Episcopal Church Women to contribute \$13,000 for its outreach and \$13,000 for the support of the parish. Current outreach projects include seventeen local, regional, national and worldwide ministries. The anniversary and its publicity has resulted in many new and returning consignors and customers. The Little Thrift Shop represents St. Michael's to those who come to the shop from the tri-county area. They find a welcoming and accepting haven, often returning weekly. The heart of The Little Thrift Shop continues to be the commitment of the more than 40 regular volunteers and the relationships they form with customers and consignors and with one another. New volunteers are always welcome.

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

The Spiritual Pathways ministry provides an organized approach to planning and developing resources for learning, spiritual enrichment and fellowship. A particular goal is to provide opportunities for multi-generational interaction. Last December we invited everyone to the Parish Hall to decorate gingerbread houses during coffee hour. We were delighted to see so many people of all ages come, and to watch as they discovered the tasty decorations available for their projects. There was creative energy and laughter all afternoon. No one worked alone: ideas and materials were shared, creating happy messes on every surface and face! It was especially touching when one mother told us with tears in her eyes how much this activity engaged her son. One senior member decorated her very first gingerbread house and is still talking about what a gooey good time she had! Contact Elaine Backhurst or Kate Colborn about Spiritual Pathways.

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

In addition to our annual stewardship campaign, good stewardship identifies when it's time to quit patching up and start over. The ECW scheduled a guest speaker for an evening program. We set up the projector and sound equipment so that she could plug in her laptop and begin her presentation. But something went wrong, and after the frantic call and a lengthy delay we hacked a solution. The next day we faced the truth: our audio-video system was a collection of donated, outdated and incompatible electronic devices and gadgets. We formed a committee to create a proposal for a user-friendly Audio-Visual Cart. Funding was authorized by the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee, and the Vestry approved the project to proceed. The cart is used regularly by several committees and study groups, and has been especially useful for group collaborating and editing. We have already used it three times to show family videos at memorial services. When folks in the worshipping community have pleasant experiences, they may be more likely to participate in new ones.

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

Soon after our interim rector arrived, she used the alternate version (from the BCP) of the Lord's Prayer. The change resulted in vigorous, negative conversations in committee meetings, over coffee, during community service projects about how inappropriate this was. When talk grew beyond the prayer selection to negative comments about the transition process, Vestry members suggested to upset parishioners that they speak directly with the rector. Some took that suggestion and found that they were listened to and given the reason for the change. Individual conversations led to a learning for the entire community; honest conversations create shared understanding and often equally acceptable solutions. Now our rector explains the reasons for making changes in the liturgy and while parishioners may not always be immediately comfortable, they understand the rationale and give the change a try. The impact of this experience has been significant; the model of open dialogue, active listening, and willingness to compromise seems to be taking hold. Those who have come back to the community after having been away report feeling a new spirit and sense of joy at St. Michael'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?

On January 25, 2012, friend, parish and community leader Jane Engelbrecht Bashara was murdered in her home. The person responsible was her husband, the son of a founding family of the parish. During the torturous period of investigation, trial and appeals, members took sides, were embarrassed by the notoriety, and were deeply troubled by the husband's presence among us. Some members left the church. Other members responded by leading a movement to create a labyrinth, a beautiful tool for prayer and meditation near our Memorial Garden. We call it Jane's Walk, a pathway to peace for use by our whole community. We trained parishioners as labyrinth facilitators and we have cards for self-guided walks. One of our Eagle Scouts built a sidewalk to facilitate access from the city street. Our Spiritual Pathways ministry hosted "Step into the New Year" for the community, and The Lake House (a cancer support center) held its volunteer appreciation event here so they could use our labyrinth. Today, activities for the benefit of Jane's Walk are well-attended and very much enjoyed. Spiritual Pathways sponsors events to financially support and expand the labyrinth ministry.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Marianna Gronck	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-06	2016-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Robert E. Neilly	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1980-03	2006-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
James McLaren	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	1973-09	1979-01

No Day School

Church School Available	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
5	6	5	62

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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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: <http://www.stmichaelsgpw.org>

Media Links:

> <https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelsgpw/>

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/St-Michaels-Episcopal-Church-Grosse-Pointe-Woods-140461272665801/>
> <https://twitter.com/@stmichaelsgpw>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 313-833-4435; bishop@edomi.org
Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.

Diocesan Transition Minister 313-833-4424; jgettel@edomi.org
Jim Gettel

Current Warden/Board Chair kagh1@comcast.net
Kathie Groschner

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair bbarring@sbcglobal.net
Barbara Barrington

Parish/Institution mjppeck@gmail.com
Maryjane Peck

Local Community Leader