



## *An April NEWSLETTER*

### **From the Rector**

Greetings and blessings! It is hard to believe that so much has changed in a matter of weeks! I, like many of you, were stunned by the swiftness of the changes and the scramble to adjust and re-adjust our individual lives and our lives together as a church again and again. One blogger, David Lose, made the comment that it wasn't so long ago when he would have thought the expression "flattening the curve" as being a slogan for weight watchers!

When I've spoken with many of you, we share our grief. We're managing standing in line waiting to get into the grocery store and speaking with others while maintaining "social distance". We're learning to plan for a meals ahead of time and making masks. The hard part has been not being able to give those whom we love a hug and not being able to gather together as a church family for worship and fellowship.

But given the fact that most of us aren't spring chickens, we've been quick to move and adapt. Most of us aren't computer geeks and never heard of zoom before the pandemic, yet for worship last Sunday we had 48 people attending! Those without internet dialed in. I've learned how to post a video recording on Facebook and how to do a Facebook live session. This week we had our first zoom Bible study. I want to thank all of you who have been calling others to give support and keep us all connected. And more than anything else, thank you all for your prayers for this church and for so many who are suffering and struggling. You are an amazing and faithful community!

When will church open? At a clergy meeting today (Thursday) the Bishop said that our churches will definitely not be open before June. We are an Episcopal Church under the authority of a Bishop, and so he has the final word. (And by the way, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld has been absolutely wonderful throughout this crisis. We could not have a better bishop for this time!) There is going to be a zoom meeting for Clergy and Wardens with a doctor and an epidemiologist next Tuesday about how the pandemic is affecting New Hampshire and how that might affect our decisions. I would not be surprised if things open up gradually both geographically and depending on how we operate. We may have some Sunday worship where

we are spread out and are wearing masks – who knows at this point. We'll let the experts guide us as well as our sense of what is appropriate given the age of our congregation and the number of people who are physically vulnerable.

In the meantime, we're learning and planning for the future. The technological world has opened up new possibilities for ministry. We'll want to explore ways for our homebound folks to participate in worship and keep connected. We want to use media like Facebook to allow people to observe worship and our activities and get a sense of who we are, so they might feel comfortable to come at some point. Zoom meetings may enable some people to serve on the vestry who could not do so before because of being unable to drive safely at night. So let's be open to new ways of being and doing as we continue to move forward.

Thank you again for your prayers, your work, your love for each other and for God!

Carolyn

### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday worship has been held at 9 AM each week. Before Holy Week, there were different log in accounts and meeting numbers. But now they will be the same every week. The invitation and bulletin will continue to be sent out weekly, but if the invitation gets lost in your email, any one since Easter will still get you in.

***Those of you without email or internet can still attend!*** All you need to do is to dial +1 929 205 6099 and, when prompted, the Meeting ID: 999 9712 1791. It is like a conference call, you can hear everything and speak but just won't have visual contact.

Just a couple of reminders:

- To minimize static sound and any noises in your home, and to keep from suddenly appearing front and center on everyone's screen when you make the slightest noise - ***stay muted unless you want to speak.*** When you mute your mike (bottom bar on the screen far left) you can still hear and see everything.
- Only one device can be on at a time. So you can't have your computer on zoom and try to dial in on your phone at the same time. Nor can two people be in the same room each separately trying to attend the meeting on their individual computers or laptops.
- Ear phones also help reduce feedback sound.

We're all getting better and better at this as we go and are learning from our mistakes. If you have feedback or suggestions for the service or the coffee hour afterwards, let me know! Also as we look forward, if you have ideas as how to continue to make services and "coffee hour" available to those who cannot attend once the church opens up, let me know so we can seamlessly keep doing the good work we've been doing!

### **Facebook**

Generally the Sunday services are being recorded and posted on Facebook for those who cannot attend. So check out the St. David's Facebook page, "like it", and when you see an interesting post, share it with others. I welcome feedback on this also. Do people want to see

the whole service including the singing and prayers, or just the sermon? How many of you have been watching the service on Facebook as versus attending Sunday morning? Let me know!

### **Personal worship - Using the Daily Office**

The Book of Common Prayer is an amazing resource for prayer. In addition to all kinds of prayers, there are formats for prayer and reading scripture for different times of the day, some shorter, some longer. Many churches are currently doing morning prayer for their Sunday worship service since we cannot have communion. As we often joke – there is more to the BCP than page 355! I'm thinking of offering a zoom workshop on using the BCP. Let me know if you are interested, and if you don't have a book of Common Prayer at home, swing by the church and pick one up.

**The May, June, and July Day by Day** devotional booklets (at least the small print ones) have come in. They'll be on the table in the hall by the front door. Feel free to drop in and pick one up.

### **Finances**

The Kagan family surprised us with a check for \$10,000 to help cover the loss of income from groups using the church. God bless them! And members have been dropping off or mailing in their pledges. Thank you! We had to suspend cleaning services for now, but Carolyn and Pam continue on payroll as before. So right now, Deb Ogin reports that we are holding our own. You can mail in your pledges or drop them off in the flip top white lockable box attached next to the rectory door. The word PARK is printed on the side.

### **Transitions**

Two of our homebound members have gone from this life to the life after life: Doris Deputy and Fred Miner. Fred suddenly contracted Covid19 and died last Sunday afternoon. His obituary can be found at the Douglas and Johnson website. A service of remembrance is tentatively scheduled for August 19 at St. David's. Please keep Sue Miner in your prayers.

Lynn and Bill Clarke's grandson, Anthony, has joined the Marines! Keep him in prayer!  
Sharon Taylor has a new great-grandson – congratulations Sharon!

### ***Our outreach efforts continue!***

#### **Family Promise**

After our Family Promise network had to close, we've supported the one at Anna Marie house in Hudson, which also serves homeless families from Salem. About 9 months ago they were told the novitiate house they have been using for over 9 years would no longer be available. However, they just found a new location in Nashua at the Infant Jesus School, and plan to move the operation there in the fall. It is much larger so they will be able to serve double the number of families (I believe 18). They will continue to need the support of our outreach donations to refurbish the building. So we'll take up a collection when we gather together again.

**Pen Pals**

Carlene MacDougall's daughter-in-law, Kaylyn MacDougall has started a pen pal ministry to people in an assisted living facility in Rhode Island. She is trying to find people to correspond with the residents to help them feel less isolated. If you are interested, you can contact the address below. It is a great idea!

Attn: Atria Pen Pals, Atria Harborhill  
159 Division Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

**End 68 Hours of Hunger**

The Our Kids Commission of the diocese offered every parish \$500 to help children in need because of the crisis. The Salem End 68 Hours of Hunger program has continued to provide food insecure school children with sack lunches and backpacks of food. Since their donations are down, we decided to award the \$500 given to St. David's to them.

"O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infects our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in the bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (Prayer for the Human Family p815 BCP)