



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 28, 2019)

The Episcopal Church on Edisto, South Carolina, The Episcopal Church in
P.O. Box 139, Edisto Island, SC 29414, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 05/03/19 bellar@episcopalchurchsc.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
53	1	0	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$42000	\$0	\$0	\$0
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$36200		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	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
up to/including \$500/year	No	Yes	Yes

Heath/Dental/Life Insurance

The Episcopal Church on Edisto, South Carolina, The Episcopal Church in

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Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 05/31/19 | G.McLellan@episcopalchurchsc.org

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

Through a series of moments and events over the years, our relationship with our neighboring church, New First Missionary Baptist Church (NFMBC), has grown and strengthened. On June 17, 2015, nine people at a Bible Study at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston were massacred. On the Sunday morning following this horrific event, we gathered with our friends and landlords from the historically black New First Missionary Baptist Church in order to pray together and to remember the victims by ringing an historic church bell nine times. Both congregations were hurting and both needed to be ministered to by the other. There were tears, hugs and handshakes as well as smiles through the sadness. Together, we experienced the positive effects of a mutual ministry brought about by the comfort and peace of sharing and understanding. We have subsequently hosted a potluck fellowship dinner and participate in ongoing fellowship activities with our neighboring church community. Most recently, the pastor of NFMBC, Rev. Chick Morrison, joined our team from ECOE to participate in Racial Awareness Training in our diocese.

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

Our vision of "being the church" has broadened, and we have continued to grow strong lay leadership. Our well informed and committed leaders are a tremendous asset and make a consistent effort to inform and involve the church community. As we engage in the search for a new priest, spending the time and effort to find a good "fit" is important. ECOE serves as a hub of outreach and service to the community. We make significant contributions to a variety of organizations and to the community, and also feel we have a unique opportunity to positively impact racial relationships on Edisto. We rent our current sanctuary from a historically black congregation and have a commitment to increase opportunities for service, worship and fellowship together. It is important for us to attend to the needs of individual members of our congregation. We welcome visitors and worshipers of all denominations.

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

leadership, flexibility, forgiveness, inclusiveness, compassion, resourcefulness, listening skills, pastoral-focus

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

The Episcopal Church on Edisto is solidly grounded in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Our primary worship service uses Rite II, with variations of both the Eucharistic Prayers and forms of Prayers of the People suitable for liturgical seasons. Members come from both "high" and "low" Episcopal congregations focused on the worship of God and fellowship. Our music program is eclectic, ranging from traditional organ/piano, to wind ensemble, to guitar-piano contemporary; the style varies by Sunday. The choir consists of devoted individuals led by a dedicated, masterful and talented director.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

From our beginning, when we were an itinerant church, every member has felt the need to participate and contribute. That spirit remains. Everyone has wanted to be a part of the church in an active way and there are numerous opportunities for service. During stewardship season members are exposed, through a ministry fair and testimonials, to the many different opportunities to commit to our outreach and inreach ministries, and we have an exceptional response by those willing to serve. Throughout the church year numerous appeals are made to help with the many charitable organizations in our community; our members regularly answer the call. We estimate that over 75% of our members give of their time and talents to Outreach. Our members give generously to Fifth Sunday plate collections that go directly to designated charitable organizations. Our church is currently leading a program to provide local free transportation to community residents for important medical and other appointments through member volunteers.

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

Our church has a very strong network of support for all of its parishioners, which is manifested in a number of different ways. Our Sunday morning front-porch fellowship enhances our sense of community; we have a team that takes communion to those who are sick; our priest-in-charge visits those in the hospital; we pray weekly for the sick; we have prayer partners and a prayer circle, we have a support group for caregivers that meets weekly; our Hearts and Hands ministry supports church members in times of difficulty; and we have formed a Pastoral Care Committee. Members are participating in "Foyer groups," in which they are grouped for the purpose of sharing meals and getting to know one another in each others' homes. The composition of the groups changes regularly, and the result has been stronger relationships among members of the congregation.

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

Since 2015, our congregation has approved a budget that calls for 10% of pledges to go to outreach. We provide monetary support and volunteer support to individuals and organizations both on and off of Edisto Island. We support the Edisto Island Food Pantry, the Good Samaritan Clinic, a Home Mission Team that provides home repairs, Youth Recreation League, Community Association Scholarships, attendance by local schoolchildren at Green River Camp, and Jane Edwards Elementary School. We have established a community Caregivers' Support Group which meets on a weekly basis. We are actively involved with the institution of a free health and dental clinic on Edisto Island and have established our LIFT program that provides transportation to the clinic as well as to other medical/dental appointments. Our church has also instituted a Summer Food Project to provide breakfast and lunch to food insecure children on the island. This project has evolved into a partnership with the local elementary school in which we provide major funding for a bus to transport children to the school for a summer enrichment program that includes breakfast and lunch.

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

We have been recipients of generous and timely gifts from individuals and congregations in the greater church, especially from dioceses in the Southeast. Most precious to us is our trove of used BCPs from St. Stephen's in Heathsville, VA, each with a personal note of love and encouragement. We have graduated our class year of EFM (Education for Ministry) that continues to meet. We have members who currently serve on the Diocesan Council, Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Finance Committee, Diocesan Stewardship Committee and Missions Committee. One of our members has been a deputy to the 78th General Convention. Members of our congregation regularly participate in TEC programs. We have also supported Diocesan Disaster Relief for those impacted by Hurricane Florence.

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

We have been very active with outreach ministries. Beginning with our first year, ECOE has instituted a 5th Sunday plate collection to benefit a recipient designated by our Mission Council. We promote the recipient through our bulletin, invite a representative of the group to speak that Sunday, and encourage members to make a contribution. Plate collections can exceed \$1000. The 5th Sunday in August of 2015 was particularly memorable. We had made arrangements several months in advance for a priest from the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy to not only present the organization but also to preach that day. Between the times we made these arrangements and Sunday, August 30, the killings at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston occurred. This provided an emotional picture of their valuable service and role in our community. Other recipients of 5th Sunday collections have included Episcopal Relief and Development, Edisto Island Home Mission Team, Voorhees College, Jane Edwards School DC trip, Edisto Island Food Pantry, Good Samaritan Free Clinic and Communities in Schools. Some recipients have become ongoing budgeted support items. Our Outreach chair is Annette Jerwers, jerwersad@yahoo.com.

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

Being a small and close-knit group and starting out from scratch in the building of a new congregation gave each of us great resolve and a sense of ownership of the task at hand. As a result Stewardship has always been a natural part of "building our congregation" in which we joyously participate. This drives participation in outreach and services. On the fiscal side 100% of the members pledge, honor their pledges and increase their giving annually. In addition, nearly everyone participates in one or more volunteer or mission related activities, as promoted through an annual Ministry Fair. Many of us "lead by example", which instills a sense of ownership in the ongoing development of the congregation and emphasizes the importance of the "three T's" of stewardship - the giving of Time, Treasure and Talent.

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

The Episcopal Church on Edisto was born on December 2, 2012, after the ecclesiastical schism occurred in the Diocese of South Carolina. The church was started by a group of individuals who wished to remain loyal members of TEC. We found ourselves to be in conflict with those who broke away from TEC, but we have focused on our church - where we are going and not where we have been. We continue to seek positive ways to address reconciliation in our particular circumstance, including study of the book *Dignity, Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* by Donna Hicks. We participated in the open conversations in the diocese and have reached out to members of the breakaway church. Clergy have facilitated conversations when specific conflicts have arisen. In all, we continue to make the effort to bridge our differences with members of the breakaway church. We live on a small island and have relationships and moments that transcend that conflict, such as shared clubs and organizations, life events, and personal friendships.

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 lives of Episcopalians in the Diocese of South Carolina changed dramatically in November 2012 when the ecclesiastical schism occurred. Change was difficult in the beginning as we physically had to leave the church building where we had been members. When looking for a space in which to hold our services, we were initially challenged. But our congregation came together and worked in unison to create a church that was Episcopal in every sense of the tradition in the confines of a local barbecue restaurant. Lay people took on roles for which they were not completely prepared and began to lead our continuing worshipping community. Change has been a constant for us, and we have learned that we can survive and can handle both negative and positive changes with prayer, strength and confidence.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
John C. Fisher	Interim	2014-10	2015-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Colton M. Smith	Interim	2015-09	2016-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Paul Gilbert	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2016-09	2019-06

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
yes	0	0

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
0	0	2	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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Worshipping Community Web site: www.episcopalchurchonedisto.org

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalChurchOnEdistolsland>

Online References:

www.episcopalchurchsc.org

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Gladstone "Skip" Adams

843-259-2016 bpadams@episcopalchurchsc.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

Andrea McKellar

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Current Warden/Board Chair

Pat Neumann

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Previous Warden/Board Chair

Louis Gentry

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Search Chair

Elizabeth Daise

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Parish/Institution

Paul Gilbert

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Local Community Leader

Rev. Albert C. Morrison

843-830-1117 pastormorrison03@bellsouth.net