



## Late December 2020 Newsletter

### *FROM THE RECTOR*

Merry Christmas everyone! And who isn't looking forward to a new year? At our last vestry meeting we reflected back on what a wild and difficult year it has been. I was working on the list of hymns for the next quarter. It brings us up to Palm Sunday. When I saw that, I thought, my God, the pandemic will have been here for a full year.

But by the grace of God and your faithfulness, St. David's has been weathering the storm. The vestry shared how despite the challenges, overall, people have remained positive and hopeful. Members have been there for each other. Pledges are as strong as ever. Barbara Sager observed how we have learned so much, and how much bigger our community can be if we do things differently. And everyone agreed that we have come to appreciate our church even more than before.

Who knows what 2021 will look like? But the fact is we never know what the future will bring. But we do know that God is faithful. That is why we read over and over again the stories of what God has done for and through God's people that stretches back through centuries. In the midst of all the uncertainty, the message is the same: God loves us, sustains us, and will carry us through.

Looking forward to a New Year!  
Carolyn

### *ANNUAL MEETING*

Since a number of our members who are snow birds are planning to go south early, we decided to move up our annual meeting to Sunday January 17 after the worship service. (We won't be able to provide coffee and refreshments, but we will have a break after the service so you can

get your own!) The meeting agenda will be simplified. Deb will simply sum up the 2020 finances and will present the 2021 budget the vestry has approved. The current officers will be re-elected (unless someone wants to jump in and run for a position), and we will need to elect one vestry member and at least one delegate. I'll attach job descriptions at the end. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please speak to Carolyn.

One decision we will need to make at the Annual Meeting will be a vote on new by-laws. The diocese has recommended that churches update their by-laws and provided a model template for use. The vestry has taken the model template and modified it for St. David's particular use. These by-laws will be sent out right after the new year so you'll have time to read through it before the meeting. (Warning – not a quick easy read!) But the new ones will serve us better, especially should some major issues or problems arise and will make it easier as the diocese releases changes to the model.

## *WORSHIP*

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

I'd like to have us give a virtual round of applause to the altar guild who figured out how to set up the altar for zoom Christmas services. But especially I'd like to thank Pam, Kevin, Kyoko, Barbara Sager, Sue Miner, and Cyndi, for the music they recorded, shared, synchronized, and provided visual images. We are so blessed to have such a gifted music ministry!

### **Agape meal or A Sacred Meal for a Dispersed Community**

I have only received positive feedback on the addition of a Sacred Meal to our services. It is not the same as receiving the Holy Eucharist in person, but it does help fill the empty longing for it in our souls. A reminder that this is something you can and are encouraged to do at home. The diocesan website has a simple outline for a service to be used at home as well as a video where it is shared with children.

## *CHRISTIAN EDUCATION*

### **Sacred Ground**

Sacred Ground is a course with films and readings that will continue our work on becoming better aware of both historical and current issues of racism. This series will include some of the history and experiences of not only black Americans, but Latinx, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. The plan is to get this started in January and we need to know who is interested and what days and times might work best for you. If you are interested, you can call Maria Posey or Carolyn Stevenson.

## *OUTREACH*

### **Dave Hall Fund**

Our November outreach collection was dedicated to the Dave Hall Fund, specifically to provide gift cards for Christmas gifts for foster children. A whooping \$1445 was donated! Thank you – and the kids thank you!

The October outreach donations (\$150) went to the *New Hampshire Council of Churches*. The director, Jason Wells (an episcopal priest), has done an amazing job helping the voice of the church be heard speaking on behalf of those voices who often are not heard, as well as pulling churches of all denominations to work together for the common good. Our December donations will go to support *Episcopal Relief and Development* which provides emergency assistance as well as long term development support for those in need both here in the United States and in the world.

## ***CHURCH FINANCES***

### **Finance and Stewardship Reports**

The final number of pledges made this year was 43. Thank you for keeping up your pledge! If you still have pledge money for 2020, we'd greatly appreciate it if that could be sent in soon so the books can be closed for the year. After the new year we'll have boxes of pledge envelopes available in the foyer should you want one.

## ***CHURCH ADMINISTRATION***

**Parish Directories** – New corrected parish directories are in the foyer of the church.

