



## **Rector's 2020 Report**

**by The Rev. Gaelyn Lei Evangreene**

St. David's has shown who we are this year; in a year of change, transition, and pandemic St. David's has looked ahead to the future ensuring our buildings will stand, our people will stay connected, God's Word and Sacraments will be proclaimed and celebrated, and our relationship with the Diocese of Western North Carolina, its people and clergy is a valued part of who we are.

When I arrived in June of last year the church building had not had a worship service held in it for 15 Sundays. The building was secure with a new roof and new cross. The gardens were beautiful with hydrangeas, heather, and blanket flowers, and colorful chalk art welcomed me to this community and my place within it. Eager to meet the people of St. David's we gathered to clean, to pray, to talk on the deck, to share tea, to plan worship, to share outdoor meals at restaurants and in homes, to lead worship from the church, to troubleshoot technology. We gathered over Zoom for coffee, frequent Vestry meetings, and Regathering Task Force meetings, on trails in the woods with bread and wine in a backpack and a sermon within each of us, and we gathered on sunny late summer and cloudy cold fall days in the parking lot for Eucharist. We gathered as we could and as often as we could, always seeking communion with each other and with the God who holds us and calls us deeper and deeper into relationship.

While we continued to worship and adapt to new technology and the lengthening pandemic, we also began to welcome new people into our worship both online and in-person. We know that over the past ten months more and more people have sought ways to connect and also become eager for experiences and assurance that God is with us, God sees us, and God cares for us. We have welcomed students, visitors, and newcomers.

One aspect of the pandemic shutdown that has been particularly difficult to bear for many is the inability to gather in church to celebrate and receive Holy Communion. At a coffee hour just weeks into my being at St. David's I recall a parishioner asking why the Sanctuary light was out. The realization that not only were we not receiving communion but that the reserve was gone was unsettling and contributed to the feeling of an Exodus in the wilderness. And like the People of God then, we too have God traveling with us in

this period. Literally traveling with us to our homes once home communion kits became available and spiritually always traveling with in our daily lives.

It is that faithfulness, knowing that God is with us and will carry us through, that prompted the Vestry to commit to maintain our ten percent pledge to the diocese despite the fact that the ten percent is based on a year which had a significantly higher operating budget. Staying connected and supporting the ministries of the Diocese of Western North Carolina has become a renewed focus this year as Kelsey Davis began her ministry at Western Carolina University. Kelsey is excited about the continued relationship with Western that St. David's is once again forging. Over the next year we will have opportunities to get to know each other and begin to envision what our future ministry together will look like.

Envisioning the future has been a challenge over the past ten months. We have thrown around phrases such as "the new normal" and "post-pandemic" without knowing what the post-pandemic new normal will look like. St. David's has a history of discerning as a community, experience that will serve us all well as we begin to look ahead to the work God is calling us to do. Our Vestry leadership is strong and I look forward to the work we will do together this year to hear where God is calling us and to respond to that call faithfully. I specifically look forward to exploring the creation of an Outreach Committee, to studying God's word with you, and celebrating the gift of God's blessings around God's table once again. Until that time, know that God is with us in this moment and will be with us in our next moments. As God traveled with the Israelites in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so too will God continue to be with us.

In Christ's peace,

Mother Gaelyn

---

## **The Year in Review: A Perspective from the Senior Warden**

**by Jessica Philyaw**

So many of us were happy to see 2020 end and look to a more hopeful 2021. But as I began to think about this past year for St. David's, it quickly became apparent to me how important it is to start with the bright spots of our faith community amid the darkness of the global pandemic.

Celebrations: Tremendous thanks are due to so many who have helped us stay together as a vibrant community of worshippers. Technology helpers Sloan Despeaux, Steve Steinbrueck, Kelley Dinkelmeyer, Carol Payton, Brad Reisinger, and Doug Hanks have

given us the gift of seeing each other and worshipping together safely. Judy Robinson chaired a successful stewardship effort in extraordinary times, and we not only replaced the church roof but also paid off the cost in full. Sandy Frazier expertly oversaw the project before needing to step back from the position of Junior Warden. Doug Hanks jumped in and filled Sandy's shoes with expertise and energy. Sandy and Gael Graham concluded their terms on vestry as of the January 10, 2021 meeting, and have left us a stronger vestry and parish as a result of their service. As we adjusted to the realities of the COVID crisis and mourn our losses of in-person fellowship, we nonetheless found new ways to worship together and stay in touch, whether online or via Dial-Around phone calls. The Rice and Beans ministry never flagged, continuing to serve those most in need. Our greatest celebration in this difficult year has been Mtr. Gaelyn's ministry with us, and our acknowledgment of the dedication of the Discernment Committee, whose work has now concluded. Thank you to committee chair Harry Brown and members George Rector, Marilyn Jody, Vance Davidson, Maggie Bowles, and Margot Wilcox. Special thanks, also, to Lillian Pearson, who returned as our organist after Savannah Bennett graduated and moved out of the area, and to Caroline and Brad Ulrich, who have gifted us with their music and also helped with music technology in our online environment. Each of us played a role in parish life this year, even if we've been at home, and I apologize if I have forgotten any thanks, as I'm sure I have.

Amid these blessings to be celebrated, there were heartbreaking losses for many of us as individuals, and for us as a parish family, including the deaths of Larry Hill, Curtis Wood and Nancy Joyner. Other parish members lost family and friends this year, and grieving was all the harder because of the pandemic.

The passage of time in the pandemic has been, I think, more difficult to track than usual. It doesn't seem to be passing at a constant speed, so it was something of a surprise to me to see the year laid out as follows:

In **February**, we said farewell to Interim Rector Valori Sherer, whose last Sunday with us was 2/9. The previous week, we welcomed Bishop José to St. David's for a service of confirmation for parishioners Gael Graham, Gerlinde Lindy, George Rector, Joan Byrd, and Abel Despeaux.

Later in the month, on the 23rd, we welcomed Caroline Goodkind as Interim Rector. It was a wonderful homecoming for Caroline, who discerned her call to ministry while a parishioner at St. David's in the 1990s.

**March** was a month like nobody had seen before! With the Governor's stay-at-home order, life changed. We moved worship onto Zoom, with Caroline presiding over Liturgy of the Word from her home and all of us learning how to join a Zoom meeting and bringing Coffee Hour online, from the little squares on our screens. While it was hard to get used to, at least it enabled us to talk with and see each other, with the added benefit of including those parishioners who were no longer local. During this time, Caroline and

the vestry initiated Dial-Around calls to stay in touch with members by phone, and vestry met weekly to check in on pastoral needs and the ever-changing challenges that the pandemic was posing. These weekly vestry check-in meetings continued until mid-summer.

**April** saw the new roof put on the church, which was a sight to see! And thanks in part to a generous bequest from the estate of Nancy Joyner, we were able to pay back the loan from the diocese, and we are currently debt-free. The old cross was removed from the steeple and is now preserved in the garden at the entry of the church.

**May** saw the publication of Bishop José's Regathering Guidelines, which were a hopeful initial step in the long path to coming back in to church buildings at some point. At the request of Caroline+, the Regathering Task Force was formed as a group to begin considering what that might look like for St. David's and its new rector.

**June** was a momentous month, as we welcomed Mtr. Gaelyn as our Rector. We said thank you to Caroline on June 21st in a special online Coffee Hour and welcomed Mtr. Gaelyn, whose first Sunday with us was June 28th. Using her phone, she live streamed from the church, and we were finally able to be back inside, even if only virtually. Sunday Worship streamed from the church has continued ever since.

In **July** we welcomed Kelsey Davis to WCU as the diocese's campus missionary to both WCU and UNC-A. Mtr. Gaelyn began meeting people and settling in, and worship on the deck was born, with Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer offered there as a safer alternative to anything indoors.

In **August**, Doug Hanks took the reins as Junior Warden and worked wonders with technology to improve our live streaming capability. A Drive-In Eucharist in the parking lot on Wednesdays was added as another worship option and more evidence of the blessing of creativity and flexibility. And we reviewed our history with an online book club devoted to June Smith's *Do the Little Things You Have Seen Me Do and Heard About*.

Starting on the last Sunday in **September**, up to 22 people would be able to worship on Sundays inside the sanctuary, with full safety protocols in place, and live streaming continuing for those who were at home. This model lasted through the end of 2020, until the spike of January 2021 necessitated another hiatus on in-person worship. Also on the last Sunday of September, the first Holy Hike Eucharist took place at the Bear Pen Gap trail. It was a beautiful day, and the start of a new tradition that will take place roughly on a monthly basis, as weather and the pandemic permit.

**October** featured a parish workday, another Holy Hike, and a new banner at the entrance to the parking lot that proclaims the radical welcome extended to all. Our Black Lives

Matter lawn sign had disappeared only days after it was put up at the end of the summer. In keeping with Creation Cycle, a small group of us did a book study of *Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change*, by Stephen Jurovics.

The year closed with an Election Day vigil and service of hope and healing. A successful Stewardship season closed with In-Gathering Sunday on **November 22**, followed by weekly Services of Light in Advent, the Greening of the Church inside and out, and the Christmas Eve Eucharist.

---

## **Junior Warden's Report - Second Half 2020**

**by Doug Hanks**

As the focus of St. Davids in the second half of 2020 switched to the need to deliver the Service to the members of St Davids online, initially taped and uploaded and eventually live streamed, so did the focus of the Junior Warden.

The Junior Warden reports consisted of two sections, one pertaining to the usual tasks involving management and maintenance of the physical plant, and a second dealing with the technical issues surrounding this new journey we were all embarking on.

Work around St. Davids in the second half of 2020 involved putting back together was taken apart in order to reroof the Sanctuary. Most of this was accomplished during a fall work day that took place on October 31. The playground was remulched, the playground equipment reinstalled and the walkway was repaired. The cross that was removed and replaced during the roofing project found a new home in the courtyard between the Sanctuary and The Gathering Place.

On the technical side, so many things had to happen and still are evolving to provide a reliable stream of the Service each Sunday. Highlights include upgrading the internet service provided by Morris Broadband, purchasing and learning how to use the Mevo, a made for streaming video camera, purchasing a new mic and optimizing the sound system at St. Davids and putting it all together each week.

Projects in 2021, outside of the usual upkeep, include investigating structural concerns in the Sanctuary as well as assessing the need for washing and painting The Gathering Place.

Doug, Junior Warden

---

## **St. Clare's Altar Guild Report 2020**

**by Faye Jacobson, Altar Guild Co-Chair**

2020 has been a challenging year for the Altar Guild as it has been for us all. We have learned the lesson of flexibility and everyone has been up to the challenge. Members who were uncomfortable serving in this time of Covid were replaced by others who were less uncomfortable, so our duties have been covered. Thank you to Muff who is our Altar Guild Church Mouse supreme and has helped with services and in more ways than I can list. We would like to welcome two new members and 4 more members who have volunteered to bake bread for Eucharist.

Services went from zoom only, to outdoor Eucharist and indoor services with limited numbers and back to Facebook/Zoom in this last month. As the pandemic cases have increased, we have followed the Bishop's safety policies. We are currently scheduling month by month to allow for Covid related changes and members comfort level. If you have questions or would like to change your duties contact me ([fayebj50@gmail.com](mailto:fayebj50@gmail.com)) or Judy Robinson ([judyleroyrobinson@gmail.co](mailto:judyleroyrobinson@gmail.co)), our Co-Chair.

Eucharist was adapted from a shared chalice to individual cups which required us to purchase new items. These purchases and the transition to a different way of doing things was fairly problem free.

We currently have 22 members with 2 new members. At the present we are scheduling duties month to month since the pandemic dictates the type of service. Our Altar Guild is divided into 4 groups: altar preparation and clean up for Sunday services as well as any special services, linens, flower arranging and baking bread for Eucharist. In addition to donations of time and talent, members of the Altar Guild donate the communion wine, bread, and most of the flowers for the altar.

Our annual brunch was not scheduled in 2020 because of Covid but we hope to have one later in the spring or summer if the pandemic allows. It is a wonderful social event since we work on a schedule with a partner we are rarely all together at once just to visit. It is also a time for potential new members to decide if Altar Guild might be a ministry that fits. Mtr. Gaelyn will also be able to share with us any changes she wishes to make when normal services return.

Many thanks to all of you have helped us navigate this difficult year while keeping some feeling of normalcy as change happened almost weekly. We have a wonderful group of dedicated members.

Faye Jacobson, Altar Guild Co-Chair

---

## **Beans and Rice Ministry Report**

**by Muff Lyons**

Continuing into 2020, our Beans and Rice ministry has been incredible and I am truly grateful . In sheer numbers, we have been blessed by your donations to give to Vecinos and 8 ( now 10 ) immigrant families with elementary aged children a total of 260 - 300 pounds of Beans and 260 - 300 pounds of Rice along with bags of Cuties, apples, and hams at Christmas. Our donations supplement the bags of food from Manna Food Bank which are delivered every other week throughout the year for Cullowhee Valley Elementary School children who are food insecure. I deliver to 10 families with a total of 32 children.

With gratitude to Melba's idea, an anonymous donation, and donations from parish members, 8 of us were able to sew 32 backpacks and supply them with paper, pencils, scissors, and other items requested by their classroom teachers. Several donations of childrens' books have been delivered as well.

Throughout the year, generous donations of clothes needed by the Vecinos farm workers have been made. When the covid pandemic hit a farm workers camp, St. David's members donated cooked meals, bags of beans and rice, bottled water, gatorade, bags of tostitos, paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies as well as medical supplies and fresh vegetables to those workers in quarantine and the camp with ill workers. ( all workers were able to return to work ).

An anonymous family has donated a stimulus check they received to help with internet schooling at home. An immigrant family has been identified who really needs this help. At this time, because of the outbreak of covid in Jackson County and the winter weather conditions, all tutoring programs have been suspended. Again, thank you all for your support of this ministry.

Prayers, peace, love, and hope for 2021  
Muff

---

## **Treasurer's Report**

**by Steve Steinbreuck**

St. David's is financially strong with no debt and adequate balances in both our operating and reserve accounts. Please refer the attached December 31, 2020 Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities for fund balances and a listing of revenues and expenditures by category.

Pledges for 2021 total \$110,140 and guided the drafting of the 2021 budget, which accompanies this report.

It is noteworthy that we paid off the roof loan just two months after repayment began.

The St. David's Endowment was moved from the NC Community Foundation to the Episcopal Church Foundation. With a significant bequest from Nancy Joyner's estate and recent fund appreciation, the end-of-year balance was just over \$183,000. June Smith has agreed to serve as the Endowment Committee chair. She will join Harry Brown, Vance Davidson, and Steve Steinbrueck as a member of the Finance and Endowment Committees.

The 2019 audit, conducted by several members of the Diocesan Audit Committee, was completed at the end of the year. The report contained several useful suggestions; there were no concerning or urgent findings. The Finance Committee will be asked to make recommendations to the Vestry later in 2021.

Final 2020 Giving Statements were emailed during the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for remaining steadfast and generous in sharing your time, talents, and financial resources. Finally, please join me in thanking Barb Manke for her service on the finance committee for the past three years.

## 2021 Budget

Account	Description	Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
4031	Loose Plate Offerings	250
4032	Pledge Contributions	110,140
4041	Bank Account Interest	25
4055	Fundraising (Net)	3,000
4056	Facility Rental	2,500
4112	For Organizations Outside Parish	3,000
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>118,915</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
5120	Diocesan Pledge	14,831
5130	Outreach from the Budget	3,000

5141	Salary (including SECA and Housing Allowance)	48,000
5144	Pension	8,640
5145	Travel Reimbursement	1,000
5147	Continuing Education/Professional Development	2,000
5148	Supply Clergy	1,375
5149	Clergy Expenses	1,000
5150	Rector's Discretionary	1,000
5151	Parish Administrator Salary	7,800
5152	Organist Salary	4,875
5156	FICA for Parish Administrator and Organist	970
5161	Christian Formation - Youth	500
5163	Christian Formation - Adult	500
5164	Hospitality & Cleaning Supplies	500
5172	Worship Materials	120
5174	Contract Musicians	500
5181	Office Supplies	1,000
5184	Postal	200
5185	Advertising	100
5186	Computer and Internet	200
5188	Bookkeeping and Accounting	1,848
5189	Payroll Service	187
5193	Lawn/Grounds	3,480
5194	Housekeeping	4,000
5196	Bank fees	5
5201	Electric	1,200
5202	Phone and Internet	1,679
5203	Water and Sewer	240
5204	Natural Gas	1,600
5300	Property and Liability Insurance	5,600
5301	Worker's Compensation	345
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>118,295</b>
	<b>Estimated 2021 Revenue - Expenses</b>	<b>620</b>