

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

PARISH PROFILE

Thank you for being interested in St. Anne's Episcopal Church, located in Calais, Maine. We present here a sketch of our congregation and invite you to peruse our website and the links provided here as well.

St. Anne's is a small, beautiful, historic parish in a rural community setting in DownEast Maine with parishioners from all over the area. We have our beginning point as a congregation in the 1850's. We are strong, vibrant, service-oriented, challenged, challenging, and hard working. We love music and we have a sense of humor. We value the Episcopal tradition and the aesthetics of the liturgy and music and service and sanctuary. We value the Eucharist and all that it means. We can feel the challenges of changing times and dynamics of spiritual practice and what that means for our own and many other congregations and at the same time we are trying to be creative and practical and thoughtful and reasonable in the present moment and as we move forward. We feel confident and vibrant as we consider our future.

The City of Calais, situated on the St. Croix River bordering Canada, is a primary service center in Washington County, Maine, with its own school system, public safety, hospital, library, community college, numerous churches, and municipal government. Calais was the site of the first French settlement in the U.S. in 1604. Residents here have family and friends and co-workers from Canada. The town of St. Stephen "over the river" is considered a sister city and each summer we celebrate together an International Festival Homecoming Celebration with events, parade, music, fireworks. Washington County is the size of the states of Delaware and Rhode Island together and has a population of thirty six thousand, with no four-lane highways, no chain hotel/motels, no chain pizza places and one Walmart. We are rural and sparsely populated. There are, however, four urban centers within 100 miles - Bangor and Ellsworth in Maine and St. John and Fredericton in New Brunswick. There are major airports in Bangor and St. John. There is Interstate highway access in Bangor and in St. Stephen for the Canadian Provinces. The populace is primarily white with a small percentage of other races. The predominant minority is Native American. There are two Passamaquoddy communities, each within thirty miles of Calais, Indian Township to the north and Pleasant Point to the south. Most businesses are small, often family owned. Locally grown food, gardening, farmer's markets, cooperative food initiatives are valued throughout the area. There is significant activity in art, music, theater - often led by or with the participation of performers from urban centers who vacation or retire here. The geography is forest and water (streams, lakes, rivers, ocean) and blueberry barren and farmland. We are located on the Bay of Fundy with its twenty-two foot tides. We have long days in summer and long nights in winter. The land and climate create varied and significant recreational opportunity for hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, whale-watching, bird-watching, ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, etc. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge is contiguous and encompasses approximately 27000 acres. Additional demographic and geographic information is available at <http://www.calaismaine.org/> or Wikipedia.

St Anne's is a parish of ninety to one hundred members, with generally twenty-five to forty-five attending regularly, dependent on weather and time of year. We experience an increase during the summer when seasonal residents return to us. We have a significant population of elders and an active population of children and youth. We have lost more active members in the past five years than we have gained. We have in the past year, however, welcomed a small number of younger parents and their children. At a recent Parish meeting, one member who has attended since childhood, reminded us that we have always been a small parish, that the 'baby boom' and the values of the 50's and 60's contributed to more young people attending church, and that we perhaps have only slightly fewer members now than 50 years ago. More of our members are now aging and less able to attend as often, involved with extended family and grandchildren away from here, more likely to go somewhere warm in the cold months. Photos are available on this website.

We have a sense of reserve and strong boundary. At the same time, almost all adult parishioners are active in individual "ministry" - often under the radar, and in ministries supported specifically by the congregation as well. St. Anne's manages and works with the local Food Pantry, the Fuel Fund, 12-step recovery programs, Veterans, Hospice, Diocesan and local children/youth programs. There is a palpable and powerful sense in St. Anne's worshipping community of spirit, faith in action in daily living. Responses from the recent Parish Survey indicate strong value of fellowship and connectedness and this seems to extend beyond the membership into the wider neighborhoods we walk. Most seem to need no recognition or thanks for their service. At the same time we are observant and sensitive and grateful to one another for gifts offered, services volunteered.

We are now active in the process of calling a priest. We have completed a survey of the parish, a narrative summary of which is available for review also on this website. Responses to the survey indicates we strongly value who we are and the ministries in which we have been engaged, and that in the future we want to continue what we do as stewards and enhance our community outreach and ecumenical initiatives. We seem to be in a moment of challenge and opportunity in our parish life. We are experiencing the financial dynamics expected in a small church with older members dying and we have concern for our financial future. At the same time we have a belief in ourselves, grounded in past experience, that we are willing and able to know and do what we have to do to carry on. We have been thoughtful and conversant about whether a full time, three quarter time or other part time priest is the best choice for us. Survey response showed forty-one percent preferring full time, nineteen percent preferring part time, and thirty-three percent indicating that it depends on the priest, i.e. that it is better to have the right priest whether that person be full or part time. Because of this information, the Discernment Committee, the Vestry, and the Parish are choosing to interview candidates for full, part, or ¾ time commitments. We understand this means that if we call a full time priest, we have an increased financial need. We are willing to use endowment funds as necessary for a period of up to three years, concurrent with focus on resource development to continue into the future. Over half of survey respondents indicated they would be willing to increase pledge and/or other financial support to try to meet need. A summary of our annual budget reports is available at the end of this profile.

We look forward to welcoming and supporting a new priest. We offer the ongoing counsel of the Discernment committee and the Vestry and parishioners. In addition, the Diocese of Maine offers excellent support to clergy, in several ways. All new clergy participate in Fresh Start, a peer group which meets monthly (with summers off) for the first two years of each new ministry. Clergy from around the diocese gather several times a year for continuing education and spiritual sustenance, including a two-day retreat, which in recent years has happened in the week prior to Holy Week. The Bishop's office is readily available to provide support and counsel, and clergy call upon it for those things. According to Michael Ambler, Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, perhaps most important, clergy in this diocese like and trust one another; it's a good group of colleagues who don't see one another as competitors, but as companions.

We are hoping to call a priest who will resonate with our surroundings and us. We love this geography, this community, this way of living. We are hoping to call a priest who shares our value of the aesthetic of the Episcopal service and tradition, our sense of fellowship and ministry, our willingness to take risk and to work hard. We are hoping to call a priest to us who will enjoy us and who will be able to speak the truth to us with kindness and hear truth from us without defensiveness. We are hoping to call a priest to us to whom and with whom we connect in teaching and learning, wisdom, love, and joy.

Through our Discernment Process, we have been praying the Prayer for St. Anne's Parish that follows here. Please join us if you are drawn to do so and know we pray also for you.

Almighty and Ever living God, Ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Calais, ME				FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
ITEM	2013 Budget	2014 Budget	2015 Budget	Apr '15 YTD	% Budget
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 10,396	\$ 3,037	\$ 5,324	5,324.44	
RECEIPTS					
Plate Offering	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,539.16	22%
Pledge Payment	72,000	65,000	65,000	16,850.00	26%
Cont. from Organizations	-	-	-	0.00	NA
Operating Invest Income	11,000	11,000	11,000	2,408.14	22%
Other Operating Income	12,000	12,000	12,000	1,567.44	13%
SUBTOTAL-Normal Operating Income	\$ 102,000	\$ 93,000	\$ 95,000	22,364.74	24%
Diocesan Assistance	13,500	11,150	11,150	0.00	0%
Flower Fund	700	500	800	370.00	46%
Transfers In/Out	0	-	-	0.00	NA
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 116,200	\$ 104,650	\$ 106,950	\$ 22,734.74	21%
EXPENDITURES					
Clergy Salary (w/Social Security)	\$ 18,900	\$ 18,900	\$ 31,800	1,545.00	5%
Housing/Utilities. (Rectory)	15,000	10,000	10,000	2,642.11	26%
Other Salaries (w/Social Security)	25,350	25,400	22,000	7,037.62	32%
Life, Health, Dental	3,700	9,200	13,000	0.00	0%
Other Insurance (Worker's Comp)	400	417	382	215.80	56%
Church Pension Fund	9,300	5,000	7,100	756.00	11%
Utilities (Church)	14,000	15,000	15,000	5,789.87	39%
Repairs/Minor Improvements	3,000	3,000	6,000	200.00	3%
Maintenance	11,000	10,000	10,000	2,420.00	24%
Property/Liability Insurance	2,850	3,028	3,158	1,788.87	57%
Office Expenses	3,000	3,000	3,000	956.52	32%
Postage	100	100	100	0.00	0%
Christian Education	300	200	300	56.99	19%
Travel Expenses	500	750	1,500	435.85	29%
Telephone	1,000	1,100	1,200	410.98	34%
Congregational Life	600	600	600	52.29	9%
Property Taxes	1,500	1,700	1,700	0.00	0%
Altar Guild	500	200	100	323.49	323%
Choir/Music	200	200	200	0.00	0%
Applefest	-	250	225	0.00	0%
SUBTOTAL	\$ 111,200	\$ 108,045	\$ 127,365	24,631.39	19%
To Diocese	16,431	15,022	14,059	3,522.99	25%
Outreach	1,500	1,300	1,300	412.63	32%
Equity Allowance	-	-	900	0.00	0%
Flower Fund	700	500	800	75.00	9%
Continuing Education	750	750	375	0.00	0%
Discernment	-	-	1,000	0.00	0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 130,581	\$ 125,617	\$ 145,799	28,642.01	20%
Balance on Hand - End	\$ (4,235)	\$ (17,930)	\$ (33,525)	\$ (583)	