



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated May 29, 2019)

St Matthew's Episcopal Church, Maine

496 Lisbon St, Lisbon, ME 04250-0879, United States

Contact:

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

mambler@episcopalmaine.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

45

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$30350

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Full family

Dental

Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

4

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision

Yes

Travel/Auto Account

Yes

Other Professional Account

\$30,350 includes stipend, housing, SECA

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

St. Matthew's participates in the weekend-long Moxie Days Festival for which Lisbon is famous. The parade is one of the largest in the state and draws thousands of people to town. With the float we enter into the parade, we have discovered that we can showcase our church and make Jesus known while keeping within the theme of the year. Our road sign has the message "Jesus is our Savior. Moxie is our flavor." celebrating the Festival. Our float designer prays on how to express the annual theme with a Christian message. He sketches his ideas and submits them to others on the team who then organize the materials needed, gather donations from parishioners, and then the building and painting begins. It is a joy to ride the float or walk along beside it, greeting friends and visitors along the route, and handing out candy to children. We won an award in each of the last 5 years and last year we won the award for Best Overall. Participation in the parade rallies the Church members from children to adults. St. Matt's is visible to the town not only via the float but also in the bright orange St. Matt's/Moxie tee shirts parishioners wear.

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

We, at St. Matthew's are very concerned about the brokenness we see in ourselves and the world around us. We expect to change and grow within the context of the Episcopal Church. We need a pastor to lead us as we walk with the Lord, yet retain our uniqueness as St. Matthew's. We are committed to prayer, Bible study, and listening to the Holy Spirit. Following the Holy Spirit equips us to reach out to the community, and in doing so, we experience healing. We currently use our weekly eMatt (electronic newsletter) to all members to inform, ask for prayer, make announcements, and list the liturgical readings for the week. We see further use of our webpage and have discussed how we might live-stream our worship services and/or post sermons to the page. Bluetooth technology is in use to assist those in the worship service with hearing loss. We continue to look at ways to enhance our worship and communication through technology.

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

Biblically conservative Compassionate pastor Holy Spirit-led Prayerful worshipper

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

At St. Matthew's, we are conservative and evangelical in our beliefs, but are flexible in our service format. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and rely on God's word. We are encouraged by challenging Bible-based teaching sermons. Short children's sermons are given that relate to the weekly lectionary readings that benefit all ages. We use Rite II at both the 8 and 10 am services and endeavor to create a welcoming atmosphere for all who attend. The early service is a spoken service with the doxology and recessional sung. Contemporary worship and praise music with occasional hymns or gospel songs are sung at the 10 am service. We are led by two music teams accompanied by piano and often, guitar and drums. There is a strong belief in the power of prayer and healing prayer is available at both services. Testimonies of God working in parishioner's lives are frequently given at the end of our services.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Each year we bring a list of ministry needs to the congregation so they may offer their time and talent gifts. We have found many helpful hands for seasonal decorating, lawn maintenance, greeters for services, coffee time coordinators and other regular church needs. Weekly E-mails and Sunday church announcements are also used to engage others to participate in ministries such as meal trains, special needs, landscaping projects, and building maintenance. We have several people who have been pastors in other denominations who are currently serving St. Matthew's in counseling, preaching, and ministering to veterans. Some of our members visit new residents to town with a welcome basket and an invitation to church. Parish life gathers men and women into our kitchen who like to cook for meals and other special occasions. We always invite newcomers to coffee hour and First Sunday Lunch (FSL). FSL is a time we treasure and each month has a different theme. It is a time where people from both services gather with no agenda, but to visit and get to know one another on a deeper level. Sometimes the conversations go on til mid-afternoon.

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

St. Matthew's is a close-knit congregation comprised of people who are quick to provide support for each other in a variety of ways. Members readily and comfortably pray for each other on the spot as needs arise; we have prayer teams available during Sunday services and an active E-mail prayer chain. During the five Bible studies available weekly, support is given to each other as needed. Other events for fellowship and support are periodic retreats, workshops, and healing conferences. Parishioners are quick to respond to calls for emergency repairs or assistance in other needs, such as moving to new homes. Eucharistic, home, hospital, and nursing-home visits are lay-led, and transportation is offered to those in need.

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

Our primary focus is our involvement in the Lisbon Area Christian Outreach (LACO), of which St. Matthew's was a founding member. Nine churches coordinate to provide food and clothing to those in need. Many St. Matthew's members work at the food/clothing bank weekly. Other pastoral care includes visits made to nursing homes and hospitals, providing a place for AA meetings, and support of the Lisbon Christmas Giving Tree. Our annual Trunk or Treat and pre-holiday Kids' Only Christmas Shop reach out to children which the community looks forward to each year. Future plans are for a blood drive and a recognition dinner to honor local law enforcement. We offer a monthly thrift shop in warm weather for the community where household items are available at low cost. We also reach out to the community in other ways including: teaching seminars, (normally during Lent or Advent), inspirational posts on our Facebook page, a ministry for Veterans, and donating our Easter/Christmas offerings to local charities. We have built a Memorial Garden for our loved one's ashes to be scattered which also provides a quiet place for anyone to come sit, pray, and meditate.

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

St. Matthew's is an active participant in numerous Ecumenical activities that support our local churches and community. We are charter members of LACO, which provides food and clothing for those in need and join in the community's Thanksgiving service each year. Every fall, we join "Hands Across the Bridge", as prayer witnesses against abortion. We participate in the yearly fund-raiser for a local ministry that supports women with unplanned pregnancies. We donate both financially and with gifts to our town's Christmas giving tree program and provide gift boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child ministry. In addition, we have supported various needs through Episcopal Relief and Development and support a child through Compassion International. We give our Easter and Christmas plate offering to local charities. One of our parishioners is teaching English as a 2nd language to several immigrant families. Currently, we do not have parishioners involved in any committees in the Diocese, although we have been more involved in past years.

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

We have realized that our 20 acre property can be used for the spread of the kingdom in ways we hadn't envisioned. Our church is on a hill and is not visible from the main road. We cleared trees between the road and the church and erected a large white lighted cross on the hilltop. Benches that overlook the Androscoggin River were added for meditation and quiet time, and a creche is added during the Christmas season. Some of the trees were removed, cut up and distributed to needy families in the community who burn wood. Local college students were involved in the effort. Townspeople look forward to the sayings on our church sign by the road, which has also brought a few people to attend our services. The Memorial Garden has become known within the community. Some people outside the church membership plan to scatter their cremains there. Most of the rocks for the garden wall were donated by people outside the church when they heard what we were doing. Responses to these changes and additions to our property have been very affirming.

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

We are a small but committed congregation. The majority of families tithe or are taking steps toward tithing each year. A significant number give electronically. Our congregation has one of the highest levels of giving per unit in the Diocese, but due to our small numbers we are still very limited in our financial capability. We encourage each other to tithe our time and talents to fulfill the tasks necessary to operate the church. We have no paid staff except a part time sexton. We look out for each other and are quick to assist as needed in the church.

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

Some at St. Matthew's have had conflicts with the overall Episcopal Church including the stance on abortion, the ordination of female priests/bishops, the calling of a female bishop for the Diocese of Maine, the ordination of gay priests/bishops, and the election of a gay bishop for the Diocese of Maine. In each instance, St. Matthew's lost significant numbers of parishioners and their financial support, because they felt that they could not worship in The Episcopal Church under those circumstances. The remaining parishioners continue to pray and ask for God's guidance. In a diocese that is more liberal than we, St. Matthew's offers a conservative voice in the church. Locally, all available resources are utilized to resolve conflicts at St. Matthew's with discretion and, when necessary, confidentiality. A major conflict arose between our rector and our assigned deacon. There were parishioners that supported each side. There were several meetings held with both parties. The conflict was not resolved, despite exploring all avenues, including seeking guidance, and action from the Bishop. The deacon and the parishioners that supported her left the church. Scars still remain today.

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?

We have a call tree for informational church-related purposes. Each Vestry member calls 6-8 families. This works fairly well. For a time we tried having Vestry become pastorally responsible for their assigned families. This did not work well because Vestry members' gifts were more administrative rather than pastoral. We have tried Wednesday mid-day, and Saturday and Sunday evening services at various times, for people whom Sunday morning was inconvenient. These services were sparsely attended and were discontinued after a year or more. Several well-received changes include the use of a full-immersion baptismal tank (if requested), many parishioner-made liturgical banners that enhance worship and refresh the look of the sanctuary, and very well done children's sermons. With each change we realize that there is a learning curve that requires a reasonable length of time before reverting or revisiting.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. William "Beau" Wagner	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-08	2018-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Mervin Lanctot	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2003-05	2005-08

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
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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
		4	25

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:
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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://stmatthewslisbon.org>

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 Lane

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

Current Warden/Board Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Mr. Brian Stowell

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Mr Lee Frazier

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader