



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Dec 7, 2018)

St George's Sanford, Maine

3 Emerson St, Sanford , ME 04073, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

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 |
| 74 | 2 | 1 | |
| Current Annual Compensation | Cash Stipend | Housing / Rectory Detail | Utilities |
| | | | |
| SECA reimbursement | Compensation Available for New Position | Housing Available for | Pension Plan |
| | \$69018 | | 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 |

St George's Sanford, Maine

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

Our church community's ministry can be best characterized as a practical, prompt and concrete response to needs- we hear of a need and we mobilize to act. Our actions have included: supporting a local family who lost their home to a Christmastime fire by providing furniture, beds, bedding, money; providing a space and food for teen probation officers to hold weekly meetings with their clients; helping a local shelter resident's family with her funeral expenses and providing a space in our columbarium; as well as volunteering to help a young cancer victim's family deal with the tens of thousands of cards received as the result of his dying request.

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

Recognizing that the future is uncertain and that uncertainty creates stress we try to be a caring community. We welcome kids and their energy, we welcome all families and individuals. We are beginning to incorporate technology into our daily church life. Our church sees itself as part of a larger community- we define ourselves not by our attendance numbers but on how we connect with the wider community and how well we minister to ourselves and others. In addition to a Sunday service we seek opportunities to connect with the real lives and real concerns of those around us. Many people who utilize our church space consider this as their church.

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

compassionate, forward thinking, bridges generations, community focus

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

Our church services are primarily Rite II Prayer Book-based with room for creativity - we've enjoyed a Celtic service, healing services, services that deal with those who struggle during holidays, outdoor community services that starred ice cream sundaes. As a community we are challenged by change- most attendees want our 8 and 10 service times to continue- currently the 10 o'clock features music and the 8 o'clock does not. We support deacons and are currently supporting a parishioner in the deacon formation program.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our weekly church services actively involve volunteers as greeters, Eucharistic ministers, readers, altar guild members, coffee hour hosts, and choir members. Our St. Mary's Guild serves meals after funeral services and support many activities in the church. □□We have been widely involved in our Sanford community. Proceeds from our fund-raisers- the 50 cent clothing sales, the yard sales, the holiday fair have gone directly to support outreach. We have supported: local student recovery programs (SMART and SIRP), the Kids' Supper Program, teen night featuring playing with Nerf blasters, camper scholarships to Camp Bishopswood. We have partnered with other churches in an annual Community Care Day, a fall event that offers information, warm clothing, food, toiletries, to anyone seeking assistance.□□Our congregation members are also independently serving the world- many volunteer for non-profits, helping in food pantries, sewing pillowcases, aiding animal shelters, for example. We are working on developing an active social media presence so that people will know both what is happening in the church and when new opportunities occur to serve.

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

We aim to address and care for the needs of each other, to concentrate on our spiritual needs. Women's retreat, men's group, book studies, St. Mary's Guild, Prayer Bears are all opportunities to offer support and foster our spiritual growth. A recent book study on anxiety proved especially beneficial. Our Health Ministry group allows us to minister to each other and to our wider community. This group has periodic talks on various health matters and offers to take blood pressures at all major church events. This group also maintains a bulletin board and offers printed material on various health topics. We open our church to many groups- i.e. AA, Kids' Supper Club, support for teens in recovery- which enable us to support and share our church buildings with various programs.

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

As a congregation we see ourselves as being representative of the community in which we live. Our families, friends, and church all interact with the community's needs.. For us our primary emphasis has been on serving youth in our community- we have had programs such as the Teen Coffee House, the Kids' Supper Club, and camperships to Camp Bishopswood. We recognize the need for partnering with other agencies in supporting area youth. The Kids' Supper Club, for example, allowed kids recommended by their schools to come to the church for cooking lessons and homework support. A number of our parishioners served as mentors and kids were able to learn life skills in a safe environment. We offer church space to teens on probation, the Lions Club and individual church members work with the food pantry, the monthly non-food pantry, the prison women's release program. We aim to provide an open door, responding to community needs. Our pragmatic approach enables the priest of St. George's to know there will be support to do what is required and assures the parishioner that any needs they bring forward will be considered. Our light shines by our actions and by our commitment to our neighbors.

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

Our church has tried to become connected to the world beyond its doors. We support the greater Sanford community through participation in: the Sanford Food Pantry, tax preparation assistance, teen/youth programs, sewing quilts/pillowcases for the Barbara Bush children's hospital, serving on local non-profits' boards, being an active part of Strategies for a Safer Sanford. We have maintained direct contact with our church community through- Camp Bishopswood support, spiritual retreats, participation in Community Care Day with other churches, contributions to the Episcopal Relief Fund.

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

Our church has tried to be a place where people feel at home- we routinely support people in crises. A local family lost everything in a house fire. It was winter and finding housing was critical. Like many members of the working poor, they had no insurance to cover their losses. Our congregation immediately set about offering concrete assistance. We provided cash, some people went shopping for needed items, others donated furniture and moved it for them. We try to be helpful and also nimble in our response- we try to respond quickly and practically when called

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

We try to practice stewardship day in and day out, listening to the community around us and being available to answer those needs. Stewardship is more than an annual pledge, it's using all our resources wisely to support local initiatives and to meet needs as they come to our attention. Our approach is above all pragmatic- what can we do to help. We support local initiatives like- the Community Care Day, the food pantry, the Corner Cupboard (non-food pantry), relief to a specific cause during Lent.. The church building we maintain also exists to serve others- it is open to groups such as the Lions, AA, Al-anon, NAA, Girl Scouts, community agencies. Our stewardship is faith-based in the broadest sense- we firmly believe as a church community that whatever we give is repaid to us at least 10 fold.

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

Change has been the struggle for our church community. We have made changes to the look of the sanctuary, to worship format, to the seating during service (temporary removal of pews). Many times we returned to the original structure rather than dealing with a major change. In general, communicating what will happen and why, soliciting input if appropriate, and meeting individually with very concerned members has worked best. As a whole we try to be supportive of all, regardless of their opinions and lifestyle, but we have fallen short and some people have left. Dialogue is important. At our best, we reach out to those objecting and assure them that the church's door remains open to them.

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?

Our goal, to quote Micah 6:11, is ..."to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." Change is hard- our congregation feels great comfort from our physical space and order of worship and changes to the way the sanctuary is arranged or the service conducted have been challenging. In general, surprises, even if a temporary experiment (like sitting in chairs in the round) have not gone well. The vestry and rector decided to try a different arrangement in the sanctuary for a limited time- for 5 weeks we removed pews and had chairs at the front of the sanctuary and the altar at floor level. Some people knew the arrangement was temporary and tolerated it as such. Other people seemed genuinely shocked when they first saw the actual physical arrangement and continued to feel strongly that the arrangement did not serve their needs. We have learned the congregation does best if given the chance to have input into a decision. In general, the congregation is accepting of individuals and their lifestyles, but clings to traditional models of worship. Approaching any major change, we strive for consensus. The vestry has developed a protocol to handle congregational concerns.



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Prior Incumbents

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Susan Murphy | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 2008-05 | 2018-06 |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. William Schuyler | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 1993-03 | 2007-01 |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|------|----------------|------------|------------|
|------|----------------|------------|------------|

| Church School | Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School | Number of Students for Children School |
|---------------|--|--|
|---------------|--|--|

| 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 |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | 3 | 25 |

| Day School | Number of Students for Day School | Number of Teachers for Day School | Number of Total Staff for Day School |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

St George's Sanford, Maine

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Contact:
mambler@episcopalmaine.orgWorshipping Community Web site: <http://stgeorgesanford.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

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

Diocesan Transition Minister

207-772-1953 ext 123; mambler@episcopalmaine.org**The Rev. Cn. Michael
Ambler**

Current Warden/Board Chair

Please contact Canon Ambler

Ms. Lee Perkins

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Please contact Canon Ambler

Ms. Marie Bean

Search Chair

Please contact Canon Ambler

Ms. Lee Perkins

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader