



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Sep 19, 2023)*

## Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, North Carolina

320 E. Davis Street, PO Box 1336, Burlington, NC 27215, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/30/23.

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) <b>90</b>	Number of Weekend Worship Services <b>2</b>	Number of Weekday Worship Services <b>1</b>	Number of Other per Month Worship Services <b>2</b>
Current Annual Compensation <b>\$75600</b>	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position <b>\$75600</b>	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options <b>Clergy only</b>	Dental <b>Yes</b>	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks <b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>up to/including \$500/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision <b>Yes</b>	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account

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

2022 marked the 10 th anniversary of our partnership with Newlin Elementary, a nearby Title I public school. The partnership focuses on creating equity in education through literacy education, delivered through free 1-to-1 tutoring and reading support, and through nutritional support, provided by weekend backpack meals for at-risk students. Teacher support includes classroom aid and appreciation events (we hosted over 100 people in our Parish Hall for the recent Back to School luncheon for staff). This partnership is supported financially by the church, church members, and volunteers and donors throughout the community. Over the years fundraisers have included a "Great Grown-up Spelling Bee" which not only helped Newlin but also provided an occasion for fun, fellowship and fulfillment. Our partnership with Newlin has served as a model and inspiration for other churches to adopt other schools in the community.

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

We have initiated Live Streamed services on YouTube and would like to expand those services. We recently offered a massive survey to ask the parishioners for their ideas on the current and future state of our church We have initiated Live Streamed services on YouTube and would like to expand those services; for example, a wedding last year was livestreamed so that the bride's relatives could see it in Germany. With an eye to increasing our financial stability, we have recently hired a part-time Special Events Coordinator to market, book and coordinate the use of our facilities to outside groups. We recently surveyed our parishioners for their ideas on the current and future state of our church. A major conclusion from that survey was a deep concern for the need to attract younger parishioners if the Church is to thrive. That outreach to younger parishioners lines up with suggestions to look at more contemporary services which might include non-traditional days and times as well as more modern music.

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

liturgical leader, pastoral care, good communicator, staff management

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

Holy Comforter supports a Traditional Eucharist utilizing the Book of Common Prayer in two Sunday services and a midweek Healing Service. Compline and other services such as Morning and Evening prayer are offered according to the Liturgical Calendar. Young children have a special service during the first portion of one service. We have a rich tradition of exceptional music ministry supported by choir, periodic guest instrumentalists, and our magnificent Dodson tracker organ. Our recent survey has revealed a strong desire to find a way to incorporate additional more contemporary services alongside our traditional ones.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

To communicate church events and programs, Holy Comforter utilizes weekly and monthly newsletters (both paper and electronic) to anyone on request, maintains a website (currently under revision) and an Instagram account as well as supporting personal contact. Our goal is to utilize all the talents of the church. To that end we welcome all to participate in any of our many ministries, directly utilizing lay ministers, acolytes, ushers, Chalicists and readers in each service. An Altar Guild and Flower Guild also contribute toward each service. Our youth ministry (post elementary) is currently shared with a local Lutheran church.

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

Our worshipping community provides many paths toward well-being. These include a weekly educational Men's Breakfast group and an ECW group that meets monthly focusing primarily upon service and support. Less formally, we also invite all to join in after-worship gatherings organized by our Parish Life commission (lemonade on the lawn/coffee in the parlor) and the occasional parish-wide meal (picnics in the Grove, receptions on special occasions). A part-time assistant for Youth and Family projects has regenerated Children's Formation post-COVID with active Godly Play offered each Sunday, and activities for Youth offered monthly. We have possessed an active Stephen Ministry for many years. The Sunshine Committee nurtures those who are dealing with change (loss, illness, new baby, newcomers, etc.) through gifts of food. Well-being in these fields is cared for by an active vestry, periodic social events, taking care of each other, Lenten programs, Sunshine visits, Stephen Ministry, and after-worship coffee in the parlor...almost too many to mention.

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

We provide Eucharistic Service beyond our campus to Twin Lakes and Brookwood retirement communities. Participants include both Holy Comforter members and non-members. Each Sunday's second service is streamed live over YouTube, and remains available for viewing anytime. We also participate in Meals on Wheels and support the local Allied Churches Food Pantry, and Foster Children's Christmas gifts program. As mentioned above, we also support a weekly community breakfast and the Newlin Backpack program.

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

Through volunteers and financial investment, we support Lutheran Episcopalians and Friends (LEAF) a robust ministry for Elon students, a collaborative weekly Community Breakfast for neighbors and the homeless, and food donations to the Allied Churches food bank. Our campus, centrally located in the state, is often used by the Diocese for meetings and youth events such as the Bishops Ball and youth conferences. We also have provided meeting space for a local Narcotics Anonymous chapter and rehearsal space for our local little theatre group.

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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?

Recently, a nearby Methodist Church was forced to close its building. Their Sunday Community Breakfast ministry was physically moved to our church. This breakfast is offered to anyone, especially aiming at the unhoused. The founding church uses our kitchen facilities, and we operate the breakfast alongside them. Frank Harris is our liaison for this program and keeps the parish informed through our newsletters.

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

Stewardship centers around our traditional Every Member Canvass, the annual pledge review which includes letters with pledge cards, along with articles in newsletters, personal testimonies and an emphasis on the theology of giving. More broadly, we consider the maintenance and preservation of our historic campus as a top priority for our stewardship efforts, and we have considered asking for assistance from the Diocese to help maintain our historic campus. Our stewardship extends to the planet, as we make every effort to use green products and have recently installed solar panels on the roof of our parish hall. Opening up our church facilities for use by other community groups provides an opportunity to introduce the Episcopal church as an open and welcoming space for all.

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

A few years ago Holy Comforter began laying the groundwork for a bilingual play school. While the school opened after a great deal of preparation, it became obvious that we didn't fully understand how to make it work on a practical level, such that there was insufficient parish support and a lack of a plan for sustainable fund-raising. Eventually the project died. Upon reflection, we realized that one big problem was poor communication both within the parish and in the community. Partly as a result, the current vestry is doing its best to communicate what we are doing as we transition to a new rector, and parishioners continue to contemplate ways to serve the preschool community.

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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?

Holy Comforter has always been recognized as a parish deeply engaged in the community, and with some relationships internationally. The general shift from parish-centered issues to more focus on national and global issues can sometimes be problematic. It goes well when there is someone, clergy and/or laity, who can communicate a Biblical foundation for that shift in focus and has the skill to instill a sense of ownership in parishioners. It becomes problematic when parishioners are not sufficiently drawn in and feel viewpoints or programs are being forced on them. Once again, communication is key.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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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
	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

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
			<b>10</b>

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://www.holycomforterburlington.org/>

Media Links:

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

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/echcburlington>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Samuel  
Rodman**

[sam.rodman@episdionc.org](mailto:sam.rodman@episdionc.org)

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Canon Catherine Massey**

[catherine.massey@episdionc.org](mailto:catherine.massey@episdionc.org)

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Mr. Mark Thomas**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader