



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 1, 2019)*

## St. Francis by the Sea, Maine

330 Hinkley Ridge Road, Blue Hill, ME 04614-0076, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

[mambler@episcopalmaine.org](mailto: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
75	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$70000		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
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

~\$70,000 includes stipend, housing, SECA~ ~NB: 2 Sunday services mid-May through mid-September~

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

Eight years ago, St. Francis created the first DownEast Spiritual Life Conference as a multi-faith approach to the life of the spirit. In 2012 over 400 people came to hear Franciscan priest Father Richard Rohr, Rumi scholar Andrew Harvey, and author Phyllis Tickle. The theme was "Spirituality in Our Times: One Journey, Many Paths." There were also performances by Rev. Betty Stookey, Noel Paul Stookey, Paul Winter, and Paul Sullivan. Two years later, the Conference hosted Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell, Celtic scholar and poet from Iona Abbey in Scotland. The theme that year was "Rebirthing the Divine: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul". In 2016, we partnered with the Jesus Seminar for the conference "Jesus and the Heart of Wisdom" exploring Jesus as a wisdom teacher and prophet, and comparing the teachings of Jesus with other wisdom teachers. And in 2017, mystic and teacher Mirabai Starr headlined the conference "Your Spirit, Your World, Connecting Heart, Earth, and Soul" which included contemplative practice, inter-spiritual experience, and the transformative power of loss.

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

For a few of us there is not much time left in our lives, and so we are not so worried about the future of St. Francis Church. For some in our church, the question of our preparations for the future focuses almost exclusively on how to engage younger people not necessarily to "join the church" but to challenge us, teach us, learn from us, and grow with us. And for others of us, we are committed to serving the church and the community in a myriad of ways knowing that a strong church will attract people who are looking for a deeper understanding of God's infinite love. We are willing to take steps towards those who are different from us to foster dialogue. We have a commitment to the Downeast Spiritual Life Conference. We have ecumenical worships with other congregations. We want to maintain our dialogue with our Muslim brothers and sisters. And yet, we know that we can do more. We have ideas that may involve more of the laity but with a new rector's support: podcasts, meditations, spiritual retreats reaching out more to working individuals.

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

Discerning homilist, pastoral, listening leadership, humor/grace

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

Our liturgical style can be described as "broad church" employing The Book of Common Prayer (1979), The Hymnal (1982), and the songbook Wonder, Love, and Praise. On Sundays at 10:00 AM, Rite II, we celebrate with the organ and full choir. Our talented choir director and organist select music that is purposely eclectic and oftentimes showcases the expertise of our parishioners (young and old) as musicians and/or vocalists. Many of our congregants cherish the Episcopal liturgy and would like to see a weekday Holy Eucharist re-instated and the Rite I service expanded. The latter is celebrated at 8:00 AM during the summer months. Members of our church family have journeyed from a wide range of religious and non-religious backgrounds to find St. Francis by the Sea. We are a mixture of cradle-Episcopalians, converts from other denominations, and very recent church attendees. Our style is "broad;" our practice is inclusive.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We have parishioners who participate as acolytes, ushers, lectors, and serve on the flower and altar guilds. We are fortunate to have some Lay Eucharistic Ministers and a Lay Preacher. Our choir is a mighty little choir all year long. We have welcomed visiting speakers of all worship styles and religions. We benefit from volunteers for coffee hour. Our diverse and talented congregants engage in many individual ministries that range from performing music for area nursing home patients to participating in the Restorative Justice program. Our electronic newsletter, the eClare, reaches a wide readership. Utilizing technology, summer congregants serve on the Vestry and other committees year-round. Although we have a small number of children in our church, we are active in including them in the worship processional and at certain liturgical holidays. Our Sunday School is taught utilizing the Godly Play curriculum. It is common for friends of our children, grandchildren, and young neighbors to visit and feel welcomed on any given Sunday.

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

In addition to the Priest, the Wardens, and the Vestry, our worshipping community is filled with workers. In our worship we serve each other through music, flowers, and the altar guild. We follow services with fellowship, snacks, and coffee. Then we have our Adult Forum, a time for teaching, learning, spiritual growth, and exploration. A book group, Wednesday Seekers, provides an opportunity for growth and sharing. Members of the larger community who are not members of our church join us in reading challenging theologians or the writings of social justice activists. We have a Mother's Day Brunch that raises funds for our children to attend Camp Bishopswood (bishopswood.org). Our newsletter eClare, the prayer list in the bulletin, and our website keep us informed of the needs and activities of the church community. Souper Saints prepare, freeze, and deliver soup as needed to shut-ins. Lay Ministers deliver the Eucharist to shut-ins. We work together in the spring and fall cleanup days and enjoy a shared meal together. Our priest has a discretionary fund for the physical needs of the wider community.

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

Our church community, along with our Outreach committee, keeps its finger on the pulse of the needs of the wider community. We offer opportunities for groups and service providers, such as Families First and Friends in Action, to speak with our congregation and to appeal for help. We occasionally have held our services outside in the local park and invited all to attend. Our building is used by other organizations such as AA, Blue Hill Bach, Hospice Singers, and exercise groups. Our annual Blessing of the Animals service is popular. Lenten services are advertised and open to all as is the Salt Bowl ritual - written worries and concerns are buried in the salt and used to ignite the fire for the Easter Vigil. A monthly Eucharist is held at a local senior housing community, and we collaborate with our neighbors and other community organizations to assist with issues of poverty, homelessness, and heating needs, including Window Dressers (WindowDressers.org), a weatherization program that helps everyone and especially targets low income housing. And we are a major financial supporter of The Magic Food Bus that offers free local produce and books during the summer to 7 towns in the area.

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

What started as a modest church fair 30 years ago has become The St. Francis Fair, a major undertaking on the Blue Hill Peninsula that impacts the lives of not only almost all of the St. Francis congregation, but people from the larger community as well. Last year, the Fair grossed over \$36,000, and we shared \$11,000 of that with our Fair Partner, the SPCA of Hancock County. All of the unsold "Junque for Jesus" has gone to H.O.M.E., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low income and homeless families, to be used or sold, and the Treasures have recently gone to the Brooksville Fire Department for its auction. Hundreds of books have gone to local teachers and schools and gently used and new toys, including new bicycles, have been given to many children in the area. Many of the workers are from outside the congregation. Friendships are made, community is developed, and people are helped. Because of our aging population, we are presently exploring other avenues that might continue to have the same huge benefits but with fewer physical demands.

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

Our recently retired rector contacted the Islamic Center in Orono and arranged for members of St. Francis to visit their community for a meal and then for their congregation to visit us for a meal. We also included the Blue Hill Congregational Church, and there are plans to join together on some more projects. Those who attended found the connections we made to be meaningful and significant and many parishioners look forward to the renewal of this connection. We continue to explore different ways to be involved in the community. Presently, for instance, we are exploring the possibility of using some of our land for a community garden in partnership with other town organizations.

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

Stewardship at St. Francis is traditionally threefold: Time, talent, and treasure. The latter is accomplished yearly with a Stewardship Pledge Campaign. A variety of methods have been employed to raise these pledge funds including mailings, phone calls, home visits, and personal stories told from the altar of the importance of St. Francis in the lives of the parishioners. Additional financial support also comes from outright gifts and from individuals who remember St. Francis in their wills. Members of the parish are kept abreast of our budget which is posted monthly. When funding emergencies arise, the Vestry is quick to share what is needed. Our treasure is increased by the multiple talents of our congregants. These talents run the gamut from mowing the church lawns, baking the bread for our Eucharistic services, keeping us digitally informed, to working the originally designed needlepoint kneeler covers. Each of these volunteer endeavors exemplifies the altruism and artistry found at St. Francis. As one of our members aptly stated, "Our time together keeps us together."

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

Like any institution there are the normal tensions between those who would like things to "stay the same" and those who advocate for change. But overall, we are a congregation that refuses to allow labels to separate us. We are liberal and conservative, from the South and the North, die hard Mainers and those "from away." We are gay, straight, nonbinary, seeking, and affirming. We know there are differences between and among us, and we respect not only the "other" but the actual process of worshipping together knowing these differences. It is our very differences and the acceptance of those differences that makes us strong. You can call the feeling when you enter into St. Francis Church whatever word fits your beliefs: "the Holy Spirit" "Love" "Community". We are a strong, kind, resourceful, forgiving, singing, meditative, friendly gathering. We also know that we can occasionally be ornery, judgmental, and cantankerous. Many years ago, decades ago, we had a fracture in our community and our strength, still our strength, was in our leadership directly addressing the conflict and also asking for guidance from the Bishop to prayerfully and competently resolve the issue.

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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?

St. Francis is addressing change now as we seek a new Priest. We are doing so with prayer and the guidance of the Vestry and the Discernment Committee. Seeking to be open to all opinions, we are having frequent gatherings and conversations among members. We understand the need to listen and to open our minds and hearts. In the future inevitably changes will continue. With strong, listening leadership we would expect to continue open, frank, respectful discussions to appropriately respond to the changing times.

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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Claudia Wyatt Smith	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-03	2019-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Rick Cross	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-07	2003-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Allan Sandlin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1994-02	1999-07

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
		<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

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
		<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>

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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Contact:  
**mambler@episcopalmaine.org**Worshipping Community Web site: [www.stfrancisbluehill.org](http://www.stfrancisbluehill.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop: **207-772-1953 ext 125; [tbrown@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:tbrown@episcopalmaine.org)**  
**The Rt Rev Thomas J Brown**Diocesan Transition Minister **207-772-1953 ext 123; [mambler@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:mambler@episcopalmaine.org)**  
**The Rev Cn Michael N  
Ambler**Current Warden/Board Chair **Please contact Canon Ambler**  
**Mr Robert Publicover**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair **Please contact Canon Ambler**  
**Ms. Sarah Everdell**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader