

Senior Warden Report

January 28, 2018

The year 2017 was marked by consciousness of Michael Hudson's impending retirement. The first conversations with the diocese took place in late 2016, very shortly after Bishop Jose's arrival and consecration. In addition to the Vestry discussions about the transition to new clerical leadership, by mid-year, a group was meeting to plan a celebration in the fall, June and Newt were sending missives from the Oregon Trail with ideas, all of which culminated in what came to be called the Grand Celebration the weekend of September 15, 16, and 17 – celebrating both the 125th Anniversary of the consecration of this Church, and the 25th anniversary of Michael's ministry here. The goodbyes would be later, this was a weekend of music, song, great regaling, food, and the re-telling of our parish story by our children, assisted by Old St. David himself. The emotional high-point was the beautiful Liturgy on Sunday, the Welsh hymn, the selections from Songs for the Cycle, and reflections by parishioners on the meaning of Michael's ministry to them. It was a beautiful moment that both grew and typified our community. It was a high point.

While consciousness of the coming transition and preparations for the marking of it colored this year, they were like a leitmotif, and the ministries and life of the parish continued.

Three different mindfulness groups continue to meet. There is at least one group that meets in parishioners' homes for Lectio Divina. Centering Yoga happens several times a week also, with occasional retreats and seasonal offerings.

Ongoing ministries include Rice and Beans, which our children weigh and package and bring for blessing; Community Soup Suppers which are well-attended by parishioners and community members alike; and support for Vecinos, making toiletry packs in the springtime; Project Panama; and participation in the UCM project for food-insecure children over the holidays. Incidentally another group for multicultural sharing meets in the community which was started by two women who met at our Soup supper. Ripples.

We also support six local charities (The Community Table, Clean Slate, United Christian Ministries, Blue Ridge Community Health Care Center, Macon Care Partners, and Jackson Neighbors in Need) through our First Sunday plate collection and Community Soup Supper donations.

There have been some comings and goings.

We began 2017 by saying good-bye to Alice Mason, our beloved Deacon and friend.

We recently have lost Susan Metcalf and Hal Farwell.

Charles Pringle, our Verger and friend, moved to Eastern NC to live closer to his ageing mother.

And we have had some lovely beginnings this year as well: Ida Lou and Elliott Reisinger were baptized at Easter, and Heidi Dinkelmeyer was baptized in September.

Finally, this year, we were able to occupy the upstairs of the new parish hall, the end of a long season that began with envisioning gracious space and culminated in the final inspection and moving in about one year ago this week. We continue to dream about how best to use this new space in ways that are consistent with our call to welcome all into community.

Some notable developments: Ceramic mugs have replaced Styrofoam in the kitchen! A thank you to our potters George and Joan, Ann, Steve, and Maggie.

We rolled out two new publications about St. David's, one for visitors and another one for the community. Remember to place some of these "rack cards" out in your corner of the world wherever there is an opportunity.

The Vestry met with Canon Augusta Anderson twice this year, in May and again in October after she met with the whole parish to describe the process we are embarked upon now, of transition to new clerical leadership. After that the discernment committee conducted interviews with several priests suggested by the Canon. We made an offer, The Bishop concurred, Valori accepted, and here we are. The diocesan process for transition is long and seems very complicated at first, but as we walk through the steps, it begins to make sense, and with some of the steps are behind us now, things are becoming clearer.

And that is where we are now – at the brink of something we don't see yet, ready to journey, trusting we will be shown the way.