



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 29, 2020)

Christ Church, Budd Lake NJ, Newark

369 Sandshore Road, Budd Lake, NJ 07828, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 03/13/20. andrewlutzer@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
22	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	\$26350	\$12000	\$2000
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$3087			We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Clergy only	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
		No	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		Other	1
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
up to/including \$500/year			

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

We recently discerned a ministry to house and support the local township food bank. We teamed-up with other churches to reorganize the Mt. Olive Township food pantry, which was being housed in the township offices. Volunteers came forward to sift through outdated food supplies, and to restock shelves. Our pastor and Pastor Matt from Mountaintop Church visited various food ministries and met extensively with the township regarding transferring the food bank to the care of the local houses of worship. The food pantry's board, consists of members from Christ Church, Mountaintop Church, and a local synagogue. Christ Church hosts the food pantry. On a weekly basis, the pantry serves 25 families or individuals. The food bank is opening our church to participate in a broader community of faith. It is staffed by volunteers from several churches and a synagogue in Mt. Olive. We recently completed the construction of a memorial garden. The committee in cooperation with the vestry, decided on a design and location for the garden, and has discerned ways that the garden can continue to grow, change, and contribute to our church infrastructure and life.

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

Recently, we unveiled our church's new website to increase our outreach and exposure. In addition to serving as a means of outreach and welcome, our website is a resource for church members, providing prayers, a dynamic calendar, important announcements, sermons, video clips, and more. We are further utilizing a Facebook page to share our life and ministry updates with the parish community. We also believe that the church of the future is more eclectic and diverse in its style of worship, and must speak to the needs of people's daily lives. We combine modern media such as worship slides and contemporary music along with traditional styles of worship. We appreciate sermons that highlight how scripture speaks to our daily lives. The church of the future must also honor lay-leadership. Our lay-leaders play music, lead the announcements, offer sermons or meditations a couple of times a year, or take turns leading our children's service. Our knitting club meets regularly and knits scarves and hats for the Seaman's Institute. Our All God's Children service, regularly pulls in families throughout the community, as does the Food Pantry we host.

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

spiritual, connecting, caring, coaching, catalyzing, innovating, expanding

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

Our primary worship is Rite II Sunday morning. We also have AGC twice monthly. Our worship style is casual and friendly. For instance, our rector may stop preaching her sermon to greet a congregant arriving late. Our worship is an eclectic mix of traditional hymns and contemporary praise music. We appreciate unconventional and creative worship, such as creative readings of scripture, testimonies or sermons offered by members of the congregation, and the use of a worship screen for images that illustrate scriptural themes. Personal and thought-provoking sermons are extremely important to the congregation. Our worship is very much lay-led, and parishioners are encouraged to sign up for a worship ministry. Parishioners also lead our All God's Children ministry, and preach sermons or short reflections throughout the year. Other worship services include a meditative evening Eucharist on Wednesdays. This service is held in a circle around the altar. The "sermon" is created by those who are gathered, as they reflect on a passage of scripture together. A short Eucharist follows, where each member offers the elements to the person next to them

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

As they enter our sanctuary, visitors are warmly greeted and welcomed by our ushers and ministry leaders. They are greeted once again and engaged in conversation during the peace and after the service. They receive information about our church and its programs. Our coffee hour offers further opportunity for engagement and introduction. We encourage involvement but more importantly, we want people to share their gifts as they feel led by the Holy Spirit. Members are also free to create ministry opportunities that use their talents and gifts. Our knitting group began because one parishioner decided to call people together and research hospital and nursing home programs that would appreciate handmade donations. Our Operation Christmas Child is organized through another parishioner who felt it was an important opportunity for international ministry.

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

Christ Church has a long history of healing prayer and Intercessory Prayer. Intercessory Prayer enables a deepening of faith through prayer and intercession for our loved ones, our congregation, our church and the world. We offer an evening gathering once a month. Teams also schedule times to offer contemplative healing prayer - called soaking prayer - to the sick. During our Wednesday Meditative Eucharist we offer quiet meditation, reflect on Scripture together, and share a casual service of Holy Communion as we gather at the altar.

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

Our pastor is a member of the Mt. Olive Clergy Association. This connection with the larger pastoral community has brought about our hosting the Mt. Olive Food Pantry, which enables us to connect with those in need beyond our church doors. Through our All God's Children ministry we have opened our doors to new members in the surrounding community whose children have special needs. Through programs connected with this ministry, we have participated in events to raise money and awareness for worthy causes such as a Downs Syndrome Buddy Walk and an Autism Run/Walk. We have also supported a fun-run to raise money for Crohn's Disease and Colitis research and Operation Christmas Child, where gifts are sent all over the world. Our Knitting Group makes scarves and prayer shawls for a variety of needs, including Seaman's Church Institute and local ministries to children in hospitals or in need. Our participation in a coupon exchange program helped military families as well as families in our neighborhood. We also host three AA meetings, and expand our special needs ministry by opening our space to programs in the neighborhood, such as DAWN and Advancing Opportunities.

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

We provide support and resources for congregations both in the diocese and in other denominations who are interested in beginning a worship ministry to special needs children and their families. All of our resources are available on our website, and we invite congregations to experience our service and volunteer to visit them and talk about our program. Our All God's Children worship has been featured in local and regional media, and our resources have been used by Catholic, Lutheran, and nondenominational churches.

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

Our innovative All God's Children (AGC) was designed to cater to children with special needs. The service is non-denominational. It is for children of all ages, and particularly welcome children with autism, PDD-NOS, ADHD, ADD, Downs, or any other developmental or physical challenge. Our AGC service takes place each first and third Sunday of the month before our 10:15 Eucharist. Catering to short attention spans, the service is a lively combination of music and prayer and is only lightly structured and considerably free-form to allow kids the opportunity to be who they are and to express themselves. Each AGC service begins and concludes with a Cross Parade which involves carrying handheld crosses around the church to music. Part of the service includes a Mom's Minute offering a parent an opportunity to share a witness, Bible-story time to connect kids with God's word followed by prayer, a Joyful Noise activity or interactive song during which kids can use various hand-instruments, singing, and Communion. The essential message of God's love and joy for all of his children is presented in a simplified, meaningful way. . A brief fellowship session follows each service.

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

The vast majority of our members pledge, and a significant number tithe. Our church has historically achieved one of the highest average pledge payments in our Diocese. This explains in part a decision made in the late 1980's to sell our former church building in Stanhope and build a new facility in Budd Lake. We signed a mortgage for \$450,000. In 2016, we retired our mortgage. In 2017, we made our last payment on our rectory mortgage. Our members have also pledged their "sweat equity" to ensure that our church and our rectory are lovingly maintained. We hold Spring and Fall cleanups, organize lawn maintenance teams, and rebuilt our church shed and refurbished our rectory. Trim on the church was repainted, our parking lot was refinished, and numerous hours were donated to planting flowers, trimming bushes and preserving our "curb appeal." Our rectory has been largely remodeled using mostly "sweat equity" from our members. Our one challenge has been incorporating new members into our commitment to stewardship. We have not had a formal stewardship campaign to help educate and encourage those who are new to our church or to the faith on the importance of stewardship

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

Our congregation, considerably comprised of long-time members with more conservative theology, has been largely able to avoid change. New members tend to be moderate about social issues. The community has held up the norm of Christian love in bearing with one another in our differences. However, we have had some challenges adjusting to broader societal changes, and recently experienced conflict regarding the blessing of same sex marriages. Approximately half of our congregation is for and half is opposed. While all members expressed a desire to welcome everyone, the Vestry voted against performing same-sex marriage in the church. Some members still express distress or disappointment, while one or two members have also expressed distress over continuing the conversation for fear of open conflict or the discomfort of being in controversy. The vast majority of members made an effort to be open and communicative as well as loving and respectful about our differences. We have faith that our commitment to each other and to showing Christian love and conversation in the midst of this conflict will help us as we move forward on the main issues that challenge the church today

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?

The congregation is incredibly flexible to changes in worship styles, trying out new activities, or opening the parish to other groups. The moveable pews make it easy to adjust the aesthetics of our worship space. Creative change usually goes well - such as coming in on a Sunday to find the pews pushed back, a map of the holy land on the ground for a teaching sermon, or having All God's Children decorations surrounding the altar area or baptismal font. Even adding tables for coffee-hour to the back of the church, which did not meet with much approval, also did not cause entrenched conflict. The congregation feels empowered to be a part of change and thus autocratic change is not appreciated. We were reminded of this when we moved the summer Eucharist time from 9:30 am to 9:00 am. The Vestry voted on that change, but the congregation was not warned and their opinion was not sought. We received complaints the change required a discussion with the congregation. In subsequent years, we have shifted our summer Eucharist to 9:30am. However, we also noted that our parishioners felt free to offer their criticism without leaving the church or feeling irreconciled by the change.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Elizabeth Myers	Supply	2018-06	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Ellen Kohn-Perry	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2015-01	2018-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Sonia Waters	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2009-10	2014-06

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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Worshipping Community Web site: www.christchurchbuddlake.org

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Church-Budd-Lake-All-Gods-Children-110477255744064/>

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

(973) 430-9976 chughes@dioceseofnewark.org

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes

Diocesan Transition Minister

(973) 430-9913 mapclark@dioceseofnewark.org

The Rev. Canon Margo Peckham Clark

Current Warden/Board Chair

dburkh25@gmail.com

Mrs. Debbie Burkhardt

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

973-945-2944 andrewlutzer@gmail.com

Mr. Andrew Lutz

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader