



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jun 11, 2024)

St. John the Evangelist, Northern California

2341 Floral Avenue, Chico, CA 95926, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 07/31/24.

julie@norcalepiscopal.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
95	2	4	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$90000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Clergy only	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	

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

A particularly satisfying series of events have occurred recently in our ministry to children and young families. One was the remodel of a classroom as a dedicated space for our Godly Play Sunday School. A second was the successful fund-raising campaign for our new playground. When the old playground equipment became worn and out of compliance with current OSHA standards a concerned team worked with the local Parks department to select appropriate equipment and develop a plan. A generous parishioner gave a \$50K challenge grant to start the campaign; the congregation responded by matching it with small gifts; the diocese gave \$20K to put us over the line; and this winter Bishop Megan came to dedicate it for us. Third, recently a Mom's Group formed in our parish, and they use this space for a weekly play date for their children and an opportunity for them to plan and organize the next kids' event.

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

First, Covid-19 opened us to the opportunities of digital and online resources. We have upgraded our A/V technologies and now broadcast our 10:15 Sunday services on Facebook; we know that homebound/traveling members, as well as friends and family outside the area, regularly tune in. We are using QR codes and online giving to facilitate donations. We are open to new ideas, especially as they pertain to the younger generation and the ways they interact with and experience the world. Second, building on our experience responding to the disasters of our recent past, especially the devastating Camp Fire, and focusing on the future, we are part of the newly formed Butte County Resilience Collaborative dedicated to preparing for the next, inevitable, disaster. Part of our contribution to the Collaborative is the renovation and remodeling of our St. David's Hall to make it suitable for use as a Red Cross Resilience Hub in the event of a crisis. During "Blue Skies" St. David's Hall will continue to be a part of our inventory of spaces available for parish use and use by other community groups.

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

pastoral/compassionate, Forward-looking, a collaborative leader, inspiring communicator.

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

As noted in our Parish Profile, two Sunday services provide us with opportunities each week to practice our rich Episcopal tradition. The 8 am service uses the Rite I Liturgy and is quiet and meditative. The 10:15 am service uses Rite II and utilizes a full complement of organ, piano and choral music. This service also coincides with our Godly Play program. Our healing service at 10:00 am Wednesday is Rite II and is quiet and meditative with healing and Eucharist. Morning Prayer (lay led) is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:15 via Zoom. Godly Play is a Montessori method Sunday School offered during the Liturgy of the Word at the 10:15 service. Children rejoin their adults in the church for communion. Rhythms of Grace is a monthly second Sunday afternoon alternative worship for adults with special needs.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We give newcomers time to get comfortable in our community before they align their gifts with parish life. Opportunities are shared in Sunday announcements, including our Ministry Moments, and in our weekly Eagle's Eye Newsletter, but we find that people are more inclined to step up after a personal invitation or request. Our Altar Guild has been successful in approaching individuals and personally inviting them to join in preparing a beautiful table for our Lord and caring for our sanctuary. Members serve on the vestry and as Lectors, Intercessors, Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, and Eucharistic Visitors. Our Evangelism Task Force is also working on creating a more systematic process.

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

We offer and attend worship, regular fellowship coffee hours (following our 10:15 service), Bible studies, and other spiritual enrichment. We enjoy the enthusiasm of a dedicated group of people who set up and provide refreshments for coffee hours, as well as for funeral receptions and other events, and organize meal deliveries for those recovering from illness or injury. An active list is kept of parishioners who need special attention, such as in-home communion or just a visit. Those who attend the Wednesday morning healing Eucharist have found it particularly nourishing for mind, body, emotions, and spirit.

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

We cook and serve dinner monthly for one hundred clients of a local shelter. We provide Hospital Chaplains for Enloe Hospital. Our clergy reach out to the students at Chico State with Ashes on the Go and by attending the local Pride events; they are also generous with their time and talent in meeting with and helping anyone who reaches out to them. We have a funding plan for the Clergy Discretionary Fund. During the tragedy of the Camp Fire and its aftermath our parish, with tremendous support from the diocese, took a leadership role in the Task Force on Emotional and Spiritual care, including providing direct emergency financial support, creating partnerships, and organizing projects. We are now similarly involved in the successor group, Butte County Resilience Collaborative.

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

We are involved in both our deanery and our diocese. The current dean of the Alta Deanery accepted those deanly responsibilities while serving as our assistant priest. Our previous Rector also served as dean of Alta. Two current members of our parish serve on the bishop's staff. We participate enthusiastically in our diocesan convention and always have more people willing to be delegates than we have positions. We will be hosting a diocese-wide "New Camino" two-day workshop on Latino Ministry in late September. We have been and continue to be a regional hub for ongoing recovery from the Camp Fire which destroyed the town of Paradise and badly burned much of Magalia and the surrounding area in 2018.

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

One important and very well received achievement is the Godly Play Sunday School project. Contact Mary Jannings at maryjannings@yahoo.com. Project ReStart is a diocesan program in which St. John's has been highly active. We create, assemble, store, and distribute starter kits for a new kitchen or bedroom or bathroom for people starting over after a disaster. Contact Sherry Wallmark at office@stjohnschico.org.

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

With the advice and encouragement of our Interim Rector, we now practice Year-Round Stewardship following the TENS model. This model includes frequent small group discussions (cottage meetings to discuss issues and priorities), Ministry Moments to communicate findings from those discussions and to highlight ministries that speak to them, and budget transparency via annual meeting documents to demonstrate how we intend to finance plans to issues identified. Our parish gives thanks and celebrates the completion of our projects (e.g., Playground, Bazaar, landscaping, lighting). Volunteers contribute to the upkeep of our grounds, our sanctuary (Altar Guild), and our commercial kitchen, and they are publicly acknowledged and thanked. Our pledge campaigns and special appeals for Easter and Christmas are well designed and managed. Like almost everything we do, our stewardship practice is team-based and inclusive.

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

A good faith effort to understand our preferences for Sunday worship went awry. A survey was distributed but apparently some respondents did not understand that the question at issue was whether we should move to a single Sunday service. Review of the data collected led to a decision to change the Sunday practice from two services (8:00 and 10:15) to a single service at 9:30. It was met with some consternation for varied reasons by members of both congregations. We talked it through, discovered and better understood why people were making the choices they were making under the two-service schedule, and decided to continue with it, understanding that there will be times (e.g., the bishop's visit) when a single service will be appropriate. The civility of the conversations and the absence of animosity in their wake has led to increased connections and friendships between the people of the two congregations. The team building that followed was helped by the decision to undertake a Holiday Bazaar, a fundraiser that required myriad teams and had a role for everyone. We have been told that, as a congregation, we are "emotionally mature." We hope that's true and strive to make it be so.

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 Episcopal Church has made many changes in the years since Vatican II. It is difficult to tell the extent to which those changes or changes in the secular culture of the United States (and maybe the world) has been the driver of change at St. John's. It appears to be true that when the revision of the Book of Common Prayer took place in the 1970s, most of the congregation accepted it, some with enthusiasm, some with resignation, and some with interest and a nod. It is certainly true that a small group did not and left to become Anglicans so they could continue to use the 1928 BCP and limit access to ordination for women. At St. John's, we have been fortunate to be served by an inclusive and diverse clergy. Locally, we have lived through myriad changes with recent disasters (floods, fires, and Covid). Through them all we have preserved the essential and modified the malleable. Recently we have successfully adapted to an Interim Rector and his preferences around worship and continue to care for and serve one another and our community. What we have learned is that we can do difficult things and do them well when we work together in Christ's name.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Very Rev. Richard Yale	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1997-06	2022-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Nordon Winger	Interim	1996-01	1997-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Harry Alagree	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1986-01	1996-01

Godly Play (Sunday School) uses a rotating team of leaders. Adult formation is currently led by the interim rector.

Church School Yes	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 11	Number of Students for Children School 10
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 1	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 2	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School 1	Number of Students for Adults School 23
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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://www.stjohnschico.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschico/>
> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUxeXfkh-WsmzVxDW8RDpbw>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

916-442-6918; bishopmegan@norcalepiscopal.org

The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair

Diocesan Transition Minister

916-442-6918; julie@norcalepiscopal.org

The Rev. Cn. Julie Wakelee

Current Warden/Board Chair

(530) 894-1971; gfstephe@gmail.com

Ms. Gwynneth Stephenson

Previous Warden/Board Chair

(530) 894-1971; arellaford@fmail.com

Mr. Alan Relleford

Search Chair

(530) 894-1971; 2000chico@gmail.com

Ms. Carol Sprague

Parish/Institution

(530) 894-1971; becky3031@gmail.com

Ms. Rebecca Thompson

Local Community Leader

530-720-2304 byerman@campfire-collaborative.org. Mr. Yerman is the Director of Operations for the Camp Fire Collaborative, which started at St. John's shortly after the fire.

Bruce Yerman