



“English Tea”

June 2023 Newsletter

Summer is here! The world is green and it's getting a lot warmer! People are warming up to St. David's too! We've been having a fair number of visitors and so I thought it might be helpful to remind each other what it looks like to make people feel welcome.

- When someone new comes, sit beside them so that if it looks like they are not sure what is going on or what to do, you can assist them.
- Leave some seats open in the back of the church and in the back rows of the church. If you are new to a church, you want to sit towards the back to see what is being done and how. If you see visitors coming in late and looking for seats, offer them yours and move to the front!
- Keep up the good work in welcoming people afterwards. But then also be sure not only to invite them to coffee hour, but go sit with them and make introductions. Here again, keep an eye out for anyone who might be looking where to sit during coffee hour. Call them over. Give them your chair and set up another for yourself.
- Invite people to sign the guestbook, if they'd like to do so. Carolyn can send them a “thank you for coming” note that week. Also there are informational brochures about St. David's on the guestbook stand.
- Wear your name tags at coffee hour.
- Remember, just because someone has attended a few times doesn't mean that they know everyone or what is going on!
- We're working on making church more kid and parent friendly. We'll be talking about this at our parish meeting the vestry will be facilitating at the end of the month, but you may have noticed that a rug for small children to sit on and crawl around has been placed in the back of the church with quiet toys and books. A kid's table with coloring supplies and handouts has also been set up in the room off of the sanctuary.

Remember our mission: “Loving God, WELCOMING ALL, Serving others”

Thank you!

Carolyn

EVENTS

“English Tea” – close to forty women attended the afternoon tea organized by Liz McGilvary. Lots of good food and good tea and everyone expressed that they had a good time. Thanks to Liz and all those who helped make this event happen!

Barn Sale this coming Saturday, June 3, 8 AM to 2 PM – front parking lot

One of our church fund and fun-raisers each year is the “Barn Sale” (yes the building next to the church was once one of 5 barns on the farm property). Still lots of room in the barn for items that you think would sell and bring in some income for the church. We set up tables on Friday evening from 5-7 PM and haul all the items out of the barn and distribute them to the various sale areas. Then come on in early since some people arrive before 8 to start buying stuff. We continue to sort and sell as the day goes on and usually start to dispose of unsold items around 1 and then clean up everything from 2-3. Have some fun and help out the church!

Craft Fair Meeting, Sunday June 4 after coffee hour. Short meeting for updates, things to be done, and making sure all bases are covered as Fair preparations begin to gear up.

Ham and Bean Supper – Saturday, June 24, serving from 5PM to 7PM, lower hall.

Flyers and tickets are now available for our New England Ham and Bean supper. On the menu is ham, homemade baked beans, hot dogs, coleslaw, potato salad, and dessert. (We still need some volunteers to cook up a big pot of kidney beans!) Tickets are \$10 and available from Bob McGilvary. If you or others you’d like to attend would find it difficult to pay for the dinner, talk to Carolyn – we don’t want anyone to be left out!

As we get closer, we’ll be looking for volunteers to help with food and serving.

Special parish meeting on Kids in Church and Church for Kids – Sunday, June 25 after coffee hour. Since Easter we’ve had an unprecedented number of baptisms and families inquiring about children and the church. So we dedicated our annual vestry retreat in May to discuss this topic. The vestry would like to share with everyone what they learned and talked about and receive the thoughts, feedback, and ideas of the congregation as a whole. Please plan to attend!

Mass on the Grass and Parish Picnic – Sunday, July 9; Hold the date, details to follow!

One Sunday each year in early summer we have an outdoor worship service followed by a parish picnic. Phil and Georgette again have offered the use of their home which is located on Arlington Pond in Salem. So in addition to the service and great food, people can take a dip in the water and perhaps have a ride on their pontoon boat. Great day for relaxation, fun, and fellowship together.

Baptisms – Two more coming up! Caleb Baldassari on June 25 and Isabella Milone on July 2.

OUTREACH

Isaiah 58 - \$ was collected during the month of April. Isaiah 58 ministries is one of our “partners in mission” since St. David’s has a history of working on behalf of the homeless and home insecure, and the housing shortage being a crisis in our area. Know that Isaiah 58 is also having its annual charity benefit on October 5. Event sponsors are needed as well as quality items for their silent auction. Carolyn has flyers and ticket order forms.

The June outreach collection will go to the **United Thank Offering**. UTO is a mission of the Episcopal Church that offers grants to innovative mission outreach and projects. Each year has a different focus. The focus for 2023 is on preventing incarceration, providing programs in prison, and post-release re-integration into the community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – summers series

The Difficult Words of Jesus by Dr. Amy Jill Levine - July and August, day and time TBD
“Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God’s word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil’s children (John 8:44). In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.”

Since this series involves both reading a book and watching a DVD, we will meet in-person at the church. A sign-up sheet will soon be put on the foyer table for possible days and times. The book is available from Amazon (kindle \$10, paperback \$12.20 (Carolyn can order for you.)

CRAFT FAIR – Saturday Sept. 16, 9AM – 4PM

Applications from crafters continue to come in. But we have plenty of room and want to have a full house! Usually around 30-50% of crafters return, so we always need to extend the invite for new people to come. As the weather warms and more craft events are held, consider attending some of these fairs to collect the business cards of crafters whom you think would be a good fit for our fair and/or speak with them about ours. Thanks!

There will be a brief Craft Fair Meeting after coffee hour on June 4.

PROPERTY

- Thank you to all who helped with our spring cleaning!
- New electrical outlets were installed in the small coffee room to accommodate the appliances needed for the craft fair (and to keep the circuits from blowing!)
- A doorbell and outside light were installed by the front porch door of the rectory.

- The vestry has approved switching to another provider of heating oil to decrease costs.
- Bids for a handicap ramp are being explored.

Want to help out a parishioner? Anita Hill could use some help with yardwork. If you know a high schooler or someone who could help, you can contact her directly or let Carolyn know.

RECTOR'S VACATION

Carolyn will be on vacation Friday June 16 – Saturday July 1. Miriam Acevedo will be leading the services on Sunday and will be available for emergency pastoral care. You can contact her directly (603-489-3731) or leave a message on the office machine (603-893-0342) which will be checked each day. Michele Quinn will be preaching on the 18th and Miriam on the 25th. We are so blessed to have their help and support!

A great prayer: (p461 in the Book of Common Prayer adapted, "In the Morning")

This is another day, dear Jesus. We know not what it will bring forth, but make us ready, O Lord, for whatever it may be. If we are to stand up, help us to stand bravely. If we are to sit still, help us do it quietly. If we are to lie low, help us do it patiently. If we find ourselves overwhelmed by many tasks and burdens, help us hear your still yet strong voice guiding us. And if we are to do nothing, let us do it gallantly. Remind us that we are in you and you are in and among us and that, by your Holy Spirit, you continually draw us to the Source and the heart of the Holy Trinity, in whom we live and have our being. AMEN.