



## September 2021 Newsletter

### *FROM THE RECTOR*

With September approaching, we are quickly moving into full gear in preparation for our largest fund-raiser for the year – our annual fall craft fair September 18. A decision was made in early spring for this event to be one day instead of two. That has not deterred crafters. It appears we will have close to the same number as in previous years. As always, the craft fair is an “all hands on deck” event!

- There are sign-up sheets for everything in the upper hall: set-up Friday night 5-7 and Saturday morning 6AM – 8:30 AM, take down 4PM -6PM, volunteers to be at the cookie walk and raffle booth, and folks available to provide breaks for crafters and staff.
- There are suggestions for all kinds of raffle baskets or you can make up your own. Please have them brought to the church ideally by the end of labor day and the 12<sup>th</sup> at the latest.
- Bake all kinds of cookies! Let us know if you need freezer space.
- Keep on selling raffle tickets. Thanks to you all, we have great prizes! There are plenty more available, so when you bring in your money and stubs, feel free to pick up more.
- Since Salem Fest will NOT be happening, it is critical that we get the word out as much as possible – post on your Facebook page, make a copy of a flyer and tape it inside a car window, post in public areas. Signs are available in the upper hall and can be posted on private property at any time. Public property should wait till two weeks prior the event. When you pick up signs, please note on the sheet where you are putting them and please pick them up the day after the event and return them. (We just spend hundred’s of dollars on new signs!)
- Finally, Joanne Theriault and Lana Younker have done a fantastic job corresponding with crafters and going through the check off list each month to make sure the different tasks are being taken care of. They will be stepping down after this year, so we need a couple of people to step in! (Know that both Lana and Joanne will do all they can to guide you and help you learn the ropes.) So please let us know if you would be willing to give this position a try!

The craft fair is a great event! It is fun and provides an opportunity for the members of St. David's to work together on a common project. It is a form of evangelism in that we express a spirit of Christian hospitality. Every year, new crafters are blown away by our welcome and assistance. And the craft fair raises needed money to support the life and ministry of St. David's – especially this year as we continue to deal with the limitations of Covid.

So thank you so much for all that you are already doing and will do!  
Blessings,  
Carolyn

### *WORSHIP*

It has been wonderful having everyone able to worship together whether in-person or on zoom! We've been steadily making improvements to our zoom services (despite the usual glitches), so prior the service the zoom folks can visit with each other, and afterwards, people can come up to the screen and visit with those on zoom. (We even had the zoom folks join us last week at our craft fair meeting!) We continue to take whatever measures we can to keep everyone safe. Even though we've finished our series from the Gospel of John on the Bread of Life, we may continue to have homemade communion bread for a while. It is easy to make, so if you'd like to give it a try, Carolyn or Cyndi can give you the recipe.

### *CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION*

Bishop Rob Hirschfield will be visiting St. David's on Sunday, October 17. Right now we have six people who want to be confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church. If anyone else is interested, let Carolyn know asap since she'll be setting up some preparation meetings in September.

### *OUTREACH*

**Lancaster Elementary School** – We had a tremendous response to Lancaster schools request for backpacks and school supplies. Lana, George, and Carolyn hauled everything over and joked with the new principal about how we had enough for the district! Because of that response, we are going to use the monetary donations to purchase gift cards for guidance counselors to use to help any children who may come in who need clothing, shoes, or some other needed supplies.

**Dave Hall Fund** – We had a birthday for a foster child in August – Elijah, 10 years old in a group home. We purchased his wish gift - a ukulele!

**Isaiah 58 Ministries** – Isaiah 58 will be having its annual Charity Benefit on Sunday, September 26 at Jamison's Restaurant in Hampstead from 4-7PM. There will be food, music, speakers, raffles, and a silent auction, and plenty of time to mingle. Tickets are \$58 each, and they are looking for event sponsorships. A flyer with information is on the bulletin board in the upper hall and/or you can speak with Carolyn Stevenson. Isaiah 58 provides housing and housing

assistance, case management, a free clothing and furniture distribution center, and helps out as best they can the impoverished living in the greater Salem area.

**Lazarus House** – We received the following handwritten note from Lazarus House for our \$900+ donation in May. “Thank you very much for being a part of Lazarus House extended family, as one of our treasured faith partners. We want to be certain you know that we could not do what we do for our brothers and sisters in Christ without your goodness, support, and prayer. You have a great impact in the lives of our cherished guests and we are grateful. We hope to connect in person in the fall! In gratitude, Maray and Ellen.”

### *PROPERTY*

Bob Habeeb gave the back and the side of the church a much needed power-wash, and he and Bob McGilvary will be tightening down some boards and re-staining the deck and stairs. Bob McGilvary, in addition to taking care of our lawns, makes efforts to continue to spruce up the appearance and upkeep of our campus. Richard Boucher has been looking into our floodlights which haven't been working properly. Barbara Klenner attended a diocesan meeting learning about and following up on potential liability issues.

### *VESTRY*

The vestry had a “mini-retreat” at Barbara Sager’s home in August. There was a brief Bible Study and reflection and a chance to get to know each other better. The vestry talked about strength’s and areas to pay attention to. The strengths were how this congregation stuck together through Covid, and making (sometimes) rapid adaptations to all the changes and developing the technology and skill to enable people who cannot come in person to worship with the in-person congregation via zoom. The primary concerns were the loss of the youth group due to the pandemic lock-down, and encouraging and supporting families and younger adults in their spiritual life.

Financially, we entered the pandemic with a healthy financial state and with a dedicated congregation. Many AA groups continued to support St. David’s even when they could not use the building. We’ll know soon enough how we do with the craft fair. What is uncertain (again!) are the fund-raising community dinners we had planned this fall.

### *DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS*

Bishop Rob is proposing, for the first time in many years, a diocesan capital campaign to raise money, not for “bricks and mortar”, but to develop clergy and lay leaders, and evolving, robust worship communities. Money would be used to hire and train young clergy in curate positions, support missional communities offering alternative forms of worship (current examples: Church of the Woods, Digital Mission, Dinner Church in Franklin, etc.), The School for Ministry training leaders for smaller congregations, and funds to help churches who cannot support full-time clergy, but should be able to within a couple of years.

The campaign will start out with a discernment period so congregations can learn in detail about the proposals and give feedback. Then there will be a feasibility study, where people can fill out surveys to help the diocese determine whether there is sufficient support for the campaign to move forward.

More information will be coming out soon and we'll keep you posted. If you are interested in helping by being a contact person for St. David's and facilitate a congregational discernment discussion, let Carolyn know.

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