



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated May 29, 2020)

Church of Our Father, Maine

91 State Highway 3, Hulls Cove, ME 04644, United States

Contact:

Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry

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 |
| 54 | 2 | 1 | |
| Current Annual Compensation | Cash Stipend | Housing / Rectory Detail | Utilities |
| | | | |
| SECA reimbursement | Compensation Available for New Position | Housing Available for | Pension Plan |
| | \$74220 | | |
| Healthcare Options | Dental | Housing Equity Allowance in budget | Annual Equity Amount |
| Full family | Yes | 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 |

\$74220=diocesan standard Total Compensation for the area. Includes value of rectory. Negotiable.

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

Approximately three years ago, the wardens and treasurers of the four Episcopal churches on Mount Desert Island started meeting for dinner and fellowship, to get to know each other. These meetings were held on a monthly basis and many friendships developed. Two of the churches, St. Saviour's and St. John's, were already working together, first starting with one priest and then adding a second. At Church of Our Father, our Priest in Charge had decided not to renew our agreement. The grass-roots approach of the four churches seeking solutions, was recognized and supported by our Diocese, while the officers' meetings were approved by each Vestry. Since then, we have worked together, and it has been a moving target. At first, we retained the services of the husband of the priest at St. John's. Fr. John Allison led us through a two year healing process. Then, after two years, family emergencies caused both priests to need to leave their work on the Island. The Rector of St. Saviour's has also moved to a new call, so we have arrived at this opportunity... together; to share two priests with three churches. This teamwork has had success; now it is time to live into its promise.

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

As is shown by this joining together of the three churches, we fully recognize the need and importance of planning our path to the future. The way the Diocese has endorsed our "grass roots" or "ground up" approach demonstrates that we are setting a model that the Diocese is already encouraging other churches to look at. We know that we are just at the beginning, and sharing priests and other resources is a good start. We recognize that maintaining four full time parishes and two summer chapels for about 150 or so communicants is not sustainable, and that the future will be painful yet also full of opportunities to explore and change.

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

Christ centered, pastoral care, Spirit filled, Outreach driven

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

We at Church of Our Father are a more charismatic, Cursillo-based church than the average Episcopal church. In the late 1980s, Fr. Robert Raymond led us into this style, with healing services as an important component. During a regular week we have three communion services. Wednesday mornings we have a Rite II service with sermon and breakfast, with guests from the other churches attending. The Sunday morning 8 am service is Rite I. Our main service on Sunday mornings at 10 am is Rite II, using either Prayer A or B. This service is filled with music, coming from the 1980 Hymnal or a Supplemental Hymnal that was first started in the 1980s. We also sing the Gloria or a praise hymn, the Sanctus and the Lord's Prayer. During the Lord's Prayer, members usually join hands. During praise time, hands are raised in worship. When receiving communion, many parishioners make eye contact with the priest. Taize services are held several times a year, with all the Island churches invited. We join with the other Episcopal churches on the last Sunday of the month, and during Holy Week, with the services rotating among the churches.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We incorporate others in our ministry within the church by including members as participants in our services. People serve as readers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, and musicians. Our six Eucharistic Ministers take communion to shut-ins. We involve persons each week as part of our coffee hour on Sundays after the 10 am service. We are active in the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, where we contribute funds and serve as volunteers. One of the Food Pantry Board members has been our own Bill Krenicki (recently deceased). Every Sunday morning at announcements, Bill said, "You know why I'm here!" We chorus back, "Yes!" or "Tell us!" He then goes on to explain the present needs of the Food Pantry. Our Thrift Shop is a ministry started by the ECW, and is open Wednesdays and Saturdays during the warmer months. Parishioners take an active part in the Study Time between the two Sunday services.

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

Worship services with Holy Communion on Sunday and Wednesday primarily feed our spiritual wellbeing. Every fourth Sunday of the month, the churches meet as one to share Holy Communion. Several small prayer groups meet weekly in members' homes. These small groups nurture emotional wellbeing, as do many conversations with old and new members at Coffee Hour on Sundays and at breakfast on Wednesdays. Our active email Prayer Chain, with over 60 participants, alerts us to pray for each other and those outside the Church. We share food. Several members are gifted in cooking large meals, especially for the monthly Men's Meetings and fundraisers. Members gifted in administration coordinate many members to cater funerals, weddings, and celebrations. Groups of 6 to 12 meet in members' homes for "hearthside suppers." We share with our partner parishes in hosting four-parish pot lucks. We take food to shut ins. ECW celebrates members' birthdays and anniversaries by sending personal cards, as well as "get well" and "I'm thinking of you" cards. The Rector's and Deacons' Discretionary Funds, and the ECW, support those in need with fuel cards and rent help.

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

Pastoral care beyond our church involves several aspects in the local community. Until recently, we joined with other churches in offering services and musical entertainment on Sunday mornings at local nursing homes. Our music outreach, led by Tony Sousa, involves two other retirement homes. Our very active Men's Group meets monthly to "sup" and listen to a speaker. We welcome men from other churches, and those from no church, as well. Speakers range from the chair of Dana Farber speaking about cancer, to a Hollywood actor regaling us with stories. Our discretionary funds are used both for church members and others. Pastoral care is offered in local hospitals by many of our parishioners, especially when we do not have a priest to lead us. Our Thrift Shop serves as a place where the local community meets us, and sometimes tours of the church are given. Last fall a woman from Down-east Maine came to the Thrift Shop with a request to help migrant workers who were staying in Maine over the winter and had no access to warm clothes. We gave them warm clothes and blankets, and with our help they stayed in Maine and got to experience a true winter!

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

Our Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism Committee sponsored our retired priest and his wife and their music school in Mityana, Uganda. We support a couple in China, where their business helps them quietly spread the Gospel. We support a single missionary in Africa. Locally, we support the Bar Harbor Food Bank, a homeless shelter, and a correctional facility. The ECW gives gas, fuel, and food cards to those in need. At Christmas, our Samaritan's Purse program provides gifts to children. Our Christmas fair brings local citizens to the church to buy gifts and enjoy lunch and fellowship. We help at nursing homes in Ellsworth and Hull's Cove. James Kitler serves as a trustee of the Diocese, and David Hawkes and Sue Olson serve on the national board of "Camp Farthest Out." Over a year ago our parishioner Carolyn Johnson planned to do a needlepoint kneeler for use in the Cathedral. Carolyn became too ill to start the project. Kate Berry, who had never done needlepoint, stepped in and completed the kneeler after Carolyn's death. Recently Kate and Brad Berry, along with Carolyn's husband Larry Johnson, presented the kneeler to our Bishop at the Cathedral.

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

Our Outreach, Missions and Evangelism program has been active for at least five years, serving not only the local community but also worldwide. Our yearly church budget includes a line item, donations and dedicated funds to support this very important ministry. Recently, when the four churches started meeting together and agreeing to join forces, we have invited the other churches to join us. Our monthly meetings have been attended by the other churches and are still in the early stages of organizing. Each church has different plans, and combining them will take time. Brad Berry has championed this cause for several years and is the most knowledgeable about its details.

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

For us, stewardship involves time, talent and treasure. We work very hard to use our time and talent not only to serve each other, but also to reach out to the Mount Desert Island community at large, and beyond that to many mainland towns. As we've discussed in other answers, we are engaged through our Thrift Shop, the Food Pantry, nursing and retirement homes, a card ministry, a prayer chain, a discretionary fund and a fuel fund. All of these are ways we share and steward resources. As our members age and retire, the "treasure" part is diminishing, which has precipitated our joining with the other churches. However, we continue to provide a religious presence in our town of Hull's Cove. Many residents of Hull's Cove and beyond consider the Church of Our Father their church, and are present for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is up to us to work at making our church community and the local community one.

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

In the past five years we have had conflict in our church when a Priest in Charge and some members of the congregation had differences which caused hard feelings between some parishioners and the priest. This led to some members leaving during the priest's time, and others leaving after the priest left. After a period of supply priests, we called a newly ordained priest who helped us through the grieving process and brought us to a better position as a congregation. Hopefully, this period of conflict is past, and our new adventure of joining together with the other churches will solidify our membership in dealing with conflict. However, we still find it hard to express our difference in a positive way. The fact that we recognize we still need guidance and help is a starting point. We know that with a prayerful approach the Lord will guide us when future conflicts arise.

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?

Change is our only constant! We have experienced both highs and lows during the past five years. Change in priestly leadership; change in the makeup of the Vestry; lost of long time members through illness or death. We believe that we must minister to the congregation that we have, and prayerfully and carefully engage each new decision. During these times of uncertainty, we have had prayer vigils, prayer services and congregational meetings to focus on the situation at hand. What we hope we have learned is to listen to each other, respect each other's views, and ask the Lord in prayer to guide us.

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Prior Incumbents

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. John Allison | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 2017-01 | 2019-01 |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Suzanne Cole | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 2013-01 | 2017-01 |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Charles Bradshaw | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 1999-01 | 2012-01 |

This is a single position which will encompass leadership of three closely associated congregations: St. Saviours Bar Harbor; Church of Our Father, Hull's Cove; and St. Andrew and St. John, Southwest Harbor. The priest will have resources available to call an assistant or arrange for supply clergy to share worship leadership. For much more information about the Island-wide Episcopal collaboration, please visit <http://www.mdi-episcopal.org>

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Church School | Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School | Number of Students for Children School |
| | 2 | 5 |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 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 |
|--|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 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: www.churchofourfather.org

Media Links:
www.mdi-episcopal.org

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

| | |
|--|---|
| Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown | tbrown@episcopalmaine.org ; 1-207-772-1953 ext 125 |
| Diocesan Transition Minister The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler | mambler@episcopalmaine.org ; 1-207-772-1953 ext 123 |
| Current Warden/Board Chair Mr. Anthony Sousa | Please contact Canon Ambler |
| Previous Warden/Board Chair Ms. Gail Leland | Please contact Canon Ambler |
| Search Chair Mr. Anthony Sousa | Please contact Canon Ambler |
| Parish/Institution | |
| Local Community Leader Mr. Ted Higgins | Please contact Canon Ambler |