



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Dec 28, 2020)

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, South Carolina

3123 W Palmetto Street, Florence, SC 29501, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 02/05/21.

amckellar@episcopalchurchsc.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

33

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

1

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

0

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

\$64860

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Clergy only

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks
**One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks
2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget
\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account
Yes

Includes SECA

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

Everything about St. Catherine's is "recent" since our beginning was less than eight years ago. We come from various old parishes in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. When the rumblings of church separation began, lots of us were already trying to figure out what we were going to do, as each of our old parishes made it known that our views were no longer welcome. We formed a worshipping community, a few people at a time. We began meeting in a private home, and then moved to afternoon services at a local Lutheran facility. It became clear that we were going to have to have a morning service, so we started looking. Back Swamp Schoolhouse in a rural area of Darlington County turned out to be the answer to our urgent need. We worked together to create a worship space that was more than adequate. It was a lovely, old space although it had no central heat or air and one tiny bathroom. It welcomed us and it fit our eclectic personality. We were no frills but we were dedicated. We managed receptions and luncheons from the tiny kitchen, and felt love and acceptance from all. We had baptisms and confirmations. We had formed a Church. We continue to be happy together and welcome all.

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

We feel our mere formation was an act of preparation for the Church of the future -- a future that preaches that all are welcome (no exceptions) and seeks to be a loving, liberating, life-giving community of Jesus-followers. Considering more materialistic matters, we have many uncertainties in our future. Some of us truly long for our own place, and others see a physical place as more than we can manage or keep up, taking comfort in the knowledge that the church is the people...the priesthood of all believers. In this way, many see the church of the future as more inclusive. We have always been flexible. We have begun fund-raising to prepare for a future move. We expect any future home to be welcoming -- probably not with loud music or a Starbucks branch on site, but we do love coffee and a good hymn sing (especially with trumpets and violins too!). Whatever future we enjoy, we are prepared with trained digital acolytes and have always been open to technology. Indeed, we were the parish fastest to Zoom in the face of pandemic isolation. We maintain a Facebook presence and the sermons are recorded. There is on-line giving and twice-weekly emails to all parishioners.

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

articulate, engaging, perspicacity, well-developed sense of humor

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

We are flexible. Our worship style has been determined by the styles of our various priests. We have had an Anglo-Catholic Vicar, and we have had a Vicar who played the guitar for services. Most parishioners prefer Rite II, but there is a strong minority who prefer Rite I. We have used Rite I for Lent, and sometimes for Advent. We do not have kneelers available at the present facility, so we stand a lot. We have no choir, but have people who love to sing. Based on past history, we will adapt to whatever style our Vicar prefers, as long as he/she considers our opinions lovingly. We are now being served by an exceptional interim priest. She has instituted new approaches, ranging from different communion prayers (yes, we have just finished a season with Eucharistic Prayer C) to mid-week Compline to hymns from alternate hymnals, and gently but firmly guided us towards our new future.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are a friendly congregation and try to welcome new members immediately. The Daughters of the King chapter sponsors a new member luncheon at least once a year for the members to have conversations with the Vicar and Mission Council. In our first year, the joke was that we were being “voluntold” for jobs, but we do not leave anyone out, and we try hard to work towards each one’s skills and comfort level. More than half our small congregation assists in worship, serving as readers, ushers, acolytes, altar guild, and more, or with hospitality, teaching, record-keeping, newsletters, and such. Our young people are involved too. We have four teenagers who have literally grown up in the Church and they participate actively in services. One of them has read the Morning Prayer sermon several times.

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

Many founding members of St Catherine's came initially with both deep hurt and deep hope, and now, learning to give and receive encouragement is in our DNA. Worshipping together is our most profound act of love and renewal. Early on, about a third of our community drove 30 minutes or more to get to the only TEC worship in the area. Many still make a long trip to worship together. This congregation looks out for each other. Usually someone notices if a member is out and checks to see if everything is okay (and often brings a delicious meal to one in need). As we grow, we could benefit from more structure to make sure no one falls through the cracks. We have frequent shared meals, often in coordination with the host Lutheran congregation particularly during Advent and Lent, and we value this fellowship time. We have an active adult Sunday school class with excellent teachers, and often have outside speakers come in. Pre-Covid, we had good attendance and people enjoyed coming for services. People just like to be there and see each other. We do not have any organized programs to help with physical health issues at this time.

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

We have hosted Episcopal Forums, which are regional gatherings for the Diocese. We have provided meals for the Whosoever Church and serve in the parking lot ministry. Both support the homeless and we see a desire for further participation. Early on, prior to the COVID emergency making it de rigeur, we offered our worship services on Facebook and had a number of shut-ins regularly participating. And now, of course, our Sunday School and Sunday services are also on Zoom. Individual members of St Catherine's also take seriously our call to live faithfully in our every day work, and to give of ourselves in service to others. Many serve in local charitable agencies, including Salvation Army, Humane Society (Florence and Darlington), Florence Lions Club, Rotary, McLeod Hospital Foundation Board, etc... Many parishioners know our work itself is ministry (Homeless Court, Mental Health, Medicine, Teaching, etc). Our host Lutheran church clergy have been and are actively involved in community ministry, and we desire to encourage and fully support our new vicar in such pastoral care.

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

Many members are very involved with the wider Church. We currently have representation on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Sewanee Board of Trustees, and the Bishop's Search Committee. We have a member helping with video and photography for the Bishop Transitional Committee and for Convention. There are at present two Diaconate aspirants and 10 Daughters of the King. We also have strong connections to the National Altar Guild. Locally, St. Catherine's works with Savannah Grove elementary school, one of the neediest schools in Florence County. A diocesan literacy grant of \$10,000 enabled us to buy books, plus bicycles as rewards for reading them. Pre-pandemic, volunteers went weekly to read to classes. With our Lutheran friends we regularly collect canned goods for Harvest Hope, a local charity helping with food for needy families, and have participated in providing hot food for the homeless via the Parking Lot Mission. We financially support Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C.. We work with the Salvation Army on the Stuff the Bus back to school drive and with bell ringing at Christmas. We have an annual Blessing of the Animals and participate in Trunk or Treat at Halloween.

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

Our parish initiated the Savannah Grove Literacy Project and received a grant for it, as mentioned above. Edith Robertson (843-667-6291 edithandphillip@gmail.com) and Frances Elmore (843-662-5143 djmfl@aol.com) can be contacted in reference to this project. Six years ago, a Daughters of the King chapter was established at St. Catherine's, joining other chapters on both sides of the divided church. Our chapter now is blessed with 10 active members. Nancy Bailey (also on the search committee) can be contacted about this (843-676-0691 nbaileylaw@aol.com). We have long enjoyed putting on non-traditional Christmas plays, and since 2019 have done so with our Lutheran hosts at Cross and Crown. While our productions are always memorable, there are indeed some participants worthy of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. And some not. You may contact Steven Gallego, pastor of Cross and Crown Lutheran Church to learn more (843-669-2355 pastorsteven89@gmail.com)

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

We've shared about stewardship of time and talents in the earlier questions. On the treasure side of stewardship, we are sent pledge cards to fill out and return, and we are on automatic pilot from there on. We rarely have speakers to drum up enthusiasm for a stewardship drive, although we all know money is tight in a small parish. Apparently, we have been able to fund what we needed when we needed it to date, undoubtedly due to deep generosity from some donors to supplement what's given by others. The Diocese also provides support, since we are the only TEC church in our corner of the State. The budget is reported on at the yearly Parish Meeting, but rarely discussed parish-wide in between. Mission Council of course is another story: we are fortunate to have hard-working treasurers and leaders wrestling through the challenges of a tight budget. They've also helped us be generous with departing clergy leaders -- an early pastor was given a much-needed car, and another, a special cash offering to help during a transition time. Our endowment and capital funds are invested in the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, helping to support our local community as well as ourselves.

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

This question makes us laugh because we were after all, born in conflict, and a conflict which has not been resolved. And while we have not been able to influence directly the outcome of the schism, we do not dwell on it. The way forward is not found in the rear view mirror. Nevertheless, we do need to speak of these things from time to time, and our well-worn prayers for closure in the courts continue. We very much want an Episcopal Church in the Pee Dee, and we very much want to model lives of justice and peace based on the teachings of Christ. Because these are our priorities, we are flexible with other potential challenges. For example, we adapted when problems in worship times and the use of space arose with our host church. We don't get individually worked up if worship styles aren't what we'd prefer, and instead try to remember our diversity and gratitude that we can worship together. Conflict may be looming, as we consider a new space of our own. We already speak of the need to stay flexible as we consider these big changes.

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?

As a small parish, usually without resident clergy, we have relied on each other and Mission Council to lead us through needed changes. So far, so good. We have stayed committed to being St. Catherine's, through changes in location and service times. We've learned that communication is important to helping things go smoothly. And we can deal with any problems and move on. We are open to clergy leadership, and believe we are quite supportive of change, especially if you'll share your ideas and listen to ours too. Our longest serving vicar (nearly 5 years) guided us through our early years, listening intently to our hopes and fears, continually pointing us to the Cross and reinforcing our important roles as the PeeDee outpost for TEC. We lost this very fine vicar to Charleston, and we know his gifts belonged in a larger church in "the Holy City."



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Sandra K. Moyle	Interim	2020-05	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Philip G Emanuel	Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry	2019-01	2019-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jeffrey R. Richardson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2013-10	2018-07

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
y	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	0	20

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: stcatherinesepiscopal.com

Media Links:

> http://www.episcopalchurchsc.org/uploads/1/2/9/8/12989303/st_

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister
Andrea McKellar

843-259-2016 w / 843-412-2411 c;
amckellar@episcopalchurchsc.org

Current Warden/Board Chair
Jane Hart Lewis

843-615-0051; hartlewis@aol.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair
Matt Robertson

843-694-6527; mbrobertson7083@gmail.com

Search Chair
Pattie White

843-206-1742 pattie.white@gmail.com

Parish/Institution
Carrington Wingard

843-667-4742 csbwingardatty@aol.com

Local Community Leader
Mary Finklea

843-687-7425, pastorfinklea@bellsouth.net