

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Belfast, Maine



Our Search for an Interim Priest

We are seeking an experienced, seasoned, mature, confident person whose leadership style is consultative and collaborative and who will assist us in maintaining our schedule of worship services, outreach activities, Christian education, and pastoral care, as well as in discovering ways to make ourselves a better, stronger parish.

The Interim Priest position will be half to three-quarter time (depending on candidate availability and need, to be negotiated with the Vestry); fixed-length (about three years, to be negotiated with the candidate); and non-renewable (the Interim Priest will not be a candidate for the full-time, “permanent” Rector position).

This position has opened as the result of a dissolution of pastoral relationship. We called an inexperienced priest as Rector, and our mutual high hopes were not realized, leading to a decision to part ways sooner than anyone expected. The process was painful on all sides, and we are happy to talk about it in more depth with interested candidates.

We are hoping that our Interim Priest will be qualified and willing to assist in a process of parish self-examination. As we look and move forward we feel positive and hopeful about the current health and the future of our parish community, but we also ask ourselves “what are we learning?” or “what have we learned?” from past experiences.

St. Margaret's is a caring congregation. We are both summer people and year-rounders, native Mainers and newcomers. We appreciate each other for who we are and what we bring to the community we have created over the years. We are not a particularly large congregation, 128 adult members, and just a handful of teens and children. And we are aging. three-quarters of us

are over the age of 55. Many of us are retired. We frequently wish for more newcomers to join our ranks. Yet we are grateful for this congregation and all we accomplish. We know how to have fun! Visitors to our potlucks and programs often remark about our camaraderie. They sense our affection for each other.

A quote from a parishioner: “St. Margaret’s reflects all that is most appealing about Belfast – appreciation for its rich history, acceptance of diverse lifestyles, enthusiasm for the arts and education, enjoyment of beautiful surroundings and an openness that welcomes new arrivals.”

Belfast itself is a thriving, eclectic community. A city of 6,700 +/-, and the county seat of Waldo County, Belfast is home to many “from away” as well as those whose ancestors have lived in this town on the Passagassawakeag River for generations. We are fortunate to live among artists, boatbuilders, small-business owners, professionals in many areas, including education, health care, and the law, carpenters, vibrant retirees and hardworking towns-people. St. Margaret’s is the only Episcopal church in Waldo County and many of our parishioners live in towns and communities within the county

We invite interested priests to write and submit credentials (resume, OTM, and cover letter) to the Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Maine, 143 State Street, Portland, ME 04101 or mambler@episcopalmaine.org