



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 7, 2022)

St. Mary Magdalene, Washington

3820 Aspen Hill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names unshild@stmarymagdalene-md.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
85	2	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
	\$28380		
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$21120	\$62000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Clergy+1	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
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	

includes Stipend, Housing, SECA

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

There are several moments over the last several months of transition that might apply, but the one that resonates and has given many moments of joy is the 8:00 am worship service community morning greetings to each other. The 8:00 am worship community could have been described as small & mighty even before we began digital worship at the beginning of the pandemic. After a few weeks last November of holding in-person services that we broadcast to those not there, the community determined to remain together in a digital worship space and we have a faithful 15-20 who join each week. Some do so via a phone; others come on video. Between 7:40 am and the start of worship at 8:00 am, individuals and couples join the service and greet each other. Some are long-time "regulars" at our 8:00 am worship, others are new to the community since we have been online. Most notably, a parishioner who is a caregiver at the Arc Montgomery County has a group of 4-5 who join us each Sunday. The joy of being together, of connection despite the physical separation and of community is a wonderful way to start a Sunday morning.

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

Our former Rector understood the challenges of being church to our current older population while also being available and attractive to young families and worked to better establish our digital and online presence. This allowed us to transition relatively smoothly into online worship when the pandemic hit and has allowed us to maintain our membership. Our church is near a large planned community for older adults (Leisure World) where some of our members live and where there are opportunities to do more creative evangelism. We work to maintain the website, to send out an electronic e-news each week and we provide our bulletins electronically and have them available in hard copy for pick-up. We continue to offer our Tuesday Prayer Group and our 8:00 am worship service via Zoom with a livestream to Facebook. We currently also open a Zoom meeting that we livestream of our in-person 10:30 am worship service. We are in the process of seeking grant funds to support improving our digital offerings. We welcome all persons and celebrate the multicultural make-up of our parish while embracing that we are one body and one blood in Jesus Christ.

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

Administratively autonomous

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

Our 8:00 am Zoom service is Rite I and has limited music. Our 10:30 am worship service, Rite II, has typically been considered our “family” service. We sing a variety of hymns both out of the 1982 hymnal and out of the LEVAS hymnal. It has been a tradition that we have Eucharist at every service and rarely hold morning prayer services. Our Liturgical style is “broad Church” with a touch of “High Church.” We use Sanctus bells, but no incense. Due to many members with a background in the Anglican Communion, we use liturgical resources from various cultures and regions of the world. We own a subscription to Rite Planning for service booklets and because there is no office assistant, the Organist and Interim Rector support this work. Booklets are printed a month at a time and available for pick-up by those who view the services at home. Compline on Tuesday evenings is managed by parishioners as is the scheduling of lectors. The members are open to liturgical creativity if it is not too abrupt, extreme, and is presented with reason and background. Mistakes are readily forgiven and the tone of worship is joyful and uplifting.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

There is an open invitation and calls for support to participate in ministry as there are many ministries that depend on a few to keep them going. The Thrift Store ministry has several volunteers that come to help with set-up and anyone who comes to support is welcomed and given tasks. Several individuals take turns on Wednesdays and Fridays serving as greeters for the Mobile Med ministry. Anyone new to the parish will quickly receive an invitation to be a counter or a lector or an usher, etc. It is a balance of meeting someone where they are and finding a ministry that can be fulfilling to them. Rev. Sarah and now Rev. Anne are both active in engaging with parishioners and making direct invitation to participate.

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

SMM CHURCH . . . “A Caring Presence in the Aspen Hill Community” . . . an apt description of our church. The measure of how the spiritual needs of the church are met is determined by how we accomplish our mission and vision statement. Through sermons (both children and adult) in the absence of active Sunday school, through scripture readings and the choice of hymns, we cherish worship. Other active ministries are Bible Study, Altar Guild, Tuesday Compline, and the Daughters of the King. We also support and house the Boys’ and Girls’; Scouts and the Toastmaster’s Club--examples of our outreach to the community. The emotional and physical well-being of all groups are linked. As a church, when we gather to worship and pray as a community of Believers, we help to nurture each other both physically and emotionally. The twice monthly Thrift store which is open to the community has been an especially fulfilling and sustained ministry during the pandemic. The Rector’s home visits to “shut ins” and hospitals have been very welcomed. The DOK, a prayer group, also facilitates and gathers supplies for Women’s shelters during the Christmas season.

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

Since the pandemic began St. Mary Magdalene moved to online services on Zoom. This allowed us to share our worship with family and friends in other parts of the country and around the world. These family and friends are able to communicate with us and share their prayer request for health issues, financial trouble and others concerns. They are grateful they can join in on our worship and are blessed to be connected to a church family so they can be uplifted during difficult times. Other ministries in the church like the Thrift Store, the Mobile Med van and the food collection ministry, that collects food donations for Mid-County United Ministries (MUM), provide an opportunity for the church volunteers to engage individuals outside our worship community and provide pastoral care. Through the Rector's discretionary fund, individuals are given financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. We also provide a brochure with information to resources in Montgomery County where they can obtain help with housing, food and employment. Individuals beyond our worshipping community are prayed for and are encouraged to join our worship services.

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

SMM congregation is always intent on being involved in the community and in finding ways to help out those in need. In general, SMM either provides financial help or organizes food drives to assist local charitable organizations such as MUM's to tackle the needs of families in the area. We have a thrift store that gives access to clothing and household items at a very low cost to everybody in the community. We welcome Mobile Med to use our parking lot and building so that their patients can have a safe and private space to meet with healthcare professionals. We provide space to Boy and Girl Scouts not only to meet but also to visit with the congregation for their special projects and celebrations. The Daughters' of the King help gather supplies for women's shelters. Pre-pandemic, our outreach ministry had volunteers that cooked meals for a men's shelter once a month.

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

One ministry that was initiated in the past 5 years is the online/by phone Tuesday Night Compline Prayer service. This ministry was started by the former rector, and it provides a source of spiritual connection and comfort to those who attend. A monthly schedule is created and roles are assigned to Community Portfolio Information 5 participants to lead the various elements of the service. Everyone is given an opportunity to offer their intercession and prayers. This dedicated group of parishioners support each other in prayer during times of grief, coping with illnesses and medical treatments and sharing joyful news. The prayer group prays for the congregation, clergy, their families, friends, the marginalized, the homeless, gun violence, mental health and peace in the world. When hearing about parishioners needing our prayers, we inform the rector so she can follow up with a call or visit and take communion to the parishioners. The prayer group is also an outlet for the elderly and those who are shut-in to connect with others during the week. They have expressed how much they look forward to joining the prayer service on Tuesday night. The prayer group provides the opportunity to praise and give thanks to God.

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

The parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene support the work of the church and our pledges have not dropped significantly since the pandemic, although several of the key donors have passed away in the last few years. We have secure online giving available and many parishioners have established recurring payments for their pledges. We were blessed with a large estate donation in 2021 that is and will support major building expenses. In the fall of 2022, St. Mary Magdalene used the materials from the TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) for the Pledge Campaign. A letter was sent with a pledge card enclosed and materials were distributed on Sunday mornings. The Rector and Wardens mentioned the campaign during the announcements and encouraged folks to participate. A few loyal lay leaders take on the major work of our financial practices. We have a strong commitment to financial accountability. Continued efforts to clearly communicate about our finances to share both the difficulties and the successes is something that as a vestry and a parish we believe is important.

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

The last several years have been difficult but there has not been significant conflict as we have bonded together to support Rev. Sarah in her illness and then each other as we go through transition and went six months without clergy before Rev. Anne became our Interim Rector. One ongoing conflict is between maintaining old traditions and holding onto items that honor and reflect the work of those now gone and wanting to update and make changes. The dossal has been hanging for more than 20 Community Portfolio Information 6 years and is in need of replacement or repair as it is faded with candle smoke but Altar Guild members resist its removal. Finances is a tension as resources are limited and different priorities exist on when and how funds are spent to make repairs and improvements. Often our management of this and other similar conflicts is to avoid making a change. Open, candid conversation is key and we will continue to problem-solve together and be transparent about the decision-making process.

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?

One experience leading and addressing change in the church dealt with the illness and resignation of the last rector. The process to inform the congregation was difficult. The aim was to keep the parish informed yet protect the rector's privacy and her desire to maintain a sense of normalcy. The pandemic was a silver lining as it extended the length of time the rector could continue to lead worship. Under normal circumstances, she would have had to go on full-time disability much earlier, but because of technology and remote worship her time was extended. The news of the rector's decision to resign was the final communication in a series of updates provided by the rector and the wardens. The impact of the news was very hard to process. Accepting the fact that our beloved rector had to resign was very difficult for the entire parish. Communicating with the parish was vital to being transparent while at the same time not causing major concerns regarding the future of the parish. We learned that communicating difficult information should be balanced with honest information along with the steps/plans to address and deal with the change.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Anne Weatherholt	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2021-10	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lamming	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2016-08	2021-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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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St. Mary Magdalene, Washington

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names ~~unserved~~ rschindler@stmarymagdalene-md.orgWorshipping Community Web site: www.stmarymagdalene-md.org

Media Links:

Online References:

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

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: 202.537.6555
Mariann Edgar BuddeDiocesan Transition Minister 202.537.6555 rphillips@edow.org
The Rev. Dr. Robert PhillipsCurrent Warden/Board Chair 202.302.3821 mglidden@societyforscience.org
Michele GliddenPrevious Warden/Board Chair
Beverly CollinsSearch Chair 202.302.3821 mglidden@societyforscience.org
Warden

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader