

Most of you know I like to spend time in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Yesterday, several St. David's friends—Bill, Betty Lynn and Haidee—who had bid on a St. David's Day auction item many months ago--joined Muff and me for a day-long outing to Cades Cove. It was probably the busiest day of the year. It was enriching and glorious. Vibrant colors, beautiful scenery and plenty of wildlife both two and four legged. We even saw two bears. Another special St. David's event.

While John and I have been away from St. David's these past three Sundays, we have been enriched by the reflections of fellow parishioners and "*Feasting on Gratitude*" reflections in the Coracle.

How do we love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds? How do we love our neighbors as ourselves? How do we experience giving as worship?

We help each other and our community in so many ways: knowingly, lovingly, skillfully, reverently. Just looking at the list of volunteer opportunities on our Time and Talent pledge form suggests 38 different ways we can begin to answer the big questions—and the list doesn't even include serving on the vestry or the stewardship committee! Now, we're up to 40.

Over the past two Sundays, - Bob Dodd spoke of the "Tradition that nurtures us and Mission that makes us wealthy both in mind and soul." - Newt Smith spoke of "St. David's as a retreat and a sanctuary."

God is in this place. We need this parish. We need each other. We need to support St. David's, so it can support us and those who come after us.

As of the last report I received, 15 households have pledged \$38,000. We are well on our way to our goal of \$100,000.

Each family who has already made your pledge, Thank you. Each family who is still prayerfully considering your pledge, please be as generous as you can with your monetary gifts and with your gifts of time and talent.
Thank you.

Gracia Slater
Oct. 23, 2011