

# The Tablet



**St. David's Episcopal Church**  
**90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512**  
 609-655-4731 [www.stdavidscranbury.com](http://www.stdavidscranbury.com) Fax 609-655-4732  
[office@stdavidscranbury.com](mailto:office@stdavidscranbury.com)  
 December 2025 Vol. 56 Number 12

## Sunday Services:

**8 am Holy Eucharist II**

**10 am Holy Eucharist II  
(live-streamed via Zoom)**

## Wednesday Service

**9:30 am Morning Prayer  
and Healing**

### Deacon

**The Rev. Carol Patterson**

### Pastoral Care Associate

**Chaplain Kate O'Connor,  
MDiv, BCC**

### Director of Music

**Dr. Brian Katona**

### Treasurer

**John Patterson**

### Parish Administrator

**Judy Henningsen**

*“They shall call His name Immanuel—God with us.”*

Christmas arrives every year with lights, music, traditions, and expectations. Yet for many, the season brings a quiet ache—because our culture teaches us to look for meaning in the things Christmas *brings*, while Scripture teaches us to find meaning in the what Christmas *reveals*.

The world expected a distant God, a God who stayed in heaven, a God who left humanity to struggle alone. But the miracle of Christmas is that God did not shout salvation from a distance. He stepped into our world, wrapped in human flesh. He came not as a warrior but as a baby, not as a judge but as a Savior, not in thunder, but in humility. No matter our past, our regrets, or our fears, God stepped into the world *for us*.

Jesus came into the world placed in a manger, a feeding trough, in a forgotten town, to two ordinary people who became holy parents. If Jesus had come demanding power, crowds would have followed Him. If He had come seeking wealth, kings would have bowed. If He had come for prestige, nations would have saluted. God through Jesus chose Love. Christmas reminds us that God values intimacy more than image, relationship more than reputation. He meets us not at the mountaintop of perfection, but in the stable of our brokenness.

Christmas is the opening chapter of God's rescue plan. The baby in the manger came with a mission. He came to teach us how to love God and how to love one another. Jesus, the child Mary held, would one day hold the sins of the world. The infant wrapped in cloth would one day be wrapped in a tomb and then rise again so we could rise with Him.

So, what is the true meaning of Christmas? Not gifts, though giving is good. Not traditions, though they warm the heart. Not lights on our homes, but **light in our hearts**. The manger teaches us that there is no place too humble, no heart too messy, no life too tangled for Christ to enter.

Christmas is the celebration of the God who came near, the love that humbled itself to the manger, and the Savior who began a journey that would redeem the world. And today, that same Jesus stands ready to be born not just in Bethlehem, but in our hearts. And so, like Mary, we are invited to say “Yes” to God's presence. Like the shepherds, we are called to share the good news. Like the angels, we proclaim peace on earth. And like the manger, we make room for Christ in the ordinary places of our lives.

*Lord, thank You for coming to us.*

*Thank You for loving us so deeply that You chose a manger over majesty.*

*As we celebrate Christmas, help us remember the miracle of Your presence and the gift of Your grace. Be born in us today. Amen.*

May the miracle of Christmas bless you and your family. Share the grace that Jesus has given you... share it today and every day.

Deacon Carol

Thank  
You!



Dear Friends,

Thank you for whatever way you chose to support our Fantasy Auction, whether by offering words of encouragement, answering questions, donating an item, giving your time, or attending with family and friends. Every contribution mattered and helped bring our vision to life.

Working together, we created an event that was not only successful but filled with laughter, generosity, and community spirit. We truly could not have done it without you!

With warm appreciation,

The Fantasy Auction Committee  
St. David's Episcopal Church

## Congratulations to St. David's!

### Thank you to our Auction Sponsors

Please Support Our Local Businesses! We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the generous vendors who donated to our Fantasy Auction. Their contributions helped make the event a great success! Please show your appreciation by supporting these local businesses who give back to our community:

AMERICANA KITCHEN & BAR  
CAFÉ CAPUANO  
CLEARBROOK GOLF COURSE  
CODE WIZ  
CONCORDIA GOLF COURSE  
CRANBURY STATION GALLERY  
DAVID BRADLEY CHOCOLATIER  
FAIRGROWN FARM  
GOLDEN PAWS PET RESORT & SPA  
HIGHTSTOWN DINER  
JERSEY MIKE'S  
KELSEY THEATER  
KSD ARCHITECTS

LEE TURKEY FARM  
MIDAMERICA PRODUCTION  
MORGAN'S ISLAND GRILL  
MORVEN MUSEUM & GARDEN  
PRINCETON PRO MUSICA  
PRINCETON SOUP & SANDWICH  
RISTORANTE LUCCA  
ROSSMOOR GOLF COURSE  
THE CRANBURY INN  
TONY'S FARM & GARDEN CENTER  
TONY'S OPEN KITCHEN  
TOWN DINER

Your support helps keep our local economy strong and encourages continued community involvement.



### Advent Wreath-Making at St. David's Sunday, November 30th

The annual Advent Wreath-Making event will be held during coffee hour on Sunday, November 30 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.



## December Outreach Outreach Sunday, December 14, 2025

Our December outreach target will be World Central Kitchen. Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 100 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world. WCK's Resilience Programs strengthen food and nutrition security by training chefs and school cooks; advancing clean cooking practices; and awarding grants to farms, fisheries, and small food businesses while also providing educational and networking opportunities. Your Donation Nourishes Lives — WCK named one of TIME's most influential orgs in providing critical aid during crisis."



Thank you for your continued generous support of the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea Outreach Program. Please continue to bring in toiletry items until **December 1, 2025**.

Thank you, Renee Christiansen



Please join us for a concert with  
New Jersey Gay Men's Chorus performing  
It Isn't the Holidays Until NJGMC Sings!

Sunday, December 7, 2025

4 pm



### TICKETS:

\$25 for adults; \$20 seniors/students.  
To purchase tickets, visit [www.njgmc.org](http://www.njgmc.org),  
scan the QR Code, or call 732.579.8449.



**PRINCETON  
BRASS BAND**

'Tis the Season to see your favorite Brass Band!  
Saturday December 14, 2025 at 3 pm

The Princeton Brass Band will feature songs you know and love  
that capture the essence of the holiday season!



A Prayer Service for Hope and Healing  
S Sunday, December 21 at 4 pm

Christmas can be a painful time for some of us. We may be saddened by a lost job, a broken relationship, financial difficulties, illness, the bittersweet caring for a loved one, a death of someone close to us, or perhaps it is a time that has always been difficult. The messages around us are of the holly-jolly, ho-ho-ho of the holidays with friends and families drawn near, and it can remind us of what we lost or what we never had.

Our prayer service will be a simple one with prayer, poetry, song, Scripture, and reflection with times of silence. It will be about the God of love who accompanies us in our sorrow.

**You are invited to come and join us.  
All are welcome.**



**"It's that time of the year again!  
Time for RISE's annual Holiday Toy Drive.**

St David's community has always supported this toy drive for children of struggling families. To sponsor a child please visit <https://roonga.com/2025risetoydrive> or see Deacon Carol.

Please continue to bring donated gifts to St. David's Episcopal Church or the First United Methodist Church located at 187 Stockton Street, Hightstown, NJ.

Gift Drop-off Dates and Times at First United Methodist Church are below:

Monday, December 8th, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 9th, 8:30 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 10th, 8:30 am – 8:00 pm

For any more details please refer to RISE website. <https://njrise.org/rise-toy-drive>

Thank you for your generosity, Vestry Outreach Committee



**St. Nicholas Day Celebration**  
Sunday, December 7 - 11:30 am—2 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 7 following the 10 am service. 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!



**Christmas Services at St. David's**

12/24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (with Choir)

## Lay Participation Schedule for December 2025 – 10 am

	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 28
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Tracy Smires	Kim Elaine Neighbor	Leslie Terhune	Tricia Metzger
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Corinne Peters	Tricia Metzger	Todd White	Corinne Peters
<b>Intercessor</b>	Ray Torres	Tricia Metzger	Leslie Terhune	Corinne Peters
<b>Lector-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson</b>	Corinne Peters	Kathy Herzog	Brennan Clissold	Kate O'Connor
<b>Lector-2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</b>	Deacon Barbara Jensen	Kim Elaine Neighbor	Mike Duck	Edmund Abramovitz
<b>Ushers</b>	Deanna Emerson Obafemi Sonubi	Jackie Asafu-Adjaye Carol Hartmaier	Dan Smires John Patterson	Richard Bennett Penny Stout
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jessie Smires Erin McCarthy Tracy Smires	Collin Duck Kaylyn Eswine Joseph Eswine	Ashley Astudillo Arleen Astudillo Maddie McCarthy	Leslie Terhune Tracy Smires Collin Duck
<b>Presenters</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Verger</b>	TBD	Maria Eswine	Tena Achen	Tena Achen
<b>Counters</b>	David Thomsson Bernadette Bruce	Jackie Asafu-Adjaye Mary Ann White	Winsome Bailey John Patterson	Joyce Hiscock Pat Kraft

## Supply Priest Schedule

### December

December 7, 2025	Rev. Allen Wakabayashi, 8:00 and 10:00 am
December 14, 2025	Rev. Allen Wakabayashi, 8:00 and 10:00 am
December 21, 2025	Rev. Alistair So-Schoos, 8:00 and 10:00 am
December 24, 2025	Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell, 7:00 pm
December 28, 2025	Rev. Alistair So-Schoos, 8:00 and 10:00 am



## Nominating Committee 2025

Our Nominating Committee will begin its work shortly. If you are interested in being considered for a position on our vestry or as a convocation delegate, please speak to Tracy Smires or Kathy Herzog.

# December

## BIRTHDAYS



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

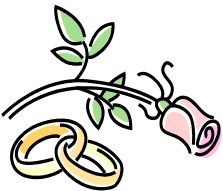


- 2 Kristen Lombardo  
Grace Lombardo
- 4 Madeline Peeters  
AJ Polanco  
Larry Rak
- 5 Susan Laustsen
- 6 Tracy Smires  
Patricia Hartstein
- 7 Richard Bennett
- 11 Renee Spero
- 12 Erin McCarthy

- 13 Christian Apau  
Patricia Kraft  
Beth Nagle
- 16 Tim Kovacs
- 18 Elizabeth Lewis-Channon
- 20 Stephanie Peeters
- 22 Deacon Barbara Jensen
- 23 Judy Evans  
Carol Hartmaier
- 24 Ryan Hegedus
- 25 Kim Elaine Neighbor
- 31 Brian Clissold  
Ian McKay



## Wedding Anniversaries



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



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM

Deadline — Monday, December 14, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_

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  
Please return form to office by Monday, December 14, 2025

Sunday Services \*

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

# December 2025

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>3pm Princeton Brass Band Concert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 1:13am Delivery path active for Inv</li> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>5 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>1pm Knitters Group (fl)</li> <li>7pm Pentecostal (s)</li> </ul>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>10am History Discussion Grp (fl)</li> <li>3pm Fantasy Auction</li> <li>7pm Pentecostal (s)</li> </ul>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>5 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11:30am NA Hall Rental</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>4pm Hall Rental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am History Discussion Grp (fl)</li> <li>7pm Pentecostal (s)</li> </ul>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>7pm Pentecostal (s)</li> </ul>
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Holy Eucharist II</li> <li>10am Holy Eucharist II (s) &amp; Zoom</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11:30am Advent Wreath Making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9:30am &amp; 10:30 am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>12:30pm AA (mh)</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>8:30am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Tai Chi (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>9:30am Morning Prayer &amp; Healing (</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>11am Women's AA (mh)</li> <li>4 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7am AA (mh)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am Office Closed</li> <li>3 more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am New Life SDA Church (s)</li> <li>9am Jazzercise (mh)</li> <li>10am History Discussion Grp (fl)</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>

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

**St. David's Vestry Members — 2025**

**Tracy Smires, Senior Warden**

**Kathy Herzog, Junior Warden**

**Edmund Abramovitz, Liturgy**

**Tena Achen, Finance**

**JoAnne Cornell, Fundraising**

**Deanna Emerson, Evangelism**

**Maria Eswine, Building & Grounds**

**Jon Harding, Outreach**

**Tom Pearson, Christian Formation**

**Leslie Terhune, Liturgy**

**Todd White, Communications**