



St James Episcopal Church, Groveland, MA

978-373-1270 ♦ www.saintjamesgroveland.org

Job Description – Organist/ Choir Director

7-8 hours per week

St. James Episcopal Church is a welcoming and affirming congregation, involving parishioners and visitors from the greater Groveland/ Georgetown/ Bradford/ W. Boxford area. A smaller, but heart-filled, congregation, we find the nexus of our faith life on Sunday mornings at our one weekly service of Holy Eucharist (and occasional services of Morning Prayer). The Episcopal tradition values a breadth of experience and belief, anchored in common prayer, both spoken and sung. We seek love and grace in our worship, that we can go out refreshed for the work ahead of us. We value deep joy over perfection.

Summary

The Choir Director is responsible for planning and coordinating the music ministry at St. James in coordination with the clergy to support and enrich the congregation's weekly worship of God. This includes accompanying worship on organ and piano throughout the year, rehearsing and directing the volunteer adult choir (between 6-10 members, September through mid-June) and assisting volunteer parishioner/ musicians who coordinate our monthly Alternative Music Service (which leans towards bluegrass and folk music, and include guitars, banjos, violin, among other instruments).

The ideal candidate will have proficiency in both piano and organ music; be comfortable with hymn selection coordinated with the liturgical theme of the service (with emphasis on the *1982 Hymnal*, *LEVAS*, *Wonder, Love and Praise*); planning and leading repertoire for our adult choir; and supporting the varied musical gifts of the congregation (children and otherwise). The right candidate will have a deep sense of humor, adaptability with regards to a volunteer choir's gifts and needs, and an ability to break down complicated music into teachable sections with enthusiasm. Our organ is a Woodberry & Harris tracker pipe organ installed circa February 19, 1873.

Primary Responsibilities

- Weekly 9:30am Sunday service (yearlong), with choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:15am, and one monthly midweek evening rehearsal (September through May)
- Select hymns and offerings for services in coordination with the clergy and choir; meet quarterly to plan seasonal liturgies
- Connect with, support and coach as needed, our volunteer choir
- Support and assist (musically, and more, as interested) the monthly Alternative Music Sunday, coordinated by the Alternative Music Coordinator
- Play and lead our choir at special services throughout the year: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, a collaborative Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and others
- Maintain the church music library, and acquire music as necessary
- Update vestry on status of music ministry and needs, including coordinating piano/ organ service, upkeep and repair; arrange supply during absences
- Other duties as needed

Compensation and Benefits

Salary is \$12,000 per year. Paid vacation for six Sundays per year, scheduled in advance with the Rector. Additional remuneration for weddings and funerals. Use of the church organ and piano for private teaching, scheduled in advance with the Clergy and Vestry. We are willing to negotiate a ZipCar membership and fees for well-qualified candidates without transportation.

