

St. John's Episcopal Church, Richmond
Part-Time Assistant to the Rector

St. John's Church, Richmond is currently seeking a half-time Assistant to the Rector with the capacity to step in full-time to cover the Rector's duties during her sabbatical scheduled to take place between April and August of 2023.

Responsibilities of the Assistant to the Rector will include:

Liturgical

- Preach and celebrate in accordance with regular Sunday Eucharist rotation and assist with liturgical planning and leadership for Occasional Services and during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Eastertide.
- Preside, preach and/or assist at baptisms, weddings, and funerals as assigned.
- Assist in the restoration of an early morning Sunday Eucharist or Saturday evening contemplative service.

Programming and formation

- Assist in the planning and leadership of our Adult Faith Formation programming, including Sunday Forum, Wednesday evening programming, small group ministries, and seasonal offerings during Advent and Lent.
- Support the establishment of our emerging Young Peoples ministry, including ministry to parents and formation programming for children and youth.
- Assist with facilitation of Adult Inquirer's Class and preparation for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation.
- Coordinate with the rector to support the work of our Outreach and Justice Ministries, including our Sacred Ground programming and participation in the community organizing initiatives of *Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities (RISC)* and *Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP)*.

Pastoral Care

- In coordination with the Rector and Pastoral Care team, respond to pastoral emergencies as they arise.
- Assist in visits to parishioners in the home, hospital, or other facilities.
- Support the training and delegation of Lay Eucharistic Visitors.
- Provide pastoral counseling to parishioners in coordination with the Rector.

The Assistant's cash compensation and housing allowance will reflect diocesan guidelines for part-time assistants with consideration of the candidate's experience and education and the geography and size of the congregation. St. John's provides the standard CPG fund assessments; medical and workers comp insurance; and vacation and education leave. The assistant will also be provided with a portion of the Clergy Discretionary Fund for pastoral and charitable purposes.

The expected start date is January of 2024. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and OTM profile on or before December 15, 2023 to Rev. Amelie Wilmer at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org.

About Historic St. John's Church

Established in 1611 as the Henrico parish, the congregation is the oldest in the Diocese of Virginia. The existing church building was constructed in 1741, right after the City of Richmond was established. The church was home to the 2nd Virginia convention in 1775 where Patrick Henry gave the famous "Liberty or Death" speech that ignited the American Revolution. After the revolution, the first Annual Convention of the newly formed Episcopal Diocese of Va. was held at St. John's in 1785.

Because of its historical importance, the church building inspired the designation of the St. John's Church Old and Historic District, created by an act of Richmond City Council. In 1938, the congregation established a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation to support the preservation of the church and the promotion of its historic significance, including public reenactments, tours, and school programs. The church was declared a National historic Landmark in 1961 and welcomes approximately 30,000 visitors per year through tours and re-enactments of Patrick Henry's Liberty or Death speech.

However, in addition to being a tourist destination, St. John's is increasingly becoming known as the "neighborhood church." After centuries of rises and declines, the congregation has experienced promising growth over the past decade, reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of the surrounding Church Hill neighborhood, with more parishioners of varying racial, ethnic, and gender identities living within walking distance. The congregation's welcome extends outward into the surrounding community through a variety of outreach ministries and collaborative partnerships, particularly with St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Key neighborhood events include: an annual Blessing of the Animals, the "Fancy me Mad" Graveyard event near All Hallow's Eve, the Church Hill Christmas Vespers Service, our annual Juneteenth Celebration with St. Peter's, the Revolution RVA Mozart Festival, and a variety of other concerts and speaker functions held in collaboration with the St. John's Church Foundation throughout the year.

St. John's is also known for its commitment to Racial Healing and Social Justice. Through its collaboration with St. Peter's, St. John's was the co-recipient of the "Meet me in Galilee" Award in 2017 for our Conversations in Black & White program and in 2021 for our Juneteenth Celebration. Since the pandemic, we have undertaken an intentional effort to reframe the colonial narrative of St. John's with attention to the stories that have been overlooked. Research has begun on indigenous and enslaved peoples documented in historical records, church archives, Parish registers, vestry records and wills. On Oct. 9, St. John's was the interfaith sponsor of the inaugural "Indigenous People's Day" event to be held at Powhatan Park. There is robust participation in our Sacred Ground formation programming and Justice ministries, including membership in *Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities* (RISC) and *Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy* (VICPP).

St. John's Church, Henrico Parish

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www.saintjohnsrichmond.org

www.facebook.com/historicstjohnschurch/

Parish founded 1611 Church built 1741