

Newsletter for November and December 2019



We've had some great events in the last couple of months, and something new on the horizon – a St. David's youth group! I hope you'll enjoy reading about what is happening in the newsletter.

But right now we're just past the middle of our stewardship campaign, The Gifts of God for the People of God. The ever important pledges are rolling in (THANK YOU!) and also some people have followed through with our invitation to write a heartfelt thank you note to God for a person, an experience, a thing that you feel has been a gift of God in your life. I hope within the next two weeks we'll have a board filled with letters which we will offer to God. I thought I'd share with you mine to help ignite your imaginations as to what you might like to thank God for.

Dear God,

There are so many gifts I could thank you for – Cyndi, Gabe, family, the people of St. David's, a home, food, the many ways you have guided and sustained me through good times and hard times all of my life. But today I'd like to thank you for the gift of the woods – trees, glimpses of sunlight and skies through the leaves, quiet paths, chirping birds, squirrels and chipmunks scurrying around, acorns underfoot. (Biting mosquitos, ticks, and black flies – not so much!)

It was in the woods where I first worshipped you. It was in the woods where I first had an inkling of my call to ministry. It was in the woods where I would go as a child to read my Bible. When I am troubled or distressed, taking a walk through a wooded area calms my soul. Those walks help center me in the present if I'm feeling scattered, and there is nothing like a brisk hike up a mountain that gets my heart pounding and makes me feel alive.

It is in the woods that I am reminded that I feel I am a part of something so much greater than I – that I am a part of you and your good creation, and that you are a part of me.

Thank you, God, for the woods.

I look forward to reading your letters!

Peace and all good, Carolyn

OUTREACH

Lancaster School Partnership

We recently received requests from two more classrooms. One was a special easel with a dry erase board that is also magnetic, that also has large tubes for books, learning accessories, markers and erasers. The other was a request for two curriculums. One helps second graders learn to identify and take care of their feelings. The other teaches them to explore and develop essential social skills such as friendship, teamwork, having a positive mindset, and problem solving.

We were also invited to attend a Halloween parade on October 31, and several members will be attending the November PTA meeting to see how our church can support their work and efforts. For more information, speak with Diana Seifert.

Isaiah 58 Ministries

Isaiah 58 had a very successful “Gala” fund raiser September 27, at which a number of our members attended. The theme will be “Isaiah’s Village – A Model for Affordable Housing”, as the ministry is working to not only to help people find and maintain housing, but to refurbish several trailers on Freedom Drive to provide housing. The Distribution where many of our members volunteer, continues to keep hopping, especially as we move into the colder seasons.

Hike for Hope

\$740 was raised to support Lazarus House and its ministries. Thank you!



Chips

The gifts are beginning to pile up under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary for children whose parents are incarcerated. These gifts will be brought to Diocesan Convention early Saturday morning November 9. So there is still one week to get them in. Don't forget to also bring in any unused greeting cards which are handed out by prison chaplains so inmates can keep in contact with their families.

December Outreach – Episcopal Relief and Development – providing both emergency relief and sustainable development in impoverished areas both in the United States and across the world.

Kitchen Use and Community Suppers



Community Suppers

The Harvest Dinner October 26 was a success. The food was not only excellent (thanks to the Habeeb and McGilvary families), but our impression was that people enjoyed having a family style dinner for a change instead of a buffet line. The funds from this dinner helped equip our kitchen so we can provide that style of serving.

In November we will have a planning meeting for community dinners in 2020. Day and time to be announced.

Salem Holiday Parade

The annual Salem Holiday Parade will be on Sunday, November 24 from 1-3:00 PM. St. David's always provides hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies for those watching. Please bake and drop off cookies that Sunday morning. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Group!

In October, one of our members, Patty Higgins, called asking about a youth group. We talked about options, and after Patty called a number of parents of friends of her children, we have a potential of 10 fourth through sixth graders who expressed interest. The first meeting will be in the lower hall on Sunday November 24. We're not quite sure whether it will begin at 4:30 or 5PM, but will run roughly an hour and a half including dinner. For this meeting we'll have pizza, play an exciting game of broom hockey, and then do some planning and close with worship. If you would like to help or know of other children around that age group who might benefit from this, let Carolyn know.



Adult Education

The **Monday morning Bible study** meets from 10 AM to around 11:15. We're continuing to work our way through the Gospel of Luke. But anyone can join in at any time!

Short Stories by Jesus

Starting Wednesday November 6 at 4PM, we will begin a 6 week study on some of the parables of Jesus using the DVD and study books by Amy Jill Levine. The books were \$12.50 each, and if participants can help with that, the church would be grateful.



WORSHIP

Bishop's Visitation

We had a wonderful time with Bishop Rob October 13. Barbara Sager was confirmed and Dianne Soucy, Cyndi Morse, and Elaine Clark renewed their baptismal vows.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve will be on Tuesday evening December 24 with special music beginning at 7:15. We'll be decorating the sanctuary after the 10am service on the 22nd. Please stay to help if you can.

Transitions

Baptisms - On September 8 we baptized Valerie Liebke, and we will be baptizing April Pitta. Welcoming into the family of God!

Damian Ryan will be moving back to his hometown of St. Johnsbury, VT towards the end of November. Although he hopes to be able to continue to drop in to see us, his last Sunday will be November 17. We'll offer some special prayers for him at the 8 AM service he usually attends, and 10 am worshipers are welcome to come in early to wish him well and say goodbye before the service. Damian has been a very faithful and active member of this church, serving at an Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Delegate, Clerk on the Vestry, and has participated in countless other efforts of this church over the years. We'll miss you!

FUN EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

2019 Crafter's Fair

Approximately \$10,500 was raised (\$1,000 over budget)! Everything went very smoothly and the crafters were once again blown away by our hospitality. Everyone helped in one way or another with the fair. Thank you all for making this a success!

We are making a greater effort this year to find and invite new crafters to come to our fair. If you attend fairs, collect business cards from *especially those who offer unique and quality crafts*. We are in the process of designing and printing cards for our fair to hand out to crafters we may like to invite to apply.



STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Finances

The end of September finances continue to be tight but solid. Pledges and loose offerings are currently over budget. A report of the expenses paid so far in 2019 out of the Joanna Kagan fund was sent to her son David. Carolyn's 403b has now been fully compensated.

Stewardship Financial Campaign

Unlike many churches, the focus of our stewardship campaigns is rarely about giving money. Rather they focus on cultivating gratitude and spiritual practices and living. But your pledges are critically important. They are not only one way of practicing and growing in your faith, but they also provide the vestry the information they need in order to plan a budget for the upcoming year. We hope that your giving will be faithful and generous, and enable us to do even more things through the ministry God has called us to here in Salem. Please get them in soon since we plan to wrap up the campaign Nov. 10. Thank you!

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.

Property

- Fall clean up day is November 10! Wear your grubbies to church! A list of tasks will be posted in the upper hall and clean up will begin after the 10 service coffee hour.
- The vestry approved the property committee to cut down dead trees on our property which are a danger to a neighbor's house for \$500.
- George Younker bought and trimmed new letters for our sign on the front fence.
- Three bids were obtained for fuel oil and the vestry decided to continue to use Rymes.
- The barn was cleaned up and reorganized after the craft fair.
- A shout-out to Bob McGilvary who did an outstanding job on the church lawns this year!



Diocesan Convention is November 9

During our annual convention this year, delegates will be chosen to represent this diocese at General Convention (held every three years). Resolutions will be presented and voted on for the Diocesan budget, churches transitioning from parish status to mission status, racial reconciliation, celebrating the creation during the 2020 season of Easter, and reducing parishes' carbon footprint.

Keep up to date with news from the diocese!

- E-mail news is mailed out at least once a month with news and events. To sign up for this service, send an email to officeassistant@episcopal.org and they'll get you signed up.
- A reminder that a national Episcopal newspaper also comes out every other month and free copies are in the foyer. Feel free to pick one up.

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

Kim Verstraete, Diana Nelson, Cathy Passerello, 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, Janice Josephine Carney, Kristina Morrison, Marilyn McIntrye, Evelyn Austin, Patrick Ryan, Jennifer Merrick, Joseph Grande, Guy Grande, Liz Naters-Gamarra, Tina Kenya, Sheila McLaughlin, Errol & Helen Duncan, Lynn Clarke, Alex Frazier, Geri O'Brian, Jessica Francis, Barbara McGovern, Elaine Clark, Calvin Smith, John Peterson, James & Patty Puckett, John Gay, Dot & Tom Johnson, Sue and Bob DeVine, Michael Worth, Micki LaBlanc, Anita Hill, Ana Diamantopoulos, Bill Hanlon, Windy Nelson, Jamie Brunco.

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

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