



September 2020 Newsletter

From the Rector

Summer is rapidly winding down, and St. David's has been wonderfully nimble with what seems like the constant changes of living in the midst of a pandemic.

At the end of June, Bishop Rob encouraged us not to start indoor services as of yet. So, in July we put into effect a schedule of outdoor services every other week at 9AM, while continuing offering a zoom service at 10:30. Both have been well attended. For the outdoor services, Kevin Smith has provided a critical amplification system so all can hear (as well as playing music Pam Chulada-Smith has recorded). We mark off a shaded area for seating. People arrive bringing their own face masks, chairs, and bread for communion (all of which is provided in case people cannot or don't have). Extra safety precautions have been made like social distancing, hand sanitizer, and no handing out of bulletins or passing the offering plate. Things have gone very smoothly, and I'd like to give a special shout out not only to Kevin but all of you who help with set up and take down.

While we've had 23-30 at the outdoor services, we have had around 23 at zoom on those same Sundays, and usually around 38 on the Sundays when there is only a zoom service. The zoom only Sundays provide a time when most of us can gather as a whole group, and sometimes get into lively discussions during our virtual coffee hour.

The vestry has decided to continue this schedule through September. The Bishop will be returning from vacation towards the end of August and I'm sure there will be a lot of discussion about if and how to do indoor in-person services as the weather gets colder.

1. In the meantime, 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 will** put on our creative thinking caps and come up a way to provide it to you.

Thank you from my heart for your continued faithfulness, attending worship one way or the other, for your pledges, and your prayers!

Yours in Christ,
Carolyn

Craft Fair

A reminder that the fall craft fair was cancelled. But what you may not know is that someone made an amazingly generous donation of \$10,000 to make up for the lost income. Wow – God is good!

Worship announcements:

- Outdoor services will be held, weather permitting, at 9AM, August 30, September 13 (a baptism has been scheduled), and August 27. Zoom services are every Sunday at 10:30.
- We've had a request to provide someone who is fluent in sign language for our services. If you know a person with that skill who might be interested in helping us out, please let Carolyn know.
- Kevin and Pam have been working to form a "virtual choir" where each choir member records themselves singing a piece, and the pieces then being synchronized. We'll be hearing some of their music now and then as they learn how to do this. It's fun! Want to join – contact Pam at pamela.chuladasmith@gmail.com.

Be the Bridge

One of the missions of the Church is to continue Jesus' work of healing and reconciliation. This includes racial reconciliation. Our instinct is to jump into the work, maybe even find a quick and easy solution. But for those of us who are white, it is important to engage in some self-reflection and learning, so that when we go to our brothers and sisters to reconcile, we will come from a healthy and truthful place, so real and sustainable change can happen.

There is a lot of material out there – movies to see and books to read and discuss. And we might do a number of different things. But a way to get started is a short 4-5 week curriculum entitled: Build the Bridge 101: Foundational Principles every white bridge-builder needs to understand. It helps us first think about ourselves: what does it mean to develop a white identity? What do people mean by "white privilege"? Why do we often find ourselves respond when the topic of racism comes up feeling threatened, angry, or guilty? How do we recognize white supremacy? And what are some concrete tips in having conversations with people of color?

Be the Bridge 101 is a \$10 curriculum meant to be downloaded from your computer so you can access the links and short videos. If you don't have a computer, I can see if printed materials can be shared with a \$10 donation.

Want to participate? Let Carolyn know and we'll come up with the best day and time for a group.

Dave Hall Fund

Throughout the summer we have continued to provide birthday gifts for foster children in a group home. Additionally, the liaison with the home manager became aware of a critical need for some assistance in providing back to school clothing. The committee (and vestry) approved a \$600 donation for this purchase.

Phone Tree

When the Stay-at-home order was issued by the governor, St. David's set up a phone tree. Those who wanted a weekly phone call were assigned to have someone call to check-in and offer prayer and needed support. While many calls were made, the system broke down in a number of cases. So you if you wanted a call and didn't receive one, we sincerely apologize!

But now were in a new stage in the pandemic. If you would like to continue or start receiving a regular call, contact Barbara Sager, and she make sure you get called. Barbara's number is 617-283-6571.

Isaiah 58 Distribution Center

David Yaska put out a request for volunteers to sort surplus clothing on September 8 and or 9. If you are interested, contact Carolyn. Volunteers will wear masks and be distanced.

Property

Bob McGilvary and Bob Habeeb built and painted shelves, and reorganized the supply closet in the upper hall, which had been dangerous to open! They did a great job. Thanks guys!

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. With that one application you will receive absentee ballots for both the primary (9/8) and general election (11/3). 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.