



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 14, 2019)

St. Peter's Church, Pennsylvania

121 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/01/19.

StPetersPvilleCall@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
134	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$90000		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
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)			
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	

+/- 90000 includes housing allowance. Range commensurate with experience.

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

Since mid-2018 the leadership of St. Peter's has organized a new Capital Campaign to address handicapped access to our church building, lack of which has been an impediment to the congregation in offering full participation to all. The beauty of the church is inspirational itself, however the vintage of the structure also has stairways and multiple levels that make it difficult at best for all members to access the church. We want to demonstrate our commitment to welcoming all, and to continue to serve our aging members who are not able to walk throughout the building. The initial response by early 2019 has been inspiring, with more than three-quarters of the goal already realized. A kick-off celebration of the campaign was joyously welcomed, with widespread participation, putting us well on the way to complete fulfillment of the targeted improvements. Every time we walk into this church we feel the love of its people. We welcome people of all ages and abilities, and are demonstrating that commitment through fulfilling this important investment in our congregation's ministries. We are blessed to be able to present our next rector with the accomplished reality of a more optimistic future.

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

Change is hard, particularly for churches grounded in tradition and vibrant liturgy. St. Peter's has made a strong effort to honor tradition while moving forward in thinking and action to support new beginnings and facilitate growth in varying directions. Capital improvements lead the way for sustainability, and we are focused on making the entire church accessible to all members. Our intentional parish growth-mindset provides opportunities for change through ongoing communication and observation of our community to assure we know of new needs. St. Peter's answered the call to serve community needs through the implementation of hunger relief services, pastoral care beyond the walls of our church, and lunch and breakfast programs that encourage community relationships and support growing needs. The parish recently began discussions related to the changing needs of young families in today's social climate and how to best meet those needs. St. Peter's is working to stay current through the use of communication through our website and establishment of a social media footprint. As we look toward the future, consistent and effective use of technology is a necessity that we recognize.

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

Strong spiritual energy, consensus leadership, pastoral focus, service-oriented both locally and globally.

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

Our liturgical style is traditional without being stodgy. We follow the Rite II Traditional Style at both of our weekly church services, including the Common Lectionary and The Book of Common Prayer. While we are not an Anglo-Catholic Church, we do occasionally (especially on High Holy Days) use incense and bells, as the High Anglo Catholic Church uses. By and large, we are a broad Church. We can be considered Contemporary, in that we do experiment with the broad Church tradition. We are Emergent, in that we are open to the sensibilities of being contextual in the world. Our first weekly Sunday service is quiet and typically includes 8 to 20 regular attendees. Our second service is family-oriented and includes wonderful organ and choir music.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

The ministries of St. Peter's are active and vibrant with many members of the church community involved in one aspect or another. Our new members Ministry greets newcomers and welcomes them to the church, encouraging ongoing engagement. The empowerment of our lay leadership is an important and unique characteristic of St. Peter's. Members are encouraged and invited by clergy and leaders to use their gifts and talents in contributing to our ministries. Clergy often assist members in identifying their strengths and helping them connect with, and lead within, the ministries that they most enjoy being a part of. This helps to grow and strengthen the ministry and fosters individual spiritual growth. Our lay leaders are given the support and resources they need to carry out their mission as much as possible by clergy and vestry. Ministry needs and opportunities are communicated to the congregation, helping to define how people can become contributors. Lay leadership has become a core value of St. Peter's, which identifies itself as a "bottom-up" church due to the strength of our volunteer force that truly carries out the ministries, vision and mission of the church.

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

St. Peter's has a variety of ministries/groups that aim to meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs. There are meditation and yoga groups to allow space for more contemplative practice for those interested. There is a self-supporting annual concert series ranging from spiritual singing to jazz groups that is made available free to the public. A ministry called "Helping Hands" addresses any need a person or family might have and quickly spreads the word through email to organize visits, meals, transportation and more. The food pantry program has been a source of help, encouragement and empowerment for as many as 5,000 people in the surrounding area. The goal of the pantry is to provide food for those in need while also creating a supportive community environment that offers social interaction. People can select what they want in addition to receiving fresh meat, milk, eggs, and fresh produce. These are just some of examples of how St Peter's aims to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the congregation and beyond.

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

The Pastoral Care Ministry at St. Peter's keeps our home bound parishioners in touch with their community during times of infirmity or physical absence from the church. Our team includes parishioners working closely with clergy to coordinate and assure regular contact with people until they are able to rejoin regular activities. Our team visits home or care locations, brings communion, sends cards, and delivers weekly bulletins/newsletters to provide fellowship, emotional encouragement and spiritual support. The Rector or team members may identify people for pastoral care visits or contacts, or individuals may request such contacts. We strive for a continuing sense of belonging by members so they know they are integral to the St. Peter's community and will not feel isolated or cut-off from their church and congregation. We have answered the call to serve community needs beyond St. Peter's through the implementation of hunger relief services in the pantry, and lunch and breakfast programs that encourage community relationships while also supporting growing needs. The outward focus also resulted in dedication of the former church rectory to use as a community health clinic.

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

St Peters has become a consistently outward-looking and service-oriented church as exemplified by outreach activities done locally and abroad. For the past 20+ years, St Peters has served food to the local poor through its biweekly food pantry and has encouraged a deeper sense of community during pantry time by serving a hot breakfast to all. The pantry/breakfast ministry has been sustained by collaborating with other churches who come in to St. Peters. This collaboration has also enabled a free lunch to be served at St Peters every Mon.- Fri. which has deepened the sense of welcoming and community for all people. St Peters' impact is also felt abroad through its 12-yr. connection with Cristosal in El Salvador. Since 2008, a group of St Peters missionaries have journeyed annually to El Salvador for a one-week experience to gain insight into improving social justice issues and to connect with the people and understand their struggles. St Peters is proudly Cristosal's longest supporting U.S. church. This steadfast relationship has had an immeasurable impact and, frankly, Cristosal may not be the world-wide force felt today if it was not for St Peters fervent energy and support!

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

While youth programs have long been a consideration and priority at Saint Peter's, four years ago the church whole-heartedly supported a new initiative to bring Godly Play to the forefront of our children's programming. This Montessori-principled program designed to help young children explore their faith through story and play was a shift in the traditional Sunday School programming previously employed. Through research, training and communication this new concept was embraced and supported by the parish. Veteran and new teachers supported one another in the training process, while church members rallied to facilitate the transition through encouragement, inquiry, and financial commitment in the form of donations for our newly refurbished classrooms. The vestry supported long-term budgeting commitments and the Godly Play team has continued to showcase the program through updates in monthly communications, scheduled events that include family open house sessions and presentation of full Godly Play lessons during family services. The addition of this program has yielded increased interest and participation in youth activities at church and discussion at home. Contact is Jan Wier.

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

St. Peter's has a Stewardship Ministry Committee made up of parishioners to plan for the Stewardship season. Leading up to In-Gathering Sunday, various parishioners provide a Stewardship Moment during the service each week, and describe their personal response to the blessings provided by God. These are heart-felt messages delivered by our parishioners. The pledge cards provide for a statement of financial support, and for a commitment of time and talent, by support for programs and ministries. The message we hope to deliver is that time, talent and treasure are all important to support the Church. A self-study undertaken to quantify the number of volunteer hours showed that 1,000 hours a month were given to the Church by parishioners. The Committee's greatest duty to our parishioners is to say thank you. A post card is included with the giving statements containing a message of thanks and gratitude. A recent post card stated, A blessed life is filled with thanks and giving. St. Peter's Church is so grateful for the blessings the congregation provides. We hope this expression of sincere gratitude will grow the congregation's support for time, talent and treasure for the future.

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

As a church community with committed lay leadership, our leaders can have tremendous ownership and influence over their various ministries. This approach can often lead to high levels of commitment among our volunteer leaders. At times, however, this level of autonomy and ownership has led to conflict. In the past year, we have experienced tension between our mission to be an open church that welcomes everyone, and our commitment to being a safe space for our youngest members. The Children's Chapel program was, for a time, being held in the main church hall, which allowed the space and equipment the ministry leader felt was needed. Occasionally community members who were not affiliated with our church entered the building and area where the children were gathered, causing concern among some parents and Children's Chapel leader. Resolution took a coordinated effort among several ministries including Children and Youth programs, Outreach, New Membership and ushers. Conflicts will be addressed in the future by ensuring that all ministry leaders are very clear in their understanding of the overall mission and vision of the church and what their role is in supporting that mission.

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?

St. Peter's has been through many changes. Some Changes have been more successful than others. We have been very successful incorporating new, young families with children in our parish. Our Family Ministry Program has grown to include Children's Chapel for children ages 3 through Kindergarten, Godly Play for ages 3 through 5th grade, and Youth Group for grades 6 through 12. Finding the space to house these groups is daunting, especially for Youth Group which does not have a permanent, designated space in which to meet. While many new families have entered our church, some have also left and some do not attend on a regular basis. One challenge we face is how to keep these programs vital and young families and children involved. We have initiated a Family Service several times a year. The children read the lessons, serve as acolytes, and listen to a special Children's Sermon. While we have an active and vital Family Ministry Program, we must not forget the older members of our parish. Sunday morning Bible Study, meditation and Lenten Study programs have served to include the older members of our church. We must assure that their spiritual and social needs are also met.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Koshy Mathews	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2006-01	2019-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Marie Swayze	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1998-01	2003-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Thomas Wand	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1991-01	1997-01

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
		16	27

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
5	15	5	25

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
	0	0	0



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Worshipping Community Web site: <http://saintpeterschurch.net>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Daniel G.P. Gutierrez

215-627-6434, extension 131 dgutierrez@diopa.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Canon Arlette D.
Benoit-Joseph**

215-627-6434, extension 102 abenoitjoseph@diopa.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Judi Hans

610-327-4653 judithhans@comcast.net

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Retta Sparano

610-716-9926 rettasparano@gmail.com

Search Chair

Todd Jackson

484-944-4535 and 610-416-4228 StPetersPvilleCall@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Jan Wier

610-213-1214 janwier@comcast.net

Local Community Leader

Kris Keller

610-415-1140 info@orioncommunities.org