



February 2024 Newsletter

ANNUAL MEETING

We had our annual parish meeting on January 28th . The snow held off so we had a nice group attend both in person and on zoom. We were both amazed and grateful when Deb Ogin, our treasurer explained how we went from an almost 15 thousand dollar expected deficit for our 2023 budget to slightly positive. A lot of it was due to your faithful pledges and to the diocese who gave us several grants to help us cope with the very high fuel costs early in the year. There is no question our diocese supports the work of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire not only as a whole, but each and every parish.

We expressed our gratitude for all the work so many of you have done in so many ways over the course of the past year. I also gave thanks in particular for Barbara Klenner as she finished her five year term as Jr. Warden and Dianna Chamberlain completing her three year term serving on the vestry. During the meeting some new people were elected and the warden positions shuffled around. Barbara Sager is now our Sr. Warden and Richard Boucher is Jr. Warden. Maria Posey was elected to the vestry and also renewed a two year term as a delegate representing St. David's at the diocesan level. Additionally, Michele Quinn offered to serve as our Safe Church Officer – a position that has been held many years by Elaine Clark.

Yes we do have a very tight budget. But we also have a congregation that is generous, works hard, and deeply loves God and each other. We can look forward to this upcoming year with a sense of joy, gratitude, and anticipation as to where God will lead us next.

JUST FOR FUN

Winter Doldrums Pot-Luck Supper and Yankee Swap – Many years ago a blizzard forced the cancellation of a parish Yankee swap which was rescheduled in February. Everyone decided that this fun event was perfect to break up what can feel like a long dark winter. This year it will be on February 17 at 6PM in the lower hall. Bring a dish to share, and if you want to participate in the Yankee Swap, bring a wrapped gift of some sort. It can be anything – crazy, cheap, edible, nice, funny, sometimes “re-gifted” from a previous year. Almost every time there are one or

two gifts that everyone wants that get swapped back and forth over and over again. So come and join the fun for a great night of good food and laughter!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Faith Formation

Genesis – Peter Miscal (Michele Quinn’s husband) invited members of St. David’s to join others in a zoom class studying the book of Genesis. Peter is a professor of Hebrew and the Hebrew Scriptures. The response had been great with the class already having reached capacity enrollment.

In the spring, we are considering offering a book discussion group and perhaps some speakers to help us gain a better understanding of the years of conflict between Palestinians and Israelis as we continue to pray for a peace that is not just a cessation of warfare, but the Shalom of God – the well-being of all.

Children’s Faith Formation

Kid’s Day! Hold the date and spread the word that there will be another “Kid’s Day” Saturday March 23 from 9:30-2:00 for children ages 3-10. The theme for this day will be the events of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter). In addition to food, stories, and fun, the kids will be making processional crosses, dyeing eggs, and baking “empty tomb cookies”!

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. There will be two services with the imposition of ashes at noon and at 7PM.

Choir – Want to join the choir in providing music for Easter? Talk to Pam.

Baptism – Kevin Ma will be baptized on Sunday February 11. After a short homily on my part, Kevin will share a little about a powerful spiritual experience he had which played a role in his decision to become a follower of Jesus.

OUTREACH

December Outreach – Episcopal Relief and Development: \$660 was donated. Thank you!

January Outreach – Family Promise: People have been making donations to support this needed program providing transitional housing and case management for homeless families with children. We’ll let you know what was collected in the next newsletter

February Outreach – 68 Hours of Hunger: The Salem school food pantry began a number of years ago providing low income children eligible for free school meals with a backpack of food to make sure they had something to eat over the course of the weekend. But it has greatly expanded over the years especially during Covid. The pantry not only provides food for needy families, but there are also always requests for toiletries, paper towels, cleaning products, toilet paper, and food containers. So when you go shopping this month, pick up some items and drop them off in the foyer. Financial donations will also be accepted.

SAFE CHURCH

We want to do all that we can to try to make St. David's a safe place for children. There is a training to help people understand why this is needed and how we can do it. Even if you've had the training before, it is an eye-opener. The training is required by all vestry, clergy, paid staff, and those working with children. Since we want to build up a kids program, we'll need safe church certified volunteers. A session of this training will be held Monday February 19th at 6:30, we'll be watching two training videos and reviewing diocesan safe church policy guidelines. Please plan on attending!

2024 Officers and Vestry

Barbara Sager – Sr. Warden, 617-283-6571
Richard Boucher – Jr. Warden, 978-204-3115
Deb Ogin – Treasurer, 603-560-0806
Irene Curtin – Clerk, 617-733-2360
Maria Posey – Vestry, 603-275-2278
Brandon Sousa – Vestry, 603-401-8892
Dick Dean – Vestry, 978-943-3092
Miriam Acevedo – Vestry, 603-489-3731