



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 5, 2026)

St. Paul Episcopal Church, Chicago

900 Normal Road, Dekalb, IL 60115, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/01/26.

amysen@episcopalchicago.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 28	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend \$60550	Housing / Rectory Detail \$20040	Utilities \$6250
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$86840	Housing Available for 6	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 One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details 2
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account Yes

SECA included in cash comp. Rectory listed at pension assessed value.

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

St. Paul's has long been committed to sustainability, especially by providing food and community connection through our Rick Johns Memorial Community Gardens. For the third year in a row, we welcomed 74 Environmental Studies students across the year to both the Gardens and a companion satellite site that we helped collaboratively develop at the local New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Our efforts are supported by two years of Parish Partner Grant support from Episcopal Charities, and help provide over two tons of food to address insecurity in the Annie Glidden North Neighborhood and to university students. A highlight of our engagement with the university students and other volunteers from the area is a fellowship dinner at which they share stories of personal growth. The gardens have helped us open our doors to more youth and have built meaningful intergenerational relationships. We're excited about continuing to expand the gardens' impact after adding a pollinator garden and hoop houses to the core vegetable and herb gardens.

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

We are committed to attracting new members to St. Paul's by making better known our presence and our unique identity as an inclusive, open, affirming, and encouraging Christian community. We emphasize to newcomers our pluralistic and lay-involved approach to governance, and that opportunities for involvement abound through existing ministries or new efforts we have not previously considered. Recent additions of younger members from the university community have strengthened us in our mission of acceptance.

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

communication; learning; growth; inclusivity

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

We have one service at 9:30 that follows a fairly traditional approach to liturgy. We believe strongly in a welcoming and inclusive environment in our weekly service. Our supply clergy during the last two years have been both Episcopalian and Lutheran, and as needed we have had Morning Prayer. We have printed bulletins that include all music, readings, and other service components, and offer welcome bags to newcomers. A recent Sight and Sound project now allows us to extend our community online, whether for homebound parishioners, those away on travel, or visitors from a distance on their faith journey. After each service, we have a coffee hour hosted by parishioners and offer nametags to help guests feel comfortable meeting us. We are especially proud to have welcomed some more diverse people in recent years, including some members of the university community, and hope to strengthen this growth. We value preaching that engages both scripture and contemporary issues in thoughtful ways.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are a warm and welcoming church, inviting people from all walks of life to join us and become contributing members. We live our commitment to diversity and inclusion, welcoming individuals regardless of their identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences. We actively encourage those who might be interested in ministry. Parishioners are highly involved with the liturgical ministries such as Flower and Altar Guilds, our music ministry (organ, piano, and a small choir), running our live stream, ushering, and reading, and many will transition from one ministry into several. During our time without a rector, we have found the commitment of time, talent, and wisdom from our longtime and newer members to be invaluable in building lay leadership, and we are eager to again have a rector to marshal these gifts. We are intentional in never speaking against other religious traditions or non-religious spiritual practices. We understand that those who visit us may be in a position of vulnerability as they explore options for expressing and experiencing faith and spirituality.

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

In just the past year, we have hosted well-attended fellowship dinners monthly at local restaurants, occasional book and contemplation discussions, monthly movie nights with dinner, weekly yoga, and—as noted earlier—the coffee hours. We have a large parish hall with a full kitchen that allows us to flexibly accommodate many functions. Our newer members regularly become involved in these activities, and for some of our non-member friends these are a primary source of engagement with our parish family. We care for our parishioners unable to attend services by visiting them as we are able, and we hope a new rector can help us reinvigorate a monthly service with communion for those in a local retirement and assisted living homes. We are pleased that our live streamed service can help maintain our community from afar.

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

Through the gardens, we have become much more connected with the Annie Glidden North neighborhood and especially with New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and area pantries. We value our ability to strengthen food sovereignty and security in the neighborhood, which is a food desert. The gardens are our most vibrant welcome and connection point with NIU's faculty and students. The university is adjacent to our church, and provides a unique opportunity for engagement and growth. We created and maintain a path with spiritually edifying signage that connects off-campus student residences to student classroom buildings, and we allow students to park in our lot when they ask. Beyond our attentiveness to food justice, the ECW leads a quarterly giving basket effort. The group discerns a cause to support, and then has a basket at church available for donations. Recently they have helped support teacher supplies at our nearby elementary school and Kapper Adult Day Care. Lastly, we regularly support area nonprofits, such as Cassandra's Closet at New Hope Church and Safe Passage. We hope our future rector can help us invigorate the university and neighborhood relationships even more.

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

Our Wardens and Vestry members represent us well at the Diocesan Conventions. Our gardens have been an important connection point, too, with funding from Episcopal Charities and our presence at their annual galas, and a feature story in the Diocesan news. Past rectors have been involved in monthly or at least regular meetings with local clergy, and we found this valuable for building a stronger ecumenical and interfaith community in the DeKalb region. We have a friendly relationship with the Islamic Society just down the street, sharing occasional visits and meals with them, and offer our parish hall for some of their functions and parking lot for their use for overflow needs.

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

We highlight two efforts. First, our garden, described earlier, has grown greatly in recent years and has connected with the university through the efforts of parishioners Kris Borre and Tom Skuzinski, along with our Green Team. We are proud that even members who might not be able to weed or plant can still get involved by helping with food prep and delivery to nearby pantries. Second, our Little Free Library (described in this news story: <https://www.shawlocal.com/daily-chronicle/2024/12/16/little-free-library-dedicated-at-st-pauls-episcopal-church-in-dekalb/>) was spearheaded by parishioners Pat Brown and Jo Plenger-Schultz in recognition of the new elementary school opening nearby and the growing number of children in the lower income neighborhood by the church.

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

We find that members are active in giving throughout the year. Formally, we conduct an annual stewardship drive. Currently, the Senior Warden speaks to the congregation alongside parishioners who offer stories about what St. Paul means to them; she also organizes mailings to the parishioners with pledge cards and information. We will enjoy having a rector to once again give energy to these efforts as well. When explanations of need and requests for additional funding are identified, the church responds positively. We value the wisdom and experience of both our Treasurer and our Endowment Committee. We have a separate budget meeting a week before our annual meeting to ensure all parishioners can be active in our stewardship efforts.

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

A recent example relates to the security of our building and grounds. While we value openness, we also recognize the importance of all members feeling safe and secure. We considered multiple options, with some favoring motion sensitive security cameras and others nothing additional. We settled on a compromise position of security buttons members can wear and attentiveness to locking our many doors. We value collaboration and decision-making through dialogue. When working with a new rector, we have on occasion found that we struggle with those who favor unilateral decisions rather than a shared approach to governance. We have always been able to resolve this through conversation.

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?

We are very open to individuals who have traditionally been underrepresented in the body of the church. Our website says "all are welcome, no exceptions!" and we work hard to live by that. As a church that is stable but was once much larger, we had struggled with transitioning through degrowth, including the loss of young families and youth in general, and then being without a rector. However, we learned that we have strong lay leadership from all our members and are eager for a rector to guide our considerable energy!



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Barbara Wilson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2019-01	2023-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Ed Bird	Interim	2017-04	2018-11

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Stacy Walker	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2010-09	2017-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
N/A		

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

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://stpaulsdekalb.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 312-751-4200; bishop@episcopalchicago.org
The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark

Diocesan Transition Minister 312-751-4203; amysen@episcopalchicago.org
The Rev. Canon Andrea Mysen

Current Warden/Board Chair new189@aol.com
Ms. Peg Newby

Previous Warden/Board Chair marshalljenniel@gmail.com
Ms. Jennie Cummings

Search Chair tskuzinski@niu.edu
Mr. Thomas Skuzinski

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader