



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 29, 2020)

St. Peter's Church Lithgow, New York

696 Deep Hollow Road, Millbrook, NY 12545, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/15/20.

Lithgowsearch2020@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

70

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

0

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

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

Healthcare Options

Dental

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
\$1001-\$2000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account

Compensation & Benefits According to Diocesan Guidelines.

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

St. Peter's is a small parish and has always relied on broad participation among its community, with our Priest, for its operation and its mission. Since the end of May 2019, when we lost our Priest we have had our reliance on one another as congregants tested. We believe that we, as a parish serving Christ but also each other and our broader community, have passed that test. During this period the congregation has come together to meet the challenge of the vacancy, and attendance and participation have even increased. With the recent installation of Interim Priest Rev. Robert Flanagan, St. Peter's has managed to pass through a period of vulnerability without divisiveness and emerged stronger. Introspection, fellowship, and faith prevailed. This chapter of mutual support and solidarity in belief in the centrality of the church has created optimism and hopefulness as we begin the search for a new Priest-in-Charge.

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

St. Peter's first line of preparation for tomorrow is its commitment to its parishioners and mission today. We welcome all who enter and promote the church's mission to unite the congregation with God through Christ. Our congregation is a vibrant community comprised of local people who live in the area year-round and New York City residents who spend their weekends in the Millbrook area. In our effort to ensure that we sustain that vibrancy in the future, we intend to devote more energy to Christian education programs and community engagement opportunities, in particular - but not exclusively - for children, teens and young adults. We are aware that first impressions count, and that many first impressions are now made through a website investigation. To that end, we have updated our website to provide a clear and inviting picture of who we are as a community. We also live-stream our 9:30 am service and make past sermons available online. We have made intermittent efforts to establish a social media presence, and remain open to new ideas to make that work.

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

Capable administrator. Strong orator. Dynamic leader. Christian educator.

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

St. Peter's is a low Episcopal church by inclination and design, but not evangelical. The congregation enjoys its rituals: the familiar language of Rite I of the Book of Common Prayer, carefully chosen music, and beautiful flowers. For many, the sermon is the core of the service. The Holy Communion Rite I is celebrated weekly at an 8 am service, but only on the first Sunday of the month at the 9:30 am service. Otherwise, the format of the 9:30 am Sunday service is Morning Prayer.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. Peter's parishioners are actively engaged in its ministry. The church boasts a dedicated Altar Guild, Lay Readers and Eucharist Ministers, Readers, Greeters, and Acolytes. Our Outreach Committee arranges periodic events like our semi-annual Promises Auction to raise money to support local causes. The annual Christmas Pageant enjoys enthusiastic participation among the children and attendance among the parish. Our Cemetery Committee hosts the annual Memorial Day Service, with a brass quartet and guest speaker in the nearby St. Peter's Cemetery. Our parishioners also participate in the church's two main publications: The Mouse and Keynotes. The Mouse, distributed weekly to our parishioners by email, includes announcements and descriptions of upcoming events, submitted from various church committee members. Keynotes is a quarterly printed publication where among reflections from the Priest, parishioners reflect on personal travel or other experiences and reviews or reports of certain musical performances or art exhibits and other selected parishioner contributions.

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

St. Peter's gains strength from its strong sense of community. The Sunday morning coffee hour is a long-standing tradition. It is here that new and old members are made to feel at home by the Priest and fellow parishioners. Music also provides substance. St. Peter's is blessed with a talented Organist and Music Director in Nancy Vanderlee, who also oversees the church choir. Above all, insightful sermons, delivered effectively, draw our parish together week after week. Visiting priests from varying religious and professional backgrounds periodically supplement the preaching of our Priest and they tend to be very well received. Our recent Priests have all brought a firm commitment to pastoral care, to minister to the ill and the infirm among us including through in-person visits.

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

Our Outreach Committee has a long-standing commitment to support local organizations that improve the lives of those in need. A number of parishioners work directly with these organizations. Some parishioners have also been instrumental, with St. Peter's and several other local churches as members providing organizational and spiritual support, in an initiative (Millbrook-At-Home) to support aging-at-home in Millbrook and its adjacent communities. Participation in a member church is not a condition of joining Millbrook-At-Home.

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

The St. Peter's community actively engages in outreach, financially and/or through hands-on participation. We raise money for outreach outside of the Every Member Canvass that supports the day-to-day operation of the church itself. Our Outreach Committee, with Vestry approval, allocates its annual budget to support organizations that improve the lives of those in our local community, including food kitchens and pantries, youth engagement and leadership programs, ministries for the rural and migrant poor and a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Funds for these initiatives are raised largely through semi-annual events, typically including live or silent auctions. We also sponsor separate one-off initiatives from time-to-time, including the "Harvest Hope" food program at Thanksgiving and Christmas support for the children of an identified family in need, which we fund through direct appeals to the congregation as needed.

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

With the leadership of our prior Priest, St. Peter's parishioners have organized and participated in programs outside of the weekly worship services. One of these was an Inquiry group for congregants who wished to know more about the Episcopal Church and reflect on their relationship with it. The Inquiry group met informally weekly. These meetings became an occasion for deep discussions about Christianity, belief, doubt and the various life concerns of the assembled. Several members of the group, who bonded in intimate and confidential discussions, would be pleased to have such discussion groups in the future. We believe that other members of our parish would enjoy similar discussion groups. Other similar projects have included a group meeting under the theme of "How you see God in Your Life", and a Men's Fellowship Group, with weekly discussions led by congregants. Betsy Shequine, a former Senior Warden of St. Peter's, was instrumental in organizing the first two programs mentioned above. The third was inspired by and led, in coordination with our Vicar, by parishioner Pano Anthos.

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

Through our annual “Every Member Canvass” we encourage support from every member of the congregation. The EMC Committee is formed by Vestry at the start of our fiscal year, and its leaders speak at Sunday services to remind parishioners that this an important way in which we, as a community, provide for the church as it provides for us. Our EMC campaigns are essential to supporting the operating needs of the church. St. Peter’s congregation has sustained its general level of stewardship through the EMC campaign even as we have managed through the recent unexpected departure of our Priest-in-Charge.

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

Our last Priest left on short notice in May 2019. His personal circumstances had changed (he was moving to a different city) and he and Vestry had been unable to arrive at an arrangement that would accommodate his sense of what his new circumstances required, on the one hand, and what our parish needed, on the other. While many in the parish understood the human story behind the parting of ways and supported Vestry’s handling of it, several other important voices in our community felt that Vestry should have done more to make things work for our Priest. Fortunately, despite the criticisms and divergence of views on the subject, the congregation has come together during the transition and even strengthened our bonds of commitment to one another and to St. Peter’s, affirming the strong community we believe is so special about our parish. Average attendance has actually risen in the months since his departure and we believe that even the prior Priest’s strongest advocates have continued to be the important congregants that they were before his departure, the bonds that keep us together being stronger than the differences of opinion we will inevitably have.

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 discussion about our last Priest, above in answer 10, is the best example of when change has gone well. There is a strong commitment to this parish that is bigger than any single person, issue or ideology. It is more difficult to point to change that has gone poorly. Yet it may be fair to point to absence of change as a way of addressing the question. As a community St. Peter’s may be somewhat resistant to sudden change, and as a result may be unprepared for the need to change for what the future holds. It is difficult in all things to anticipate when content with the way things are will later be seen as complacency. We look forward to our collective renewal of engagement with these questions led by a new Priest-in-Charge.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Flanagan	Interim	2020-01	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Canon Albert J. Ogle	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-10	2019-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Edward Johnston	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1998-01	2013-06

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
YES		1	6

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
1	5	1	

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://stpeterslithgow.org>

Media Links:

> <https://episcopalchurch.org/parish/st-peters-episcopal-church-millbrook-ny>

Online References:

> <https://stpeterslithgow.org/worship/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader