



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 19, 2018)

Trinity Episcopal Church Saco, Maine

403 Maine St, Saco, ME 04072, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)

mambler@episcopalmaine.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
93	2		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$51750		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

\$51750 Total Clergy comp for three quarters time, includes stipend, SECA, and housing allowance

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

One recent successful ministry is our lay Pastoral Care Team. This ministry was formed to fulfill the needs of comforting, caring, giving and hospitality in order to build and enrich our church community. The Pastoral Care Team was formed to bring Christ to those who are unable to attend church on a regular basis. Not only do we provide communion to Trinity parishioners but also to anyone in the community that requests it and thus our team has an outreach element to it. Further, a team member follows up with each parishioner that has lapsed in attendance. The lay Pastoral Care Team supports the priest to perform this vital function in the life of our parish.

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

Bishop Lane has said, "What we need is a church that connects both to its own people and the larger world around them, that builds relationships, that allows each person to be a full participant in mutual ministry, that takes care of first things first and offers them to God." As our Diocese and the wider church have looked to collaborate with other denominations, Trinity also participates in the annual Ecumenical church service in partnership with area Congregational churches. We recognize that many choose to retire here and many of our newest members of Trinity are from this age group, however we are also hoping to find ways to attract younger people. We have a lot of enthusiasm and passion about setting goals for reaching beyond Trinity's community and continuing to grow. In the past few months even without a priest, we have taken the initiative to move forward; for example, we have brought in a new music director, the Sunday school teachers are discussing updating the curriculum to increase participation, and we have added new ministries including healing prayer. We continue to keep an open mind and seek a priest to help lead and accompany us on our journey.

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

Accepting and Inclusive, Spirit-filled Preacher, Warm-Hearted, Inventive

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

Trinity prides itself in the hospitality we convey both within the church and outward in the larger community. This is also shown in our liturgical style. The church itself is architecturally a New England congregational-style church. Liturgically, we are a broad church with a few high church elements including a Lady Altar, Reserved Sacrament, and Sanctus Bells. We have a Rite Two Eucharistic service at 8 am and 10 am each Sunday. We use a blend of contemporary and traditional worship that is structured yet relaxed and welcoming to all. We are looking for a priest who has a deep understanding and respect for Liturgy. At 8 a.m. Trinity offers a reflective service without music, with the exception of Hymn 325 from the 1982 Hymnal (sung a cappella immediately following Communion). The 10 am service has music from the 1982 Hymnal in addition to folk songs, gospel-style songs, and contemporary praise songs. Recently, when the music director was absent, the members of the choir led the congregation in singing hymns a cappella with great gusto. Once a month, a healing prayer and anointing is offered at both services.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We offer several opportunities where others may be involved in our ministry. These include Breakfast Sundays once a month (run by one of two Men's Teams that take turns each month), ECW, Bible study, Acolytes/LEMs, Lectors, Altar Guild, Sunday School Teachers, Counters, Choir, Seeds of Hope Ministry (providing meals for those in need). We welcome community organizations to hold meetings at Trinity with no expectation of payment/fees. Such organizations include: Alanon, AA; Girl Scouts, quilting club, book studies, Senior College. Within the Trinity community, the Vestry has worked hard to educate members about various duties/responsibilities of each role, with an open invitation to join any and all positions. Beyond Trinity, we have attempted (but have not always succeeded) to invite the community to join us. People attend the events at Trinity but do not often attend Sunday worship. We work to be visible in the community with T-Shirts, Mary's Walk support, Annual Art Show, and parades in town. We would like to find more effective ways to invite people to join us in worship.

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

Trinity provides a safe place to reflect on God's Love while focusing on the Sacraments. We feel like a family - we look out for and keep in touch with each other. We notice when someone has been away from our services and events, and when someone is in need. As Jesus has taught us, "...When you do it for the least of these, you do it for me." If someone is in crisis, Trinity is a safe place of comfort and support. We offer a written prayer list where the church community can write down names of loved ones each Sunday. We also offer a virtual prayer list that overcomes geographical constraints for the larger healing community. The passing of the peace is both emotional and physically fulfilling within Trinity. Spiritual and emotional fulfillment has also come with our Bible and book studies, our ministries, and our weekly and special offerings.

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

In addition to the organizations and programs mentioned elsewhere, Trinity's choir has gone caroling at local nursing homes. "God's Gals" (Trinity's quilting group) have knitted hats for newborn babies in the hospital and made quilts for graduating high school seniors. Trinity participates in the Day of Service at the First Congregational Church and we have offered a Blue Service during the holidays. We recently completed a fund-raising program called Soles for Souls that involved a collection of shoes that were donated to needy communities. This was the first time we tried the program and brought it beyond the walls of Trinity-making the community aware and placing donation boxes at various businesses and organizations. Operation Christmas Child is an outreach program where members of the church fill shoe boxes with gifts and share God's message with needy children around the world.

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

Trinity chooses delegates to send to Diocesan Convention annually. We elect at least three representatives and always have enough alternates to be well represented at the Diocesan Convention. We are very passionate about outreach, and have found many ways to support communities in need. We pray for our companion diocese in Haiti. For the start of the school year, we fill backpacks for local schools. Trinity established a scholarship for a child to attend Camp Bishopswood, the Diocesan summer camp. We volunteer at Seeds of Hope Jubilee Center in Biddeford—a food pantry, soup kitchen, and employment support center for the community. We collect medical supplies for Partners for World Health, toiletry items for women's shelters, and items to send overseas to troops that have been deployed. During the holidays, we have boxed up turkey dinners to donate to families in need and collect weekly for the local food pantry.

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

In December of 2017, Christ Centered Yoga for Every Body became a new ministry started by a long-time, active member of Trinity. Financial support for the program was secured through a grant awarded from the Diocese. The innovative program is based on the Taoist concept of yin and yang, opposite and complementary principles of nature. Yin is the stable, unmoving, hidden aspect of things; yang is the changing, moving, revealing aspect. Yin Yoga works on the relatively stiff connective tissues (tendons, ligaments, and fascia). The program utilizes the founder's yoga expertise along with Christian prayer, meditation and poetry during the classes held weekly on Saturday mornings. The contact for this ministry is Leslie Lampert, a Yoga Instructor at Kusum Institute.

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

Trinity aims to keep a balance of being fiscally responsible while still being socially responsible. Stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe". We believe time, talent, and treasure are gifts that are given in gratitude to God and are a responsive act. Trinity has the amazing capability of using many persons' creative talents to raise funds without it being all about money. Whether it is through our turkey dinners, lobster bake, raffle baskets, auctions, the Holly Berry fair, the Summer Fair, or our monthly breakfasts - a lot of volunteers and a lot of hard work makes for wonderful results. We have also carried out multiple capital campaigns - when a situation is dire, we ask for a little more and people in the community respond. The vestry has participated in gathering pledges and monetary donations when needed, face to face and door to door, as well as sending mail with requests. Members of Trinity recognize their part in helping us remain a thriving, financially stable community. This shared sense of responsibility pulls us together as a caring community.

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

Trinity is guided by Jesus' teaching in times of conflict. In recent years, a member of our Parish was involved in a sensitive legal situation which was publicly known and caused strong feelings. Those strong feelings were present in our congregation, and led to sharp conflict. The priest was transparent about the entire situation, a role model for responses to the situation; there was no condemnation or accusation, only forgiveness and understanding. The people of Trinity needed to hear that kind of message and ultimately followed the priest's lead. There was a special service of healing and support for the parishioner involved that helped the community to straddle the line between disapproving of the conduct but loving the individual. Some disagreed, and the decisions they made were respected and accepted, including the decision by some members to leave Trinity. Through it all, Trinity remains an open, loving community, where people continue to trust each other and genuinely care about one another. In addition, Trinity works at keeping an open heart and mind - recognizing that people see things differently and come from different backgrounds.

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 more than ten years, Father David was the heart of Trinity Episcopal Church. When he had to leave sooner than anticipated due to health reasons, the parish community thought that we might have difficult times ahead. Often when a church is in this state, it can tend to just "tread water". However, the community pulled together, and unexpectedly flourished. The lay people rallied in order to take on tasks that had been left in Father David's absence. We did not collapse, we moved on. Without a true leader we didn't skip a beat, and even began several new ministries. Nearly a year later, the community is feeling the stress of taking on many responsibilities in order to get it all done. Through all this we have learned that we can work together and are looking forward to priestly leadership. While Trinity is a vibrant and functioning community, it is now time for a leader to orchestrate our various ministries and programs. Our church is ready to extend an invitation to a new priest who will not have to restore the community, but will find a functioning church ready for a pastor.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. David Robinson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-07	2018-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	5	20

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	12

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:

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: 1-207-772-1953 ext 125; slane@episcopalmaine.org
The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane

Diocesan Transition Minister 1-207-772-1953 ext 123; mambler@episcopalmaine.org
The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler

Current Warden/Board Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Ms. Nancy Ponzetti

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Ms. Janelle Harrison, Mr. Chuck Talbot

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader