



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 20, 2020)

St.Peter's, Maine

678 Washington Avenue, Portland, ME 04103, 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
22	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$38155		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

\$38155 = diocesan standard total assessable compensation for half time in Portland.

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

From 2013 to early 2020, we worked with St Albans and Trinity and provided a teaching experience for three young people who were just entering the priesthood. Each was a seminary graduate and progressed from deacon to new priest within months of their employment. This unique opportunity allowed us to have some Sunday services covered and they also assisted our part-time Priest in Charge with other routine church work. It gave them the experience of working at both large churches and then part-time at our small parish. They were able to experience two very different work environments at the same time. We watched as they matured and became more confident, both on the altar and in dealing with people. We saw them struggle with some priorities and they had to learn to resolve problems and conflicts. We mentored them in different ways and each moved on to full-time roles in larger churches. As a church of older parishioners, it was initially different to work with young people but we embraced their perspective and their enthusiasm.

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

We recognize that with older parishioners, we need to open ourselves to new ways to grow and are hoping a new Priest in Charge will lead us in that direction. We currently use Zoom for services and remarkably our Sunday attendance has increased. We use a Facebook page to communicate to the community. We share our parish buildings with others as a way to share who we are. St Peter's continually assesses, revises, and updates our rental agreements yearly. We maintain our physical church building and rental buildings. We are handicap accessible with a working elevator. Recent updates include a new furnace, brick retaining wall to stop water leaking into the undercroft, new ceiling in the undercroft and repair to our main stained glass window. We plan to install a new floor and lighting in the undercroft. We have explored creative partnerships, such as working with other parishes to share resources and cultivating a roster of part-time ministers who can support our pastoral needs. We collaborated with other parishes for priest sharing which was very successful for each parish. We collaborate with Trinity Church to share administrative duties which has saved money for both parishes.

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

compassionate, adaptable, candid, enthusiastic

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

Our parish has a tradition of enjoying an Anglican service. We love a sung Mass on certain feast days and Holy Communion is the most special part of our time together. We appreciate all forms of worship. We treasure the sounds from our organ and raising our own voices to songs from our hymnals. We have been open to complimentary instruments in the past. We have a healing service each month, an annual blessing of pets and we practice Stations of the Cross every Easter season. We celebrate an annual Harvest Home which includes decorating the church with fall harvests and having a potluck supper. Our church is small and intimate and we would like to become more inclusive and diversified like our city. We are hoping our next Priest in Charge will help guide us in that way. During those times when a priest has not been available, we have lay persons celebrate Morning Prayer. We look for our priest to maintain ongoing contact with parishioners and provide pastoral care when needed. We strongly desire communion for parishioners when they are in the hospital or are home bound.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We have several lay ministers who enjoy reading the scriptures during service and others who serve on the altar. We have parishioners who enjoy being ushers and we always welcome newcomers. We treasure our time at coffee hour in the undercroft and always invite others to join us. We are welcoming to new ways to celebrate Christ and have opened our doors to smaller groups who celebrate in non-Anglican ways. Two separate groups of African immigrants have used our parish to start their own churches, one which grew so fast it outgrew our building. We collaborate with other groups and parishes on missions of mutual interest, like assisting at TEC and other youth events and with Family Promise, a program to assist homeless immigrants in Portland. We continue to encourage and support members to participate in any areas where they may have talent or interest. Our collaborative efforts with other parishes are noted elsewhere in this document.

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

Attending services, participating in worship and volunteering in our community is very important to our members. The Laying on of Healing Hands by the Priest and the anointing of oil has become very important to all of us, especially our health challenged. Communion is brought to our shut-ins and Bible classes are offered. Our parishioners care very deeply for each other. We stay in contact with those who are unable to attend services. We celebrate and support our church family at monthly church breakfasts and Harvest Home, which helps us stay connected and nourished. We appreciate pastoral visits to those unable to attend church services. We are using Zoom sessions for Sunday service and lunchtime meetings during the week. Post pandemic onset, all of our worship and our communication has been online and via telephone. That being said, solitary reflection times are available in-church to supplement the online gathering, visits, emails and ZOOM Services. Our Priest in Charge and our Assisting Priest both embrace frequent and multiple communications in a variety of forms as a way of staying connected, while necessarily distant.

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

Parishioners regularly participate in charitable and not for profit activities in addition to supporting regional and Diocesan activities and initiatives. We regularly host Bike and Build, a group of international youth as they fulfill their mission locally and regionally to help eliminate homelessness. We annually host White Mountain School, an Episcopal boarding school in New Hampshire, while they do volunteer work in urban settings in southern Maine. We look forward again to hosting music sharing opportunities in our church building, which has outstanding acoustics. We have started to re-engage with our neighborhood and its schools, which are undergoing cultural changes. We have nurtured the founding and growth of a local parish of immigrants. We continue to support local aid efforts to those in need. We also supported the Partners for World Health through volunteering, locally and internationally. St Peter's has opened the undercroft to local organizations to meet and support the community around us.

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

We contribute to many local causes and parishioners are involved in volunteer work of different kinds. Extra collections each week support Project Feed. For the past ten years, we supported the Wayside Soup Kitchen Community Meal Program (currently closed) by sharing our space and some of our members volunteered to staff the meals they provided. We also collect food for Wayside's pantry and have supported the St Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry. We contributed financially to an international ministry and we have members who volunteer at an international medical warehouse which provides medical supplies to other countries. We have contributed to Camp Bishopswood, both financially and by providing counselors during summer camp. We send delegates to annual convention and our members supported Teens Encountering Christ and other youth event weekends by providing counselors and making meals for participants. We initiated and embraced inter-parish collaboration by sharing administrative and clergy services, which were crucial in managing expenses with all parishes involved. We demonstrated efficiency and cost savings by combining newsletters and other mailings.

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

Our parish is in the vanguard of parish collaboration and has carried on a tradition of supporting parishioners with a calling for priesthood. We were prominently involved with helping three postulants become priests as they served St Peters and the other churches where they were employed. The parish nurtured and fostered their progress with emotional and social support as well as through financial assistance, which included on-site housing and housing allowances. Our contribution to this collaboration effort helped our parish and two other parishes maintain and create ministries that would not have occurred had we not initiated these relationships. One of our young priests created Dinner Church which was attended by people who don't normally attend traditional services. Dinner Church lasted for two years before that priest moved on and sadly, we haven't been able to reestablish that program. We recently entered into another agreement with a small group called Arise Portland which used our space for its own ministry for people outside societal norms. Unfortunately, that group stopped meeting due to Covid and we aren't sure it will continue in the future.

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

As a small parish we work very hard to achieve the best for ourselves and our surrounding community through volunteerism, donations, food collections, monthly breakfasts and an annual holiday craft fair. We continue to be thankful for prudent spending and significant endowments as bulwarks against the relentless tide of increasing costs to operate. Pledges are managed on a weekly basis and constitute approximately 25% of our annual budget. We interpret stewardship as time, talent, and treasure. We enhance stewardship by engaging the United Way and the Cumberland County inmate volunteer-work crew. Covid 19 has proved to us that we have deep spiritual roots by showing us we have the commitment and flexibility to explore more fully online presence for services, communication, and cohesiveness. St Peter's is located in one of Portland's heretofore, overlooked districts. Once the site of bustling shipbuilding and shipping, international railroad traffic and seafood and other food products, many of those activities have abated or vanished. The neighborhood that supported those commercial activities is re-emerging as new-found (more) affordable housing for the Greater Portland Region.

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

Like a family, we have disagreements, differing opinions, strong and timid personalities, those that communicate directly and those that don't, those that prefer traditional and usual way of doing things, and those that embrace change and new flexible ways. The Vestry tries to elicit input/opinions on any big changes by sending emails and surveys to parishioners, reminding them of input needed during announcements and at coffee hour. We remind each other as necessary to treat each other respectfully as all opinions are valuable. Although our multi-parish collaboration has been successful, we did experience conflicts with one other parish in governance and clergy service, but the steadying hands of our Bishop, our Priest in Charge, and the numerous parishioners involved allowed prayer-filled, thoughtful resolutions to challenges. Communication is necessary in support of our community as Covid 19 has curbed our in-person church participation. We have actively used a phone tree for parishioners to check on others. We use email and newsletters and we have a monthly Keynotes to inform the parish of events and calendars.

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?

While St Peter's has embraced various experiments in change, there's a strong belief in the value of traditional worship in liturgy, music and preaching. We practice good stewardship in caring for each other, being good neighbors, keeping our property neat, clean and in good repair, and carefully monitoring our income, expenses and investments. We are blessed with great facilities and a wonderful congregation but our recent transition to Zoom church had its challenges, specifically getting everyone on board with their computers and then navigating the Zoom program. We struggled with getting our music loaded to Zoom so the sound would be like being in church. Zoom services were initially very difficult but have become so very rewarding to stay connected as a church family. We are proud of our current relationship with the Diocesan office, which is flourishing on many levels. Their staff has been very supportive of all our needs and we are very comfortable calling on them at any time.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Lawrence Weeks	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2012-02	2020-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Kathryn Holicky	Assistant / Associate / Curate (Part-time)	2019-09	2020-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Reed Loy	Assistant / Associate / Curate (Part-time)	2015-09	2017-08

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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.stpetersepiscopalport.org

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stpetersport/>

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bcarhhrDa0>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

207-772-1953 ext 125; tbrown@episcopalmaine.org

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Brown

Diocesan Transition Minister

mambler@episcopalmaine.org; 207-772-1953 ext 123

**The Rev. Cn. Michael
Ambler**

Current Warden/Board Chair

Please contact Canon Ambler

Mr. Robert Sherwood

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader