



## Late April into May 2026 Newsletter

Alleluia Christ is risen! Although for most people the Easter candy is long gone and most of the white lilies that so beautifully decorated the church (thanks to your generous donations) have been taken home, it is still the season of Easter. It goes for fifty days to Pentecost on May 24 – so longer than Lent!

The world at times feels like it is going mad, and so many are dealing with illness and loss. So I'm so grateful for the season of Easter with its message of God's power to bring hope out of despair, bring people together to work for the common good, and to bring life out death. So during this season, make it a practice each day to see kindness, beauty, forgiveness, and awe (look again at the amazing photos of the earth from the Artemis). I know I have seen God's life-giving work in and among you all at St. David's! Just some examples off the top of my head:

The beauty of the flowers in our church gardens.

The vestry having honest, open, and fruitful discussions at our retreat.

Reconciliation and forgiveness between members.

People welcoming visitors and providing hospitality during coffee hour and cleaning up afterwards.

The church campus being used for life-giving meetings and events like AA and the Earth Day event.

A number of people signing up for the new class to increase their learning and deepen their walk with God.

And so much more!!

Peace and all good,

Carolyn

### *OUTREACH*

#### **April Collection - Isaiah58 NH**

We still have another week to accept donations to support this vital ministry to the homeless and home insecure in our community. Isaiah 58 is in the process of obtaining

another apartment in which a homeless family can be housed. The only way this kind of work can be done is through your donations. The agency also provides free clothing and food at its distribution center on North Broadway, as well as gas and food gift cards for the folks living out of their cars. It has been a rough time for many of them who had been parking and living at the Exit 1 rest area (some for years). They were all told they had to vacated the site this past March and many are still scrambling to find a place where they can park. Thank you for all your help!

### **Earth Day – an event this Saturday!**

We are committed to love and care for not just people, but the creation as well! This Saturday, April 25, a non-profit group called 350NH will be holding an earth day event at St. David's in the front parking lot from 1-3 PM. Featured will be an electric car display and a community trash pick-up. Stop on by!

### **Bread of Life Food Pantry**

The director of the pantry at the Lutheran church gave Laura and updated food needs list. So take one when you go shopping and put the items into the basket in the rear of the sanctuary.

### **May outreach - Boys and Girls Club of Salem**

The Boys and Girls Club just across the corner from us provides after school recreational and homework programs, special events, and a summer day camp.

## **HAPPENINGS**

### **Book Group – This Thursday April 23!**

The fourth Thursday of each month is a book discussion group to which all are welcome to attend. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10 AM in the small meeting room behind the sanctuary. All are welcome!

The books for the upcoming months will be:

April 23 ~ All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot. Barbara will lead the discussion.

May 28 ~ Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. Maria will lead the discussion.

June 25 ~ The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. Kathryn will lead the discussion.

### **Prayer and Care Team – This Sunday!**

Our "Prayer and Care Team" will be having a second organizational meeting *this Sunday April 26 after coffee hour*. The goal is to keep an eye out for those who could use both prayers and support at least at first within our congregation. We'll be exploring both the needs and our gifts – whether it be prayers, cards, calls, food, or visits. We will keep you posted as this new ministry develops!

### **Spring Clean-Up Day**

Wear your grubbies on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> so after coffee hour we can clean up and organize the church building and property. A list of tasks will be posted in the upper hall. If you

cannot stay that day but want to help, just write your name by the task and come and take care of it at your convenience.

### **“English Tea” – Sunday May 17 at 2:00**

Once again Liz McGilvary will be organizing an afternoon “tea” where people can dress up, enjoy tea and pastries and perhaps some additional event. A lot of help is needed – selling tickets and spreading the word, set up, providing food, serving, cleaning. A sign-up sheet will be on the hallway table or you can let Liz know that you’d like to help.

### *Christian Education and Formation*

#### **“Cracking Open the Bible – looking at the stories of Jesus”:** *starting this week!*

Does the thought of opening the Bible feel intimidating? Are you curious about why there are four different gospels? Want to learn a little more about Jesus? This series will begin on Wednesday April 29 at 7PM in the small meeting room. Although the classes do build on each other, you can jump in at any point.

### **Confirmation and Reception**

Bishop Rob will be with us for the last time June 21. When a bishop visits, it is an opportunity for baptisms, confirmations, and receptions into the Episcopal Church. In the Episcopal Church, confirmation is primarily an opportunity to publicly reaffirm one’s baptismal vows and receive the prayers of the bishop. Many Roman Catholics who want to become members of the Episcopal Church have already been confirmed by a bishop. So they are “received” into the Episcopal Church. If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, please speak with Carolyn so that she can schedule some preparation sessions.

### *St. David’s Administration and The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire*

#### **Vestry Updates**

The vestry held its annual retreat day at Diane Kay’s home on Saturday, April 11. It was very productive. In the morning we spent time in prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and discussed a book we are reading together. During the afternoon, the vestry discussed and made plans for coverage during Carolyn’s sabbatical leave which will be August and September this year. As we get closer we’ll be calling upon people to help with various little tasks to keep everything going smoothly.

Our treasurer, George Ogin, gave the monthly financial report. Loose offerings are up but pledges are down. Primarily because of the harsh winter with the sanding/plowing and fuel bills, the parish is almost already hitting the anticipated deficit for the year. Hopefully if we succeed in our planned fund raisers, that will help make a dent in that number.

Just a reminder that the minutes and monthly financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the upper hall once they have been approved at the subsequent meeting. Feel free to review them and don’t hesitate to ask the vestry if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions!

## **Pictorial directory**

Most of you received a directory with photos of members to make it easier to get to know people. A number of mistakes have been spotted. Take a look at your listing in the directory and note any updates or corrections on the paper in the foyer. As of now, correct Carolyn/church address to 231 Main St., add Bonnie Sylvester 603-401-5495 [bgor644@gmail.com](mailto:bgor644@gmail.com), and Lana Younker's cell is 603-401-8978. These and other corrections and additions will be made in the document when Michele returns in July.

## **Property**

- The property committee met and are looking into a new person/company to mow the church lawns.
- Dick Dean and Richard Boucher met with someone with expertise to propose ways to best improve the audio system in the sanctuary so the different microphones can work together.
- Huib Walta worked on the computer in the church office.
- The committee will continue to discuss and prioritize the different needs and projects (sound system, small meeting room and rectory renovations, the handicap lift).

## **Southern Convocation**

The March Southern Convocation meeting topic was hearing about the Micah 6 Commission. The Micah 6 commission replaced what had been three separate Diocesan outreach groups: Our Kids, Earth Care, and Racial Reconciliation. The April meeting (28<sup>th</sup>) will be learning about the ministry of deacons in this diocese.

## **Search Process for a New Bishop**

The Search Committee of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire finished developing and published a diocesan profile. This profile informs interested candidates about our diocese. It was very well done and you can find it on the diocesan website [nhepiscopal.org](http://nhepiscopal.org). Those interested in possibly becoming our next bishop are now encouraged to send in their inquiries during the beginning of May. After that, the search committee will spend several months narrowing down the potential candidates to 3-5. Those folks will then travel around the diocese for several opportunities for diocesan delegates and clergy to get to know them in preparation for the election the end of October.

### *2026 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  
George Younker – Vestry, 603-247-2463  
Braden Golas – Vestry, 603-362-7381  
Diane Kay – Vestry, 603-425-3442