

## Newsletter for September and October 2018



### FROM THE RECTOR

As I am writing this letter, Sen. John McCain is lying in state at the capitol. Although I have sometimes disagreed with his policies, I honor him for his courage, integrity and life of service for others. But what touched me in these last days was his spirit of gratitude. Despite unimaginable suffering as a prisoner of war and the endless political battles and the brain cancer, he died with a heart filled with gratitude. In his farewell letter to America he wrote,

*"I have often observed that I am the luckiest person on earth. I feel that way even now as I prepare for the end of my life. I have loved my life, all of it. I have had experiences, adventures and friendships enough for ten satisfying lives, and I am so thankful. Like most people, I have regrets. But I would not trade a day of my life, in good or bad times, for the best day of anyone else's."*

I once attended a conference in which a participant shared that his goal in life was to die grateful. Sen. McCain was able to do that. I just finished reading a book by Diana Butler Bass entitled *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*. I appreciate how she honestly acknowledges her struggle to cultivate a life characterized by gratitude. It is both a gift as well as something we have to work to be open to – especially when life is hard.

But maybe I can begin by giving thanks not only for Cyndi and my family, but for the people of St. David's. When I think of all the time, effort and money supporting this church and its ministries, I am filled with gratitude. The altar guild faithfully preparing our worship space for each Sunday; members of the property committee cleaning out the garage on one of those blazing hot days this summer as well as donating hours and hours of construction work and building maintenance; those planning our stewardship campaign; those running around getting car seats for foster children or purchasing backpacks and school supplies; a vestry overseeing the church business and finances and doing the hard work of discerning how we best move forward (and keeping the rector in line); those who quietly provide refreshments each Sunday for coffee hour and all who assist with worship; and all the work everyone is doing in getting ready for our big craft fair. And most of all, the support and care people offer not only each other but those in need outside of the church. Needless to say, I could keep on going!

Thank you for all you do!

Carolyn

## ***OUTREACH***

### **Partnership with Lancaster Elementary**

The principal at Lancaster asked if the church could provide eight backpacks with school supplies for some of their students whose families cannot afford them. We ended up giving the school 10 backpacks. Thank you!

### **Isaiah 58**

Isaiah 58 is having its major annual fund raiser this year on September 7 at Atkinson Country Club from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from the website [Isaiah58nh.com](http://Isaiah58nh.com). Isaiah 58 primarily serves the homeless and housing insecure, but also provides free clothing, furniture and household supplies at the distribution center where many of our members volunteer, case management services, spiritual and emotional support and advocacy.

### **Dave Hall Fund**

Just this week we received an urgent request for three car seats from a foster mother who had three young children dropped off at her house during the night with little more than the hospital gowns they were dressed in. The purchases are being made to provide car seats for Carly (4 yrs.), Melody (11 mo.), and Douglas (3 mo.)

### **United Thank Offering**

In June, \$165 was donated to this national Episcopal group that provides grants enabling parishes to minister to those in need in their communities.



### **Hike for Hope**

During the month of September, our outreach efforts are dedicated to support Lazarus House Ministries. Lazarus House provides food from their pantry for 900 families per week and 300 meals per day. Lazarus also provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and a thrift shop, serving the many poor and homeless in the greater Lawrence area. The Hike for Hope will be held on Sunday September 30. Micki LeBlanc and Denise Labrecque will be walking. Checks can be made out to St. David's with "Hike for Hope" on the memo line.

### **Chips**

In October, St. David's will be participating in the diocesan collection of Christmas toys and books to give to the children of incarcerated parents. These children are the innocent victims of crime. This program eases the pain of both the child and parent and provides an opportunity to maintain their bond and share a time of joy together. The goal of the Prison Concerns Committee is 1200 gifts and an equal

number of books. There will be a Christmas tree in the back of our sanctuary with ornaments with suggested items. Take as many ornaments as you want, purchase the gifts and/or books and put them unwrapped and unopened under the tree. The prison committee has asked that you **do not purchase any clothes**. *The gifts will be brought to Diocesan Convention on November 3 – so your gifts must be at the church no later than Sunday October 28.*

### **Cards for Prisoners**

Keep bringing in greeting cards of any sort and put them in the basket near the front entrance. The diocesan Prison Ministry will be collecting the cards at convention the first Saturday in November.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



### **Adult Education**

Let's get the Bible Study going again. During the spring we were studying the Gospel of Mark on Mondays at 11 a.m. We had a lot of fun and very lively discussions! We ended up suspending the group for the summer. But it will now resume Monday, Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. *unless there are requests for a time when more would be able to attend*. So, if you want to be there but cannot make that time, speak with Carolyn. All are welcome to join in whenever you can come.



### **WORSHIP**

We had a great time all worshipping together this summer. But as of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be resuming our normal schedule of Sunday worship at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

There will be one exception... On Sunday September 16, there will be only one service at 8 a.m. because of the fall craft fair.



**Blessing of Animals** – Each year we celebrate St. Francis by inviting everyone to bring their pets to church for a blessing. In the past we've done this on the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day. However, since the bishop's visit will be October 1, we will bless people's pets on St. Francis' feast Day – October 4. We'll do this in front of the church at 4 p.m. This is an excellent non-threatening opportunity to invite people to begin to experience St. David's. So, invite your friends and neighbors who have pets of any kind! Carolyn is still hoping to bless a horse!

## ***FUN EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING***

**2018 Crafter's Fair – September 15 and 16 – two weeks away!! It is the church's primary fund raiser and there is plenty to do. All hands on deck!**

Only a few weeks until the big fair! We currently we around 30 New England crafters and artisans. A bouncy house has been rented and already the locals are talking about coming to buy a container of cookies from our cookie walk or picking up lunch at the G&G café. The raffle has some big prizes - a handcrafted quilt, a mountain bike and \$500 cash prize in addition to many gift cards, baskets, and other prizes.

Things to do:

*1) Sign up to help!* There is something for everyone and everyone is needed! Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the upper hall. It has worked out great to have able-bodied people helping set up our stuff Friday at 5 p.m. and to help early crafter as they arrive; and then again for the primary crafters set up early Saturday morning (6:30 - 9 a.m.). Come again Sunday afternoon after 2 p.m. to help with taking everything down and cleaning up. And of course, people are needed throughout the course of the fair to help out with the cafe, monitor the bounce house, offer the crafters relief, work at the raffle and cookie walk tables and overnight security watch.

*2) Put out signs* on your lawn and ask friends in high visibility locations if they would put out one for us. Signs can be posted on town public property as of Labor Day Weekend. (Signs are in the garage). Also post the flyers you received around town.

*3) Bake cookies!* The last several years we made over \$2,500 in cookies alone!

*4) Sell raffle tickets.* There are plenty more! If you wish to donate an item for the raffle or have obtained one from a local business, please contact Diane Martin at 603-893-9278. If you have theme baskets or prizes, please get them to Judy Habeeb ASAP so she can develop a full list and prepare baskets that need decorating.

*5) Pray for good weather!*

We can be proud that every year virtually every single member of St. David's helps in some way to make the Autumn Craft Fair a fun event for each other and the community and one that provides critical financial support for continuing the life and ministry of the parish. We are so lucky to have such a faithful and great bunch of workers! We cannot do it without your help. Thank you!

**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR**

## **Community Supper – Saturday, October 20**

Remember the great ham and bean supper we had last fall? Well, it will be back this October by popular demand. Only this time we will be using our new kitchen and dedicating it in memory of Johanna Kagan, whose family provided the funds for its total renovation. More details (and requests for help) will come out after the craft fair. In the meantime – hold the date for good food and celebration!

## **SCRIP – great way to give gifts, pay for purchases and help the church!**

Scrip is a program through which you can purchase gift cards for almost any chain store or restaurant you can think of, and a portion of your purchase will go automatically to St. David's. Order forms are in the foyer. Orders and checks can be dropped off in the wooden deposit box in the copy machine room. Gift cards can be used for gifts, but the program really pays off when people use them for their regular everyday purchases.



## ***STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES AND PROPERTY***

### **Finances**

- Pledges and loose income down a little which is not unusual over the summer.
- Cleaning cost have gone up slightly because of a new company.
- Room income is down slightly with some adjustments granted to a couple of the smaller AA meetings.
- Overall finances remain solid and there have been no unexpected costs.

### **Stewardship Financial Campaign**

This year's committee consists of Elaine Clark, Carlene McDougal, Diane Soucy and Carolyn Stevenson. The theme will be "Gathering the Harvest" and will run from October 21 – November 11. More details to come!

### **Property**

The property work continues!

- The barn was totally cleaned up and organized. New shelves were installed.
- Frank, a friend from AA, has taken down three of the dead trees – one more to go.
- Bob McGilvary rebuilt the roof over the rear door leading to the parking lot which had been leaking water into the building.
- Bob Habeeb power washed the sides of the church. He also kept the gardens watered while Carolyn was on vacation and did some major weeding.
- There was an informal congregational meeting after the Aug. 26 service about painting the walls on each side of the altar with an accent color to help it to stand out. A very light blue was chosen.
- The broken light by the front door was replaced.



**Keep up to date with news from the diocese!** Log onto the website [www.nhepiscopal.org](http://www.nhepiscopal.org). "The Bulletin" lists events and if you subscribe, it will be emailed to you (free).

***PARISH PRAYER LIST*** (please let the office know of deletions and additions)

Flora Meyer, Catherine Meehan, Donna Conrad, Carol & Arlene Bassett, Jean Lynch, Carlene McKinnon, Elaine Schwager, Lynn Romano, Marsha Rothel, Charles Smith, Vincent Gallucci, Katrina LeBel, Jim Saucier, David, Jeff, and Deb Clark, Morgan Decker, Kim Dippo, Norman & Mona Soucy, Rick McGibbon, Ed Brinkman, Angela Randall, Sean William, Haylee O'Toole, Beth Soule, Theresa Kristen, Janice Josephine Carney, Kristina Morrison, Marilyn McIntrye, Evelyn Austin, Patrick Ryan, Jennifer Merrick, Joseph Grande, Guy Grande, Liz Naters-Gamarra, Carole Carlson, Sandy DeVine, Lynda Lubelzyk, Errol & Helen Duncan, Lynn Clarke, Alex Frazier, Geri O'Brian, Jessica Francis, Barbara McGovern, Elaine Clark, Joan Logan, Calvin Smith, Dick & Millie Cartier, John Peterson, Carmen Acevedo, Donald Iverson.

Please also remember our homebound members: Fred Miner, Barbara Davis, Arlene Law, Carol Jones, Doris Deputy, Rusty Simpson, Joan Logan.

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