



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 1, 2021)*

## St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Michigan

4650 N. Meridian Road, Williamston, MI 48895, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time) | Receiving Names until 08/12/21.

[eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
30	2	0	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$30000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$30000		<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	3	2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
up to/including \$500/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

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

The opening of Forster Woods Adult Day Center on our property in July 2012 and our growing service to the greater community through the Center. The Center was inspired by Fr. Byrd's passionate commitment to elder care and St. Katherine's responded to the call. It was an intensive effort to design the program, renovate the existing structure, and learn about all the government requirements that regulate operations and reimbursements for the Center. St. Katherine's members took lead roles in getting Forster Woods off the ground and continue to this day serving on the Board of Directors and as key volunteers. Our church administrator is also the administrator for the Center. The Center has seen exceptional growth serving 22 clients in 2015 with that number rising to 102 in 2019 before the ministry was interrupted by the pandemic. The Center serves the elderly and adults with physical or mental impairment who would benefit from the supervised, social, and engaging environment offered by Forster Woods. St. Katherine's volunteers regularly comment on the great spiritual gifts they receive through their ministry at Forster Woods.

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

In response to many events nationally and globally that have caused great pain and suffering, the Vestry approved the work of a group of members to build a Peace Service that we could offer quickly when the need arises. The vision was to build an ecumenical multi-media presentation with photos and music that would display prayers of peace offered by the world's religions representing the global community. The Peace Service would be presented in our Sanctuary with the building open for all in the greater community to come for as long as they needed to find solace and comfort during times of great crisis. The project was just completed before the pandemic shut down worship, so we have yet to fully offer the service. We believe that St. Katherine's is welcoming, open to all, and offers a sanctuary filled with peace and calm. Our vision is to grow our peace service into one that incorporates all faiths and races in our greater community through the faces and voices of local faith leaders. The pandemic has also challenged us to present more of our day-to-day activity online. We offered services online, have been working on updating our website, and can learn from Forster Woods.

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

welcoming, Respectfully Collaborative, accepting, Energetic Enthusiasm

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

St. Katherine's offers two Sunday services during the program year (September - Trinity Sunday). The 8:00 a.m. service worships with Rite I and the 10:00 a.m. service worships with Rite II. Pre-Covid-19 Pandemic the Rite II service incorporated music in the service using a pipe organ, singing from the congregation, and a choir on special holy services. Depending on the talents of the priest or congregants, we have worshipped with a canter for special services. Our congregation has proven to be flexible, open, and adaptive to the worship preferences of our priest. We have embraced contemporary interpretations, more traditional with incense and bells, and even leanings prior to the 1979 revisions of the Book of Common Prayer. One constant of St. Katherine's is the blessing of gifted, spiritual preachers. Our congregation is drawn to homilies that build from the lessons and Gospel readings to open our minds to a deeper understanding of the teachings, application to the world we live in, and to challenge our thinking and living into the teachings. We are a congregation that likes to be challenged to understand the teachings more deeply and live into those teachings through action.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. Katherine's has a long tradition of actively incorporating lay people into our ministry. Rev. Glennie and Rev. Byrd both nurtured and called lay leaders to service. We do so by helping to organize services, particularly during Easter Holy Week. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are active in Sunday services through readings and serving communion with the priest. Lay people are called to preach on occasion. Visiting Lay Ministers have been credentialed to deliver communion to members who cannot travel to services. Youth members serve as acolytes, typically during holy seasons. The active Altar Guild cares for and prepares the altar for each service with the vestments and offerings. A team of Ushers, again pre-pandemic, greets parishioners and guests on arrival, presents the offerings, and manages the flow of parishioners during communion. We have always been blessed with outstanding voices and musicians in the congregation who share their gifts during holy weeks. The 10:00 Rite II service, pre-pandemic, incorporated congregational singing and organ solos in the service. St. Katherine's hosts a blessing of the animals service in the fall, often near the day of celebration of St. Francis.

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

St. Katherine's supports two long-standing bible study groups: Holy Men and Holy Women, and the Women's Bible Study Group. Each group has met consistently for years. Holy Men and Holy Women meets following the 8:00 Sunday service and is led by lay people. Multiple members take turns learning and presenting stories of faithful people to the group. The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesday and again is led by lay people. The priest's attendance at each group is welcome, but not required, though, in the past, our priests have enjoyed the meetings. Our Pastoral Care Committee has been involved in monitoring the needs of our congregation and visiting members when the priest cannot. We maintain prayer lists for members and people members choose to add to the prayer list to lift-up those individuals in need. Our members feel strongly about the power of St. Katherine's prayers to lift-up people in need. We have often distributed notecards with pre-addressed envelopes at least once a month during services to send prayerful notes to people on the prayer list. Our priests often comment on the visible display of these notes when they were able to visit members in person.

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

Our ministry with Forster Woods presents opportunities and boundaries. As a non-profit that receives funding from government agencies to serve our clients we must be respectful of boundaries that prohibit proselytizing. A short time before the pandemic, we began offering a Bible Study on a voluntary basis to any clients who chose to join. As we emerge from the pandemic and begin to restore pre-pandemic services at Forster Woods, St. Katherine's plans to extend its ministry to clients. One idea we are considering is to have our members "adopt" a client to support that person. St. Katherine's Lay Ministers visited our members in group residential care settings pre-pandemic. Depending on the circumstances, the Lay Minister visits might be posted on a group calendar for the residence and others were welcome to join if they chose to.

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

As featured above as a fulfilling, successful ministry, Forster Woods Adult Day Center is a unique, and deep commitment by our worshipping community in the greater geographical region. Our physical facilities, community leaders, community volunteers, and financial contributions are essential to the Center's success and our member's spiritual mission. It is a testament to the faith and strength of our community, that our smaller numbers can support such a successful endeavor. St. Katherine's has also supported the only family-oriented shelter, Haven House in recent years through back-to-school and reverse Advent projects. Our congregation has raised up three Deacons, two of which became the Bishops Arch Deacons, and two priests, one of whom was a profoundly active leader of our youth during her high school years in St. Katherine's. In the last couple of years, one of our high school students has been a youth leader in the Diocese involved in planning the national youth convention before it was cancelled by the pandemic. St. Katherine's worked to engage the Michigan State University School of Nursing to establish a clinical training opportunity at Forster Woods.

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

Prior to the pandemic, St Katherine's was working to expand our ministry to the Forster Woods client community by reaching out to our clients' caregivers. We were working to establish the Care Givers Café to provide a space for those providing care at home to our clients to gather, share experiences and coping mechanisms and build their own community. This began with an effort to renovate, decorate, and outfit a daylight room in our basement to provide a homey, welcoming space for care givers. Parishioners donated their time in labor for repairs and decorating and belongings to create the space. Parishioners would be asked to host a morning coffee that would be offered once a month as caregivers dropped clients at Forster Woods. In time we hoped to expand the offering to invite experts in respite care to the space to share strategies with our care givers. The Care Giving community is a complicated group to serve as some of our clients live in foster homes, some live with family members, and some may live in group homes. The space has also given care givers serving Forster Woods as employees or volunteers a space to relax and take a break. Contact: Sarah Hawley sjhawley3@yahoo.com

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

St. Katherine's has relied on a broad definition in our call to stewardship for many years. Our call asks members to give of their time, talent, and resources in many ways throughout the year. In our annual stewardship drive we ask members to pledge their financial resources so the Vestry can build the annual budget. For the last several years, our budget has been robust and balanced, and we are able to meet our Diocesan commitment in full. We also are blessed with a substantial endowment. Time and talents can be pledged through service in one of our standing ministries: Vestry, Altar Guild, Fellowship, Lay Eucharistic Ministry (LEM), Oversight Committee, Ushers, Grounds and Maintenance, Forster Woods Volunteers. Throughout the year, we have stepped-up to serve and support children with back-to-school backpacks filled with school supplies, local food banks, children at Christmas with gifts, and Haven House (a family shelter) to stockpile their cupboards with essential items. .

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

Conflict has arisen when there are differences in big calls to expand our ministry that are embraced by some and not others. Years ago, Rev. Glennie and the Vestry called for a campaign to build a pipe organ to replace the electric organ we were using. Music is an integral part of our 10 a.m. service. The organ campaign had a large price tag, the campaign was a success and the music has deepened our worship. Still, others thought the organ was a strain on our community's financial resources. Discussions and disagreements were civil, never heated, but we did lose at least one family over the decision to proceed with the campaign.

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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?

As we have alluded in previous questions, we have navigated change by being open and respectful of our priests' different liturgical styles modifying our practices to meet those needs. St. Katherine's meets these needs through layers of conversations among different groups which spreads the knowledge needed to effect the necessary changes and do so with little disruption. For example, we have an active group of Lay Ministers who participate in the service through readings and supporting the eucharist. Our priests have used Lay Ministers in different ways, so the LEM leader has discussions with the priest and calls meetings to share changes with the LEMs and rehearsals when needed to review the changes. Our priests have had different preferences in setting the altar for services. Our Altar Guild leader meets with the priest to review the setting instructions, who then communicates changes with Guild members. The St. Katherine's Oversight Committee, brings lay ministry leaders together monthly to discuss ministry needs in the months ahead and what is coming on the calendar to coordinate the work of different ministries.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Frederick Nestrock	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2019-04	2021-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Ronald Byrd	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-09	2017-11

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Jannel Glennie	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1986-01	2006-01

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
		1

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
	2		

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: <https://www.stkatherines.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A Perry**

Phone: 313-832-4400 Email: [bishopperry@edomi.org](mailto:bishopperry@edomi.org)

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag**

phone: 630-258-8882 e-mail: [eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org)

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Rebecca Corner**

e-mail - [rcorner25@gmail.com](mailto:rcorner25@gmail.com)

Previous Warden/Board Chair

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