



October 2020 Newsletter

From the Rector

Fall is here and already many of the leaves on the trees surrounding the church are turning in color. It is a beautiful time of the year. Thank you, God! Despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, the ministries of St. David's have continued: AA (three meetings have resumed in the church), our ministry to foster children, support for Isaiah 58 and food pantries, adult Christian education, and of course, our worship.

Both zoom and our outdoor services have been well attended, and we even had a baptism of a young woman – Brianna. The vestry decided to continue the schedule of having a Zoom worship every week and an outdoor one every other week through October.

But now we are looking once more at possible options for indoor services. Both the sanctuary and the upper hall can accommodate around 15 (varies slightly with number in a household. (The lower hall is closer to 24.) Given those limitations, the vestry in conversation with a number of you has narrowed the options to two.

- 1) Have a weekly service of the Holy Eucharist with half the congregation attending the first and third weeks of the month and the second half the second and fourth weeks. Communion would be served with people bringing their own bread. This might be able to be also seen by those on Zoom, or we could have a separate zoom service as it is currently being done.
- 2) Have a weekly service of the Holy Eucharist with half attending in the sanctuary and the other half watching the service by zoom in the upper hall, but with communion being served "Roman style" (one at a time coming up for bread) and Carolyn bringing communion to those in the hall.

So we are asking your input again. Please email or contact Carolyn with your answer to the following questions. (If you are reading this on line and want to reply, do so only to the office and not to all.) Given the MUCH higher risk of gathering as a group indoors for a period of time, and knowing that masks and social distancing would be required at all times, no singing or coffee hour/socializing inside:

1. Would you *or* would you not be likely to attend an indoor service?
2. Would you be likely to attend *or* not if you had to worship in the upper hall watching the service on a screen (although the plan would be to rotate those in the upper hall with the sanctuary so everyone would worship in the sanctuary at least one a month).

3. If you would only attend a Zoom service, would you like to continue it as a separate service without seeing communion, *or* participate via zoom in the full service being held live in the sanctuary?

Thank you!

PS – As I mentioned in the last newsletter, if you have not been able to receive communion because it is not safe for you to be in a group gathering, and you really want communion, let me know and we'll work something out.

Peace and all good,
Carolyn

Be the Bridge

St. David's has embraced the desire to learn and to begin the work of racial reconciliation. In our largest adult education group ever, we have 24 people participating in the Be the Bridge course!

Dave Hall Fund

Birthday gifts continue to be provided to the children in one of the group foster homes. In addition to the thank you cards the kids have been sending, the director of the home recently sent us a letter.

Hike for Hope

Thanks you all for your generous donations to support Lazarus House Ministries and their work providing food, shelter, clothing, and other services to those in need in the greater Lawrence area. **We will also be donating our October outreach to Lazarus House.**

ChiPs

ChiPs stands for Children of Incarcerated Parents. For over 30 years, the diocese of NH has provided a Christmas party in the state prison enabling incarcerated parents to choose, wrap, and give gifts to their children. Parishes would provide the toys and books. Because of the pandemic, this will likely change and the Prisons Committee may be asking for financial donations instead of gifts. We'll keep you posted.

Stewardship Campaign

The stewardship pledge campaign theme this year will be ***Keeping Connected***. I think more than ever we realize just how important it is that we all keep connected with God and with each other. So as a part of our worship we'll be providing a brief opportunity for people to connect with each other by responding to a question.

Information and pledge cards will be mailed out soon. You can either drop off or mail in your pledge, or simply email the office (or Deb Ogin) your pledge information. You may also want to consider automatic bank payments. Your pledge will be especially important during 2021 since although the expenses continue, it is very likely that the building use income and any fund raising events will be minimal through the first half of the year.

Voting

Because of Covid, there has been an increased interest in voting by absentee ballot. Governor Sununu recently passed a bill that allows those who are concerned about covid to vote by absentee ballot.

- The first step is to complete an application for an absentee ballot. [Download the absentee ballot application here](#) or call and request it from your town clerk ([click here to look up your town clerk's phone number](#)).
- If you have not registered to vote, an application to register will also be sent when you request an application for an absentee ballot. NH now allows you to select 'Concern About Covid-19' as a valid reason to vote absentee. Counting of absentee ballots takes place on election day, after the polls close. Your secret ballot, as always, remains confidential.

Because more people may be doing this, it is recommended that you get and send in your ballot early as verses waiting till the last minute.