

# **ST. BEDE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. BEDE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*St. Bede Episcopal Church welcomes ALL!  
In the love of Jesus Christ, St. Bede joyfully welcomes you  
and seeks to serve and to nurture spirituality in all.*



**1578 Lider Road S.E.**

**P.O. Box 845 PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON**

## OUR CHURCH

St Bede Episcopal Church, located on Washington State's Kitsap Peninsula, is a dynamic mission church of the Diocese of Olympia. Useful website: [www.stbedeschurch.org](http://www.stbedeschurch.org) .

St Bede has provided one Sunday service Rite II at 10am, Post COVID-19. Pre-COVID-19, we held two Sunday services, one at 8:00 am and one at 10:00 am. Current restraints indicate we anticipate one service for the time being. Parishioners participate in our services as ushers, readers, Eucharist ministers, acolytes, oblation bearers and servers. The 10:00 am service features an organist, hymns, and Godly Play for our children. A coffee hour follows the service. In addition to the Sunday service, we hold a Zoom Bible study at 11:00 am on Wednesdays. We continue to present the service via the internet in real time. We extend our services to homebound and sick persons as well as services to The Veterans Home in Retsil twice monthly.

St Bede community believe in the power of prayer and has an active prayer chain, as well as personal prayer commitments. We are open and willing to share our prayer concerns and blessings with one another and we value our shared prayer time. We would like to increase our Pastoral Care Ministry as well as creating new support and learning groups for our congregation.

St Bede is rich in Spirit and many give freely of their time, talent, and treasure. We have a committed pledge base and give spontaneously when needs arise. Financial decisions are based on faith, balanced by fiscal responsibility.

St Bede has a welcoming nature, and perhaps the most obvious characteristic of St Bede is our vibrant lay ministry. A few of our many ministries include: Pastoral Care, Outreach, Episcopal Church Women, Altar Guild, Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors. Moreover, we have been successful in joining with other local churches and organizations to create important outreach support to our community. Good Friday Cross Walk through Port Orchard, Community Thanksgiving Eve Services, and Vacation Bible School (VBS) are good examples. Another excellent example is the Family Kitchen program, which provides meals each month for needy families. St Bede also provides food for South Kitsap Helpline, supplies for local schools and we open our facility for use by local chapters of AlAnon, and other organizations as required. We also have a 'Little Pantry', in the church parking lot, which is greatly used by those in need. Increasing the ways in which we work with others to enhance the spiritual and social support in our community is a pursuit our congregation embraces.

Our newly enhanced website is up and running – [www.stbedechurch.org](http://www.stbedechurch.org).

## **OUR BISHOP PROVISIONAL, AND OUR DIOCESE**

In 2024 The Rt. Rev. Philip LaBelle, became the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia, following Provisional Bishop the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton.

The Diocese of Olympia, admitted by General Convention in 1910, is made up of more than 31,000 Episcopalians in 106 faith communities in Western Washington. Our geographic area stretches south from Canada to Oregon and west from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Our congregations cover a whole range of sizes and stages of development. Several affiliated institutions and numerous outreach and social justice ministries as well as a number of multicultural ministries are supported by the whole diocese.

Useful website: [www.ecww.org](http://www.ecww.org) .

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

In October of 1963, St. Bede Episcopal Church of Port Orchard began life as the Second Altar of St. Paul Episcopal Church of Bremerton. The congregation procured several early homes as its needs and growth dictated change. At one point the congregation joined with St. John of Gig Harbor and shared a Bishop Committee and church funds. For a time the congregation met in Elim Lutheran Church on Hillcrest Drive, and First Lutheran Community Church on Mitchell Road. In 1974, St. Bede separated from St. John and became a Mission church of the Diocese of Olympia. In 1976, the congregation moved into its current home and we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 2013. While, over time, we have made numerous improvements and upgrades to our facilities, including a Parish Hall and access ramp, we have been unable, after several attempts, to have a successful building campaign, mostly due to lack of funds. As a result, our congregation has refocused on our spiritual strength and growth in order to have a firmer foundation on which to build.

## **CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS**

Our membership reflects the community with a large number of skilled craftsmen, school district employees, health care workers, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard employees, military, and retirees. The ages of the congregation members range from toddler to elderly, with the majority being forty to ninety years old. In the past five years, St. Bede has experienced a ten to fifteen percent reduction in membership. We believe that this turnover is due in large part to two factors: the COVID-19 crisis, and increased aging of our congregation. However, with residential and economic growth in our area, we are hopeful our attendance will increase.

## MINISTRIES OF ST. BEDE

Our primary strengths lie in a strong lay leadership, in our many and diverse ministries and in our ability to serve both our congregants and our outside community. We can support these ministries because of the committed and consistent involvement of our congregants.

The following is a description for three of our ministries which are organized and run by lay leadership:

1. The people of St. Bede have a real heart for **Community Outreach Ministries**. St Bede is known within the Diocese of Olympia for our outreach ministries. A partial list of our outreach ministries include: Family Kitchen, South Kitsap Helpline, Episcopal Relief and Development, United Thank Offering, the Gideon's, Mission to Seafarers, Chaplains on the Harbor, Little Pantry, supplies, backpacks and shoes for local schools.
2. **The Pastoral Care Ministry** provided by the lay leadership of St Bede, has been cited as "a model for the Diocese". When members of St. Bede are unable to attend church for reasons of illness or incapacity, trained Eucharistic visitors will go to these members' homes and provide the Eucharist service. St Bede provides a service twice a month for people who live at the Veterans Home in Retsil, Washington.
3. We are very proud of our Godly Play program for our youngsters. It has been very well received by our children, parents, and carefully trained volunteers.

## LEADERSHIP GIFTS AND SKILLS VITAL FOR OUR CHURCH'S GROWTH

**Our top three "overall priorities" are:**

**1. Priority One: "Make necessary change to attract young families, children and youth to our church", but also minister to the needs of aging people.** For the young people it will need a strong, vibrant youth program.

**Associated Leadership Needs:** Our ideal Vicar would be committed to develop vibrant programs to support and encourage young families, children and youth without reducing ministry to our aging congregation.

**2. Priority Two: "Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate the new people into the life of the church".**

**Associated Leadership Needs:** Our ideal Vicar is one who can support and encourage a "ministry-focused" congregation. The Spiritual Leader would be interested in recognizing people's unique gifts and in encouraging them to utilize those gifts in the areas of community outreach, pastoral care and stewardship. The recognition of the importance of outreach to and acceptance of a diverse community of potential worshipers is beneficial.

*By utilizing the **Ministry Portfolio** put out by the **Office of Transition Ministries (OTM)**, our lay leadership has recognized revitalizing stewardship as our fourth priority.*

**3. Priority Four: "What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshiping community?"** St. Bede has had an average stewardship program directed primarily toward financial stewardship. Our overall financial needs are being reassessed. However, St. Bede is in the process of developing a year-round stewardship program, focused equally on the three branches of stewardship: time, talent and treasure.

**Associated Leadership Needs:** Our ideal Vicar is one who is passionate about and supportive of all three aspects of Stewardship. On one level he/she should be knowledgeable about budget and finance. A Vicar who has experience in matching congregant skills with existing roles, and has strong, organizational leadership skills.

**In conclusion, our church has set the following goals:**

1. Call a new Vicar, who feels called to serve and guide us, spiritually. We would like a leader who is able to guide and help us in mending relationships within the congregation. We need and enjoy good teaching sermons, to give us food for the week.
2. Attract young families to the church, which would draw more children and teens into the congregation.
3. Expand congregational support groups. For example: Bible Study, Grief, parenting, and marital groups.
4. Expand Outreach ministry to include more ‘hands on’, as well as ‘check writing’.
5. Expand Stewardship ministry to be year-round (Time, Talent & Treasure)

### **MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE (2024)**

Communicants (adults) in good standing	79
Communicants – youth (under age 16) in good standing	6
Others (active but baptism not recorded in the Parish Register)	14
Average Sunday attendance	38
Easter Sunday attendance	53
Church School students (enrolled)	5
Holy Eucharist (Sunday)	53
Holy Eucharist (Weekday)	0
Private Eucharist	11
Daily Offices (Weekday)	10
Burials	3
Baptisms	4
Confirmations	0
Christmas attendance	62

## FINANCES (2024)

Number of pledge cards	29	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
Plate offerings, pledge payments & regular support	\$ 99,982.21	
Diocese grant	\$ 0	
Unrestricted Bequests used for Operations	\$ 25,549.20	
Other	\$ 0	
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 125,531.42</b>
<b>Non-operating Revenue</b>		
Capital project funds	\$ -	
Endowment & other investment funds	\$ -	
Contributions & Grants for Outreach & Mission programs	\$ 11,651.93	
Funds transmitted to other organizations	\$	
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 11,651.93</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$137,183.34</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Diocese assessment	\$ 15,685.83	
Outreach from Operations	\$ 1127,60	
All other expenses	\$ 98,365.83	
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>		<b>\$ 115,179.26</b>
<b>Non-operating Expenses</b>		
Major improvements & capital expenditures	\$ 0 -	
Outreach & Mission programs	\$ 2531.80	
Transmitted to other organizations	\$ 2647	
<b>Total Non-Operating Expense</b>		<b>\$ 2531.80</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$117,711.06</b>

**We do not have any outstanding debt**

## **WELCOME TO PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON AND THE KITSAP PENINSULA**

Located across the Puget Sound from Seattle, the Kitsap Peninsula is one of the emeralds of Washington State, being surrounded on three sides by saltwater and within viewing distance of the Olympic Mountains, the Cascade Mountains, Mount Rainier and Mount Baker. The peninsula is accessible to the greater Seattle/Tacoma area by four ferry routes that cross the Puget Sound or by vehicle from Highway 16 via the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Access to the Olympic Peninsula is by Highway 101 or the Hood Canal Bridge. Useful websites:

[www.portorchard.com](http://www.portorchard.com) and [www.cityofportorchard.us](http://www.cityofportorchard.us) .

From 2012, the county's population grew from 254,990 to 271,473. The primary employer in the area is the Naval Base Kitsap (includes Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Submarine Base Bangor and Naval Hospital). Other major employers include state agencies, the four school districts, two hospitals - St. Michael, Silverdale, and St. Anthony, Gig Harbor, and many other businesses.

Port Orchard is an expanding and growing community. It was founded in 1886 as the settlement of Sidney, Port Orchard became the Kitsap County seat in 1893. It has continued to grow and prosper since that time. With a current population of nearly 16,400, Port Orchard serves as the center of commerce for the residents of South Kitsap County. The downtown area of Port Orchard has many antique and gift shops anchored by a marina, which is a very popular port of call in the Pacific Northwest. The South Kitsap School District includes the city of Port Orchard and the unincorporated areas of South Kitsap County. It has a student population of over 10,000 students in eleven elementary schools, three middle schools (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades), a comprehensive high school (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) and alternative and special education programs. The closest public college is Olympic College in Bremerton. There are a number of South Kitsap area churches representing a variety of denominations and faiths.

Recreational activities abound in Port Orchard and throughout the Peninsula. A selection of the favorite activities include kayaking, sailing, canoeing, bird watching, beachcombing, whale watching, fishing, hiking, bicycling, motorcycling, photography and golf.



2/05/2025