



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated May 11, 2021)*

## Christ Church and San Marcos, New York

43 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 06/18/21.

[rectorsearch@christchurchtny.org](mailto:rectorsearch@christchurchtny.org)

Weekly Average Sunday  
Attendance (ASA)

130

Number of Weekend  
Worship Services

3

Number of Weekday  
Worship Services

7

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

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

**\$501-\$1000/year**

Sabbatical Provision

**Yes**

Travel/Auto Account

**Yes**

Other Professional Account

*We are calling a Rector, 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.

We engaged our congregation and community at large when we painted our Bridge of Hope mural to draw attention to Cristosal, a human rights and education organization in El Salvador. It was a beautiful sight to see many generations painting at the same time. One of our oldest parishioners painted beside kids from a nearby school and a local journalist painted next to young children from our parish and their parents. We stand in solidarity with immigrants and wanted our community to know this. We believe in welcome for all and seeing our mural each week is a visual reminder of our call. Our artistic lay leader for Hispanic ministries made wooden birds, identical to those in the mural, which people could purchase and now hang in many homes or patios. The parishioner who created the mural made notecards and keychains for additional fundraising for Cristosal. The unaccompanied minors from Abbott House could see the mural honoring the immigrant journey, and feel they were in a safe place where people wanted them. When a need appears, we bring the church and community together to make it happen. The mural is there to show our commitment to serving others.

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

We are already becoming the church of the future, having had our minds opened to new ways of worship and communication through technology. We plan to have a hybrid service, both in person and on zoom/Facebook live once we return to worship, outside at first, on May 23rd. We believe the use of technology will continue and evolve as we seek to bring more people to our parish, in whatever way they are comfortable being there. Our minds and hearts are open to increased ministry and to that effort we are moving ahead with a kitchen/bathroom renovation in our parish hall.

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

Loving presence. Empowering Leadership. Creative Involvement. Effective Communicator.

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

We would be described as low church and use Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer. We love the liturgy and traditions delivered in a more informal atmosphere. We involve many people of all ages in our service and welcome all. We faithfully embrace each other and relationships before the “rules.” Sermons can be delivered from the pulpit, walking up and down the aisle or in the form of a chancel drama. The choir often sings traditional hymns but mixes in Taize chants and worship responses. Classical instrumentalists are invited and we are not afraid to clap for them. During the pandemic we used the Zoom platform and Facebook Live and enjoyed informal worship in our own homes. Sunday 8:00 worship is quiet and intimate without music while Sunday 10:00 worship is a family service with music and Sunday School. Sunday 12:30 is a Spanish language service with music. Twelve Sundays a year we do a bi-lingual service at 10:00, interspersing prayers in English and Spanish, with music selections and the sermon delivered in both languages. We offer Morning Prayer on a daily basis from The Book of Occasional Services and Compline on a weekly basis.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are friendly and inviting. Our monthly chancel dramas, written and rehearsed by a parishioner and based on scripture, are intergenerational and involve many in the congregation over the course of a year. Our readers list is long and incorporates teens as well as adults. Our teens are welcomed as ushers and on the altar as acolytes. Whether in a service, a fundraiser or a ministry, the question is, “How can we involve all?” The fence outside of our church is the home to rainbow banners, calls to welcome the immigrant, along with service times. Each day we walk through our open doors we are reminded to act for all.

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

Morning Prayer, offered five days per week by a faithful group, is a cornerstone for us. Some folks attend daily, while others drop in as needed for strength or a shot of community. Having this steady, praying group is a backdrop for much of what is done at Christ Church San Marcos. We host soup suppers during Lent where we not only share in a simple meal together, but sit and talk, getting to know one another better with guided questions. We share in a program around a theme, usually delivered by lay people. One year we heard the stories of our fellow parishioners as they crossed the border and another year heard how people overcame struggles in their lives. Our parish has a keen and generous sense of pastoral care. We bring what is needed. It might be food, or as in a more recent request, underwear and socks! We are generous in giving to each other. We give moral support and keep the doors to our church open. We need to walk with God daily and then act on the specifics that come our way.

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

We have weekly services at area homes to reach out to those in memory care units, adults with cognitive disabilities and the frail elderly. These services are lay led with music and the residents greatly look forward to them. We have a relationship with Abbott House, who cares for asylum seeking children. Prior to the pandemic they attended services and Christ Church San Marcos parishioners played games with them in the afternoons. They “shopped” in our clothing closet at no charge and participated in our Epiphany Pageant and other special events we hosted. Our Clothing Closet has a monthly sale of donated items in good shape to the community at low prices. Our newest community venture involves The Susan Fund which gives underserved community youth summer enrichment experiences, hoping to inspire them to discover their passions. YAI (Young Adult Institute) adults came to the church weekly to volunteer their time cleaning the church and folding clothes. These adults with disabilities wanted to feel a sense of purpose and experience a feeling of belonging. We honor them with a special luncheon each year and thank them for their service.

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

We were one of the founding members of REPAIR (Rivertown Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race) whose purpose is to play a part in bringing healing and justice to our society by addressing racial justice in our own river towns. We continue to educate ourselves, dialogue with each other, evaluate our own churches and their inclusion practices, study our local community, support local community groups working for justice and offer Christian witness on behalf of inclusion and racial justice. We host the community food pantry and work with them to meet food insecurities in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. We started a clothing closet as a response to a community need. One of our strengths’ is creative problem solving and we like to involve as many people as possible.

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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?

Abbott House became connected to our church because of our Spanish speaking congregation. As their facility filled with unaccompanied, undocumented minors’ who had recently crossed the border, they sought assistance to care for more than the children’s physical needs. We were already a congregation involved in supporting Cristosal, in El Salvador. Cristosal addresses justice issues in the countries many of these children came from in the northern triangle. We have sent several groups to The Global School at Cristosal to learn and have raised money to assist in their efforts. Partnering with Abbott House to provide spiritual nourishment, community and a bit of fun made sense. Covid restrictions have kept us apart physically over the past year, but as numbers recently grew in Abbott House, we have helped provide basic clothing necessities. The contacts for our Abbott House ministry are Lay Hispanic Minister Mario Salinas and Vestry member Phil Viola.

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

We are fortunate to have a pro-active stewardship committee that kicks into high gear at pledge time with fun and personal witnesses. They monitor the incoming pledges and our financial status and keep the congregation informed. This keeps our worshipping community mindful of the church's need for fiscal support. We are stewards of people as well and therefore host the community food pantry and provide clothing through our clothing closet. Our knitters provide prayer shawls to those in the hospital and we use our rental space to house AA and a community nursery school. All our ministries involve caring for people both physically, emotionally and spiritually.

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

Conflict is rare and extremely concerning and we had to go back a number of years to find a specific example. We had to fire a music director. Our priest, vestry and part of the church were involved in this decision. The decision was made prayerfully and loving attention was given to all involved. When the congregation announcement was made regarding the decision, the individual's accomplishments were announced as well. The congregation rallied in support of those who made the hard decision as well as the individual who had to be let go.

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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?

Our recent experience of shutting down due to the pandemic called for immediate change in the manner in which we worshipped, held meetings and communicated in general. The church doors had to close but we remained open! We quickly pivoted to holding services on zoom assisted by our parish administrator and music director. Music was available from day one and soon choir was added. Our music director delivered computers to homes or gave tutorials so all choir members could sing on the online audio platform called Jamulus. The Vestry implemented care groups in order to check on people, see if there were needs and make sure everyone was able to connect to us. The leadership team worked together to face the problem, quickly came up with a workable solution and implemented it. As the pandemic wore on, we began to see reduced attendance on worship and have found keeping the children connected difficult. Our Christian formation leaders and parents have tried different strategies and materials have been driven to the homes of children. We would like to involve as many families as possible but know there is room for growth.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Susan K. Copley	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2007-09	2020-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Susan Stiles	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-09	2003-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Glyn Lorraine Ruppe-Melnyk	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1998-03	2001-07

*Tarrytown Nursery School rents space from us but is not connected to the church in terms of sponsorship.*

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	9	14

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
2	7	0	0

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: [christchurchtny.org](http://christchurchtny.org)

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Church-San-Marcos-Episcopi-Church-903481663072275/>

> <https://zoom.us/j/9146312074?pwd=QlJrWTVBUEhBSTkvdHA1NzA1eXdpUT09>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English, Spanish**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English, Spanish**

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References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader