



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 10, 2018)

St. Stephen's Church, Newark

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/30/18.

maryalice_chech@yahoo.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
65	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$80000	\$50700	\$24000	\$4000
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$80000	4	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
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
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

"Compensation Available" figure represents cash salary, SECA, and housing value of rectory provided

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

Christine's Kitchen: A "soup kitchen" in West Orange that we are in charge of 3 times a year. Our parishioners prepare tasty and creative dishes and run the service and clean up. After our November 2017 session, we had 50+ guests who came out in the 5 degree weather. The food as usual, was outstanding, as though we were cooking for a family dinner. Burgers, chicken pot pie, pasta and meatballs, chicken, an Indian dish, a Caribbean dish, hotdogs, fruit, Italian sausages, baked beans, hot chocolate, coffee, juice, ham slices and much more. Feedback from the guests was that it was spectacular. The 2017 Angel Tree project - we collected Christmas gifts for the children of our Drumming Camp families. Even in this transition time of diminished attendance, parishioners, urgently sought to continue our tradition of providing clothing and gifts and provided gifts in excess of requirements. A Vestry member reported: I took my gifts to the Church office where we were told to drop off, and when I walked in I was just astounded and touched by the large pile of beautifully wrapped gifts that were waiting there for delivery to our families.

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

We have a strong Finance Committee that is keeping a close eye on finances and constantly trying to bring in new families - young and old. We serve the family needs of our changing community with a fine pre-school, whose reputation is known and whose enrollment is full, with a waiting list. Many St. Stephen's members who may not come to service are out there doing "going local work" participating in Christine's Kitchen, IHN and other ministries. We have reached out to our neighbors bringing altar flowers to the American Legion, hosting Seniors lunch, and hosting AA groups. St. Stephen's is also connected with the Papermill Show Choir an elite group of 50-60 singer/dancers, ages 16 to 22, that serve as performance ambassadors for New Jersey's most popular regional theater. The Choir performs in a fundraiser at St. Stephen's each spring. We are flexible in our approach to community and spirituality. Groups of people outside the church participate in several of our ministries (Christine's Kitchen, Angel Tree holiday giving) very regularly. The congregation genuinely values connection and working together in ways beyond formal worship service

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

church growth, preaching, outreach, administration

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

Relying on Rite 2 supplemented by creative and other new liturgies, the congregation balances a respect for tradition with an interest in new ways of worship. The feeling of the service is traditional but not formal. People are passionate about community. Parishioners enjoy welcoming newcomers and connecting during post service coffee hour.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our ministries are spearheaded by parishioners. Parishioners involved in the ministry often bring friends, family, even former parishioners. For instance a parishioner's Girl Scout Troop may help to staff Christine's kitchen. We have forged connections with Newark programs addressing the needs of struggling urban families, with the town office of senior services to build programs for area seniors; have hosted IHN families since the 1980's, serve jointly with area congregations in programs addressing hunger and homelessness and invite the families attending our (non-denominational) pre-school to parish events such as Blessing of the Animals, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Shrove Tuesday dinners.

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

Most parishioners do this on their own. Small groups do gather for discussion groups, spiritual workshops or retreats. In December, St. Stephen's holds its annual Advent retreat, at the Convent of St. John Baptist, Mendham. The theme this year was Transitions. Participants were guided toward the message of Advent as time of transition and how the theme related to St. Stephen's own time of transition as we anticipate a new rector. The quiet, prayerful atmosphere of the convent provided a meaningful setting at the start of Advent. Also in December, St. Stephen's offers a "Blue Christmas" service. The service is held on the shortest day of the year when darkness recalls the reality that the holiday season can be a difficult time for those who have experienced losses. "Blue Christmas" offers participants the time and space to acknowledge sadness in the midst of the frequently frantically paced holiday season. Members of St. Stephen's Choir offered the healing ministry of music. Two members of the clergy as well as participants shared heartfelt reflections which offered both inspiration and insight. A brief fellowship followed the service in the rear of the church.

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

Our priest and deacon under the Bishop's directive gave ashes at the Millburn Train Station 6 a.m. on Ash Wednesday. The number of recipients grew over the 3 years this was done. We operate an historic cemetery and gothic style mausoleum that provides burial and liturgical services for families of all denominations at times of loss.

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

We are involved with the Historical Society of Millburn and Short Hills. For example we have co-sponsored a holiday boutique, the proceeds of which were used to paint one of our buildings and one of the historical society's buildings. We initiated a drumming camp for urban children who have a parent who is incarcerated. These children were invited to perform at our diocesan convention and the program has prompted the support of a township Presbyterian congregation and will now be jointly sponsored with another township congregation. A Vestry member reported: In early 2018 our Drumming Camp was saluted by the local Presbyterian Church on MLK day. They hired Ya Yah Kamate, our drumming camp instructor, borrowed our African drums, and hosted a drumming clinic for local children and families in honor of Dr. King. They included a flyer about St. Stephen's drumming camp in their materials, and took up a good will offering, which they dedicated to our drumming camp, and which brought us over \$300. We revived a monthly film and lunch club discontinued by the town library to serve area seniors.

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

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

Pledge: We appeal to our fellow parishioners by using personal testimony about what St. Stephen's means to us with a mix of reality/bottom line discussions which help parishioners understand the needs of our church. The stewardship campaign included authentic, informal testimonials about the community, support, and impact St. Stephen's had on them. Stewardship in the form of social ministries is the life of the community and drives our engagement throughout the year. The soup kitchen, Angel Tree, Drumming Camp and other activities, all revolve around taking care of others. Stewardship of the budget, care for our buildings and property, and material concerns of the congregation are all managed by a few long-time members whose age now limits what they can do. Results: In 2017, a particularly challenging year due to the loss of our rector and search for a new rector, the congregation responded strongly to the fall pledge campaign by filling in gaps created by the loss of several foundational families during the year. While we had fewer pledges (30 in 2018, vs. 43 in 2017) we came very close to having the same dollar amount contributed.

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

We have been very fortunate not to have the kind of conflict that divides a parish. We have weathered many issues like floods and having to rebuild yet again but we've been blessed for many years by not having to deal with major conflict. We did not experience or observe conflict as parishioners or as members of church leadership. When problems arise in the preschool, which is a part of the church, the focus was always on maintaining communication and respect during the resolution of an issue. Our approach is to demonstrate openness to varied points of view and to commit to making room for conversation about any difficulties and how we can support each other in Christian community. The Vestry encourages candor and consistent "temperature checks" to remain aware of concerns or unmet needs in the congregation so we can solve things together.

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?



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Sheelagh A. Clarke	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-09	2017-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
J. Cooper Conway	Interim	2010-02	2011-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Cornelius C. Tarplee	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1992-01	2009-12

Position Description Outline available through diocesan clergy openings webpage; www.dioceseofnewark.org

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	1	10

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

Pre-K



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Contact:

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Worshipping Community Web site: www.ststephensmillburn.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Mark Beckwith

973-430-9976 mbeckwith@dioceseofnewark.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

Gregory Jacobs

973-430-9915 gjacobs@dioceseofnewark.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Maryalice Chech

732-446-0579; maryalice_chech@yahoo.com

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader