



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 4, 2023)

St. James-Albion/Trinity-Marshall, Western Michigan

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 11/30/23.

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 55	Number of Weekend Worship Services 2	Number of Weekday Worship Services 5	Number of Other per Month Worship Services 10
Current Annual Compensation \$55100	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$81768	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Clergy+1	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account Yes

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

SJ: St. James' hired a supply priest for most weeks from September 2021 through May 2022. From Ash Wednesday through Pentecost, he served nearly every week. He also conducted a coffee hour conversation, led a vestry retreat, and attended two vestry meetings. We enjoyed a priest's consistent preaching and pastoral care for the first time since April 2019. He also studied our situation and communicated his insights using a collaborative method that parishioners could appreciate. We learned that we have a mission in Albion and the resources to pursue it. TM: Trinity said goodbye to our rector with a month's notice and quickly rebounded to continue Sunday services. Surveying the congregation, we combined our two services, an 8 and 10 o'clock, to a 9 o'clock morning service.

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

SJ: Together with Trinity Church in Marshall, we are actively looking for a shared priest who can further help us to discern our opportunities and assess our options so that we can transition into the next phase of our mission. TM: We are collaborating with St. James' Church in Albion to join our resources to secure a rector to serve both parishes. This collaboration will add diversity of parishioners and thoughts to our congregation. We are continuing the on-line broadcast of our Sunday services, and we continue to offer Sunday School and adult bible classes.

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

preacher, pastoral care, change management, SJ: liturgist

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

SJ: When we can, we celebrate Holy Eucharist every Sunday as well as on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday. When we can't, licensed lay people read Morning Prayer. We prefer traditional (rather than contemporary) hymns and services, using Rite II during feasts and ordinary time and Rite I in Advent and Lent. Our overall low-church style has sometimes included incense and bell-ringing. We almost always worship with beautiful music. TM: In word, sacrament, and music, the parish praises God in a traditional but relaxed style, with liturgy recognizable by every Episcopalian as well as elements unique to itself. The Book of Common Prayer is the heart of worship in celebration of God's presence. We currently worship each Sunday alternating Rite I and Rite II. We are served by supply priests when available.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

SJ: We involve lay people as piano and organ players, choir members, ushers, lectors, readers of prayers, leaders of Morning Prayer, a licensed preacher as necessary, acolytes, and members of the vestry and Altar Guild. We stay in touch with our members with phone calls, visits, email, and a weekly "Monday Times." A licensed Eucharistic Visitor often ministers to members who can't make it to church. TM: Deacons and lay parishioners serve in worship as lesson readers, ushers, and Eucharistic ministers. Acolytes are an important part of our worship, participating in processions and serving at the altar.

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

SJ: We are fed spiritually by worship on Sundays and holy days. Vestry meetings begin with Bible study. Sunday School for young children continues during the school year. We socialize during Sunday coffee hour and after summertime "Backyard Evening Prayer." We attend to the needs of parishioners in difficult circumstances, including the disabled, homebound and hospitalized. At funerals, we surround bereft families with care and provide beautiful services followed by receptions to which everyone contributes food and energy. TM: The laity takes on a large role in these ministries and will continue to assist Trinity's next rector. These include Local Care Team - Visiting or calling those with limited abilities to socialize with friends. Funeral Meals Ministry - Organizing and preparing meals following funerals. Sunshine Committee - Sending birthday and anniversary cards to parishioners.

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

SJ: We host two recovery groups. We maintain a prayer list and use it in services of Morning Prayer. Every third Sunday, we donate extra funds. Some are earmarked for community non-profits while others go ministries of the Episcopal Church. TM: The prayer shawl ministry knits and crochets shawls for persons in need of physical and emotional warmth- even a few pets have benefitted. The parish holds an annual community wide “blessing of the animals” service on the Feast of St. Francis. The Community Dinner feeds fifty to eighty persons. This free dinner ministry is coordinated with the local Methodist and Lutheran churches to provide a meal each week of the month. Trinity’s flower gardens are a form of outreach themselves, a beautiful gift to the entire community.

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

SJ: We pay our diocesan pledge. We send our parish leaders to bishops’ workshops and delegates to diocesan conventions. We donate annually to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation. In Albion, we participate in Healthy Babies Day as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives. Our congregation includes volunteers for (among others) GED preparation, the River Committee, the American Legion, and monthly community food distribution. Once a quarter, we “pack the pews” and contribute personal care items for distribution by the Albion Community Foundation. TM: The Trinity Board of Missions reaches out by supporting numerous local charities and the Episcopal Relief Fund. Trinity opens its doors weekly to Senior Health Services exercise, Tai Chi classes, and daily AA meetings. On Halloween we provide healthy treats and provide restrooms for Trick or Treating families. In December, the parish hall is busy, serving as a collection and distribution center for Marshall Area Community Services (MACS) Christmas baskets, which are given to over one hundred needy families.

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

SJ: Several church members are involved in Albion’s Community Gardens, a collaboration initiated by our previous rector and senior warden as their project for congregational development training. The project has grown to include three gardens on five acres. The gift of a tractor, paid for by the United Thank Offering, has enabled efficient cultivation. This year the gardens reported a vegetable harvest of over two tons, much of which was given away to Albion families. Contact Dick Porter at porterra@wowway.com. TM: The “Healing Study and Prayer” group meets weekly and is led by Sarah Loomis (sloomis123@aol.com). The “Trinity Trail Walkers” were active twice a month on Sunday afternoons prior to COVID. Tasha and Zach Shippell were the guides (tasha.shippell@trinityofmarshall.com).

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

SJ: In 2007, we suffered a devastating fire. In 2009, our rector resigned and the diocese declared us a distressed congregation. Our comeback has been nothing short of miraculous. We now manage our finances and property by observing best practices as required by the diocese. We aim for accountability and transparency, striving to maintain a comfortable rectory plus a beautiful sanctuary and common rooms that serve our parish and others who use them. We especially appreciate our ECW for its entertaining and lucrative fundraising events, including Purse Bingo, Gift Basket Bingo, a summer garage sale, and a Christmas Cookie Walk. TM: During COVID, there was not an active program. We have reinstated the ministry this year and will develop various approaches to stewardship of time, talent, and resources in our parish.

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

SJ: In recent years, we have experienced some conflict over church policies. Since we strive to be a loving community, we find such conflicts difficult and unpleasant. We have addressed them prayerfully, discussing the issues and seeking solutions that promote the health of the congregation while minimizing the distress of the individuals involved. Consultation with the bishop and canon missionary have helped. TM: Considering the political climate and the challenges of COVID, we now value and recognize everyone's position in making parish decisions. We continue to preach values, love, inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance.

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?

SJ: We carefully consider all options and opinions. We have learned to listen to each other and to make deliberate, not precipitous, moves. For example, before we hired a new part-time rector in 2012, we consolidated our two Sunday morning services into one. It was apparent that we couldn't expect a part-time priest to conduct both an 8:00 Rite I service and a 10:30 Rite II service. So we surveyed the congregation and, with the consent of the majority, moved to a Rite II service at 9:30. TM: When it went well, it was because of communication and a shared vision for change. When it failed, it was because of leadership style. We are learning to communicate, communicate, and communicate!



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School		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
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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: <http://www.stjamesalbion.org>; <https://trinityofmarshall.org>

Media Links:

YouTube: Trinity Episcopal Marshall

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/StJamesAlbion/>
Facebook: Trinity of Marshall, MI

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh

616-318-2006 psingh@edwm.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

Rev. Cn. C. Anne Hallmark

703-447-0856 ahallmark@edwm.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

**St.J McWhirter; Tr.
Kaminski**

St. James': Trinity: Jocelyn McWhirter Julie Kaminski
julie.kaminski@trinityofmarshall.org 1215 E Porter St 17690 18 Mile
Rd. Albion, MI 49224 Marshall, MI 4906 484-222-1572
269-753-4150

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Julie Kaminski

julie.kaminski 269-753-4150 julie.kaminski@trinityofmarshall.org

Parish/Institution

Sara Loomis

sloomis123@aol.com

Local Community Leader

Harriet Carrol

Harriet Carrol 269-781-4506; 269-781-2954