



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 21, 2023)

Chapel of the Cross, Madison, Mississippi

674 Mannsdale Rd, Madison, MS 39110, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 09/11/23.

bob.williams@mid.ms.gov

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 250	Number of Weekend Worship Services 3	Number of Weekday Worship Services 2	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$111240	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	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	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account Yes

\$111,240 includes stipend and housing allowance.

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

Day in the Country is Chapel of the Cross's signature annual event. After two years of scaled back festivities due to COVID 19, Day in the Country returned to its full form on a beautiful Saturday in October, 2022. We welcomed thousands of our neighbors onto our parish grounds, strangers and friends alike. We fed them, taught them about our history, and entertained them. We raised funds to help sustain our Servant Ministry and to help meet our historical preservation goals. At the end of the day, sweaty, tired, and dirty, we came together in the Chapel of the Cross. There was a deep, celebratory feeling of community and a sense of peace that had been missing during the trials of previous years. We were fulfilled not only by the successes of the day, but also by the knowledge that we would thrive once again, stronger, and more resilient than before.

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

Our community believes that by adhering to the timeless principles espoused in the Chapel of the Cross's Mission Statement, "Welcoming the stranger, nurturing one another, and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Chapel of the Cross strives to live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayer, traditional liturgy, Christian education, active outreach, and love of all God's creation," we can meet any challenges the future may hold.

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

See parish profile.

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

Currently we offer three Sunday Eucharists at our parish. All three offer traditional liturgy. The 8:00 am and 5:00 pm services are small, casual services with 25 to 30 parishioners regularly participating in the Chapel of the Cross. The 10:30 am service is a larger, more family-oriented service that includes organ and choir and regular attendance of more than 200 parishioners.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Parishioners take an active role in worship as Vergers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and Acolytes. They serve as members of the Choir, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Hospitality Guild, Funeral Guild, Wedding Guild, and many others. Members of our community feed and provide for those in need through our Servant Ministry, they dig graves by hand for those buried in our cemetery, bring joy to our neighbors by volunteering for Day in the Country and Christmas in the Country. They instruct our young through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Children's Church, and EYC. We make room and invite all in our parish to participate in these and other ministries. Members of these ministries, guilds, and groups reach regularly to those who have not yet found a home within our parish for their talents.

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

As a worshipping community, our focus is primarily to foster spiritual growth within one another. Nonetheless, strong bonds are often formed among parishioners that support both the emotional and physical well-being among one another.

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

Parishioners volunteer through our Transportation Ministry to provide transportation to those members of our parish and beyond who cannot drive themselves to worship on Sundays. We also have a group of Lay Eucharistic Visitors who are charged each Sunday to go out and share the sacrament with members of the parish who were unable to be present because of illness or infirmity. When members of our parish are celebrating a birth, mourning the loss of a loved one, ill, or just need a hand, members of the parish will provide meals and support. One of the best examples of the love and support we show our parishioners, their families, friends and the community, however, is through our funerals. The Gravediggers Guild digs each grave by hand in our historic cemetery, often with members of the family of the deceased joining the Guild for the work, the blessing, and the catharsis that this labor brings. Members then join family and friends in keeping vigil with the body in the Chapel of the Cross through the night. Our Hospitality Guild provides refreshments for the visitation and/or the funeral. This is all done voluntarily by parishioners without cost or obligation to the family.

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

Chapel of the Cross works through our Servant Ministry to meet the needs of our surrounding cities and counties. Parishioners independently support and serve non-profits throughout our geographical area. While all of us support the Diocese of Mississippi financially through our parish's budgeted pledge, many of our members also serve officially on diocesan committees, both standing and ad hoc.

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

In December 2020, we started Christmas in the Country, a drive through light show, to provide our neighbors and wider community a weekend of Christmas cheer. Proceeds are donated to Our Daily Bread, a local food pantry/soup kitchen and Toys for Tots. For more information contact Martha Frye by email at jxnfryes@aol.com.

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

Each year the Rector and Wardens, in consultation with the vestry, appoint Stewardship Chairs to oversee our Stewardship process. They are the faces of the campaign and appeal to the parish through letters and emails, speak during various services, with the clergy they explain the importance of stewardship and budgeting through small groups gatherings known as “Stewardship Parties,” and reach out to individual parishioners when they deem appropriate. The fruits of the stewardship season drive our parish’s budget and the programs we offer throughout the following year. We also recognize the time and talents that our parishioners put into every ministry, guild, group, program, and special event.

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

In general, we seek to accomplish our goals and tasks through consensus, to avoid conflict when practicable and move forward in a manner that best represents the majority of our parish. However, when conflicts do arise it generally falls on parish leadership, including the clergy, wardens, and vestry, to work together to address the conflict in an appropriate manner.

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?

N/A



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Will Compton	Interim	2022-12	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Ben Robertson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-10	2022-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Luther Ott	Interim	2012-01	2014-10

Former Associate is serving as Priest-in-Charge in the Interim. An Interim Associate is currently in place.

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

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
Pre-K	47	7	10



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Worshipping Community Web site: www.chapelofthecrossms.org

Media Links:

Online References:

[@thechapelms](#)
facebook.com/chapelms

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage

601.948.5954 ext 111; brseage@dioms.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon J. Brian Ponder

601.948.5954 ext 114; bponder@dioms.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Brock Haas

brockh01@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Bob Williams

601.750.9602; Bob.Williams@mid.ms.gov

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader