



Craft Fair 2025

October 2025 Newsletter

It has been a great month! The weather has been beautiful, the fall colors are coming out, the fair was a huge success, the food pantry baskets fill up as soon as they are emptied and we are so blessed to have new people becoming a part of our Christian community here in Salem. God is good – all the time!

With the church growing and new people stepping up to the plate to help out in all kinds of ways, the vestry and stewardship committee have thought that a great theme for our annual four-week stewardship campaign this year will be “Building God’s Living Church”. It will be fun. We’ll be having three after church discussions on Oct. 26, November 7, and November 14. At our “kick off” on Oct. 26 there will be an “Old-comers/ New-comers Brunch” where those who were here when the church was founded and those who just started to come and everyone else in between can share food and stories and get to know each other. The following Sunday, we’ll take a look at who and where we are at now – what is going well, what’s percolating, where are our growing edges. Then on Nov. 7 we’ll share dreams of our future. The final Sunday we’ll celebrate with some cake (and if people want to talk more, we will)!

So mark down those dates and plan if at all possible, to attend!

I am so blessed to be your priest and pastor – thank you!
Carolyn

OUTREACH

ChIPs (Children of Incarcerated Persons)

Every October the parishes of the diocese of New Hampshire collect books and toys so that parents serving time in prison can give Christmas gifts to their children. These kids are innocent victims of crime. This program eases the pain of both the child and parent and provides an opportunity to maintain their bond and share a time of joy together. Each child (infants to teens) will receive both a toy and a book. But before you go shopping, there are a number of restrictions as to gifts:

Gifts should be about \$25 but not exceed \$25 (original retail value).

If you purchase a gift that requires batteries, please purchase those as well and attach them to the gift.

Consider buying a gift that would be appropriate for both boys and girls such as balls or board games.

Don't forget the older children. It is often easier to buy gifts for younger children. There is always a shortage of gifts for older children. (Note from Carolyn – Not sure what to buy? Sometimes I've gone on line googling things like "best gifts for teens" or education" gifts for children.")

No used items, homemade items, or gift cards. **The following items are NOT acceptable:** **clothing**, jewelry, balloons, crayons, play dough, glue, bubbles, make up, long sticks, knitting needles, crochet hooks, **paint brushes**, glass items, sharp tools, or toy weapons of any kind.

There will be a Christmas tree in the back of our sanctuary with some ornaments with suggested items. Put your purchased gifts and books and put them unwrapped and unopened under the tree. **Diocesan Convention is early this year! *The gifts will be brought to Diocesan Convention on Saturday October 26 – so your gifts must be at the church no later than Thursday October 30.***

Wrappers (as in wrapping gifts!)

The coordinator of the ChIPs program has asked if the members of St. David's would be willing to go again this year to the NH State Men's prison in Concord one evening to wrap the ChIPs books and toys (usually late November/early December). The men participating in the program come in, chose the gifts they want to give to their kids, and the volunteers wrap them on their behalf. Last year everyone found it to be meaningful. So let's get a group to go again! The prison requires information for background checks and other signed releases. Later this month packets with all the forms you need to sign will be in the foyer.

Food Pantry Donations

The ministry of helping to provide food for the folks in Salem has taken off! Laura Walta offered to head up the program and is now keeping us all updated as to the needed items at the Bread of Life Pantry and has been hauling a load of donations every week. Bob McGilvary brought in a large pick-up truck full of items that another pantry didn't need. Laura took about a third of them to the Lutheran Church and Denise and Micki brought the rest in their truck to Lazarus House in Lawrence. Comments from those who manage the pantries were: "Oh my God, I am so grateful"; "Oh my God, I knew you wouldn't fail me. I was thrilled"; "You made my day! This is wonderful!" Keep up the good work all!

HAPPENINGS



Blessing of Animals – Saturday October 4 at 4:30 PM

Each year we celebrate St. Francis by inviting everyone to bring their pets to church for a blessing. But we also have a Blessing of Animals. This year we will bless animals on Saturday October 4, which is St. Francis Day, in front of the church. This is an excellent opportunity to invite people to begin to experience St. David's. So, invite your friends and neighbors who have pets of any kind! Can't bring your pet? Bring a photo! (Stuffed animals also more than welcome!) We have small "Bless My Pet" medallions that can be hung on a pet's collar – first come first serve.

Adult Education – "Saving Jesus, redux"

Saving Jesus is a 12-week DVD and discussion series. Some of the topics are: Who was Jesus? What can we know about Jesus and how? What was the world into which Jesus was born like? Jesus' birth as the Incarnation. What were the teachings of Jesus? What is the Kingdom of God like? Jesus' ministry of compassion, and more. The program is educational and chances are it will challenge some of your understandings of Jesus. Sure to produce some lively discussions! *The series will be held on Wednesdays at 7PM in the small coffee room beginning Wednesday Oct. 1 and will end Dec. 17.*

Book Group

The fourth Thursday of each month is a book discussion group to which all are welcome to attend. This month it will be Thursday October 23 at 10AM in the small coffee room. The book to be discussed will be: The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King.

Interested in what is coming up after that?

<u>December 4</u>	How We Learn To be Brave by Mariann Edgar Budde
<u>January 22</u>	The Cat God Sent by Jim Krausàè
<u>February 26</u>	Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

Craft Fair

What a wonderful Craft Fair we had this year! The weather was perfect. There was a steady flow of foot traffic. The amount and variety of cookies and food at the café was just right. And we had an amazing raffle with over 100 gifts – many of them really, really nice. And, as always, the crafters raved about the cheerful hospitality and help all of the volunteers provided them. Great job! Thanks to all of you who made this possible (which is literally all of you) and a shout out to Marion Amber who took applications, screened, communicated, and supported crafters from January through the fair itself!

Marion (God bless her) is willing to continue to serve as Crafter Liaison. However, we must have someone willing to help her out as a craft fair coordinator. This job is simply keeping

an eye out for the big picture – checking in with those heading up the different areas, supporting Marion, making sure other tasks that don't fall under the areas of raffle, café, or cookies are being taken care of, and welcoming crafters when they come to set up on fair day. Please speak with Carolyn if you might be willing to do this. Thanks!

COFFEE HOUR REFRESHMENTS

Thanks to all of you who provide some refreshments after church. This is an important ministry of hospitality that makes people feel welcome and brings us all together. But I'd like to offer a shout out to Dianna Chamberlain who is the one who comes in early to make coffee every Sunday, and to those who regularly stay afterwards who clean things up (often Donna Holahan, Georgette Smith, and Lana Younker – and others too!)

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

It has been wonderful to have fresh flowers in the church each Sunday. There is an on-going sign-up sheet in the front hallway. Pick a date and write your name and what they are for.... Birthday, anniversary, grateful, memory etc. Then the fun part! Either gather two bouquets from your garden or purchase two from the grocery store. No need to be fancy – Jesus found the lilies of the field to be awesome! There will be available two plain glass vases to put them in - 3 sizes to choose from.

STEWARDSHIP – Building God's Living Church

The campaign this year will begin on Oct. 26 and conclude on November 16. During this time, we ask people to make a pledge to support St. David's in 2026. But as you read in my note above, we'll be primarily focusing on where we've been, who we are, and who we want to be. Later in the month you'll receive a more detailed letter, a brochure about pledging, and a pledge card. It is your prayers, faith, work, and generosity that makes St. David's possible. Let's keep it going!

PROPERTY

- George Ogin repaired the stairs leading to the deck
- The closet doors in Cyndi's Place were replaced and painted
- The Property Committee is looking at the costs and bids to replace the roof above the upper hall

Diocesan Convention

Convention this year will be on Saturday November 1 in Whitefield (way up north by Littleton). Our delegates representing St. David's are: Carla Boucher, Maria Posey, and Paula Klenner. There will be four resolutions – the diocesan budget (we have a slight surplus this year!); one updating the wording of a few diocesan canons; and two churches requesting to change their status from parish to mission. Whereas parish rectors and vestries exercise a fair amount of authority overseeing their churches, missions are under more direct leadership from the bishop. (In our diocese there is also a third category called

“Gospel Oriented Communities” that have less formal structure with more flexibility, giving them the ability to change, adapt to the needs of their surrounding communities, and try out new ways of being church.

SCRIP

Scrip is a program where people can order through the church a wide variety of gift cards from stores and restaurants. They can be used for everyday purchases or to give as gifts for the holidays. You write a check made out to St. David’s for the full value of the gift cards and submit that along with your order sheet. You usually get your cards within a couple of weeks. The church also benefits, getting anywhere from 3-10% of the value of your gift card. The vestry decides how to best use the funds from the scrip program – sometimes paying for a special project, an outreach effort, or for operational costs. Order forms are in the foyer and will be collected for submission on October 26 and November 30

TRANSITIONS: Welcome Ruthie Gorman, Kathy Norman, Linda Petterufi, Peighton Tapley, and Grace Pelecinoga! And on Sunday Oct.26 we’ll baptize Mason Milone into God’s Church!

2025 Officers and Vestry

Elaine Clark – Sr. Warden, 603-898-7576
Richard Boucher – Jr. Warden, 978-204-3115
George Ogin – Treasurer, 603-560-0805
Laura Campbell – Clerk, 603-425-3944
Maria Posey – Vestry, 603-275-2278
Brandon Sousa – Vestry, 603-401-8892
Braden Golas – Vestry, 603-362-7381
Miriam Acevedo – Vestry, 603-489-3731
Church phone: 603-893-0342
Web site: stdavidsalemnh.org



Food donations for one week and ChiPs gifts (previous year)