



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 1, 2022)*

## Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Louisiana

Address: 243 Barrow St., Houma, LA 70360, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

**kerimackey@hotmail.com**

Weekly Average Sunday  
Attendance (ASA)

**45**

Number of Weekend  
Worship Services

**1**

Number of Weekday  
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month  
Worship Services

Current Annual  
Compensation

**\$64042**

Cash Stipend

**\$40781**

Housing / Rectory Detail

**\$23261**

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

**\$4899**

Compensation Available for  
New Position

**\$68941**

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

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

Healthcare Options

**Full family**

Dental

**Yes**

Housing Equity Allowance in  
budget

Annual Equity Amount

**\$0**

Vacation Weeks

**4**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

**2 (standard)**

Continuing Education Weeks  
Details

Continuing Education  
Funding in budget

**\$1001-\$2000/year**

Sabbatical Provision

**Yes**

Travel/Auto Account

**Yes**

Other Professional Account

**Yes**

**SECA-7.65% of salary;**

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## Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Louisiana

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

It is hard to imagine losing your church and school to a fire precluding a moment of success and fulfillment, but that is just what happened at St. Matthew's in 2010. After the fire, the congregation initially experienced such intense heartache, loss and grief that healing was unimaginable. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was soon revealed as the church and wider community pulled together to rebuild our church. Parishioners comforted each other with love and kindness. Everyone came together and we began worship services in a neighboring facility. It was not easy, but through hard work and prayer, and yes, some angst, a loving church community healed and rebuilt. Rarely does a church community have the opportunity to bear witness to such majestic display of the love of God. We do not wish this experience on anyone, and do not want to repeat it, but we do celebrate the success and fulfillment this event brought to our Church and School communities. It is fulfilling in a different way to see the church and school community grow as we search for a new Rector. The heart and faith of our church and school communities are a testament that God is truly present at St. Matthew's.

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

By far, our greatest need to prepare the Church for the future is to grow our congregation. We need young people and young families. We have a few ideas on accomplishing this, and we are highly motivated. We are open to new ideas and, when given direction, we will be ready. Visitors are warmly welcomed, and new members are quickly incorporated into the ministries of the Church. Being more available and capable of reaching those outside our doors is our greatest need.

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

pastoral care, love children, creative visionary, Relatable Sermons

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

Our Liturgical style mainly revolves around the quintessential celebration of the Eucharist, usually using Rite II. We appreciate services that preach to people on their level and make the worship service relatable and relevant to their lives. While we appreciate a more traditional approach, we also value different approaches to worship including offering a variety of musical selections and themes, along with services designed to engage children in the worship service and lessons of the day. We are hoping to expand and broaden our approach to services while respecting old traditions and looking for new ways to apply biblical teachings to our lives.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Since St. Matthew's is such a small, tight-knit congregation, the majority of lay members are actively involved in some form of ministry. Most join a particular ministry because someone has asked them to participate, while others have a passion for the ministry they have chosen. It is not uncommon for someone to start in one ministry and grow into others. There are multiple opportunities for lay members to participate; Eucharistic Minister, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, ECW, Usher, Lector, EYC, Caring Committee, Seamen's Church Institute, Funeral/Hospitality Committee, Bake Sale, Choir/Music, Legion Park Elementary School Outreach, and Beautiful Beginnings Project. Throughout the year, there are other ministry opportunities for lay members to participate in as well.

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

Like all of South Louisiana, St. Matthew's is home to incredibly hospitable people who create a nurturing environment to foster the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of the church community. The warm greeting extended from our ushers to begin worship service welcomes parishioners to church. The Hospitality Committee, along with the ECW always provide a pleasant, caring environment by serving refreshments after church, wonderful meals on special occasions or holidays, and are always there to love and serve parishioners in times of need, such as after a funeral. The EYC helps parishioners with odd jobs around their homes as part of their mission work. The Caring Committee is there to help parishioners in need with meals, visits, and other things that arise. More important than being physically fed, St. Matthew's ensures all who cross our path are spiritually fed. From baptisms to weddings to funerals, we are a church supporting the spiritual growth of individuals of all ages as we both celebrate and mourn as a family. To include everyone, even those who cannot be with us on Sundays, our Rector and lay eucharistic ministers visit the homebound to celebrate the Eucharist.

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

St. Matthew's pastoral care has been caring and feeding for the poor and homeless, including homeless veterans by supplying traditional meals on special occasions; supporting the needs of mariners through The Seamen's Church; celebrating weddings and funerals; appreciating local arts by hosting events, and making our property available to various organizations such as Alcoholic Anonymous, Al-Anon, the Art Guild and the Houma Rotary Club. We have a history of pastoral care turning into ministries, and this is an area we would like to continue to grow. The local community is compassionate to those in need. Our laity and clergy have been involved in civic organizations that have made a significant difference. Participation in these civic groups, and collaboration between our Church and others, has allowed us to witness Christ's work outside our doors.

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

Geographic Region: As a coastal parish, we support the Seaman's Church by knitting wool caps and scarves for Christmas gifts to mariners at sea and making prayer beads for mariners and their families. Locally we pair with another church to help support an impoverished elementary school. We have paired with the Houma Rotary Club to provide playground equipment, plant trees, and improve landscaping at the school. Our church has provided a grocery pantry through a local store for school families in need as well as supporting the local food bank with food drives and/or financial contributions. We purchased two freezers to be used in a summer feeding program for students facing food insecurity when school is closed. Through EYC our youth have been involved with mission work in many states in the South, and also mission work at home in the local community. Wider Church: We have supported the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center by sponsoring a room remodel to upgrade the facility, we participate and have hosted the Annual Gathering of the ECW, and most recently the ECW made a financial contribution to St. Andrew's Episcopal Mission for hurricane recovery.

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

Ministries which impact our wider community are something we hope to grow. Our ECW funds several international and national charities, but a closer to home ministry is working with a local women's shelter to provide cleaning supplies and personal care items to help these people get settled. The contact person is Kathy Theriot her number is 985-855-3834. Our EYC currently offers care bags to our homeless population which are created through donated supplies and include useful items and contact information for agencies that support our homeless. The contact person for that particular ministry would be Courtney Ruif and her number is 225-333-8475. Another local ministry deals with an impoverished local public elementary school called Legion Park. We work to provide meals for faculty and staff, create a food bank for needy families, provide library books and to give Christmas presents to students. We try to support them in any way possible. The contact person for this outreach would be Sharri McGuire, Principal, and her number is (985) 868-7647. These are a few of the ministries that we currently have, but we look forward to expanding our capacity to support our local area.

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

The Stewardship Campaign begins annually in November when the Stewardship Chairman is selected by the Rector and/or the Vestry. The Chairman then addresses the congregation in person during worship service, and follows up by teller with an enclosed pledge card. Parishioners fill out and return pledge cards in December, and a budget is developed for the following year. Good stewardship means we share our time, talent, and treasure at St. Matthew's to do God's work in our church and community. It is how parishioners give back to the church that gives so much to them spiritually. Sharing our God given treasure is essential to keep the church financially sound, to maintain the physical facility, and to provide for in house ministry as well as community outreach ministry. The shared gifts of time and talent create wonderful bonding experiences among parishioners in their various areas of work on behalf of St. Matthew's and this strengthens the congregation and church, both at home and in the wider community. We believe stewardship is the faithful and responsible use of the gifts we have so graciously received from God.

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

The Parish survey and listening sessions revealed that the church is fairly unified. Three areas parishioners have concern about were identified. The first area was the number of worship services offered. Prior to the fire in 2010, 8:00 AM and 10:00AM services were held every Sunday. While the church was being rebuilt, one service was held on Sunday morning while meeting in a neighboring church. When the congregation returned home, a vote was taken and the congregation elected to hold one service at 10:00 AM on Sunday. A number of parishioners still want an early service reinstated at 8:00 AM on Sunday, and a few parishioners expressed interest in an afternoon or evening service on Sunday and Wednesday. The second area identified was the election and operation of the Vestry. Parishioners prefer the option of floor nominations for Vestry candidates, as well as a slate of candidates presented at the Annual meeting for election to the Vestry. The third area identified was from a small group that would like St. Matthew's to be a venue for same sex marriages. This issue arose once in the past, and the Vestry voted not to have a same sex marriage ceremony in the church.

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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 most recent experience addressing change in the Church is the ongoing process of searching for a new Rector. The Church had the opportunity to participate in surveys and listening sessions to express their desires for the future of the Church, and to define any areas of concern. The response from the Church has been eye opening, heartwarming and inspirational. As a whole the Church has been heard and wants very similar things in the future for St. Matthew's Church and School. We have learned to listen closely to each other, and work together for shared goals. This is definitely a positive experience for our church. An area where addressing change has gone poorly is in the area of inclusiveness, specifically same sex marriage. The congregation is very accepting of same sex couples as parishioners, but this does not extend to the celebration of same sex marriage in our church. We have learned that much prayer will be needed to resolve this issue in a loving way. Currently a visiting Priest is introducing changes to the traditional liturgy of our worship services, with positive and negative reviews. We are learning something new and that has great spiritual value.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Craig Dalferes	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2004-01	2021-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Fred Tinsley	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-01	2003-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
David Powers	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1986-01	1995-01

*Pre Covid church school had 15 children Day School is PreK-8*

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes		3	5

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
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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
Other	125	17	26



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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.stmatthewshouma.org>

### Media Links:

> <https://www.stmattsschool.co>  
> <https://www.facebook.com/smeshoum>

### Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

### References

Bishop:

**Morris K. Thompson, Jr**

[mthompson@edola.org](mailto:mthompson@edola.org) 504-895-6634

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Shannon R. Duckworth**

[sduckworth@edola.org](mailto:sduckworth@edola.org) 504-895-6634

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Dr. Robert Alexander**

[pozz.alexander@icloud.com](mailto:pozz.alexander@icloud.com) 985-804-7756

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Glenn Blair**

[glennblair@bellsouth.net](mailto:glennblair@bellsouth.net) 985-804-6323

Search Chair

**Keri Kelley**

[kerimackey@hotmail.com](mailto:kerimackey@hotmail.com) 985-381-2598

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader