



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 25, 2023)

Saint George's Episcopal Church, South Carolina

9110 Dorchester Road, Summerville, SC 29485, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/15/23.

plinder@episcopalchurchsc.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
73	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 Clergy+1	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
	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
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

The answers to a similar question from the recent survey showed a strong support for the Backpack Buddies ministry, which has been ongoing for more than 12 years at St. George's. Primarily supported by congregational donations, approximately 100 children receive weekend food each Friday of the school year in six nearby elementary schools. This ministry recently expanded to include supplying, as needed, backpacks and school supplies for those schools.

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

St. George's anxiously awaits a new Rector with ideas for church in the future, recognizing that improvements in communication, fellowship and security are needed. A Safety Committee was organized this year, headed by the Junior Warden. It is also hoped to get back to active children and youth ministries under the guidance of the new rector. A priest with abilities to enable and encourage lay congregants to lead ministries is desired.

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

leadership, love, care, Adaptive, management, support outreach ministry

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

St. George's has always held a Rite 1 service each Sunday, and one or two Rite 2 services. For a time, a Children and Family Service was also held each Sunday, without Communion. The Interim Priest in Charge has recently moved to one Rite 1 and one Rite 2 service, which incorporates both contemporary and traditional music and worship. Attendance is still rebuilding since the pandemic, and when it reaches a level to support two services, St. George's will likely move to a contemporary service and a traditional service again. St. George's has a talented Minister of Music on staff. Prior to the pandemic, average attendance was 75 to 80 at each of the Rite 2 services. A Healing Service is conducted midday every Tuesday.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. George's leadership conducts regular recruiting efforts for all areas of ministry, including flowers, altar guild, acolytes, lectors, eucharistic ministers, choir, bell choir, Backpack Buddies packing days, Seafarer's packing day, tellers, ushers and greeters, crocheting prayer shawls and hats, making prayer bears, and others. Special positions, such as Treasurer, Vestry, Clerk of the Vestry and Search Committee, are recruited by leadership. There are faithful leaders in many ministries that have served for years, and new people are welcomed enthusiastically to join in.

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

Pastoral care is conducted primarily by clergy, but members at St. George's are good at looking after each other in times of need. A healing service is held every Tuesday, led by the Deacon, with laying on of hands and directed prayer. Eucharistic Visitors take communion to members of the church who cannot attend services. The Women's Ministry and Men's Ministry groups provide opportunities to build strong relationships as the people serve the church together and fellowship. The prayer bear ministry makes small prayer bears to be distributed to sick or hospitalized persons. Prayer shawls are also crocheted or knitted, blessed by clergy, and distributed to those persons who would be comforted by such a gift. Grief Counseling is available, described herein elsewhere.

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

St. George's has been designated as a Military Friendly Church, and pre-pandemic worked with representatives from Joint Base Charleston. This ministry has room for growth. Grief counseling is provided by qualified lay members and clergy to anyone who needs it. One member conducts grief counseling sessions in St. George's facilities, working closely with a local funeral home. Individual members and clergy regularly participate in local health fairs and social justice programs.

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

St. George's has always worked closely with Diocesan leadership, and lay members and clergy have held Diocesan level positions. Backpack Buddies Ministry meets the needs for weekend food for elementary children in six area schools, ongoing for more than 12 years, currently feeding 100 children per week during the school year. In addition, St. George's provides backpacks and school supplies for children who need them in these six schools. St. George's Seafarer's Ministry has been supported for more than 15 years. Christmas boxes are packed with needed items, wrapped and delivered to seafarers arriving in area ports during the holidays. Red Cross Blood Drives are hosted regularly by St. George's; a chartered organization relationship with a Cub Scout Pack; AA and NA meetings are held in our facilities; Blessing Box is located in the parking lot of the church; Angel Tree in Advent for Dorchester Board of Disabilities.

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

Just this year, the Backpack Buddies food ministry was expanded to also include ongoing supply of needed backpacks and school supplies. St. George's partners with the Navajo Nation in Arizona to sell their pumpkins each October (except during the worst of the pandemic), in a Pumpkin Patch that has become a neighborhood tradition. When the truck needs unloading, ROTC groups from two area high schools help unload, as well as Cub Scouts, congregation members, and members of the public. During the weeks of selling pumpkins, church members man the sales and have direct contact with the public, offering opportunities to connect in many ways. This is not only fund raising, but community outreach. Questions can be directed to the Parish Administrator, Diane Wilson, at stgeorgeschurch2009@gmail.com.

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

A stewardship campaign is kicked off each October, pledge cards are mailed with a letter from the vestry, and an ingathering is held in November where the pledge cards are blessed during worship. When special needs are identified, a request for special funds is communicated to the congregation, and they rarely fail to provide the needed funds. A second offering is collected every first Sunday of the month, called the Fish Basket collection. The Vestry designates the recipients of these funds in advance, and congregants are welcome to make suggestions. The collections often go toward ongoing ministries, like Backpack Buddies or Seafarers, but they also often go to special needs of the global Episcopal Relief and Development, especially after particular disasters, such as a hurricane or earthquake. It is worth a mention that during the pandemic, St. George's members kept up on their pledges and continued to be generous for the Fish Basket collections, even those who were uncomfortable attending services in person. St. George's is strong financially, with no debt and a faithful congregation. Stewardship is seen as a responsibility of support for the church.

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

St. Georges has historically settled any minor conflicts directly, in the open, with guidance from the rector. Major conflict has not occurred to the knowledge of anyone serving on the current rector search committee, for the past ten years.

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?

Although St. George's congregation is quite diverse in philosophy, everyone works well together to accomplish the ministries of the church. Over time, the church has learned that open communication alleviates problems. The pandemic, of necessity, required changes that were mostly well received. Because the Bishop handed down safety guidelines, St. George's followed them closely. The church members learned to be more protective of each other and to reach out more to those folks uncomfortable returning to services. St. Georges continues to broadcast a Sunday service on Facebook Live every week, something not done before the pandemic.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Michael Szymanowski	Interim	2022-10	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Christopher Huff	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-05	2022-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Richard Luoni	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2008-03	2015-08

Christian Education is presently forming following the two years of Covid. This program was a part of the life of the parish in the past.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Forming Again		

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



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Worshipping Community Web site: www.StGeorge-SC.org

Media Links:

Online References:

www.Facebook.com/St.GeorgesChurchofSummerville

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Ruth Woodliff-Stanley

843-259-2016 bishop@episcopalchurchsc.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

Philip Linder

859-940-1601 plinder@episcopalchurchsc.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Evelyn LeGrand

843-494-1061 TeapotLady29485@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Rex Elser

843-990-8251 rexdonnae@gmail.com

Search Chair

Jennifer Roberts

843-607-8821 tgrlily@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Michael Szymanowski

843-998-5920 michael29485szy@gmail.com

Local Community Leader

Jeffrey Bedford

843-695-2460 jbedford@dorchester2.k12.sc.us