



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 11, 2024)*

## St. John's Old Town Saginaw, MI, Eastern Michigan

123 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 05/30/24.

[tlittle@eastmich.org](mailto:tlittle@eastmich.org)

Weekly Average Sunday  
Attendance (ASA)

**46**

Number of Weekend  
Worship Services

**1**

Number of Weekday  
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month  
Worship Services

Current Annual  
Compensation

**\$80000**

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for  
New Position

**\$40000**

Housing Available for

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

**Other**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

**Other**

Continuing Education Weeks  
Details

**1**

Continuing Education  
Funding in budget

**up to/including  
\$500/year**

Sabbatical Provision

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.

St. John's is a church with a music program in the historic Anglican tradition, and Lessons and Carols has been part of our Advent music for many years. Our 2023 service was a great success and the church was filled with participants, congregation, and visitors. Our partners were members of a high school choir from Shepherd, a town about 40 miles away, whose choir director is a long-time member of the St. John's choir. The soloist for Once in Royal David's City and a reader were from the high school choir, and a number of the students' family members were also present. Readers included members of various groups in the church, a representative of a local arts organization, and a Canon of the Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan. Choir music included traditional carols as well as recent compositions, and the congregation joined in with well-known Advent hymns. The reception that followed allowed musicians and congregation to mingle, including some young college graduates, home for the holidays, who are now active in church music elsewhere.

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

We began to stream our Sunday services during COVID and have continued to make services accessible online for those who need or want it. The vestry has discussed how to incorporate digital ministry in the future of the Church. Our Sunday School meets during the first part of the Sunday service, using a lectionary-based curriculum, and teachers communicate weekly with the preschool and elementary students' families. Our Youth Group "Disciples and Dragons" meets weekly, using The Ultimate Quest: A Geek's Guide to (The Episcopal) Church and the game "Disciples and Dragons, a role-playing adventure developed by Episcopal priest Joe Kennedy, where students create characters to engage with epic Bible adventures. Then they step back, read scripture, and discuss the experience while using the Baptismal Covenant (the ultimate quest) as their standard. Just as the game requires characters to have armor, gear, and hierarchy, the students explore their church equivalents. They learn about roles (bishops, priests, deacons, laity), vestments, and tools of the trade, and are encouraged and trained to use their skills in worship as acolytes, choir members, and altar guild members.

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

thoughtful preacher, community presence, engaged communicator, supportive leader

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

We uphold a strong Episcopalian tradition using liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. Traditional music is an important part of the St. John's identity. Our all-volunteer choir members range from amateur singers to professional musicians. Our liturgies take place in the nave which has a resonant acoustic and a pipe organ. Most congregational music is drawn from the 1982 Hymnal, with occasional use of the approved supplements. Our church is always adorned with attractive liturgical vestments and seasonal hangings. We have festal vestments and a cope for Christmas and Easter services, as well as for weddings, baptisms, and funerals. St. John's has a complete array of vestments for the different seasons of the church year: blue, purple, red, white, rose, green, and a Lenten array. The chasubles are matched by lectern, frontal hangings, burse and veil as well as priest's and deacon's stoles. Several liturgical sets were given in memory of parishioners; their names are inscribed on the vestments' interiors. These lovely ecclesiastical furnishings contribute to the beauty of our setting at St. John's.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Members, young and old, participate in worship by serving as vergers, ushers, lectors, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, altar guild, and choir members. We recently held a training session for young people to become acolytes and readers. We frequently have receptions after special services, which are hosted by parishioners. We enjoy hospitality and welcoming others. We have recently re-activated the coffee hour after church services and we gather for a monthly "soup and rolls" supper. Our congregation enjoys fellowship.

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

As a community we care for each other through illness, struggles and life's joys. Our volunteer priest leads a committed pastoral care team for our congregation. Team members deliver in-home communion, perform hospital visitation, and give other care as needed. A number of church members give regular rides to church for those unable to drive. New members who have joined over the last two to three years are involved in various ministries. Some members express the need for more spiritual and emotional caring from both congregation and a priest. We hope to have a priest who will shepherd us.

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

Our Food Ministry is currently our most active engagement with our local community and is our main engagement with members of the local Saginaw community, as food insecurity is high in our area. Our Food Ministry has been a success. Prior to COVID, our congregation had a Lunch Bag food program for years. In 2021, the food ministry was restarted as a food giveaway. Since then, it has expanded from giving food to a few families to serving 80-100 individuals/families with a large box of food monthly. We are also participants in Interfaith Saginaw, a group of religious communities that are dedicated to creating peace through interfaith dialogue, cooperation and understanding.

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

The wider church is centered in St. John's, Old Town, Saginaw as the Diocese of Eastern Michigan has its offices on the second floor of our church building. A member of our congregation is currently President of Standing Committee for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. St. John's also connects to the Great Lakes Bay community through its music. In addition to our own strong music tradition, led by our choir director and organist, many of us are supporters of classical music in Saginaw and regularly support the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra and Saginaw Choral Society. Our church has a longstanding relationship with Saginaw Choral Society in particular, whose 50-60 member adult choir and a large youth choir of about 45 students both use our community room as their rehearsal space. Youth and adult SCS choirs unite during the Christmas season for a large community concert broadcast locally. Both choirs are directed by professional musicians who are also members of our church choir. The church's strong music tradition is led by our accomplished choir director and organist. At Easter and Christmas he also engages instrumentalists from the local community to enhance our festive music.

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

St. John's Food Ministry program is a food distribution effort organized by St. John's to help alleviate hunger in the Saginaw community. The program was initiated in May 2021 and occurs on the second Tuesday of each month. In 2022 we served 70 to 75 families a month, coordinating with Hidden Harvest and other local food programs. During 2023, a federal grant from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan allowed us to expand the number of families to 85 to 100. This grant resulted in free food products to distribute and new freezers for storage. We have since been awarded several other grants to support this outreach. Additionally, we regularly raise funds by collecting returnable bottles and cans. A group of about 25 regular volunteers supports our monthly food giveaway; they are essential to our operation. Leading our Food Ministry are Marcia Hoffman, Paul Schaub, Nanette Fein and Sean Hall.

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

As the congregation has decreased in size, so has the number of giving units. This year, however, the pledge amount per giving unit has increased in response to our needs. The congregation has also responded positively to large single “asks” for projects and needs over the past four years, such as our stained-glass window repair and a new boiler. We would love to find leadership to engage in a new model of giving and how we can impact the community.

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

Within the last three years, there was conflict over air conditioning in the sanctuary. Our priest wanted air conditioning, but the expense seemed prohibitive. Several church members knew of another local church that acquired a large and very expensive air conditioner and were very concerned about the cost of installation and running expenses in our historic church. The lack of air conditioning, however, was impacting the comfort of our summer services and weddings. Fans were noisy, not effective, and disruptive of worship. A successful compromise was reached by the seasonal installation of quiet portable air conditioners. They were purchased using a grant from the diocese and have proved very effective.

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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 church has had several priests in the past 11 years. We have learned much from these experiences. With the changing of priests, the congregation showed resilience in our adaptation to new ideas while sustaining our sense of community. During the changes, the congregation and search committees have responded to perceived weaknesses in one priest by emphasizing different qualities when looking for the next. This time in our job description we have attempted to write a more balanced description of what we want and need.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Curt Norman	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-01	2023-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Daniel Cannon	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-01	2015-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School yes		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 2	Number of Students for Children School 5
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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: <https://stjohns-saginaw.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9YGvcYQGZiTxLMWLFj1mbw>

> <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsSaginaw/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams -  
Assisting Bishop**

[skadams@eastmich.org](mailto:skadams@eastmich.org) 877-752-6020

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Tracie  
Little**

[tlittle@eastmich.org](mailto:tlittle@eastmich.org) 810-300-9177

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Lucas Curell**

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: [lcurell@gmail.com](mailto:lcurell@gmail.com)

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Lucas Curell**

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: [lcurell@gmail.com](mailto:lcurell@gmail.com)

Search Chair

**Wendy Biggs and Sheila  
Duby**

Wendy Biggs Phone: 989-859-1800 email: [wbiggs99@gmail.com](mailto:wbiggs99@gmail.com)

Sheila Duby Phone 989-220-7538 email [duby.sheila@gmail.com](mailto:duby.sheila@gmail.com)

Parish/Institution

**Pamela Renna**

Phone 989-798-0229 email [psrenna12@gmail.com](mailto:psrenna12@gmail.com)

Local Community Leader