



The Tablet

St. David's Episcopal Church
90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512
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June 2021

Vol. 52, Number 6

Sunday Service

9 am Holy Eucharist II
(registration required)

9 am Online Service
via Zoom

Wednesday Service
Online Service

9:15 am Healing Service

Rector

The Rev. Amy S. Cornell

Interim Rector

The Rev. Donald Caron

Deacon

The Rev. Hank Bristol

Pastoral Care Associates

Br. John Baptist, OSF

Katherine O'Connor, M.Div.

Director of Music

Dr. Brian Katona

Treasurer

John Patterson

Parish Administrator

Judy Henningsen

Dear People of St. David's,

The time has come to say goodbye. The time I would be with you was expected to be brief, and I am grateful that it turned out to be longer than we had expected.

This has been a pleasant and challenging experience. I came to know a lot of lovely people and I grew a lot from the challenges that unexpectedly came with a pandemic.

Deanna Emerson has been tireless in keeping the parish going. Few people have any realization of how she keeps all the plates spinning. In addition to managing all the communication, Deanna sends cards to acknowledge parishioners' life events. She is dedicated to process in doing the work of the church. By that, I mean that she always wants to listen to the opinions of all the stakeholders before a decision is made. That can be time consuming, but it means that the best decisions are made, and no one feels left out. She was obviously the best person for a time of transition.

Ed Miller as Junior Warden brings many years of specialized experience that makes him especially effective in that role. When he speaks up, people listen because he knows what he's talking about.

A lot of clergy complain about their experiences of Vestry meetings, but not me. I was always looking forward to the gathering of St. David's Vestry. What impressed me is the degree to which all Vestry members cherished each other. The energy of that respect and love is a hallmark of their dedication to the church and always results in lively and creative discussions that lead to good decisions. Also very impressive is the dedication to outreach ministry, helping to make life better for unfortunate folk in the region.

Judy Henningsen made it possible for me to be effective as a part-time interim priest. Her store of information about the parish seems unlimited, and her pleasant demeanor makes her a wonderful partner in ministry.

Deacon Hank Bristol ended up taking on a much greater role when Covid shut us down. Oh yes, he continued his liturgical ministry and his book club, but he stepped up to coordinate Children's Ministry and managed in the middle of a pandemic to pull off some marvelous group activities for the major church feasts. His devotion and love of children becomes apparent especially in his preaching to them. Hank's ministry with children is dependent on a team of very loyal and dedicated volunteers who are exceptionally creative.

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Kate O'Connor has been invaluable in ministry to shut-ins. She has kept up communication with the folks who were vulnerable not only to illness, but also to loneliness. Her interest in centering prayer opened to the people of St. David's the opportunity to learn and practice that with others, including making St. David's part of an inter-parish prayer group.

I was fortunate to be able to work with Carol Rodgers when I first arrived at St. David's. Any parish that manages to get her as a deacon once she is ordained will get a real loving, intelligent minister.

Likewise, my ministry brought me to get to know Allie Graham and Ben Hicks, and of course Abbibeth. This is a family eager to give of themselves to support the ministry of the church. I have leaned on them for a great deal of help and advice. I can whole-heartedly support Allie in her process toward priesthood.

I can imagine no better person as Music Minister for St. David's than Brian Katona. His skill set made it possible for us to have one of the best online worship presences in the diocese. I am grateful too to Catherine and Madeline and Harrison who can always be counted on to pitch in whenever and however they are needed. The quality of St. David's choir, and the dedication of its members, was astounding as they accompanied our worship "virtually."

Always behind the scenes, but always indispensable, is Kathy Herzog who leads the Altar Guild. I found that there was no request too difficult for her to fulfill, and that she always went beyond the expectations.

There are so many others who made my time with you so enjoyable. I relied a lot on Harry Ruhl to coordinate the liturgical ministers, even when things got crazy due to the pandemic. Harry and Marcia were also part of the Wednesday Healing Service. That group joined me for conversations afterward that were a highlight of my week.

My goal in coming to St. David's was to provide the sacramental ministry you needed until your new Rector would arrive, and to demonstrate that change can be a welcome thing. Little did anyone assume that we would experience so many changes, and have them forced on us. But St. David's graciously accepted whatever came our way. In some way, as members have pointed out, our Zoom services have given us the opportunity to see one another's faces. As you anticipate the ministry of Mother Amy Cornell, there will be new changes and challenges, but I have no doubt that she will be received with as much hospitality and support as you received me.

Fr. Don

Deacon Hank to Step Down



As you may have heard, June 27th will be my last Sunday at St. David's. After nine years as your deacon, it is time for me to step aside. Though it is difficult to imagine not being part of the ministry at St. David's, I believe the time is right. With our returning to worship together in the church and the new leadership of our wonderful Rector, the Rev. Amy Cornell, Saint David's is re-emerging as the loving center of our spiritual lives. I am confident that this new beginning will bring about positive change and growth for the parish.

Photos taken since my arrival in 2012 show many parishioners whom we adored, but have lost. Babies are now children, and former fourth graders are entering college. Dare I say, even some of us 'middle-agers' are now collecting Social Security! Yet there have always been the constants of caring and support that we offer each other and that makes St. David's the special place that it is.

Therefore, as I "Go in Peace," I bid you, as always, "...to Love and Serve the Lord."

The Rev. Henry P. Bristol II Dcn.



Dear Fr. Don,

It is with mixed emotions that we observe your departure from St. David's Church. We are excited because we have been blessed and renewed with the arrival of a wonderful new rector, and we are saddened, because you have been a source of light and joy in our congregation and will be missed.

Thank you for shepherding us during this time of transition and Covid-19 pandemic. Your encouragement, support, wisdom, guidance, and loving concern have meant so much to all of us.

We wish you the very best of luck in your next assignment, and may the light of Christ go with you on your journey!

The People of St. David's Church



May 5, 2021

Dear Parish Family,

On behalf of the Vestry, The Discernment Committee, and the Diocese of New Jersey, I am pleased to announce The Rev. Amy S. Cornell has accepted our call to become the third Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church, Cranbury, NJ. Mother Amy's start date is June 1, 2021.

We believe that the Holy Spirit has certainly guided the search for Mother Amy. Mother Amy comes to us from Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mercerville, NJ, where she has served as Rector for more than eight years. As a lifelong member of the Diocese of New Jersey, she has had an exciting and varied career serving God on many levels. During her visit and interview with us, we found Mother Amy to be energetic, warm, and keenly pastoral. We are eagerly anticipating her arrival and the chance for our fellow parishioners to meet her. The successful culmination of these many months of searching is due to the commitment of the members of Discernment Committee, the willingness of the Vestry to explore the call in the middle of a pandemic, and the patience of the entire congregation.

We are in a unique moment filled with challenging circumstances, and the belief is that God has remarkable plans for us. It is a future that is filled with possibilities despite the current challenges we are experiencing. St. David's approaches this moment with the gifts of strong leadership, authentic community, and the spiritual practices of our Episcopal tradition.

Thank you for all of your continued support of St. David's Church. We know that the Holy Spirit is at work in our community, and we are excited for the new ways that the Spirit will move with your continued commitment and with Mother Amy's leadership.

Yours in Christ,

Deanna

Deanna Emerson
Senior Warden

Sunday
School
News

Sunday, June 6, join us for Sunday School recognition. In the last year, we've had kids go off to college, J2A Rite 13 celebrities that we didn't get to celebrate, and kids "flying" up to J2A without us there to wish them well. We'll celebrate all the milestones from 2020 and 2021 together in a quick outdoor service at 11am on June 6. After service, we'll have games, music and story-time, so we hope everyone will join us out front at church to celebrate our parish children growing up so fast.

June Outreach



The Outreach donations go to RISE during the month of June. The motto on RISE's home page is "Your connection to learning, community and care" for Hightstown and surrounding communities. In addition to the wonderful services for fighting the war on poverty through their Food Pantry and Thrift Shop, RISE offers programs for youth and teens. Summer enrichment camps are sponsored in partnership with EW Regional School District along with RISE's college readiness programs. Safe dating programs for teens for dating abuse prevention and Leadership Youth Conferences that stress and teach the steps to success are sponsored by RISE too. Donations can be made through St. David's website, or send a check directly to the church, with a notation for RISE OUTREACH.



You Are Invited to Contemplative Prayer

"Somewhere in those depths of silence I came upon my first experiences of God as a loving presence that was always near, and prayer as a simple trust in that presence."
Cynthia Bourgeault

St. David's and St. Francis Dunellen are partnered to offer us multiple opportunities for Contemplative Prayer each month.

Prayer at St. David's meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM for a 20 minute sit. In June, the dates are **6/7 and 6/21**.

<http://www.stdavidscranbury.com/events.html>

Prayer at St. Francis meets **every Wednesday** at 1 PM for a 25 minute sit.

<https://www.stfrancisdunellen.org>

Contact Kate at 609-658-7315 or at k_oconnor22@verizon.net with any questions or if you would like to learn about contemplative prayer before joining us. An introduction to contemplative prayer is given at the beginning of each session for newcomers.



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Please continue to go to St. David's Events Page on the website to register for upcoming in-person services and to download the Sunday and Wednesday Service Bulletins.



St. David’s Episcopal Church In-Person Worship Resumes

The infection rate of Covid-19 in the state of New Jersey, and specifically in Middlesex County, has fallen below the level deemed safe by the Bishop and his medical advisors. As a result, the Vestry of St. David’s has agreed that our church should re-open for in-person worship. The team assigned to accomplish this has been activated and are working toward hosting worship in our sanctuary beginning on May 23. When we begin again, we will still be under some precautions until the Governor's guidelines change. That means limited numbers in attendance as a result of maintaining social distancing and mask wearing.

Registration for the in-person service is primarily online, using the link found on the Events page of the parish website. It will cap attendance at 25 households. We will keep three future services visible in the registration program so that you can pre-register. The maximum number of registrants was not being met when we previously had in-person worship, so if you have already attended a service and you want to attend the following week, you may do so.

Moving forward, registration for services will remain open and only close once the maximum capacity limit of 25 is met.

The altar party (priest, deacon, lay reader, music director) must also register (remember to put your title next to your name.)

Women’s Lunch and Learn Group



Our last meeting for the season is on **Wednesday, June 9th from 12:30-2:00 PM.**

We’ve decided to meet in-person on the St. David’s Church grounds, keeping social distance of course, to share pizza and lively conversation about everything under the sun including plans for summer reading.

We will not meet through the summer months but resume on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

Come and be with us outside ‘the box’!



Kate O’Connor has completed her studies and is now an ACP Board Certified Chaplin.

Serving God in so many ways.



Worship Volunteers Needed

St. David's has resumed in-person worship and we are in need ushers for each service. Currently we offer one service at 9 AM. The usher ministry is a "contactless" ministry and will be responsible for directing the flow and reinforcing the information provided by the signage in and around the church building. Tasks include:

- Open the main church door 20 minutes before the service begins
- Make sure everything is in place for the worship service (bulletin at seat, directional/distance markers present, hand sanitizer stations in place)
- Welcome worshipers and monitor appropriate distancing
- Match attendance with registration and assist with finding assigned seat
- Take contact information for any "walk-ins" who do not have a reservation
- Monitor for mask compliance
- Provide guidance for communion movement
- Provide guidance for exiting sanctuary
- Monitor for no "gathering/lingering" in and around church building
- Assure collection box is placed in church office
- Lock church doors after the service

Services cannot take place without your help. To volunteer, please contact: Richard Bailey rbailey902@gmail.com, 609-213-7352. Thank you for your consideration.



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Marcus Aris
Olufemi Jones | 18 | Gwen Rebbeck |
| 4 | Edmund Abramovitz
Susan Curry | 20 | Jenifer Elizondo |
| 6 | Dawn Parrish
Jason Whitlock | 21 | Nancy Morse |
| 9 | Robert McKay
Reid Rebbeck | 23 | Stephen Krupa |
| 15 | Robert Hegedus | 25 | Janet Boyle
Keith Spero |
| 17 | Margaret Perritt | 27 | Catherine Katona |
| | | 28 | Tena Achen
Marna McDermott |
| | | 29 | Harry Ruhl |



JUNE

Please help keep our birthday and anniversary lists up-to-date. If you happen to notice we do not have your birthday, please call or email the office. Thank you!



Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| 4 | Joseph & Dawn Reiss | 25 | Benjamin Hicks & Allie Graham |
| 9 | Thom & Katy Boyer | 27 | Lawrence & Frances Rak |
| 24 | Robert & Jean Hegedus | 30 | Kevin & Corinne Peters |



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**St. David's Church
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2021

JUNE

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

St. David's Vestry Members — 2021

Deanna Emerson, Senior Warden

Ed Miller, Junior Warden

John Patterson, Treasurer

Tena Achen, Finance

Arlis Astudillo, Building & Grounds

Janet Boyle, Evangelism

Steve Channon, Liturgy

Michael Duck, Fundraising

Jon Harding, Christian Formation

Benjamin Hicks, Communications

Scott Holcombe, Pastoral Care

Pat Kraft, Outreach