



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 4, 2016)

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

809 Bishop Meade Rd., P. O. Box 153, Millwood, VA 22646, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

mthorpe@thediocese.net

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

55

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

0

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

0

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement
\$5096

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$66617

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Negotiable

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget
No

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
up to/including
\$500/year

Sabbatical Provision

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

Contact:
mthorpe@thediocese.net

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

A grandfather was offered fresh oranges and said to our Food Pantry volunteer with amazement in his voice: "My grandson has never had an orange." This moment has reverberated among our volunteers confirming all the success of the monthly food pantry and the need that it fulfills. Our nutritious food offering is the only means by which one elderly client with diabetes and high blood pressure can follow the dietary recommendations of her doctor. Some of our clients double as volunteers. One client comes early on first Saturdays and issues the shopping sequence numbers. Others help us shelve and bag the donated food. This is an example of the blurring of labels that has resulted from our five years of pantry ministry. Parishioners and non-parishioners come together as volunteers. School children and parents carry groceries to cars. It is satisfying that we have come to know our neighbors and they us so that pantry days have come to feel like community gatherings.

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

Our congregation has great respect for our rich heritage as Episcopalians and as a parish but is also ever mindful of preparing for our future. In the fall of 2013, the vestry created an ad hoc committee charged with envisioning a plan for our future. With diocesan advice, the study of successful churches, and input from a well-attended "congregational conversation" the Vision Committee presented the vestry with a set of initiatives. These ideas became part of vestry decision-making and planning. This excerpt outlines in general terms our vision: --Worship God in ways that are inviting and welcoming --Nurture the faith and understanding of each member of our community so we may grow together --Show our love and concern for those who suffer and those in need within our church and our neighborhood --Encourage individual ministries so that personal gifts may be used for the enrichment of all and to the glory of God --Care for and use our resources, property and facilities so that they may be a blessing to us and others, now and in the years to come. A link to the full Vision Committee Report is provided below.

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

Relevant preaching/teaching grounded in historical context, can connect with people of varied socio-economic backgrounds, strong pastor and spiritual guide, interest in being part of the community

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

Contact:
mthorpe@thediocese.net

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

Our style is simple. We follow the Book of Common Prayer with no additions or deletions. There are two services at Christ Church. At the 8:00 am service we celebrate the Holy Eucharist Rite 1 without music. At 10:30 am we celebrate the Holy Eucharist Rite 2 on the first, third, and fifth Sundays with music. It has been our tradition that on the second and fourth Sundays at 10:30 am Morning Prayer Rite 2 is held with music. Between the services we have intellectually stimulating adult Christian education led by clergy, there are typically about 12 attendees. Twice a year we hold services at nearby historic Old Chapel including an Easter sunrise service and a memorial service the second Sunday in September. Old Chapel is the oldest Episcopal Church west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and was Christ Church Millwood's original place of worship.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Individual commitment to ministry was addressed at the 2014 Shrine Mont retreat program, "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life". This program focused on material that was designed to assist each individual in discerning his/her Spiritual Gifts. Subsequent recruitment efforts have been specifically designed to define and publicize all of our ministries with the goal in mind that individuals offer their time and talents where they feel they have an interest and a "calling". In this congregation, individuals often are willing to respond to one-on-one requests when asked to help. Ongoing ministries are facilitated by monthly email communications seeking specific commitments to participate, followed by calendar updates and reminders. Our monthly newsletter reports ministry activities and service opportunities. Infectious church involvement begins with the pleasure of one another's company so the coffee hour, picnics, and potluck suppers foster interest in giving of time to church endeavors. Christ Church celebrates and encourages the ministries of everyone in our church family so that the talents given to each person are offered to the glory of God and the enrichment of all.

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

--We have adult education on Sunday mornings, an annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont, Lenten studies, and a disaster preparedness plan to ensure that we and our neighbors are all accounted for during an emergency. --Members of the congregation can be part of a prayer chain. We have a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers who are available for counseling and home visits. --Our organist and choir leader offer a music ministry that has enriched our worship services. They are committed to bringing new anthems, arrangements, and variety. Also, the newly restored piano, which was given to Christ Church, is being incorporated into the worship service. Using the piano and the organ adds lovely variety to the service. --Recently we made our campus more handicapped accessible, including the installation of a much-needed and beautiful walkway between the church and the parish house. --We provide our parishioners many ways to serve others in the community, most significantly through the Food Pantry. --Most of all, we at Christ Church strive to be warmly welcoming, recognizing that relationships in our worshipping community are as important as the church service itself.

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

Contact:
mthorpe@thediocese.net

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

Pastoral care beyond our worshipping community is a high priority. A number of successful programs are in place because parishioners saw a need and the parish supported the idea. For example, our Food Pantry, which began in 2011 with 16 client families, now serves 60 households representing 125 individuals per month. Less measurable but as important, pantry volunteers and clients have come to know one another. While differences remain, the community feels closer. We learned that the county lacked a summer lunch program for low-income children. By winning two grants in 2014 we were able to provide 2,261 meals in 2015 to Clarke County students over the ten-week school vacation period. As a result of this ministry we learned that there were elementary school children who came to school without a midmorning snack. Today we are able to provide a nutritious snack to approximately 50 children per week. Our recently established Stephen Ministry is prepared to provide pastoral care to anyone dealing with personal challenges once a referral is made and a need established. This is the only Stephen Ministry in Clarke County.

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

--Each January, Christ Church participates with other area churches in the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) project that provides food, shelter, clothing and other support to homeless individuals. Christ Church takes responsibility for one night of that week with 20 or more of our parishioners volunteering to set up the cots, prepare and serve the food, give medical care, interact socially and help with transportation. --We are also active in the Clarke County FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) program by working in the clothing bank every Saturday morning in September, by transporting FISH clients to medical appointments and, last year, by donating \$5000 to FISH. Over the years, members of the congregation have volunteered to serve on the FISH board. --In an even wider community, we participate annually in the program Operation Christmas Child that offers gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world. --Annually, our parish participates in the Clarke County Ministerial Association's Pulpit Swap Sunday after which the larger church community gathers at the fire hall for a potluck luncheon.

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

Our Stephen Ministry was established last year to provide care and support for parishioners in time of crises. The guiding light was Pat Flynn who had been in a Stephen Ministry in another community 20 years ago. After participating in a refresher course plus an additional weeklong seminar in leadership training, Pat interviewed and selected other members of the congregation who wished to be part of the Stephen Ministry. Each agreed to take 50 hours of training and made a two-year commitment to serve. Training included programs in communication, listening, and assertiveness. They were taught skills dealing with clients in crisis due to illness, divorce, death, finances, and other life circumstances. There are currently 6 members of our Stephen Ministry. For any questions regarding the program, please contact the Stephen Leader, Pat Flynn. Her contact information may be obtained through the church office.

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

Contact:
mthorpe@thediocese.net

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

In the fall, Christ Church has its annual pledge campaign. While our congregation is small, it has been generous. Pledged funds account for 66% of our operating budget. Responsible planning and management of these resources includes giving back to our community. The funds help support Christ Church's Food Pantry, wholesome snacks during the school year and summer lunches for needy area children, and a Stephen Ministry. Stewardship funds supports many functions that bring the congregation together socially including a Sunday coffee hour, potluck dinners, a Christmas dinner with auction, and the occasional concert on the parish house lawn by area musicians. Next year we hope to institute a visiting lecturer series. Beautification of the grounds also enhances our worshipping community. This year a lovely stone walkway was built between the church and the parish house. Finally, we should be able to tithe 10% of our pledged income to the Diocese and support of Region 14 this year.

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

What is unique about a small congregation like ours is that over time everyone who is willing is able to take a leadership role. As a result, most everyone is familiar with the time and thought that goes into decisions about church business. We try to solve disagreements by inclusion and compromise before they become conflicts. Nevertheless, a serious problem arose about seven years ago with the rector. The wardens and vestry members who had to deal with this problem served the parish with extraordinary patience and perseverance while respecting the confidentiality of such a sensitive issue. Ultimately the vestry asked the Diocese for help and the conflict was resolved.

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?

In 2010 the Reverend Karin MacPhail joined Christ Church as supply priest. She became our Priest-in-Charge in 2011. In June 2014 the vestry appointed her rector. With Karin's spiritual leadership we enjoyed membership growth, new programs, and increased attendance in adult and youth programs. A positive spirit prevailed. The congregation and leadership were thoroughly engaged. In June 2015 Karin announced her husband had been called to a church in Roanoke. The news was a shock. Many expressed concern about our future; but, the vestry led by example. With calm, constant communication they focused on the joy of Karin's ministry. We came to realize that the rector leads the church, but the congregation is the church. Most congregants who came to Christ Church because of Karin remained because of its people. The vestry quickly developed an action plan. A current congregant, Dick Stinson, a retired priest, stepped forward as our supply priest. He provided continuity in our services and pastoral care. The vestry met with Mary Thorpe and a widely representative Search Committee was established. Some lingering sadness remains, but we look forward to welcoming a new priest.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Feb 4, 2016)

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

mthorpe@thediocese.net

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Karin MacPhail	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-01	2015-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Leslie Yount Mason	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-01	2009-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. C. Thomas "Tom" Holliday	Interim	2003-01	2005-01

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

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
		1	11

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Feb 4, 2016)

Christ Church, Millwood - Cunningham Chapel Parish, Virginia

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 03/15/16.

Contact:
mthorpe@thediocese.net

Worshipping Community Web site: www.cunninghamchapel.org

Media Links:

Online References:

- > <http://www.christchurchotmsearchprocess.org/vision-statement.html>
- > <http://www.christchurchotmsearchprocess.org/community-profile.html>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Mary Brennan Thorpe and Mr. Edward Keithly

Current Warden/Board Chair

Joseph Johnston

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Chuck Roberts

Search Chair

Jeffrey Harris, M.D.

Parish/Institution

Joseph Johnston

Local Community Leader

Wendy Clatterbuck

804-643-8451 ext. 1013 (Mary), ext. 1015 (Ed);
mthorpe@thediocese.net, ekeithly@thediocese.net

540-837-2128; whawken@hughes.net