



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 8, 2023)

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

130 W. Seminary Ave., Lutherville, MD 21093, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

60

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

2

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

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

Negotiable

Dental

Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

No

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

No

Per diocesan guidelines (includes stipend, housing allowance, SECA)

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

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

CHC struggled for ways to survive quarantine during covid. We had innovative ideas such as remote streamed services, drive-by ashes for Ash Wednesday, a food truck with funnel cakes and hot dogs in lieu of pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday, and twice weekly Compline and an additional weekly Zoom chat in an attempt to stay connected. But undoubtedly the most renowned was the 2020 nativity pageant. The annual pageant is an event that always brings parishioners of all ages together to produce the show to the delight of all at the unveiling on Christmas Eve. In 2020 a group of parishioners, young and old, produced a wonderful video that was viewed during the Christmas Eve remote service. Amidst the isolation of being separated for so many months, this brought us all together in a unique way. Our live 2022 Christmas nativity pageant featuring CHC youth, a live donkey, and a sheep played to a full house and underscored our joy at finally being able to be together physically and to share this wonderful experience that highlighted the meaning of the Christmas as Christ's birth and the symbolic renewal embodied in that event. We all felt renewed and reinvigorated by sharing the experience.

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

A big part of the way our congregation has prepared ourselves stems from our participation in the Blue Horizons program, a program initially sponsored by the Church Building Fund & the Diocese of MD with the goal to empower congregations to better utilize their financial resources & physical assets to build for the future. One main outcome of this effort was the development of several community partnerships (Kol HaLev, Active Minds, & Well for the Journey) over the last few years. These partnerships utilize space within our buildings & grounds for a nominal fee, thus providing in part financial support for our Church & demonstrating our fiscal responsiveness. In addition, our Church recently completed a successful capital campaign aimed at improving our Church space & providing a solid foundation for our future growth. In addition to maintaining our spaces & grounds, funds were used, in part, towards the purchase of a new sound system & grand piano for our main church to enhance our worship experience. We installed cameras to live stream & record our worship, allowing us to share our message with even more people. Significant renovations to the hall & kitchen are underway.

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

Welcoming and warm; Engaging and inspiring preacher; Visionary, dynamic, and empowering leader; Attentive, Receptive, and effective manager.

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

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

The liturgical practice at the Church of the Holy Comforter is characterized by a diverse style of worship within a traditional framework at two services utilizing both Rite I and II. The liturgy emphasizes tradition with a sprinkle of other cultures. The worship commission creates a visual and sensory experience that often enhances the total service. The 10:30am service follows a more formal format following a traditional liturgical style. A variety of musical experiences are an important component of the 10:30am including piano, flutes, organ, and choral pieces. The 8:30 service in the chapel allows for a less formal and more inclusive gathering while experiencing a traditional liturgy. During special times of the liturgical calendar like Advent and Lent, we occasionally practice different, less traditional forms of service from other countries and cultures (e.g., using the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer).

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are a faithful group and our church functions by the parishioners' service to the church and to the larger community. One of CHC's greatest strengths is volunteerism. We rely on our leadership (Priest, Vestry, commission leaders) to guide us and our many ministries are led and implemented by parishioners. We participate monthly and weekly in flower guild, altar guild, worship commission, virtual services, eucharistic ministering, scripture reading, creating music, opening the church, greeting others, teaching Sunday School (though this is often limited), serving communion to homebound folks and organizing and preparing coffee hour. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate formally and informally. Our outreach ministries may be more seasonal and enthusiastically and diligently include all age groups as they wish to participate. These ministries include Food for Thought, collecting school supplies, Thanksgiving baskets, blood drives and completing Christmas wish lists for local schools. At CHC, all are welcome and encouraged to be a part of any and all of the ministries and to give as much of their time, talent, and treasure as they wish to give.

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

Church of the Holy Comforter is a caring community. Caring for a worshipping community involves a holistic approach for all ages from youths to adults. At CHC, Spiritual care can be achieved through pastoral commission, Priest accessibility, bible studies, preaching, prayer shawls, labyrinth, blessing of the animals, and prayer chains. Emotional well-being is supported by community presence, musical ministry, lay Eucharist ministry, Christmas pageant, and cards. Physical care can be offered through activities like adult education, yoga, blood drives, fellowship hour, liturgical seasonal gatherings (such as Easter egg hunt, St. Nick visit, Lenten programs, and Lenten/advent programs), and through the involvement of an associate rector and verger. Balancing these aspects helps foster a strong and supportive community.

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

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

We do so in myriad ways: Putting on gift drives at Christmas for many families. Distributing Thanksgiving baskets. Offering communion to shut-ins. Participating in mission trips. Delivering altar flowers to people in nursing homes and other facilities to brighten their space while reducing our waste. Our Food for Thought ministry invites people or businesses to donate food or money for grocery-store gift cards. This ministry provides weekend nutrition for public school students who may receive free or discounted meals at school but then go home hungry until the next week. Each child in the program takes home a backpack weekly filled with food for two breakfasts, lunches and dinners, or families receive a \$50 monthly gift card for those meals. We strive to live by the words of our Outreach Committee: "Through discernment, prayer, and relationship with the surrounding community, our congregation continually seeks and finds new places and new people to love. The success of our outreach lies within generous volunteer enthusiasm, the supportive dedication of parishioners and friends who fund our endeavors, and the prayerful approach to accepting new challenges."

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

As one example, Holy Comforter is an enthusiastic participant in mission trips to needy areas, where we work hand in hand with other organizations. This fall, a team will be off to Appalachia in southwestern Virginia for a week to work on housing for people in poverty. Closer to home, we engage well with the diocese, vigorously participate in annual conventions of the church, and embrace opportunities to work with Lutheran, Catholic and other churches we're in communion with as well as organizations outside our faith traditions. We do so from inside our own home as well. When Holy Comforter was approached by Kol HaLev, a Jewish congregation in need of facilities, we welcomed them, offering space that they share to this day. In addition, we provide both live streaming of our Sunday service and/or recorded virtual liturgy through our YouTube channel which is available to not only our congregation but also the larger community. In ways both literal and spiritual, we seek opportunities with the larger community to make our church common ground.

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

We have traditionally celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake supper but were unable to continue this tradition during Covid and folks were still cautious the following year. By 2022 we were very much missing the fellowship this event provided as we prepared for Lent. We missed being together! So our leadership decided to hire a food truck that served funnel cakes and other goodies to have a little Shrove Tuesday fellowship! It was a very cold night but everyone dressed warmly, brought a chair and enjoyed being together. At the close of the evening, we all stood in a circle, burned last year's palms and had an informal Ash Wednesday service. It was a very moving service and when the time came for the 2023 Shrove Tuesday celebration, we couldn't wait to have the food truck return. We are fortunate that several parishioners kindly volunteered to pay for the truck once again and all were welcome to join in the fellowship. Thus beginning a new way to worship our transition into lent. Contact: Will Shaw or Denise Noll

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

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

We have a very generous congregation. Any time there is a need, they open their hearts and wallets to support the event. We have had great stewardship programs and some less effective ones. Though we often start late and lack formal organization, we know that people will give. In the past, we have done mailings, hosted informative social gatherings in the church hall, sent a letter from the Rector, and given packets of note cards with pictures of the church nicely tied up as a way to promote stewardship at CHC. By sharing our financial status, our operating funds, and savings (i.e., expenses vs. income), we can enhance transparency and better engage the congregation, thereby making use of the congregations' gifts to CHC. Asking for money is always challenging; however, we continue to stay open and flexible in our efforts to increase time, talent, and treasure.

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

There's no discernable conflict to the average parishioner; our community shows genuine care by affection shared during the peace (typically requires a call to return to worship), post-worship fellowship, & a flock of hugging congregants happily chatting away. Conflict, while limited, is best described as disagreements on the direction of administrative or leadership functions at CHC. Historically, debate is limited to the use of capital campaign funds, finances or music selections. This debate starts over a gut reaction but is easily ended with prayer, making differing opinions feel valued/heard, & educating the parties on actual facts, roles, & duties. Debates over music are quelled with compromise & making opinions/people feel valued. Debates over finances are ended by defining the roles/duties of vestry positions & establishing better lines of communication between such positions. Debates over the use of capital contributions are resolved by explaining the facts of collections vs cost in a range of available options. Sharing information, defining roles, & valuing people/opinions, with a little divine intervention through prayer, has allowed CHC to successfully address conflict.

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?

CHC is renowned for its welcoming atmosphere and warmth. We routinely welcome newcomers in church, invite them to fellowship time in the parish hall, introduce them to others and, in general, make them feel important to us. A tribute to this is that even during covid, our congregational touch and interactions grew! Since we did not gather during most of that time, we can only assume that this growth was on our reputation. This is a point of honor as most churches are losing numbers and even having to close or consolidate. We have partnerships that also help maintain us financially and bolster us spiritually by participating in joint activities. With our Jewish partner Kol HaLev, we share our space, engage in outreach activities together, and participate in joint liturgical celebrations to learn more about each other's faith, thereby enhancing our own Christian faith. We could be better at encouraging new parishioners and others to participate by serving on committees and volunteering.



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Sep 8, 2023)

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

swright@episcopalmaryland.org

Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Christopher Tang	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-02	2023-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Janice Gordon Barnes	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1989-08	2009-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Joseph Webb	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1973-06	1988-01

Church School		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
---------------	--	--	--

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
---	---	--	--------------------------------------

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio
(last updated Sep 8, 2023)

Holy Comforter, Lutherville, Maryland

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/15/23.

Contact:
swright@episcopalmaryland.org

Worshipping Community Web site: www.holycomfortermd.org

Media Links:

- > <https://www.youtube.com/@churchoftheholycorforter-l4254>
- > <https://www.facebook.com/holycomfortermd/>

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop: **410-467-1399**
The Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton

Diocesan Transition Minister: **swright@episcopalmaryland.org 410-467-1399 cell: 410-499-7075**
The Rev. Canon Stuart W Wright

Current Warden/Board Chair: **dcnoll@verizon.net**
Ms. Denise Noll

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair: **nknuth@towson.edu**
Mr. Nick Knuth

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader: **cantorgeorge@henschels.com**
Mr George Henschel