

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

LITTLE SWITZERLAND, NORTH CAROLINA

VICAR POSITION 2025

Church of the Resurrection, an Episcopal summer chapel in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, located in the village of Little Switzerland, is seeking a Vicar for the 2025 season and beyond.

The Church and Congregation

Members of the Congregation are blessed to be able to experience God's Work and Love in the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, to worship and care for one another in the fellowship of Christ in this historical setting together with a welcoming, friendly family of fellow Christians.

The Church of the Resurrection is located in the Village of Little Switzerland, NC. Little Switzerland is located midway between Asheville and Boone, NC (each of which is among Forbes magazine's Top 25 Places to Retire 2024) within yards of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Church has been a summer Chapel of the Diocese of Western North Carolina since 1913, and is now open from May 1 to October 31 each year. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Centennial Celebration was documented in a 2013 publication which is available upon request. The church website, at www.resurrectionlinc.org provides more information and history, as well as a link to local information.

Little Switzerland is a community of numerous summer second homes and full time residents. Its location in the Blue Ridge Mountains, proximity to the Parkway and the central presence of an excellent hotel has resulted in a robust tourist presence. Information about the Little Switzerland community is available at www.visitlittleswitzerland.com and numerous You Tube sites, including <https://youtu.be/TWPqVIDWKTs>

Our Church directory lists approximately 120, with Sunday attendance averaging 35-45 participants, including visitors. A typical Member attends 20 Services during a 26 Sunday season. The majority of the Congregation is Episcopalian with several Protestant faiths well represented. Most regulars are in the range of 50-80 years of age, some retired, many with primary homes in warmer climates where they spend the winter months. Members are well educated and alert to current trends on a world scale. Members describe worship at Church of the Resurrection in the following terms: "overall ambience of friendship and warmth", "welcoming attitude," "spirit of enthusiasm," "feeling of family" The Church offers ample opportunity for participation, leadership, and volunteering opportunities such as ushering, reading, and which leadership in administration and operation of the Church. All is enhanced by an exceptional musical component supplied by our talented organists playing a superb Allen electronic organ and enthusiastic singing by Members. The

Sunday Service is followed by a well-attended Coffee Hour which is hosted by volunteers.

Generosity of the Congregation (without the necessity of an annual stewardship campaign) provides ample funds for all Church related expenses, including compensation for the Vicar (which includes use of the adjacent vicarage) and consistent community support through gifts to Outreach and provisions to assist the needy. Members of the Congregation, led by a Bishop's Committee (Vestry) conduct the operations of the Church through various committees, and this is not expected to change. The Vicar is welcomed and his/her advice solicited but there is no need for the Priest to organize or monitor the workings of the Church. The Vicar will not be expected to engage in fund raising.

The Vicar

Ideally, our new Priest will live in the adjacent vicarage and share life with our Members, embracing and encouraging participation by lay leaders and Members.

The Vicar will find a wide variety of opportunities for social engagement with the Little Switzerland community, providing a "Ministry of Presence" that is vital to welcoming visitors and adding to the membership. Weekly activities include a men's coffee hour, women's luncheon, and general social gatherings. The adjacent Geneva Hall Parish Hall and Community Center hosts local art shows, movie showings, and other events that enrich the life of the wider community. There's even a decades-long tradition of square dancing in Geneva Hall every Saturday night in July and August. All activities of this nature are organized by the Little Switzerland Community Association.

The Vicar will celebrate Holy Eucharist, including a sermon, every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The Priest should be mature and flexible in a kind and non-political way, continuing a preaching style which is relaxed and always inspirational and instructive. A lay Chalice Bearer assists. A lay Lector reads Lessons, Psalm and Prayers of the People. Prayer Books are in the pews, and worship booklets containing the most frequently used service components are used most Sundays. Many visitors from the nearby hotel and quite a few non-Episcopalian regular attendees find the condensed worship booklets easier to follow. The Church contracts with three organists who alternate for Sunday services, and the Vicar coordinates assigned play dates and selection of music with the organist. There are usually one to three weddings each summer, though there may be more or fewer. Upon request, Members assist with Funeral and Wedding Services and one of the Church organists provides music. Historically, the Vicar has visited sick or shut-in members and taken Communion if requested.

The Vicar meets with the Bishop's Committee monthly. The input and advice of the Vicar is welcomed and encouraged but the Vicar will not be expected to organize or manage Church operations. There are Episcopal churches in nearby Spruce Pine, Burnsville, and Marion, with which the Vicar has historically maintained friendly, informal relations.

The need for occasional absences is recognized for the Vicar to attend to personal or health matters. The Vicar is requested to make arrangements for a supply Priest when absent.

In a November 2015 survey of the Congregation, the most important qualities desired for our new Vicar were 1) Preaching and Teaching of the Gospel; 2) Authenticity, honesty, transparency; 3) Training and support lay leaders 4) Sense of humor 5) Sense of personal goals, vision, confidence.

Compensation

The Vicar is paid a stipend of \$600.00 for each week of the 26 Sunday season. If the Vicar is absent, the supply priest is paid instead. A furnished two-bedroom, two-bathroom vicarage adjacent to the Church is provided at no charge to the Vicar, including electricity, gas, water, internet service, local telephone services and regular cleaning. The Vicar is requested to provide his or her own vestments.

Compensation for weddings and funerals/interments is arranged between the Vicar and the parties, independent of compensation provided by the Church.