



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 8, 2020)

St. Giles, Maine

72 Gardiner Road, PO Box 34, Jefferson, ME 04348, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

mambler@episcopalmaine.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 24	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	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 \$24740	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental	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 Yes

\$24,740=diocesan standard Total Clergy Comp for 1/3 time in Lincoln County.

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

A parishioner came up with the idea of a country fair summer fundraiser to help close a hole in our projected budget. A group of willing hands pitched in and made this event a great success in a number of ways. First, it raised more than enough to resolve our budget needs. More importantly, it brought nearly every active member of the parish together to work on a common project. It was hard work, but also a lot of fun while parish members got to interact with each other in new ways. We learned about each other's strengths as though it were a variety show of our individual talents. The fair also attracted a lot of folks in the community who had never visited our church before. We will definitely repeat this fair next year!

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

Being an active part of our community is integral to our preparation for the future. We know that we must not only meet God's people where they are - at a community function, on a hike, at a museum, or on the internet - but we need also to maintain relationships at our church. A challenge will be to maintain these relationships in the information age. As people spend more time in isolating activities, we need to learn how to use the internet, social media and our web page to continue to bring people together for worship. We are optimistic at St. Giles that we can address this challenge as we discuss inviting people to our church and bringing the church to the people. As evidenced by our community commitments, we recognize that our future is beyond just Sunday worship within the walls of our church, and we are embracing this.

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

engaging sermons, Outreach Oriented, approachable communicator, family focused

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

We use Rite II and in recent years have worshipped in a traditional manner. In the past we have welcomed dance and other forms of contemporary music and accompaniment in our services. Currently, our worship music is almost entirely from the hymnal and WLP. When we have had the occasion to use different forms of prayers and alternate forms of eucharistic celebration, St. Giles has welcomed these variations. From time to time, when a priest is unavailable, we worship on Sunday using the service of Morning Prayer. When children are present, we incorporate them into the service. We have Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis and we set aside one Sunday in late summer as St. Giles Sunday, when a parishioner is recognized with the "Arrow of St. Giles Award."

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. Giles incorporates others in its ministry in a variety of ways. We make use of personal contact, phone calls and visits to parish members to stay connected and to provide support. One parishioner has made dozens of prayer shawls over the years for those with special needs. Many congregants invite others in the community to our services and the coffee hour that follows. We also communicate frequently through emails, Sunday announcements, a web page, and Facebook. Our service schedule is printed in the local paper as are articles about our special events. The Jefferson Area Community Food Pantry, housed in our building, brings St. Giles into the community. We have committed our parish to the creation of a community vegetable garden in partnership with the Food Pantry. We have hosted free community suppers during the winter months. We have also made our building available to other groups for meetings and celebrations. We look forward to the beginning of a new initiative, "Giles' Outside," which will promote outdoor activities. We have re-established our summer "Country Fair" fundraiser, which enjoys enthusiastic community and parish support.

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

St. Giles is a close-knit community with friendly, caring parishioners. Our Sunday services have included healing prayers with laying on of hands offered for those in need during or after the service in private or in small groups. We use a prayer list to include friends and neighbors in the prayers of the people each Sunday. Home communion is offered to the sick or housebound. In the past we have had frequent adult Bible studies, and Sunday school is offered when children are present. Our ECW organizes meals in times of need, receptions for funerals or memorial services, and celebrations of holidays and milestone events such as 90th-plus birthdays. Our members volunteer for altar care, coffee hour, server, chalice bearer as well as clean up days, building maintenance, and garden care. We look out for each other between Sundays with phone calls, visits, cards, and emails. Our activities in the community also reflect mutual caring for our friends and neighbors.

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

Concern for fellow parishioners is baked into the spirit of St. Giles. Giving incapacitated parishioners rides to church and to medical appointments, taking them meals and communion, visiting them at home or the hospital, are part of life in this rural setting. In the past St. Giles has welcomed clergy and people of other faiths, and hosted music, poetry, and dance programs. St. Giles has many parishioners who volunteer in the wider community, at nursing homes, the food pantry, youth events, conservation organizations, historical associations, and many others. St. Giles is located in a spectacular region in terms of natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. We also believe that increasing access to our natural world is another form of pastoral care.

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

St. Giles has during over 35 years as a parish been an active part of the Midcoast community, from its fairs that have drawn summer crowds, to its nursery school open to all for 30 years, and never more involved than now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the church building serving as the location for the Jefferson Area Community Food Pantry. Each year parishioners collect enough school supplies and backpacks to donate 10 full backpacks to each of three area schools. Free community suppers have been offered during the winter months and we welcome all attendees. We support wider church initiatives such as ERD, collect funds for Camp Bishopswood and award scholarships to camp attendees, and actively participate in diocesan youth events. We participate with other area churches in guiding and supporting the Lincoln County Homelessness Initiative.

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

Upon learning they needed a new base of operations, St. Giles partnered with the Jefferson Area Community Food Pantry. We provide them with a place to store their inventory as well as a place from which to disburse to the community. St. Giles is the fiscal sponsor of the Food Pantry, providing 501(c)(3) status and bookkeeping services, and absorbs much of the attendant increase in utility and maintenance costs. With St. Giles' support, the program has expanded considerably. Recent open days have served over 65 families/200 people. St. Giles' presence in the community is enhanced by this partnership. Contact Person: Deb King, 207-549-7872.

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

We have a faithful body of parishioners who generously support the church and its outreach missions. We are flexible in our stewardship expectations, valuing the devotion of time and talent well as dollars; indeed, dollar pledges are kept anonymous so they are not valued as more important gifts than the devotion of time and effort. Recently, the vestry conducted an every-member canvass so we could gain insight as to parishioners' views about our church life as well as to solicit support for its activities. Parishioners have responded generously to appeals for support for outreach missions such as the ERD, Jefferson Area Community Food Pantry, our backpack program for area students, the Ecumenical Homelessness Coalition, and Camp Bishopswood, as well as to calls to help meet the parish's own short term emergency needs. We have been careful stewards of our resources, with timely accounting of our operations to the vestry and the parish, as well as careful maintenance of our church building. At the same time we take joy in our fund-raising activities like our newly re-launched country fair, which also enjoys community support.

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

During times when St. Giles has experienced conflict, we have in great part been able to worship together, but there sometimes has been a need for more open communication. Our methods of addressing conflict change depending on the leadership style of our Sr. Wardens and Priests. We do not have a written protocol for handling tension and conflict within our parish, but it is generally accepted that developing and implementing a plan to address conflict should be handled by the Sr. Warden and Vestry together with the Priest. When St. Giles handles conflict well, it is a result of calling parish meetings, personal telephone calls or meetings with individuals by the Priest or Sr. Warden. Sometimes we have needed to recognize that moving forward without addressing an issue head-on will have to suffice. When we have handled conflict poorly, it has been because we have failed to initiate dialogue, for example, not succeeding in contacting people who have dropped their membership, or ignoring offenses inflicted on one another.

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?

What have we learned? Change is hard. Change is growth at times but it doesn't come without its challenges. We have learned that communication and honesty are essential, between clergy and parish, between leadership and clergy, between leadership and the parish. We have learned that we can function when the parish steps up to the plate even in grief, even in the absence of clergy. We have learned that when the going is rough, we can depend on our church family and divine guidance. We have for years had to deal with our declining numbers, some of that a sharing in the experience of the wider church, some due to internal disagreements. We see how more open communication might help. Adjusting to changing clergy leadership is always a challenge, and some don't make the adjustment. One recent change that our parish has embraced is the presence of the food pantry, likely because of the service opportunity it presents.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Susan Kraus	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2010-01	2019-11

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. John Van Siclen	Interim	2008-04	2010-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jeffrey Lewis	Interim	2007-03	2008-03

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: stgilesjefferson.org

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Current Warden/Board Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Mr. John Atwood

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair Please contact Canon Ambler
Ms. Dotti Meyer

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader