



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 20, 2023)

Spirit of the Desert, Utah

350 S 300 W, Unity Park Recreation Building, Ivins, UT 84738, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 05/01/23. arogers@episcopal-ut.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
18	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$10833			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$15000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
		No	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	1200
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes		Yes

This is a quarter-time position.

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

Our congregation's steadfast commitment to worship service while facing challenges of the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic is our recent successful and fulfilling achievement. As COVID restricted our contact with each other, we utilized ZOOM to hold Sunday worship, including music. ZOOM also allowed isolated and disabled people to participate in worship. We also offered indoor and outdoor socially-distanced Eucharistic services. The virtual gathering also gave us the means to continue collections for our financial outreach donations to Switchpoint (a local full-service rehabilitation and support service and food provider for the homeless), the Doctor's Free Clinic, and the Ivins No-Kill Animal Shelter. We have proven our community's resilience. We are eager to serve with the priest that God sends to us.

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

We are evaluating Zoom and other technology and social outreach skills utilized during the COVID pandemic to reach congregants outside our normal service area, or those unable to attend physically. This includes collaborating with other congregations for book and Bible studies and special worship opportunities, which we began in 2020-2021. Also, our vestry continues to meet online, making participation easier despite busy schedules. These measures help ensure the vitality of our church and increased spontaneity inside and outside of worship. While our members may be more of the over-50 crowd, we embraced these changes in the spirit of experimentation with enthusiasm.

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

Enthusiasm and joy in worship, integrity and curiosity in teaching, tolerance and collaboration in communication. We are looking for a small parish, and in developing evangelism and

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

Our liturgical style is traditional. Since our priest currently serves two congregations, we hold one Rite Two service on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. where we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We are blessed to have two talented professional musicians in our congregation who provide sacred music at every service. We have several services for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. During these holy seasons, we hold books and Bible studies. Special worship includes All Saints/All Souls memorial and Lessons and Carols services, which have enabled us to reimagine traditional liturgical practices within our own landscape.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We have a tradition of consistently incorporating ALL members of our congregation into our worship. Members of the congregation assist with setting up our worship space, lending their voices to prayers and readings, and singing. Opportunities for ministry include Lay reading, the Altar Guild, participating in intercessory prayer groups, and a monthly "Movie Night." There are very few people in our church who do not participate in one or more of our various ministries, including mission, outreach, Christian education, pastoral care—in short, all phases of church life.

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

Our community is especially adept at caring for others in our congregation, whether we are directed by a priest or operating on our own. In ordinary circumstances, regular worship, Christian education, and participation in any of the church's ministries support our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. For housebound or isolated members, our church community has coordinated visits, cards, and gifts as reminders of our love such as prayer shawls. Members also assist with funeral services, providing food, support, and condolence for the bereaved, and organizing the service with the assistance of a part-time rector. As our members grow older, the ability to offer a variety of services has become essential: It demonstrates our commitment to each other.

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

We have maintained a meaningful relationship with Switchpoint (a local full-service rehabilitation and support service and food provider for the homeless), the Doctor's Free Clinic, and the Ivins No-Kill Animal Supporters through our "fifth Sunday" donations. Every Sunday we offer up prayers and support for those not only in our church but in the community who face sorrow, need, or adversity. On an institutional scale, we further contribute monetarily to Switchpoint, which collects contributions so that the needy can seek out a single source for help, rather than soliciting many different churches. Spirit of the Desert donates \$2,000 annually to nonprofit organizations, part of our calling to help support the local community.

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

The church maintains a close connection with the Diocese and other churches. Our participation in the Tuttle School of Ministry has been especially fruitful and has enriched the formation process of those called to ordained ministry. We send delegates to the Diocesan Convention each year. We have joined Grace Episcopal Church in nearby St. George for special services, including a Way of the Cross service, and we frequently participate in Christian Education activities with members of St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Cedar City. In years to come, we hope to sustain an open, communicative relationship with other churches and with Diocesan officers and staff.

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

Begun during the COVID pandemic using ZOOM, Spirit of the Desert initiated Christian education activities, including an Advent book study and a Lenten Bible Study. Another recently introduced ministry is a monthly "Movie Night" that provides Spirit of the Desert women an opportunity to gather to enjoy fellowship and a good film in a member's home. Additionally, members began a monthly intercessory prayer group that meets in a member's home. Pamela Palmer is the contact person for Movie Night, and Lee Montgomery, Spirit's Rector, can be contacted regarding Christian Education ministries.

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

From the beginning, Spirit of the Desert has enjoyed extraordinary success in stewardship. Our church is one of only eight (of 22 congregations) self-supporting churches in our Diocese. This high level of success is due to the generous and consistent giving of our members. In addition to financial support, our members consistently sacrifice time, talent, and treasure to ensure that Spirit of the Desert has all the resources necessary to carry out its ministry. Congregants enjoy the fellowship and community available at Spirit and feel tightly bound to each other and the church.

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

The debates that have roiled the church nationally and internationally have not divided our church. We have suffered no schism over issues such as the ordination of women and the blessing of same-sex unions. Although our congregants may hold different political and social views and affiliations, these are quickly put aside when we come together to worship. When occasional conflict or disagreement arises, these are resolved through rational and civil discussion, compromise and consensus. Many decisions are made through the congregational vote but we also have a very strong vestry that does not hesitate to make tough decisions based on prayerful deliberation.

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 have learned that significant changes to the church require respectful communication and consensus building. Throughout the history of our church, change has been constant. Spirit of the Desert rents its meeting space. Since we are a small and aging congregation with limited financial resources, we have needed to relocate our church three times in the past five years. Each move has brought us new challenges and possibilities and reminds us that a church is NOT a building. Our ability to adapt to new circumstances is a testament to our congregation's cooperation and our willingness to experiment and adapt to all aspects of our church as it grows and changes.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Lee Montgomery	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2008-10	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Susan Wiltsey	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2006-10	2008-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
NO		

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: www.spiritofthedesertkayenta.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: **Phyllis Spiegel** 801-322-4131; pspiegel@episcopal-ut.org

Diocesan Transition Minister **Angela Rogers** 801-322-4131; arogers@episcopal-ut.org

Current Warden/Board Chair **Stephen Talley** 704-756-6562; kayentatalleys@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair **Lois Moritz** 435-272-3623; loismoritz1@gmail.com

Search Chair **Stephen Talley** 704-756-6562; kayentatalleys@gmail.com

Parish/Institution **The Rev. Lee Montgomery** 435-592-0034; fatherlee.montgomery@gmail.com

Local Community Leader