

## *2019 Newsletter for January and February*



Happy New Year! After the wonderful dinner towards the end of October celebrating and dedicating the new kitchen in the lower hall, we've been catching up with many other projects that had been put on hold. As you'll read in the newsletter:

- The banner to let the larger community know who we are and how we try to be a truly welcoming church was finished and hung outside.
- We had a major brainstorming and planning session about using the new kitchen in 2019.
- We had a successful stewardship campaign.
- Our new website was finished and is up and running.
- The vestry approved protocols for responding to emergencies.
- We had good participation in an event for the Lancaster school children.
- The property committee conducted an assessment of the rectory.
- The vestry found and edited a simple but excellent ministry assessment instrument for the vestry to evaluate the rector and the whole congregation to evaluate the ministry of the parish.

Not bad work for a couple of months that is in addition to all the normal activities and worship!

As we approach the new year, let us give thanks for all the work that has been done, grieve our losses – especially most recently that of our longtime member Bobbie Fili, and look forward with energy and anticipation as to where God might lead us as God's servants for the world in this upcoming year.

May God's blessing and peace be with you all and your families!  
Carolyn



***OUTREACH***

## Lancaster School Partnership

Things were initially slow this fall as we were awaiting guidance from the principal at Lancaster Elementary, but we're now moving forward. The *STEM robotic kits* have been put on hold due to some major shifts in the program. But several representatives of our parish attended the fall PTA meeting, whose members expressed delight at our willingness to be of service.

Some of our folks had planned to help with a café serving hot chocolate at a *Santa event*. Nine members assisted children at the school's annual "*Santa's Workshop*" where they "shop" for small gifts for their families and reported having a ball working with the kids. In January, Carolyn McElroy will begin to help coordinating a project in which St. David's will be "*sponsoring a classroom*". Taking one classroom at a time, we will see what the teacher feels his or her classroom could really use to enhance the learning experience of the children; and we'll see how we can help make that happen.

FYI- Starting in January, the PTA will be *collecting gift certificates* (restaurants, sporting events, stores, etc.) to raffle off in March. Feel free to purchase gift certificates (and use SCRIP!) to donate to Lancaster's PTA.

## Isaiah 58 Ministries

Irene Curtin (who oversees the day to day business) and Cyndi Morse (volunteer coordinator) report that the distribution center was very busy during the month of December with many people with limited income "shopping" for Christmas gifts. David Yasenka has reported that the ministry has had a number of older single women who have come in need of housing. Unfortunately the housing crunch continues to be severe with few rentals and inflated prices.

## Kitchen Use and Community Suppers

The small coffee room was packed with members eager to brainstorm ideas as to ways the church can make maximum use of its new kitchen. Ideas included themed dinners, baking class, special meals for teachers or vets, breakfast or lunch items for children.

In addition to the February Pot luck supper and June lunch for AA, the group decided on the following events: *Ham and Bean Supper* (March 2), *Italian Night* (May 4), *Teacher appreciation baked goodies* (week of May 6-10), *A Tea* (May 19), and a *Harvest Dinner* (Oct. 26).



## **Banner**

In November we hung out our St. David's banner for several weeks around the time for the Salem Holiday Parade. The banner was a parish effort to let the larger community know that all are welcome here. It is a wonderful design given its final shape and color by Chuck Smith, Judi Habeeb's son. Since the town only always temporary signs in addition to one permanent sign, throughout the year we will periodically display it for a while, then take it down.

## **Dave Hall Fund**

In November we received a request for the Dave Hall Fund to provide ten \$50 gift cards that caseworkers could give to foster families in need of funds to buy gifts for their children. We also loaned the use of the church for the staff to hand out fresh turkeys to foster families the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

## **January Outreach – Family Promise at Anne Marie House**

When Rockingham's Family Promise closed, families from the Salem area have been able to receive services from Family Promise of Greater Nashua. Unlike the rotational model where families move from church to church each week, this Family Promise network has a permanent site in Hudson. Volunteers continue to play a huge role. Depending on the size of the families, up to nine at a time can be housed. In 2018 eighteen families were served with an 83% success rate. Since St. David's helped found and supported Family Promise for our area residents, the vestry has decided to continue to support this work by having an annual collection for Anne Marie House.



## ***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION***

### **Adult Education**

With one final session to go finishing up the Gospel of Mark, our weekly Monday 11 a.m. Bible Study will turn to the Gospel of Luke in January. Discussions are lively and thought provoking. Take this opportunity to deepen your knowledge and faith!



## ***WORSHIP***

**Christmas Eve** – As always, we had a moving service. I'd like to thank especially the altar guild and the many hands who helped make our church beautiful; and Pam, the choir, and Kevin for their months of hard work enhancing our worship that evening!

**January 20** – Due to our annual parish meeting there will be only *one service at 9 a.m.*

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

### **2019 Crafter's Fair**

Lynn Clarke will be sending out invitations for crafters to apply for the September fair. If you know any crafters or attend any craft fair events, please ask for a business card so they too can be invited to apply at a discounted rate.

### **Salem Holiday Parade**

Over \$180 was raised selling hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies to all the families who were jumping up and down to keep warm for the annual parade. Thanks to all who baked and sold the goodies!



### **Mid-Winter Doldrums Pot Luck and Gift Swap**

It has become a tradition at St. David's to have a Mid-Winter Doldrums Pot Luck and Gift Swap in February. This year it will be on will be held Saturday Feb. 16. The pot-luck supper will begin at 6 p.m. and afterwards we'll have a gift swap. The gift can be anything – funny, edible, toys or games, something you won last year or got for Christmas this year and want to get rid of it. The gift can be cheap, extravagant, funny, or tacky. Anything goes! The crazier the gift, the more the laughs. Even if you don't want to participate in the gift swap – come anyway, it is loads of fun!

### **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 proportion of your purchase will go automatically to St. David's. Order forms are in the foyer and will be collected by George Younker the first Sunday of the month. You can give him your order or drop it 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***

### **Annual Meeting – January 20<sup>th</sup>!**

On the day of our annual meeting, we begin with worship at 9 a.m., followed by a “glorified” coffee hour (extra goodies), then our business meeting. At the meeting we will be doing several critical pieces of work:

- Reviewing the 2019 parish budget
- Electing 3 vestry members, a clerk, a Junior Warden, and a delegate

- Obtaining a Ministry Assessment reviewing the health and work of the parish
- Having a brief presentation of guidelines the vestry developed in how to respond in the event of an emergency (fire, medical, disruptive person, shooter)

Positions open for election:

- The Junior Warden (with the Senior Warden) works with the vestry in providing leadership and overseeing the business and property of the church, works with the rector in enabling the well-being and mission of the congregation, and makes provision for worship in the absence of the rector.
- The Clerk takes minutes at vestry meetings and signs off on diocesan documents.
- Vestry members oversee the business and property of the church and are leaders in supporting the life and ministry of the parish.
- Delegates represent St. David's at Southern Convocation meetings and at Diocesan convention; and communicate information from diocesan meetings to the vestry and congregation.

Job descriptions are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Names can be submitted in the box. You can nominate yourself or someone else if they are willing to serve.

### **Ministry assessment**

Every year the vestry and the rector have a conversation evaluating the rector's work and relationship with the vestry. Barbara Sager this year found and edited a simple but good instrument in which the vestry can not only more effectively evaluate the rector, but the congregation can also have an opportunity to provide feedback about the overall life and ministry of the church. Barbara will present and explain how we will use this at the annual meeting.

### **Emergency response guidelines**

Do you know where the church fire extinguishers are? Did you know that we have a defibrillator? After the tragic shootings this past year in places of worship, Joanne Theriault and Elaine Clark attended different trainings on how to respond. The vestry decided to not just inform the parish of their learnings, but to develop some protocols for responding to medical emergencies, fire, and disruptive persons, as well as what to do if a shooter were to come in. A copy of these protocols will be included in the annual report and will briefly be reviewed at the meeting.

### **Stewardship Financial Campaign**

This year's stewardship campaign was a success. 42 pledges were submitted. There were 4 new pledges and 4 lost. Fourteen people increased their pledge! Thank you all for faithfully supporting the life and ministry of St. David's!

### **Property**

The property committee conducted an indoor and outdoor assessment of repairs for the rectory and the church. They then prioritized the projects with some rough estimated costs to be included in the 2019 budget. Some of the major projects include repairing and painting the porch of the rectory, replacing the kitchen counter tops and some electrical

work. Bob McGilvary installed a railing for the back inner stairway and Bob Habeeb has been painting some additional cabinets to be installed in the kitchen.

Frank took down some of the large dead branches of the tree in front of the rectory that were at risk of breaking and falling on the building. And Bob McGilvary and Bob Habeeb cleared out all the overgrown brush and trees that had been blocking the emergency sanctuary exit of the church.

Thank you everyone for helping out with our Fall clean-up day in November!

It's winter! The sign up list for snow shoveling is posted in the foyer.



## ***DIOCESAN MATTERS***

### **Bishop Rob**

The Bishop is currently on a three month sabbatical leave. We have been keeping him in our prayers. He will be visiting St. David's on Sunday October 13.

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).

### ***Transitions***

Baptisms: Seven Douglas Blake

From this life to the next: Bobbie Fili – May she rest in peace.

### ***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, Sandy DeVine, Lynda Lubelzyk, Errol & Helen Duncan, Lynn Clarke, Alex Frazier, Geri O'Brian, Jessica Francis, Barbara McGovern, Elaine Clark, Calvin Smith, John Peterson, Carmen Acevedo, James & Patty Puckett, John Gay, Dot & Tom Johnson, Christopher Paquette.

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

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