



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 18, 2019)

St. George's Episcopal Church Maplewood, NJ, Newark

550 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood, NJ 07040, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/28/19.

stgeosearch@yahoo.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 153	Number of Weekend Worship Services 3	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities \$3000
SECA reimbursement \$8800	Compensation Available for New Position \$65000	Housing Available for 4	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget Yes	Annual Equity Amount \$5100
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	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

Rectory located a few blocks from church Cash salary = \$65,000

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

When Rev. Poppe announced his decision to leave last year, the church was able to absorb the news and organize a beautiful farewell service in just a few weeks. The congregation offered a spiritually-charged laying on of hands, full of love and gratitude for our departing Rector. Gifts were presented from the congregation and friends in the community, and a lovely reception followed.

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

We welcome and teach children and youth. We have been good stewards of our church property. Up until our recent profile work, we have not formally been asking what the "Church of the Future" (in macro terms) could mean; however, now that we have done our profile work, we think the goals reflected in this document speak to our church of the future. We welcome the opportunity to continue to evolve St. George's to participate in the "Church of the Future."

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

kind, empathetic, Genuine, articulate, humble, outgoing, advocate, aware, collaborator, problem-solver,
<div class="field-item field-item-10">Connector

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

We worship using Rite II, but practice Rite I liturgy during Advent and Lent. The 8 a.m. service meets in the chancel, seated in chairs that the choir uses later in the day. Communion is taken in a large circle, surrounding the free-standing altar, and is passed from one to another. For many years, a monthly Family Service at 9:15 a.m. has used a less formal Eucharist liturgy, and acoustic music (piano, drum set, violin, guitar) and children have been invited to sit with the clergy on the steps during the sermon. Our 10:30 service is a choral Eucharist, with choir. For over a decade, our former Rector delivered his sermons from the crossing and center aisle. Though this practice began as a stylistic choice of Rev. Poppe, it fostered a spiritual connection that was embraced by the congregation and has become an important component of our service. All in attendance are welcomed to communion (or blessing).

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

The open communion rail is the main welcome to join us in ministry, but otherwise incorporation is principally by invitation, either interpersonally, or via announcements in bulletins (or email). Committee members (or chairs) have been chiefly responsible for enlisting new members, and we would like our rector to take an active role in recruiting members for committee work.

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

Intercessors from our Healing Ministry provide individual parishioners with healing prayers at our 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Occasional bonding through book group(s) or small prayer/meditation group(s), and fellowship opportunities, as described elsewhere. A few years ago, seniors met in the parish hall for chair-based yoga sessions. In town halls and surveys, people were happy with our Exchange of the Peace, which is a way of caring for each other at church. But pastoral care for home-bound, or people who are ill or in the hospital, relies on word-of-mouth and close friendships; metaphorically, a small grapevine that could be invigorated by our next rector to become robust and fruitful.

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

St. George's does not have an institutional program for pastoral care beyond our worshipping community, but for years on Ash Wednesday our rector provided "ashes to go" at our local train station, and many of our parishioners care for people as part of their vocations or avocations; some provide pastoral counseling, others work in social care vocationally. Volunteering happens in hospice care, and there are some who have, for years, visited a nursing home to lead Bible readings. (For many years, the Outreach committee provided funds to the local Pastoral Counseling Service, but those ordained counselors are now retired.)

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

Most of our involvement is articulated in the Parish Profile, particularly regarding parishioners' devotion to, and employment with, the Diocese of Newark. Our Diocesan pledge has always striven to be exceptional, and so has our financial commitment to budgeting for Outreach grants. Discernment groups at St. George's have, for forty-plus years, assisted many parishioners towards ordination; several became priests. St. George's has also been a welcoming place for many (perhaps a dozen in twenty years) seminarian interns, and newly ordained deacons, to serve and learn. Locally, you may have seen the Outreach section of the Parish Life description on page 4 of the Clergy Position Description Worksheet, which describes community involvement in recent years.

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

St. George's started a Women's Ministry last year with several subgroups: Spirituality, Fellowship, and Outreach. We host book and Bible studies, service projects, social gatherings, and we discuss a range of topics, such as spirituality or volunteer opportunities outside of church. All women over the age of 18 are invited to join this ministry - we currently have over 35 members ranging in ages from 26 to over 80 years old! Katie Rickard initiated the ministry and leads it.

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

We have a strong Stewardship Committee focused on developing parishioners' giving in terms of time, talent, and treasure. Last year, the Committee expanded its focus to provide year-round occasions to strengthen our connections as a community and to practice living with gratitude. The Committee invited parishioners to explore how we make use of our time and talent and provided a number of ways for parishioners to consider their giving, such as a discussion forum on recognizing and using our gifts; reflective questions published in the bulletin; testimonials provided during services, and, study of a book on radical generosity. The Committee hosted a festive church-wide luncheon on Pledge Sunday to celebrate the steadfast commitments made to serve God both within the walls of St. George and beyond and sponsored an intergenerational activity where children in our church painted small stones with inspirational words which were shared with the parishioners to leave anonymously in our communities as another means of paying it forward with the hope that it might touch someone's life at that right moment. The Stewardship/Outreach Cmtees are sponsoring a Ministries of the Month pgrm

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

It has been a long time since conflict devolved to factions at St. George's Church. Concerns are taken seriously, people respectfully heard (primarily by wardens), and answers sought promptly so wounds will not fester. At Vestry Meetings, debate can be lively, but it is always healthy, without condescension or rudeness.

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 church began celebrating same-sex unions, and then marriages, and we learned that change can be wonderful. On the sad side, not too long ago a youth minister was dismissed, not for cause (lack of support was one issue) and there were resulting bad feelings, which better communications might have attenuated. Several years ago, the decision to employ paid section leaders in the choir (using benefactor's funds dedicated to purpose) created a rift among the choir, upsetting the choir lay leadership.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Gary Commins	Interim	2018-09	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Bernard Poppe	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2002-10	2018-05

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
	6	22

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	12		

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.stgeorges-maplewood.org

Media Links:

Online References:

www.facebook.com/stgeo07040

> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEFDhdvdBmA>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes

chughes@dioceseofnewark.org 973-430-9976

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs

gjacobs@dioceseofnewark.org 973-430-9915

Current Warden/Board Chair

Tony Bousanti, Senior Warden

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Valyrie Laedlein

973-951-1042 stgeosearch@yahoo.com

Parish/Institution

The Rev. Gary Commins & The Rev. Lauren Ackland

gcommins@aol.com lauren.ackland@gmail.com

Local Community Leader

Kate Cahill

available upon request