



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 17, 2020)

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, Maine

350 US Route 1, Scarborough, ME 04074-8307, 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
31	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$17550		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

\$17550 = diocesan standard Total Compensation for 1/4 time in Scarborough. Negotiable

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, Maine

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

A recent moment of success and fulfillment came when we removed the "for sale" sign from our church home. Our life as a congregation began in 1988 in an Episcopal summer chapel in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. From there we moved several times until eventually we built our very own church building. All was smooth sailing for a while, but eventually we were challenged with a financial shortfall and faced with the difficult possibility of having to sell the building at Christmastime 2018. After navigating some tricky financial times and exploring many options, we were able to keep our building as our home of worship. Today, we host another congregation as well as other community partners, and our financial picture looks fairly stable. This reversal of what seemed like an inevitable end to our inhabiting a church building was made possible through people's generosity, divine intervention and congregational collaboration. We remain an Episcopal church in Scarborough. Even in the current pandemic, we remain vital and involved in the community, still relevant and meeting regularly on Sundays via Zoom.

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

Our members have ensured that St. Nick's has a future. During Covid 19, our members have proven tenacious and determined to stay connected through Zoom and technology. Even when we return to our physical sanctuary, technology will continue to help everyone stay connected. We are happily sharing our space with Landmark Church, and we will look for other compatible nonprofits to share our space when we reopen the church. Scarborough is a growing community, and some members see our future in drawing young families to the church, while others see our future in welcoming people who move here to retire. A young member who now lives in Boston told us that millennials might be attracted by a thought-provoking priest, more contemporary music, less formal liturgy, and church relevance to current societal issues. We have Sunday school rooms, a talented teacher and furnishings... just no customers. We want to grow, whatever that might look like, while honoring the needs of people who are coming to us already. We are seeking a priest who can help us figure out and support the directions needed for St. Nick's to thrive.

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

Energetic and committed pastoral and relatable collaborative and family-friendly open-minded good preacher

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

One thing that most of our members are enthusiastic about is our semicircular seating arrangement around the altar, sometimes referred to as “church in the round.” We also have Communion standing in a circle. It feels like we are embracing each other with God at the center. The atmosphere is relaxed and relatively informal but respectful of tradition. Many comment on our simple cross of two beaver-gnawed sapling pieces lashed together with baling twine. Mistakes made by anyone during the service are laughed off and worship continues. We like to think of ourselves as a body that focuses on meaning over the traditional trappings of formal religion. We consider ourselves open, innovative, communicative, and somewhat variable in the format of our service throughout the year. All are welcome at God’s table at St. Nick’s. Our worship is supported by our talented and energetic music director with carefully chosen hymns, guest musicians, a congregational group of bell-chimers (aka “dingalings”) and an occasional attempt at a “folk” group.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

At St. Nick’s, it seems as though everyone helps with something. The invitation to participate is always there, as is respect for whatever the answer may be. In our congregation, individuals contribute according to their strengths. We let people serve as they feel called to. Pressure is not applied. Opportunities are presented, and somehow everything gets done. We have people who voluntarily staff our office, fold the bulletins, serve as greeters, do the readings, and provide coffee hour, which could often be called brunch with the extra enthusiastic contributions. Members count the offering and take the deposit to the bank. People troubleshoot and help maintain the physical building, grounds and systems; our tenant the Landmark Church often helps with maintenance projects. Our members also help with the eucharistic ministry and reach out to those who can’t make it to church.

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

Among the members of St. Nick’s there is great sensitivity to caring for each other. Our formal pastoral care committee no longer meets, but it set the mission and tone of reaching out to offer friendship, comfort, and material support. Several members, nominally led by the Bishop’s Committee, are intentional about connecting with parishioners and sharing needs and concerns, as appropriate, with the Bishop’s Committee and church community. We have an active prayer chain and a group that looks after our property. Monthly or so, we have open social events, often involving going out for dinner. The Diocese is very supportive of St. Nick’s, providing spiritual guidance and tangible assistance in times of need. Our members include several retired clergy who are willing to help out. A Priest in Charge to help with pastoral care, especially for emergency situations, will be much appreciated.

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

Our caring and outreach go far beyond our worshipping community. In Scarborough, we are longtime partners with Project Grace. One of our members serves on the board, and we contribute to programs such as the back-to-school backpack program and the heating oil fund. In Portland, in addition to supporting the Essentials Pantry, several members provide monthly meals for residents of Logan Place, an apartment complex for adults who have been homeless. St. Nick's also supports the Konbit Sante Cap-Haitien Health Partnership, whose mission is to create a sustainable health system in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, a sister city to Portland. We support Konbit Sante in numerous ways: joining Maine Walks for Haiti, donating returnables, helping to load shipping containers with medical supplies, and supporting small businesses in Cap-Haitien by collecting toiletries for women to sell and by buying metal art created by Cap-Haitien artists. St. Nick's has a heart for helping our neighbors in Maine and Haiti. We also buy our coffee from the Equal Exchange Fair Trade Company and frequently have their products available for sale to support small farmers and raise funds for Konbit Sante.

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

St. Nick's works closely with Diocesan staff because we are a mission church. We send delegates to the annual Diocesan convention. We have long been involved with St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry. One of our members is on the board, several members assist with distribution every 6th Tuesday, and we participate in seasonal events such as Long Johns Sundays. We are part of the Scarborough Ecumenical Group, and one of our members represents St. Nick's at the meetings. We have a very good relationship with our guests who worship in our building, Landmark Apostolic Lighthouse. Last fall, they hosted us at St. Nick's for a Thanksgiving meal and hymn sing. We have worked together to sand and paint some rooms in our shared space, and St. Nick's created a Sunday school room for our shared use. We have welcomed each other with love and respect even if our worship is not the same.

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

The Scarborough Community Garden at St. Nick's was conceived by Steffi Cox, Director of Project Grace and Jane Ducott, co-warden of St. Nick's, in spring 2013. Project Grace had the contacts and St. Nick's had the land. The Community Garden in Scarborough broke ground in November 2014 and became the model for other gardens in Scarborough. We are grateful to the Diocese for the seed money that provided our sprinkler system, cedar fencing, and breaking of ground. Many community churches, banks, construction crews, and master gardeners offered their talents, along with Scott Ducott of St. Nick's, who managed the project to fruition. All produce and herbs are harvested and delivered twice weekly to the Scarborough Food Pantry from June to October. Many volunteers from the community continue to open, plant, harvest and close the garden on an annual basis.

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

Stewardship is part of our realization of the value of this community to each of us. It is addressed formally each year during the Annual Appeal, with letters that read like invitations and opportunities. There are two parts to the appeal: one for yearly pledges and one for Fund the Future. Fund the Future is an ongoing fund that allows people to make substantial one-time or ongoing pledges to fund our operating expenses. Each year, during the appeal, three volunteers speak from the lectern about why they support St. Nick's. Periodically, in our newsletter, a reflection related to stewardship appears. Stewardship is understood to mean not only our financial contributions, but also our investments of time and commitment to the day-to-day work that is necessary to keep a church community intact and healthy. We pay an additional cost for carbon neutral power, and parishioners sign up to pay the monthly difference. People also contribute to our Barbara MacDougall Fund for guest musicians. Over the years, several parishioners have made generous bequests. We all contribute somehow, as we are able.

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

We experienced conflict in ending our relationship with our former tenant, Sandpiper Childcare Center. In 2018, we let the directors know that they had to move due to a dire financial crisis in which we could not afford to support Sandpiper and they could not pay bills either. One member described the conflict this way: "The Bishop's Committee dealt with the protracted process of separation with patience and forgiveness, ultimately turning the other cheek and sincerely wishing them good luck. I was a member of the Bishop's Committee during the separation with Sandpiper. I would present it as a time of challenging change in which the members of the committee worked together to respectfully express viewpoints and ultimately come to a consensus that all could feel good about...the co-wardens worked without fail to keep the Episcopal Church on the high road." We are grateful to the Diocese for spiritual, legal, and financial support provided during the painful process of separation, which ultimately allowed us to survive.

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?

In 2018, finding ourselves building rich and income poor, we had to figure out whether to stay in our building. Finding a smaller space turned out to be more expensive and less ideal than anticipated; it would cost more to have less, but we continued to look. We accepted an offer on our building, heartbreaking as it was. Then the offer was withdrawn, and no others came in. With people continuing to ask, "What can we do? How can we help?," we decided to try an approach we called "Fund the Future." People's generous response, along with several bequests, allowed us, joyfully, to take our church home off the market. As all this was happening, our half-time priest told us he was ready to retire. This was a shock, but perhaps everything was coming together. Members hosted a beautiful send-off brunch and wished him well. Then, as our financial picture improved, we were blessed with the services of some wonderful supply clergy and found that we enjoy having a variety of voices. We are now searching for a quarter-time priest who will help offer spiritual leadership and pastoral care as we continue to piece together our way of being an Episcopal Church in the Scarborough area.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. David Heald	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2011-08	2018-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Eckhart Horn	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2008-01	2010-11

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
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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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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://stnicholasmaine.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 J
Brown**

Diocesan Transition Minister 207-772-1953 ext 123; mambler@episcoplamaine.org

**The Rev. Canon Michael
Ambler**

Current Warden/Board Chair Please contact Canon Ambler

**Kelly Martino and Cynthia
Nye, co-Wardens**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair Please contact Canon Ambler

Jane Ducott

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader