



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 20, 2026)

Holy Trinity Thermopolis, Wyoming

642 Arapahoe St, Thermopolis, WY 82443, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 04/01/26.

andersonj@unk.edu

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
35	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$32250	15600	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Clergy only	No		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Other	2	Other	1
Continuing Education Funding in budget up to/including \$500/year	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes	Yes	

SECA reimbursement at 7.65% of total salary and housing. Compensation negotiable.



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

We had a recent Celtic service which featured native drummers from the Wind River Indian Reservation. A young boy, who is an acolyte at Holy Trinity, enthusiastically danced to their entire performance. The elder of the drummers later sought the boy out and formally presented him with a gift—the drum group leader gave the boy his own drum stick. The young boy was awestruck. Those who witnessed this act were touched by the generosity of spirit and the deep connection which traversed both age and culture.

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

We have carefully assessed the current and future needs of our church and the resources we must use to address those needs. We have also assessed our strengths and are realistically planning both financially and spiritually for future change. Plans include a part-time position (rather than full-time) for a priest and/or rector, use of our own retired clergy persons, sharing of resources with other churches, discernment of possible congregants for future clergy, and possibly participating in a curacy program. As a shared ministry church, we rely on our members to accept the responsibility for the success of the church and do not believe that should be the duty of clergy. We have participated in past diocesan and national trainings which have addressed meeting the challenges of the church in the future and we look forward to similar opportunities when they arise.

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

Welcoming spirit, shared ministry, pastoral care, yes to new ministry



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

Broad is one descriptor. We make use of The Book of Common Prayer for our main Sunday Eucharistic service. Also, we use "Planning for Rites and Rituals" for our Prayers of the People. On occasion we incorporate an approved "Wyoming Eucharistic Prayer," or EOW and other approved Eucharistic prayers. A Music Committee selects the hymns and service music and we choose music from a wide variety of sources. We invite youth to add percussion to our singing when appropriate. When Morning Prayer is the primary service on a Sunday we invite the assigned Worship Leader to lay out the service using their preferences.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We have a shared ministry platform where members of our congregation take part in our ministries. Without this format our church could not manage the many ministries we have: · People for People - Sunday meal prep and delivery that is staffed by members of our broader community. · Help Center, which is open for financial, sustenance and counseling to the community. · Back Pack Program, which is housed within the Help Center and provides weekend food for students in need. · Learning Center - Youth Alternative and Central Wyoming College providing the opportunity for a high school equivalency degree and higher education. · Christmas Boxes - community members donate non-perishable food and food from the Wyoming Food Bank to distribute to the community. · Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts - These feasts are provided free of charge to the community. Some meals are delivered and others are invited to eat in the Parish Hall. · Unplug - Our Celtic Tradition service includes a large number of people who greet, provide meals, offer reflections, read prayers, offer music and help with setup and take-down—for any single service, there will be 20 or more different people engaged.

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

At the passing of the peace, we take the time to touch base with all the members in attendance and share peace and offer healing prayer. Coffee hour provides a relaxed, nourishing time for discussion in small groups. Those who serve are aware of members with special diets and aim to accommodate these. Book studies have allowed for self-reflection and sharing and have been well attended. Our ECW recently gathered for an evening of good food, Ice Breakers, such as our favorite Bible story. We also enjoyed a short Bible reading with reflection and one on one sharing. The men have a weekly breakfast fellowship with both parishioners and friends who also enjoy the gathering. In the past we have had parish picnics, ski trips, camping trip, trips to the Thomas the Apostle retreat center or to events at the Wind River Reservation. We have a Tuesday morning prayer group with a core group that meets regularly and is welcome to all who wish to join in and add to our prayers for our church, community and country. Many have joined us from outside the church who have wanted a safe place to share about their spiritual journey, ask questions, study, pray and have fellowship.

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

The ECW gathers donations for “Pastoral Care” bags. These gift bags are filled with a variety of items: candles, lotions, soaps, socks, messages, baked cookies and biscotti, and hand crocheted stuff. People in the church are invited to request a bag for someone they know who might appreciate some “care”. The bags are delivered by different folks in the congregation depending on the situation. As also mentioned, we are active in Pride activities and talk with many people at those events. We also are very generous with time and money for needs in our town, state, and nation. We cook meals for firefighters, we donate to ERD, we attend fundraisers as representatives of Holy Trinity and donate to charitable auctions. Also, we invite all into our unlocked sanctuary for a safe space and prayer.

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

We engage with the wider Church and region in many of the normal ways. Of course, we give to the ERD and take every opportunity to support the needs of others. Our involvement in supporting Pride Day activities is noteworthy in that we have a presence and we actively engage with others attending. We also have a number of people involved in diocesan activities, such as serving on the Standing Committee, the board for The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese in Wyoming and the Episcopal Church Women's board. In addition, we support the other churches in the region by attending their picnics, special functions and celebratory events, such as the Fr. John Roberts Day on the Wind River Reservation. In addition, a member will help represent the diocese at the upcoming General Convention. Our Unplug service represents a special way to connect to the diocese and the region. We have presented at the Diocesan Convention on how we do the service. We also have regular participants from a wide variety of congregations outside of Thermopolis. One special connection comes with the presence and leadership from our tribal brothers and sisters for one Unplug service each year.

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

In the late fall of 2021, Holy Trinity offered a contemplative evening service called “Unplug.” This service drew from the core principles of Celtic worship; reverence for the creation, hospitality and sensing the directions of the Spirit. The service was created for people who do not attend church on a Sunday morning and was widely promoted. Thirty-five people, most from outside the congregation came the first time. Unplug is launching its fifth season and has become a core part of our Holy Trinity identity. The service, with a meal, is offered the first Sunday of the month from October through May. There are always live, local musicians, a theme that influences the meal and liturgy, and includes lay people offering a short reflection. Worship includes poetry, deep periods of quiet, shared prayers, candles, darkness, song and readings. Attendance now averages more than 45 and nearly half of those attending are community members from outside the church walls. The service that emphasizes our indigenous roots includes tribal members and a drum group consistently draws 75 or more people. Contact may be made with the Reverend Jami Anderson at revjamianderson@gmail.com.



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

We do our best when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus to help members of our community in what they need spiritually, emotionally and financially, without judging their circumstances or character. We offer our combined time and talents for the betterment of the community. Emphasizing talent brings diverse groups of people into our parish community and makes us more understanding and compassionate as we relate to our community at large.

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

The biggest issue we have faced is the removal of our last Bishop, Paul Gordon. He was very popular and brought fresh and new ideals to our community. Many of us were very upset because very little information was shared with the congregation because of privacy concerns and rules of the committee handling the issues. In the end we had to rely on our faith and trust in our representative to the diocese. This was a very long process which left many with questions which may have been answered. Most of the time, we are able to address our issues when we communicate with love, faith and trust. In any case, there are always some unresolved issues that can cause conflict. We are able to face these issues and problems through respectful communication, listening and finding common ground within our community.

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?

For many years, Holy Trinity has pursued a shared ministry model. This worked well with a previous bishop and priest who were very supportive and engaged in the pursuit of shared ministry. As our congregation ages, that model of shared ministry is a challenge, but we have grown slightly and that offers hope for continuing as a vital part of the community. We have learned to change some expectations and look for more collaboration with people outside our church family. We are learning that change may be a little frightening, but that it is also an incredible opportunity for spiritual growth.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Ron Philips	Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry	2019-07	2024-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev Joe Galligan	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-07	2019-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
John Watson III	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1990-01	1995-03

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
1	1	3

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
1	3	2	25

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.holytrinitythermopolis.org

Media Links:

www.episcopalwy.org

Online References:

www.Facebook.com/holytrinitythermopolis
www.youtube.com/@HolyTrinityThermopolis

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley,
Bishop Provisional

Diocesan Transition Minister

Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh

307-265-5200 todd@episcopalwy.org

307-359-3311 bobbe@episcopalwy.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Dr. Vern Miller

vwmiller01@gmail.com 307-921-1156

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Belenda Willson

307-921-1159 bawillson46@gmail.com

Search Chair

Dr. John Anderson

307-231-5914 andersonj@unk.edu

Parish/Institution

Dr. Vern Miller

vwmiller01@gmail.com 307-921-1156

Local Community Leader

Judy Carswell

307-921-8264 carswelljudy@hotmail.com