



January 2025 Newsletter

Merry Christmas everyone! Yes it is still Christmas and will be till the Feast of the Epiphany (on January 6, but we'll be celebrating on Sunday January 5) when the wise ones finally find Jesus and meet the Holy Family. If you haven't noticed, they have been slowly making their way around the sanctuary towards the manger. This Sunday December 29 at 9:30 we'll have a chance to sing more of those favorite Christmas hymns when we do Lessons and Carols. So keep those Christmas trees and decorations up, because although everyone else is taking them down, we in the church are just starting to celebrate!

And for those who have found this time of year to be difficult due to feeling the loss of a loved one, health issues, or stress and tensions between family members, remember that Christmas is all about God, out of love, becoming incarnate among us, to share our joys, struggles, pain, and peace. John's gospel declares that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us", and as the light of God, brings light into whatever darknesses we may find ourselves in. You are not alone. And may we, with the presence of the incarnate God within and among us, be there for each other and for any suffering or in need.

Speaking of needs, the photo above was one taken at the "Wrapping Party" for the Isaiah 58 clients with children. We provided the space (and some help – thanks Donna!) and the Dario Foundation provided gifts for all the parents and kids, lots of food, and Santa even came to help. All in memory of Barbara Sager who must have been smiling!

Lots of things will be happening in the next couple of months – so read on!

And have a Happy New Year too!

OUTREACH

Family Promise – Our January outreach financial donations will be directed towards Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire which provides food, transitional housing, and case management to 32 homeless families with children from Nashua and the greater Salem area. We housed families for a while here at St. David's years ago through this organization. They do great work!

HAPPENINGS

Saints Class and Lent Madness – A number of people have expressed interest in learning about the Saints of the Episcopal Church. How do you get officially recognized in our tradition? Who are some of them? This will be an eight week series. The plan is to meet after having some refreshments on Sunday morning starting January 12. A sign-up sheet is on the foyer table to give us a sense of how many plan to attend. And what is Lent Madness?? You'll learn and hear about it more, but it is a tournament competition among 32 Saints to win the "Golden Halo". Those playing the game across the country vote for their favorite saints who move forward using a bracket system like the "March Madness" basketball competition. No cost and both learning and fun!

Zoom Bible study on the Scroll of Isaiah – Back by popular demand, Peter Miscall once again will be offering a zoom class, this time on Isaiah (one of his favorites). Tentatively it will be held on Wednesdays at 6PM beginning January 15. Peter was a professor teaching both Hebrew and the Hebrew scriptures. If you are interested let Michele Quinn know at revquinn@me.com

"In this class we will consider the story attributed to Isaiah as a scroll not as a modern book. In the first class I will say more about this brief description, for example, why "the scroll" of Isaiah and not "the book"? This will allow us to read Isaiah through its poetry and drama and not through the lens of history. I see poetry as the vivid language and rich imagery that runs through the scrolling; and drama is the many and diverse scenes and stories depicted by the author. We will look at passages from different parts of the scroll and not read Isaiah straight through from the first to the last chapter. My main goal is for you to feel free to read Isaiah in your own ways."

Book Group – The next monthly book discussion group will be held Thursday January 23 at 10 am in the small coffee room. The book of the month is: *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Annual Parish Meeting – On Sunday January 26, we'll be having our annual parish meeting. It begins with worship as usual. Then we'll take a break for "a glorified breakfast" where we'll be inviting people to bring in pastries and coffee cake, juice, breakfast casseroles and fruit. Then we'll reconvene in the sanctuary for the business meeting during which the 2025 budget will be reviewed, the election of people to leadership positions, and an opportunity to discuss any parish issues. This year we have a number of positions open: 3 officer positions which are 1 year terms renewed each year to no more

than 5 consecutive years: *Senior Warden, Clerk, and Treasurer*. There also an opening for a *vestry* person who serves a three year term. Job descriptions are on the shelf in the foyer. These are all important positions. If you talk with any who are currently serving or have done so in the past, they will tell you how they have found serving the church in this way to be informational and meaningful. Job descriptions are posted in the upper hall. Feel free to ask questions to those who have served in those positions, pray about them, and let Carolyn or a vestry member know if you might be interested. If more than one person is interested, we have an election.

Annual meeting reports – If chairs of the various committees could email to Carolyn your 2024 report the third week in January, it will help her get the report together and printed in time for the meeting. Thanks!

In-kind Donations – Deb Ogin, our treasurer is currently working on wrapping up 2024 for the annual meeting. It was suggested that we also keep track of “in-kind” donations. The people of St. David’s have always been a group that supports events, provides services, and buys things for the church as a freely given donation. We are blessed with everyone’s generosity! But we’d like to both have a way of acknowledging all that has been given as well as having a better sense of the actual costs of the ministries and operations of the church. Deb has asked that if you made an in-kind donation for 2024, please fill out a form. The giver can be anonymous. Thank you!

Kids Day - Valentine’s stories and Crafts

Saturday, February 8th 9:30am - 2:30pm

We will look at Valentine’s Day - the saint, the customs and most importantly - the Bible stories that tell us why this holiday is so important. We will learn about the 10 commandments (known in Godly Play as The Ten Best Ways to Live) and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Snacks, lunch, games, a new story and..... creating old fashioned Valentine cards will round out the day. *Please RSVP to Michele Quinn revquinn@me.com by February 1st!*

