



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 1, 2022)*

## St. John's (Crawfordsville), Indianapolis

212 South Green Street, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/08/22.

[phelps@indydio.org](mailto:phelps@indydio.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
62	2		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$68900			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$5270	\$68900		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Total annual compensation \$86,570 inc. cash stipend, pension, housing, and SECA**

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

After the fall of Afghanistan, our Outreach team learned that some 6,600 refugees - including 1,000 babies and toddlers - had arrived in Indiana in one week alone. They sprang into action, rounding up donations of diapers, wipes, and kids' socks. Our older parishioners love to shop for such things after all these decades! Later, we shifted to toys, games, and puzzles; then gloves, caps, and coats. Again and again, our red wagons filled up and spilled over. In October we deepened our commitment, partnering with neighbor churches to sponsor a family resettling in Indianapolis's existing Afghan community. Our parish gave \$1,000 up front, and asked members to stock "our" family's kitchen with all the necessities. In this pandemic, we have felt isolated, yet very aware of the crises within the crisis. This project has helped us communicate well internally, and to feel like we matter - to each other, and to some people we don't know, but now feel close to. It has made us resourceful and cooperative, partnering as we have with other churches and individuals. And it's let us echo those yard signs we see around our town: "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor."

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

Being a rural parish, we sometimes feel behind the times - but we're always looking to catch up. Most recently, we have a very dedicated younger couple pushing us to re-examine the way we relate to social media, which we've mostly used for occasional devotional postings and event invitations (and only on Facebook). Looking at the accounts of other parishes we admire, we see that this is a powerful tool for recognizing our members and knitting them into a community that can be proud of itself - rather than being a building we go to, and a group of people we see, just once a week. And of course, the visual power of Instagram speaks for itself, and is very well suited to the beauty of our property

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

Revival energy, entrepreneurial spirit & compassion

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

Our services are cozy and intimate, befitting our small nave in the oldest church building in our mostly rural diocese. If we have a (non-pandemic) signature practice, it's how we gather in a full circle around the altar for the sharing of Eucharist. Our small choir is accompanied by pipe organ, electronic keyboard, and sometimes acoustic guitar; music ranges from the 18th century to the present. Several times a year, we like to worship outdoors, either in the small patch of grass outside the church, or at the home of a parishioner. And though we've mostly stayed with the BCP, our worship has taken steps forward in recent years: In 2019, our Pathways to Vitality team formed a liturgy task force for inclusive and expansive language. We didn't realize it at the time, but we were essentially the tip of a spear - the national church formed its task force right after we started ours, and the diocese still after that. Drawing on many sources, in mid-2020 the team delivered an entire Liturgy of the Word to the diocese, including a newly composed Gloria in late Romantic style (another in-house composer, our associate priest, wrote a Pascha Nostrum we use at times).

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Adult Education is the area of our ministry that most reflects our diversity of interests, as our committee likes to recruit leaders from all segments of the congregation and their external networks as well. In any given year's curriculum, you'll find deep dives into various parts of the Bible, following a published curriculum or "freestyle"; devotional exercises and spiritual inventories; units and sessions led by professors of various Humanities disciplines, on their own fields or others; and occasional forays into the theologies of other Christian denominations and even other belief systems altogether. Though our Children's Education has languished somewhat in recent years, we incorporate our youth into the worship service in other ways - you'll often see them as part of the altar party, including the lector rotation. The youngest kids and their families join in each week in Advent for a wreath lighting ceremony.

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

Beyond Sundays, the rest of the week has seen a few other ways for parishioners to stay connected and grounded. The year 2021-22 is our eighth straight having an active EfM cohort - in fact, we have an all-time high of eight students! Our weekly centering prayer and Bible study sessions have provided solace to a small group of faithful attendees for years. From time to time we've offered specific healing services and Taize by candlelight. Our two-person teams of lay eucharistic visitors take the elements to homebound parishioners and those in nursing homes. Organizationally, all our members are divided into "flocks," whose lay "shepherds" are tasked with checking in on them, marking birthdays and anniversaries, etc.

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

The other piece of our Pathways project - one that has been delayed by Covid - was to be more visible by conducting worship and non-worship events outside our walls. Individually, we've identified 91 community organizations in which parishioners have roles - many of which we've also hosted in our parish hall, which is open to most any group for a nominal fee. As a church, we have long sponsored Meals on Wheels, as well as weekend and summer lunches for local school kids, the ecumenical food pantry, and sometimes mobile fresh-food pantries as well. Some annual events where we open our doors to the public (at least metaphorically): A blessing of animals; a Mardi Gras party, complete with Cajun food and Dixieland jazz; a special welcome dinner for incoming first-generation Wabash College students; and a Christmas Eve service among live animals, in the barn of one of our parish families. More recently we have taken lunches to our front-line workers - including the oft-forgotten street and trash department - and at least a dozen of our members volunteered to help in the administration of Covid vaccines for the county health department.

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

A few summers ago, we made "field trips" to three neighboring parishes - i.e., we canceled services at St. John's altogether, and instead attended nearby churches as a group to see what we had in common, and what they were doing differently. As mentioned previously, our Pathways to Vitality team produced a liturgy that we presented to the diocese for their own worship and liturgy task force.

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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?

At a recent group conversation, where we discussed ways that we've been let down by St. John's, one theme that emerged was that sometimes we find ourselves devoted to the parish rather than to each other as individuals. I bring this up because one ministry we have begun recently, only to be interrupted by Covid, was the idea of blind-draw group dinners, under the auspices of our parish life committee. These were randomly selected groups of eight, tasked with organizing four different dinners per group - one at the house of each pair, if they were all pairs, or else the group could agree to meet at restaurants instead. It was a fantastic way to socialize with folks we didn't necessarily talk to each week at church, and quite well received over the three iterations we made it through before the pandemic. The most recent organizer was in fact our Parish Life committee chair, whose contact information is available on request. In 2020, this practice morphed into a virtual cocktail hour, which we enjoyed once or twice before it basically fizzled out.

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

Our parish is blessed to have experienced continued and even increased giving, irrespective of the vagaries of weekly attendance. This has remained true through the pandemic as well. We've viewed our annual gratitude campaigns as opportunities to reflect on the good we've done for the past year, the differences we've made in the lives of parishioners and those beyond our walls. Thanks to regular reminders from our planned giving committee, an increasing number of members have included the parish in their estate planning. Using a broader definition of "stewardship," our numbers include several people who are active in local conservation and nature appreciation groups, and over the years they've organized several cleanup efforts with wide parish participation.

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

Two of our recent parish-wide conversations approached this question from different angles. When we examine the ways that St. John's has nurtured and sustained us, we conclude that we've met times of hardship and conflict with perseverance, cooperation, experience, and a "can do" attitude. This is true! But when we examine the ways that we've been hurt and let down by each other, we find that we have room to grow in the areas of clarifying expectations - from above and among ourselves - as well as having the vulnerability to acknowledge the times that we feel hurt, and to seek reconciliation with those who do the hurting. Our response to a period of great upheaval in the mid-term past tended toward papering over conflict, rather than addressing it head-on. Having now uncovered and named this tendency, we hope we can address it going forward.

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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?

If Covid-19 hasn't been a time to address change, we don't know what is! Through the efforts of a very talented parishioner and a timely assist from our Pathways priest, our online worship evolved in a very short time from something entirely nonexistent, to a professional-quality broadcast with two remote-controlled camera positions and onscreen rubrics and readings. This has already served us well, in terms of being able to connect with our parishioners but also to reach back out to parishioners who have moved away from Indiana. But it's also led to key members of the congregation deepening their familiarity with technology, which could yield other benefits in the future. For instance, our parish has struggled to do children's and youth formation in a way that nourishes all its families; perhaps in the future we could look into producing video lessons that would be available on demand for our young members (and others!). The same could be true of just about anything that's mainly presentational rather than discussion-based: Adult education lectures, centering prayers, daily office, etc. And of course when it comes to discussions, we all know how to Zoom now!



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jan Oller	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2012-09	2021-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Todd Kleffman	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-10	2011-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Rob Lamborn	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-12	2004-06

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	2	5

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
2	5	7	18

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://www.stjohnscville.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

317.926.5454 [bishop@indydio.org](mailto:bishop@indydio.org)

**The Right Reverend  
Jennifer**

**Baskerville-Burrows**

**Jen Phelps**

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Current Warden/Board Chair

765.401.1130 (cell) [meeganreidy@gmail.com](mailto:meeganreidy@gmail.com)

**Meegan Reidy**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

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**Jim Gary**

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**Helen Hudson**

Local Community Leader

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**Rev. Darla Goodrich**