

The Tablet



St. David's Episcopal Church
90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512
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office@stdavidscranbury.com
 December 2023 Vol. 54 Number 12

"You know how to pray, don't you? Just put your hands together and hope."

Terry Pratchett, Going Postal

The Advent season is upon us, and will probably feel very condensed this year. Since the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, it is one of the shortest that we will have on any given calendar year. However, it does not mean that we should be any less attentive to the meaning of this season. Our change of color (blue) and our change in worship (Advent hymns) add to the feeling. In this period of anticipation we will decorate both our homes and our church with Advent wreaths, lighting a candle for each week and focusing our prayers on the themes of the season.

To support this way of viewing Advent, our program this year will highlight the topics symbolized by each of the candles and give opportunities to contemplate what each means to us in our spiritual life. Beginning on December 3rd, there will be a daily meditation for each week, using quotes and hymns and bible verses to create a thoughtful space. The four areas of contemplation are:

Hope – the word has many layers to it. There is a sense of anticipation for something in the future, a potential outcome that we desire. Our hope in God is often what can get us through rough times, and help us to celebrate the good times. Hope is the greatest gift we have been given and the gift that we can share with others. During Advent, we hope for the coming of the Christ and acceptance into the Kingdom of God.

Peace – in a time where chaos, turmoil and upheaval can feel common in every day, the search for peace may seem futile. Yet the moments when we find a calmness or a quietness, a harmony in an unexpected way, or a steadiness in activity around us feel like precious gifts. Peace can be large or small, long term or fleeting, but it is always held in our hearts as special.

Joy – is so much more than happiness, cheerfulness or fun. Joy feels like it comes from the depth of our souls and overwhelms us, and cannot be conquered by any negativity. Like a candle burning brightly to defeat the darkness, joy is irreplaceable. Traditions new and old help to kindle that sense of joy and wonder in all we do.

Love – pure and eternal, love is the power of God to make everything right in the world. Love for each other is essential to our lives as disciples. To be able to love unconditionally, and to know that God loves us all unconditionally, is at the very heart of who we are as human beings. Love can be found everywhere, as long as we continue to look and to offer it from our hearts.

If you would like to participate in this year's Advent study, please sign up at rector@stdavidscranbury.com or call the office. And may we all have a blessed season full of wonder and waiting.

Sunday Services:

8 am Holy Eucharist II

10 am Holy Eucharist II

Wednesday Service

9:30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing

Rector

The Rev. Amy S. Cornell

Deacon

The Rev. Carol Patterson

Pastoral Care Associates

**Chaplain Kate O'Connor,
M.Div, BCC**

Br. John Baptist, OSF

Director of Music

Dr. Brian Katona

Treasurer

John Patterson

Parish Administrator

Judy Henningsen



I am overjoyed by the outpouring of support by the entire St. David's family. Thank you to those who have pledged financial support to the 2024 mission of St. David's and thank you to those still considering their pledge for the upcoming year. We appreciate your consideration and we are glad to answer questions and support you as you make this decision. There's plenty of time to return your 2024 pledge card to the office!

As we look to the year ahead, we are hopeful and grateful for the blessings in store for St. David's. We're excited about our potential to change lives and be the bridge in ways we never imagined.

Many Blessings,
Brijette Aris



Advent Study

This year's Advent Meditations on the Hymnal is currently being planned, and participation will once again be as easy as an email!

If you are interested in joining, please give your email to Mother Amy - rector@stdavidscranbury.com. Every day during the Advent and Christmas seasons, you will receive a written meditation and a link to the YouTube channel where a video version has been uploaded. Then on Sundays, after each service, there will be conversation about the topic of the week. Our Advent topics are focused on the 4 areas symbolized by our Advent candles - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. (If you do not have email access, the written meditation can be given to you in advance.) May the God of peace and hope bring you much joy and love in this holiday season.



Advent Wreath-Making at St. David's Sunday, December 3

The annual Advent Wreath-Making event will be held during coffee hour on Sunday, December 3rd after the 10:00 am service. Please join us for fun and fellowship while you make an advent wreath to take home. All supplies will be provided, but if you would like to **bring in greens from your yard to share that day**, it would be appreciated. This has been a great event in the past - please plan to stay! Questions, please contact Abbi Clissold or Kathy Herzog.



Many Thanks to:

Renee Christiansen, Mike Duck, Maria Eswine, Jennie Herbert, Diane Roby, Sandra Szymanski, Leslie Terhune, Kathie Wise, Joyce Hiscock, and tricky tray helpers, Charlotte Clissold, Erica Spero, Madeline Katona

Special thank you to our Auctioneer, Suzanne Camlin!

Your support was greatly appreciated,

Deanna Emerson and The Fantasy Auction Committee
(Jo Cornell, Kathy Herzog, Pat Kraft, Phyliss Robinson & Todd White)



December Outreach of the Month

Liberty Maternity Clinic

In keeping with our 2023 outreach theme of social justice, the monthly outreach target for December is Liberty Maternity Clinic in Kampala, Uganda. This clinic is charitable-funded by US-based charity, Metropolitan Communities. One of the principals of this charity is our congregation member, Rev. Dr. David Williams, who serves at this clinic during some of his medical mission trips to Africa. It operates as a free ob gyn and maternity clinic for poorer residents with means-tested charges for others. This clinic is located in an impoverished section of Kampala. The payroll includes doctors, nurses, administrator, and security staff. Without this clinic, many local expectant mothers would be too far away from affordable medical care.



The Annual African Team Ministry craft sale is back and will be held on Sunday, December 3 & Sunday, December 10 in the Narthex. A variety of hand-made & unique gifts will be available for purchase. Please place your payment (or IOU) in the box provided. Thank you to Terry Bennett for chairing this project.



Women's Christmas Party in.... July!

Thursday, July 25th, 6- 8:30 pm - Fish Library

The Women's Christmas Party scheduled for December 17th has been rescheduled to be a Christmas in July party! We will once again support Womanspace. Stay tuned for more details.....



It's that time of year again! RISE will be holding their Toy Drive online. To sponsor a child, please, go to the RISE website <https://nrise.org/risetoydrive/>. You can choose to sponsor a child or choose an amount to give a gift to one, two, three or more children. And, if you want, you can check the 'write a comment' box and add that the gift is from St. David's Cranbury. Let's keep St. David's always outstanding generous response!"

Christmas Services at St. David's



12/24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
	10:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service (with Choir)
12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service



Vestry Nominations

Our Nominating Committee has begun their work. If you are interested in being considered for a position on our vestry or as a convocation delegate, please speak to Pat Kraft.

Lunch and Learn



Did you know that there's a wonderful opportunity for the women of the parish to gather together and discuss books? The Lunch and Learn group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from September to June. We start with a book, selected by the group, and conversations can lead to current event topics, personal experiences and a great deal of laughter. It's always a lively and interesting discussion and gives us an opportunity to share opinions in a comfortable place. So consider joining us for our next meeting on Wednesday, December 13th at noontime. (This is a "brown bag" event, so please bring your lunch.)



Please note, there will be no game days in December. The next game day will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024. All who enjoy board games, card games, electronic games are welcome to join...The group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 2 pm in the Fish Library. Either bring your favorite game or just join in with the ones that are there! Card games like Uno, Phase 10, Cribbage. Board games like Aggravation, Scrabble and Checkers. There will be plenty to play and a great time spent in the company of the community of St. David's. Please join us!



St. Nicholas Day Celebration

Sunday, December 10 - 4 pm—6:30 pm

All Children and Adults Welcome!

- * Create a gingerbread house
- * Visit with St. Nicholas
- * Enjoy simple kid-friendly supper
- * Watch a Classic Christmas Movie (appropriate for all ages)



St. Nicholas Day Party! The party will be held in Meirs Hall on Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. The afternoon will include a gingerbread house craft, songs, a visit from St. Nick himself, family photo booth and a dinner followed by 2 G-rated Christmas movies. Come out and join in the fun!

Lay Participation Schedule for December 2023 – 10 am

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec. 31
Eucharistic Minister	Tracy Smires	Corinne Peters	Kim Neighbor	Edmund Abramovitz	Tracy Smires
Eucharistic Minister	Todd White	Tricia Metzger	Leslie Terhune	Steve Channon	Todd White
Intercessor	Zach Duck	N/A	Tom Reynolds	Corinne Peters	Tricia Metzger
Lector-1st Lesson	Kathy Herzog	N/A	Leslie Terhune	Deacon Barbara Jensen	Brennan Clissold
Lector-2nd Lesson	Collin Duck	N/A	Kim Neighbor	Tom Pearson	Zach Duck
Ushers	Richard Bennett Dan Smires	Deanna Emerson Bernadette Bruce	Carol Hartmaier Ed Miller	Larry Kraft Richard Bennett	Penny Stout Jackie Asafu-Adjaye
Acolytes	Leslie Terhune Collin Duck Joseph Eswine	Zach Duck Tracy Smires Collin Duck	Collin Duck Joseph Eswine Kaylyn Eswine	Leslie Terhume	Zach Duck Leslie Terhune Tracy Smires
Presenters	Marna & Gene McDermott	Jean Hegedus Carol Hartmaier	Bernadette Bruce Deanna Emerson	Joyce Hiscock Penny Stout	Phyllis Robinson Virginia K. Davis
Verger	TBD	TBD	Maria Eswine	TBD	Tena Achen
Counters	David Thomsson Jackie Asafu-Adjaye	Jennie Herbert Winsome Bailey	Tena Achen Mary Ann White	John Patterson Bernadette Bruce	Tena Achen Penny Stout



CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM

Deadline — December 17, 2023

Your Name (Given By)

(Daytime Phone Number)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS / DECORATIONS (Donation)

Christmas Donation

Check Total = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "St. David's Church". Attn: Penny Stout
 Mail to: St. David's Episcopal Church
 90 South Main St., Cranbury, NJ 08512

December

BIRTHDAYS

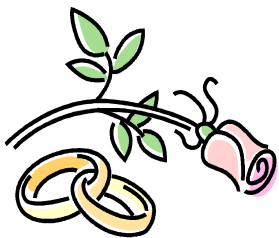


Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Gary Long | 13 Christian Apau
Patricia Kraft
Beth Nagle |
| 2 Holly Hibbard
Kristen Lombardo
Grace Lombardo | 16 Sarah Coulter Geisler |
| 4 Madeline Peeters
AJ Polanco
Larry Rak | 18 Elizabeth Lewis-Channon |
| 5 Susan Laustsen | 19 Tim Kovacs |
| 6 Tracy Smires
Patricia Hartstein | 20 Stephanie Peeters |
| 7 Richard Bennett | 22 Ian Nagle
Deacon Barbara Jensen |
| 10 Kevin Peters | 23 Judy Evans
Carol Hartmaier |
| 11 Renee Spero | 24 Ryan Hegedus |
| | 25 Kim Elaine Neighbor |
| | 31 Brian Clissold
Ian McKay |



Wedding Anniversaries



- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18 Kenneth & Linda Kelly | 30 Paul & Sandy Szymanski |
| 20 Brian & Abbi Clissold | |



St. David's Church Annual Meeting February 4, 2024

Our Annual Meeting will take place following the 10 am service on Sunday, February 4, 2024. At the Annual Meeting, we will elect a Sr. Warden, three Vestry members and three Delegates and one Alternate Delegate to represent us at our Diocesan Convention and Convocation. Parishioners who are 16 years of age or older, attend worship regularly, and are givers of record for six months prior to the elections are eligible to vote. It is hoped that you will attend this important meeting; it's a wonderful way to find out more about life here at St. David's!

Please email all Annual Reports to Judy Henningsen by January 15th. Thank you. The Annual Report will be posted on the St. David's website.

Sunday Services *

8:00 am — Holy Eucharist II
 10 am — Holy Eucharist II, Choir, Church School

December 2023

Room Legend
 s—Sanctuary
 mh—Meirs Hall / fl—Fish Library
 dc—Double Classroom / bc—J2A
 Classroom

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 ● 8am Holy Eucharist I (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom	27 ● 12:30pm AA (mh) ● 5:30pm Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm NJGMC Rehearsal (s)	28 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 2pm Board Game Event (fl) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom)	29 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 3 more	30 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	Dec 1 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 3 more	2 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am History Group Meeting (fl) ● 7pm Pentecostal (s)
3 ● 8am Holy Eucharist II (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom ● 11:30am Advent Wreath Making ● 4pm NJGMC Concert	4 ● 12:30pm AA (mh) ● 5:30pm Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm NJGMC Rehearsal (s)	5 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom)	6 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	7 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	8 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 2 more	9 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm Pentecostal (s)
10 ● 8am Holy Eucharist II (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom ● 4pm St. Nicholas Party	11 ● 12:30pm AA (mh) ● 5:30pm Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm NJGMC Rehearsal (s)	12 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom) ● 7pm Vestry (fl)	13 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12pm Lunch & Learn (fl) 4 more	14 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	15 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 2 more	16 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am History Group Meeting (fl) 2 more
17 ● 8am Holy Eucharist II (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom ● 12pm Elms Caroling	18 ● 12:30pm AA (mh) ● 5:30pm Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm NJGMC Rehearsal (s)	19 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom)	20 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	21 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	22 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 2 more	23 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm Pentecostal (s)
24 ● 8am Holy Eucharist II (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom ● 5pm & 10:30 pm Christmas Eve	25 ● 9am Christmas Service ● 12:30pm AA (mh)	26 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom)	27 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 3 more	28 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	29 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 2 more	30 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am History Group Meeting (fl) ● 7pm Pentecostal (s)
31 ● 8am Holy Eucharist II (s) ● 10am Holy Eucharist II (s) & Zoom	Jan 1 ● 12:30pm AA (mh) ● 5:30pm Jazzercise (mh) ● 7pm NJGMC Rehearsal (s)	2 ● 8:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Tai Chi (mh) ● 5:30pm Evening Prayer (zoom)	3 ● 9:30am Holy Eucharist Healing (s) ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	4 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 11am Women's AA (mh) ● 12:30pm AA (mh) 4 more	5 ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am Office Closed ● 10:30am Jazzercise (mh) 2 more	6 ● 9am New Life SDA Church (s) ● 9am Jazzercise (mh) ● 10am History Group Meeting (fl) 2 more

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St. David's Church
90 South Main Street
Cranbury, NJ 08512



*View this newsletter in color at
www.stdavidscranbury.com*

**St. David's Church welcomes all in the loving Spirit of Christ,
through Faith, Worship, Nurture and Community**

St. David's Vestry Members — 2023

Pat Kraft, Senior Warden

Kathy Herzog, Junior Warden

John Patterson, Treasurer

Edmund Abramovitz, Liturgy

Tena Achen, Finance

Marcus Aris, Fundraising

Renee Christiansen, Evangelism

Ellen Torres, Christian Formation

AJ Polanco, Communications

Jon Harding, Outreach

Maria Eswine, Building & Grounds

Leslie Terhune, Liturgy