



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Dec 4, 2020)

St. David's, New Jersey

90 Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 01/05/21.

bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
120	2	1	0
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes	No	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

Based on number of years of credited service in the Episcopal Church's Pension Fund.

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

Each year many parishioners from St. David's participate with Rise Community Services Partnership to assist local families and individuals in recovering from setbacks and/or in achieving their full potential. One of the most visible ways each year is by our parishioners giving gifts anonymously to local needy children, many of whom would not get gifts during the end of the year Christian and other holidays. At Rise's end of year holiday party, the program has become so successful that usually over a thousand children are given gifts, and of that total, 50 or more children are receiving their gift(s) by the loving generosity of a St. David's family. The thought of a needy child opening their gift(s) at that party stirs fulfilling spiritual emotions unmatched through the holidays, except maybe by the singing of the Choir at St. David's Choral Christmas Eve Service.

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

We have a strong foundation in our welcoming and inclusive community. Our congregation is working diligently to strengthen our existing ministries while continuing to develop and explore new-ministry opportunities. Our interim rector is assisting the congregation by encouraging us to reflect on and add to our current liturgy. Our congregation remains prayerful and optimistic about what God has in store for our church. We are exploring new ways to reach our local community, such as social media, and bringing new members into our congregation. Our discernment process, which we are taking very seriously, provides an opportunity for us to prepare for the future. The Discernment Committee is composed of a diverse group of parishioners, who represent a variety of ministries and interests.

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

Pastoral Care - Good Communicator - Dynamic Leader - Patient

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

At St. David's we offer to God our joyous praise and thanksgiving in a modern, open worship space with excellent lighting and 150 upholstered chairs. The altar is set on a 1-step rectangular platform without a Communion rail. Communion is received standing or kneeling gathered in a U-shape around the platform. A prayer station to the rear is always available to anyone during Communion. We worship in a broad-church style, most often using Rite Two. Our services include ample participation by adults and children, and we have a service conducted by the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) group at least annually. We have a talented choir, under the direction of Emmy-Winning Organist and Composer, Dr. Brian Katona. He leads a wonderful musical program for the 10 a.m. service. Overall, our services are steeped in Anglican tradition while being warm, inspirational, and welcoming}

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our members appreciate and love the Church Family we have. We recognize, however, that we need to add more members to stay abreast of losses to job transfers, retirement moves, and deaths. We are blessed to have a fairly young congregation, which keeps our church hopping. We have a mix of older parishioners, middle aged, and quite a few younger members with children. One of the best ways to keep all members interested and involved in St. David's is to include them into a variety of activities. We think, as a church, we do a pretty good job of this. When we meet visitors and new members we encourage them to join one or more of our many groups and activities: Church School, Adult Choir, Lectors, J2A, Eucharistic ministers and visitors, Grounds Team, Altar Guild, Fundraisers, Memorial Garden, Coffee Hour Hosting, Outreach's many activities, Angel Hands, Bible Studies, Greeters, Ushers, Lunch and Learn, Wiggle and Worship, Acolytes, Book Groups, Presenters, The Way of St. Paul of our diocese, committees, and Vestry.

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

St. David's is centered around The Holy Eucharist, and attending to the presence of the Holy Spirit is felt in every aspect of the service. The Gospel, Sermon, Wednesday's Healing Service, and our inspirational music ministry serve as instruments for our worship. Participation in morning worship, various small group ministries, an adult forum, and outreach ministries help to maintain our connection. The beauty of our church grounds and building are also reminders of how God shines on us. Our location is advantageous because we are sixty miles from both New York City and Philadelphia and within an hour of the mountains, Delaware River, and the Jersey Shore. Our services remind us of the love and kindness we are to show each other. As a congregation, we show compassion, warmth, and unconditional love for one another. We welcome anyone in search of a church home, and we pray that our surrounding community finds hope and inspiration through our example.

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

St. David's provides pastoral care in several different ways. A mix of clergy and lay persons visit elderly, shut-ins & those hospitalized bringing the Eucharist and prayer to those interested. Visitations are also made to those grieving the loss of loved ones. Care Packages are sent to our young adults away at college. The Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitting Group provides lap blankets to those in need as well as sending scarves and beanies to the Seamen's Church Institute. Our youth and anyone else wishing to participate visit a nursing home around Christmas time singing carols and providing prayers. We have a network of families, "Angel Hands," that provides meals to families when a request is made. On Ash Wednesday, we have participated in an "Ashes to Go" program which provides Ashes to individuals wishing to receive them at a local bus station. St. David's has opened its doors to AA, OA and NA groups that meet several times each week. In addition, St. David's hosts both a Coptic Orthodox Church and a Pentecostal Church. The Coptic Church shares the worship space on Saturday mornings and early Sunday mornings. The Pentecostal Church worships on weekday evenings.

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

St. David's gives generously to local, national, and international outreach. We have a budget for outreach, and we historically meet our full Marks of Mission Asking. Seventeen percent of our 2020 budget is for outreach. In addition, the church also has a "second plate" offering each month for special offerings such as hurricane relief, Food for the Poor, and widows and orphans of diocesan clergy. In addition to financial contributions, St. David's puts hands-on efforts in the area. The church has a presence at most community events such as Cranbury Day and Hightstown Harvest Fair. Volunteers help with food donations at Rise Community Services. We work with Empty Bowls in Hightstown and work to keep Etra Lake Park clean. We are proud to have a parishioner who serves the diocese as a coach in The Way of St. Paul, a Deacon Postulant, and a Priest Postulant. St. David's is a member of the Windsor-Hightstown Area Ministerium that promotes understanding of cultural and social issues within our area's congregations. We are always seeking additional volunteers.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

St. David's started offering a Bereavement Group in April 2015. The group was initiated at the suggestion of the rector in response to a parishioner's expressed interest in becoming more involved. The parishioner and the priests co-facilitate the group. Initially the group was intended solely for St. David's parishioners, but several people outside the church participated, and we are planning to promote the group to the larger community in the future. The goal of the group as it was first conceived was to offer support to people who are experiencing uncomplicated grief as the result of a death. However, the group has broadened its focus, and now provides general grief support to people who have experienced a variety of losses including job loss, divorce, bankruptcy, etc. Responses from people who have participated in the groups have been largely positive, and we are excited about the potential of this ministry as it continues to evolve. The Bereavement Coordinator can be contacted for additional information.

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

At St. David's we practice time/treasure/talent. About two thirds of our members pledge, and others are regular contributors but do not pledge. We have other members who are not able to contribute financially, but they offer their time and talents where appropriate. We encourage our congregation to participate in planned giving and other special gifts. We established an endowment that has doubled through member contributions, and we completed a successful capital campaign when we did a church addition in 2011. Throughout the year our church encourages participation in our fundraising efforts, which also generates great fellowship. We ask all parishioners to find the ministry that fulfills their spiritual needs, and stay involved in it. Through stewardship we hope to bring everyone into a closer relationship with God, and our church community.

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

St. David's has not experienced conflict in any major way. There may be individual problems that come up between members. An example would be discussions regarding the building addition. The discussions were quickly resolved through effective communication and a budget review. Our church is blessed with a strong Deacon, Deacon Postulant, and Wardens who provide immense support to our Priest. Our best asset is our ability to listen, keep an open mind and approach differences in a loving way. Some conflict is a normal part of life and the faith journey. Working through any conflict helps us to gain understanding of how the Spirit is directing us.

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?

This is our second time finding a new rector. Our first rector was well loved and was a large part of the reason why many people had joined the church, so choosing a new rector the first time was a daunting task. Communication and listening to each other was very important during that 1st transition. Thankfully, then, as now, St. David's parishioners were good at that. The good news is that the short-term pain of change was soon far outweighed by the long-term benefits. Our 2nd rector, already well loved as a parishioner, was also well loved as a rector, and St. David's congregation continued to grow and thrive. Similarly, with the strength of the present congregation, we are ready and receptive to welcome our next rector.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Karin Mitchell	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2005-11	2019-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Laurence Fish	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1969-01	2002-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Don Caron	Interim	2018-10	

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes	6	20

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
6	15	2	15

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: www.stdavidscranbury.com

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stdavidscranbury>
[st.davids_cranbury](https://www.facebook.com/stdavidscranbury)

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop: (609) 394-5281, Xt. 11; wstokes@dioceseofnj.org
William "Chip" Stokes

Diocesan Transition Minister (609) 394-5281; Xt. 21; bjemmott@dioceseofnj.org
Brian Jemmott

Current Warden/Board Chair dee4753@aol.com
Deanna Emerson

Previous Warden/Board Chair carol@deloreanmotorcar.com
Carol Rodgers

Search Chair dthomsson@live.com
David Thomsson

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader