



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 31, 2022)

Zion Church, Wappingers Falls, New York

12 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/16/22.

zion.rector.search@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
42	1	1	
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 Full family	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	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account

Compensation and 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.

Zion's most successful recent ministry was the Stewardship Campaign of 2021, which began November 1, 2021 and ended November 28, 2021 with the theme "Thanks Be to God". Maya Hennebery, Bonnie Kieffer, and Father Stephens created a new, colorful pledge card which was mailed to all congregants; extra copies were available each Sunday of the month. Charts and visuals were posted, such as "Frequently Asked Questions". On November 28 we celebrated the First Sunday of Advent with our "Gifts to the Manger" Pledge Sunday and the first annual catered brunch for all those in attendance. Our pledges increased from \$93,000+ to \$108,000+ and more people pledged than the previous two years.

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

Zion invested in a state of the art light, sound, and camera live streaming system for online services during the pandemic. These services will continue when in person ones return to reach parishioners unable to attend, those who moved away, or gain new members outside of the area. Zion recognizes the need to reach people via various social media platforms. Zion's website is a key communication tool, along with Facebook, Gmail, & Instagram. Other social media outlets will be added, as required. Zion maintains the physical space in our Rectory and Parish Hall for use by Zion groups and community organizations, such as AARP, AA, OA, Girl Scouts, AAUW and others. This keeps Zion connected to the community and provides additional income.

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

Preaching. Church Growth/Development. Administration. Pastoral Care. Spiritual Guidance.

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

We use the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Currently there is one Sunday service at 9:00 A.M., with Rite I on the first Sunday of the month and Rite II the other weeks. Services are also held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Ascension Day. Lessons and Carols are done during Advent, and the Great Litany is used during Lent. There is a four-voice choir with occasional guest instrumentalists. We use the 1982 Hymnal, LEVAS, and "Wonder, Love, and Praise", with seasonal changes in service music. A weekday healing service with communion and Bible study is held on Tuesday mornings in the Chapel. During the pandemic, Evening Prayer was offered on Saturday afternoons in Zion Park. We also have ecumenical services for Thanksgiving and Easter Vigil with Lutheran and other Episcopal churches, as well as a special MLK service off-campus with local churches of different denominations.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Zion's parishioners notice new faces and strive to make them feel welcome. When a new person attends Zion for the Sunday service, there is a welcome card to fill out. They are personally invited to the coffee hour, and once there, they are included and never left to sit alone, and this continues each week to ensure that they continue to feel welcome. We also host an annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper that is open to the community, including those who cannot afford to pay the suggested donation, or anything at all. At Zion, no one is left out and all are welcome.

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

As a worshipping community, we care for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of our parishioners through prayer groups such as The Order of the Daughters of the King who meet monthly, pray daily and call parishioners to check on their welfare; a weekly Healing service with a Bible study; lay eucharistic ministers ready to make visitations and bring communion to those homebound; and our interim priest is a practicing psychotherapist on call.

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

Zion has a long history of community outreach, which includes the following: - The Food Pantry supplies food to those in need. Last year over 6,000 people received food and more than 100 families received holiday dinners. - Cards for the Jail was started so that donated cards could be given to inmates for their use, such as sending birthday and holiday cards to their families. - The Crop Walk, as part of the Interfaith Council, helps combat hunger in the area and around the world. - Friends of Darbonne supports the Church and School in Darbonne, Haiti with annual contributions. - Vacation Bible School is open to children throughout the area for a week of Bible stories, crafts, singing, science and games. - Love INC., or Love in the Name of Christ, is a GAP ministry made up of local churches to provide members of the community with items, such as those for personal care, not otherwise covered by food stamps. - St. Simeon is low-income senior housing with whom we are involved. - Angel Tree Program provides gift wrapped new clothing to local school children at the holidays.

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

Our Food Pantry is a weekly mission for our community; it has been in place since 1976 and has a dedicated staff of volunteers picking up food, sorting, categorizing, shelving and aiding our community. The Food Pantry is open on Wednesday in the afternoon and in the evening and serves approximately 40 families per week.

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

Our previous Rector, Mother Mag, had a vision to start a community garden to enhance the Food Pantry with fresh produce and also provide space for locals to grow their own produce. In 2019, one of our parishioners, Brandon Carlough, took this on as his Eagle project. The garden has 17 boxed plots. We have a Garden coordinator, John Karge, who oversees the garden. This year, John has received a donation from Home Depot of 40 bags of organic soil to enhance the boxes. The garden boxes are free of charge with expectation that gardeners clean them up at the end of the season. The church provides tools and access to a water hose.

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

Stewardship is a year long mission at Zion with activities and events for all those to share their time, talents, and treasures. A solid core of volunteers works throughout the year on various activities. There is an annual month for focused financial stewardship with a pamphlet mailed and handed out to the members, notices in our weekly bulletin, posters and flyers with facts and frequently asked questions to help all prayerfully pledge. We have a Pledge Sunday and this year thanked the congregation with a catered brunch.

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

A few years ago, (2015/2016), our Rector approached the Vestry to say that she had heard that Zion has the reputation of being homophobic. She was visibly upset and we had many discussions on the topic. One member of the Vestry provided passages from the Old Testament that defended their anti-homosexual views. Mother Mag talked about this with the congregation for a full month. She showed the movie, "For the Bible Tells Me So" many times during the month with expectation that everyone in the congregation watch the movie. We had interesting discussion groups after the movie. Mother Mag also made visits to families who had concerns along with the group discussions. The result of this activity was to bring this topic out in the open for discussion and to express the Episcopalian views that all are loved and welcome. We did, unfortunately, lose a few families due to this but overall the experience was a positive one.

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?

Over the last two years Zion has faced: The tragic passing of our treasurer, a beloved and active member of our church community; the retirement of our Rector; and a global pandemic. Fortunately, volunteers from the parish were able to step in and manage Zion's books while a treasurer was selected and trained. Zion's vestry, after considerable evaluation, determined it must hire a bookkeeper to assist the treasurer. The vestry worked well together to select and install an interim priest and formed a search committee. During the pandemic they worked to setup outdoor services, created a plan for safely reopening the church for inside worship and outfitted the sanctuary with an A/V system to facilitate online services. Unfortunately, this led to burnout for many of our volunteers who put in countless hours to facilitate these accomplishments. Though volunteer burnout was identified as a concern, not enough effort was put into mitigating the situation and several of our most active volunteers have stepped away from their involvement in the church. One key lesson learned in facing our recent challenges: concerns raised regarding volunteer fatigue must be given a high priority.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Anthony Stephens	Interim	2021-01	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Deborah Magdalene	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2012-04	2020-10

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Horace Choate	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-11	2011-11

Church School YES		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 4	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 2	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School 1	Number of Students for Adults School 6
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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: <https://zionwappingersfalls.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/welcometozionchurch/>
> <https://www.instagram.com/zionepiscopalwfnny/>

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