



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jun 15, 2018)*

## Christ Church, Middletown, New Jersey

90 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 07/16/18.

[cwhite@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:cwhite@dioceseofnj.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
108	3	0	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes	Yes	\$2300
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

*Compensation in compliance with diocesan standards - see <http://dioceseofnj.org/sccc/>*

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

On a cold, winter morning with the main worship service complete, Christ Church was just getting started in its weekly pattern of doing Christ's work along the Jersey Shore. Our commitment to love and serve with "gladness and singleness of heart" permeated the building. The low-key witness at a friendly coffee-hour is our Evangelism which calls the people of Christ Church to commitment. Our priest-in-charge leading the First Intentional Communion class on a "field trip" to the ocean, complete with sand and beach toys; Christian Formation teaching the meaning of our commitment. Our assisted living "worship crew" gathering their supplies to celebrate that commitment with others. The freshly painted walls and newly renovated Godly Play classrooms are evidence that our Stewardship is the practice of that commitment; those same classrooms being converted to bedrooms by the set-up crew for Family Promise (our long time outreach to the homeless of Monmouth County), demonstrating discipleship. The busyness of this day testifies to the gratitude for the many blessings God has given this community over the last 300 years.

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

Recognizing that "Where there is no vision the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18, we are employing technology to expand our availability to our parish members and the greater community. Recent upgrades to our physical plant, including a new roof, new carpeting in the sanctuary, and renovating Ellwood Hall with new lighting and flooring, have given us reason to seek opportunities to expand our ministries. Good Friday meditations on the Five Marks of Mission (found on our website) help provide suggestions that may contribute to our conversation about the Church of the future: "Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom," "Teach, Baptize and Nurture New Believers," "Respond to Human Need by Loving Service," "Transform Unjust Structures of Society" and "Strive to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation and Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth." Through the Renewal Works Program and our recent Listening-in-Lent sessions, we continue to stretch our imaginations into what could be possible while praying and listening to each other for a whisper from the Holy Spirit to identify our next opportunity to stretch out our hands in love.

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

Collaborative visionary; embracing \ compassionate; thoughtful communicator; energetic / accessible

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

Christ Church is Eucharistic-centered (Rite II) in the Broad to Higher Church traditions (lovely vestments!). Liturgies flow from The Book of Common Prayer with inclusion of other approved language. Music offered by our adult choir comfortable with organ (incredible instrument!) and piano supports a congregation that really likes to sing. A priest who chants well would be comfortable leading worship. The Historic Church (HC-1836) is used on Saturdays at 5:30 pm and Sundays at 8am (no music). The Main Church (1965) is used Sundays at 10am for full liturgy with choir. Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, Lectors, Youth, and a well-loved Assisting Priest enhance a joy-filled worship. The Peace is an expression of that joy. Monthly recognition of birthdays and anniversaries, as well as annual blessings of backpacks, animals and scouts are an important part of worship. Summer worship maintains the 3 liturgies but is held in the climate-controlled HC. The rhythm of the liturgical calendar guides the colors and variances in tempo and spiritual response of the corporate prayer life of a group who enjoy new practices grounded in the prayer book tradition of the Episcopal Church.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our Parish Life ministries often serve as a “gateway” to other commitments of time and talent to our church. Once new members are mentored for serving at Coffee Hour, a repast, or another social event, they frequently take the next step. They get to know our parish family and wind up on Vestry; in Education for Ministry (or EfM for short) and other study groups; as Family Promise hosts; as Cookie Walk coordinators; on Altar Guild; as Eucharistic ministers; as liturgy leaders at a nearby nursing home facility; and as volunteers in the massive project that is our bi-annual Calico Fair. Many members who are new to the parish in the last three years have made those leaps of faith to serve in these and other capacities after a couple of rounds as “Heavenly Hosts” serving holy grounds. The ministries of Parish Life/Hospitality and Special Events, then, serve as a friendly conduit, encouraging further participation in other vital areas of church life and a deepened commitment to serve God and each other.

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

Our parishioners are fully engaged in caring for others through the many programs that form a supportive network of spiritual, emotional and physical caring within our parish and in the larger community. Many threads make up the fabric of our spiritual caring. We practice prayerful thought and supportive growth through EfM, our Women’s Contemplative Prayer and Bible Study groups, and our Men’s group. We foster the spiritual life of our youth through Church School, Vacation Bible School, First Intentional Communion, Youth Group and Kids Club. Our music program, led by a veteran music director, supports our worship with an adult, bell and small children’s choir. We meet emotional needs through an in-reach ministry, in our Sunday service ‘Peace’, and a well-attended coffee hour. Fellowship events include Advent Dinner, Soup Tasting, Cookie Walk, Chocolate Sunday, Annual Parish Picnic, bi-annual Calico Fair, and more.

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

Several of our ministries, although not strictly pastoral care, allow us to explore the Kingdom for those who are not officially members of our Church. Every Monday members of the parish go to the Brighton Gardens assisted living facility and conduct a Communion Service for the residents (none of whom are members of Christ Church). The residents are people who are Christians, but not in all cases. Our goal is to share the Kingdom of God with them regardless of their history. The Knights of Panera is a group of men that meet each week to explore our common spirituality. For the last year we have used texts for the Rule of Benedict as our guide. We meet in a public place as a statement of our faith and our evangelism. Christ Church has long fed people at St. Mark's in Keansburg. Since Super Storm Sandy, several teams have increased their efforts to provide hot meals to those souls who go to St. Mark's. For over 15 years, Christ Church has been a host congregation for Family Promise. This group provides homeless families a safe place for meals and lodging, while helping with the transition to permanent housing and employment.

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

Christ Church has for decades provided a safe place for community groups to meet. Support groups, scouting groups, a children's music class, a local chorale, and a professional networking group are some who use our facilities on a regular basis. We support the Community Outreach Group, Inc. (COG), a county-wide group that runs the Calico Cat Thrift Shop, selling new and gently used merchandise to raise funds for groups assisting the homeless and others in crisis, and the Calico Cupboard and Pantry, offering food, clothing and household items, free of charge, to individuals and families referred by local agencies. These ministries are in a church-owned building adjacent to our main church. Formation within the wider church was realized when our high school youth group had the opportunity to take part in Night Watch in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. It was an amazing overnight experience of poetry, art, music and worship with youth from the greater NYC area.

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

Three years ago, members of the Christ Church Community began Education for Ministry (or EfM for short), a program developed by The School of Theology at The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. A group of 7 people met in 2015 in a modified version of the program which we called "Pre-EfM." Our enthusiasm for the program was contagious and the next Fall we had a morning and an evening group totaling 15 people enrolled in the 1st year Hebrew Scriptures study program. We now have a combined 1st and 2nd year enrollment of 19 persons comprising a morning and an evening group. Through study, prayer and reflection, we explore our religious heritage and what it means to be called to be disciples. We are enriched by the experiences and insights we share and are gobsmacked by "Holy Spirit moments." With God's help and the expertise and grace of our current mentors, new leadership is being developed. With the continued support of the community, these well-planted seeds will continue to grow. Contact: Pauline Dawson

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

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33) Once we understand that we do not possess anything, it is easier to share the gifts that God has given us and then we are truly his disciples. That is the principle that guides our Stewardship campaigns. Our theme in 2016 was “What Makes Our Church Our Church?” We did a survey and found that it was not just money we were talking about when we speak of Stewardship. Our parishioners are well aware that although we need money to run the church, the time and talent they provide is also a vital part of the effort. Using the answers from this survey we formulated our budget for the upcoming year. This “visionary” budget expresses what we could achieve if funded at the optimal level to do the work God is calling us to do. As Christ Church grows, our stewardship ministry grows. Upon the arrival of our new priest, we hope to investigate both new outreach and fellowship opportunities made possible by our continued commitment to the upgrade of our facilities and the responsible management of our time, talent and treasure.

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

Our most significant recent experience with conflict was our search for and calling of a new rector after the successful long-term tenure of a beloved pastor. Upon arrival, changes were unilaterally instituted and conflict ensued which created a negative atmosphere. With the help of the Diocese, listening sessions were scheduled, a conflict resolution expert met with the vestry and rector, and ultimately the Bishop made a change. We learned that openness and transparency, along with honest communication are key during transition and transformation. In our current search, we're using a deliberate and comprehensive transition process which involves confidentiality where appropriate, enlists various parish committees, and enjoys the full backing of the Diocese. Parish committees are focusing on 3 areas: the Succession Committee is spearheading the interview process; the Marketing Committee is upgrading our website and maintaining our social media; and the Welcoming Committee is focusing on the needs of the new Priest, including housing and integration into the larger community. We are excited about welcoming a new priest and confident that God will lead the right person to us.

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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?

During our previous transition period, our parish learned to be more flexible and patient, but also to push back on decisions that undermined our church community. We learned the importance of communicating what we think and how we feel. For example, a proposal to change significantly the Church School schedule was resolved when one parent took the initiative to bring the remaining parents together to communicate the needs of the families to the new priest. Through determination and patience from our families, balanced leadership from our current Priest-in-Charge and Director of Children's Formation, our Church School has steadily increased in size and enthusiasm. We have added the Lenten Tree of Fasting and Feasting, Kids' Club, Parents' Night Out and a dedicated children's space during coffee hour. Remaining steadfast through difficult times, we worked together to model for our children that ours is a strong, evolving, Holy Spirit-filled community.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend Dr. William C. Thomas	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2015-05	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend Donald Caron	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2013-06	2014-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend S. Rebecca Michelfelder	Interim	2010-12	2013-05

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
		<b>18</b>

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
	<b>20</b>		<b>39</b>

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: <http://www.christchurchmiddletown.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMiddletown/>  
> <https://www.instagram.com/christchurchmiddletown/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop: 609-394-5281 Ext. 11 [wstokes@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:wstokes@dioceseofnj.org)

**The Right Reverend  
William H. Stokes**

Diocesan Transition Minister 609-394-5281 Ext. 21 [bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org](mailto:bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org)

**The Reverend Canon Brian  
Jemmott**

Current Warden/Board Chair 732-888-7736 [bgarrity007@comcast.net](mailto:bgarrity007@comcast.net)

**Barbara Garrity**

Previous Warden/Board Chair 732-778-0558 [cynthiamccormack33@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiamccormack33@gmail.com)

**Cynthia McCormack**

Search Chair 732-778-0558 [cynthiamccormack33@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiamccormack33@gmail.com)

**Cynthia McCormack**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader