

Senior Warden's Report, Betsy Swift

The year just ending saw us moving more into a post-Covid world. I was shocked in my review of the Coracles of 2022, to realize that our February Vestry meeting was the first in person meeting in almost two years! Those days seem far off now. In 2022 we had significant losses with the passing of Jere Annis, and Barbara Hardie, as well as that of former parishioner Dottie Brunette. We also however had many joyful gains with Stephen Graumlich & Russ Kirk, Michael Jenkins joining the parish, and Terri & Phil Sanger returning after several years teaching in Russia. A special thank you to Joan Byrd, who has interviewed new members and written beautiful pieces for the Coracle introducing us to our new members. That review of the Coracle struck me with the abundance of life & activity that goes on here at St. David's. We are engaged in many ministries both in the wider community and in the services to one another that support our life in common.

For example, ministries to the wider community included : helping Mikala get to Kenya; providing meals to sick & shut-in members (graciously organized by Faye Jacobson); participation in Hands-On Jackson, Sylva Pride, and Operation Christmas Box; our rice & beans ministry; monthly soup suppers during the school year; and occasional hymn-singing at Vero Health & Rehab facility.

Ministries that are more directly supportive of the ongoing life of the parish include providing support to the Episcopal Campus Ministry gatherings twice a month; hosting the Sunday coffee hour after Holy Eucharist; the liturgical ministries of altar server and lector; our greeters; live-streaming the Sunday service; Altar Guild; picking up Michael Hudson for church; the pastoral care group; the church library; fundraising... Many of those internal ministries are shared by everyone by signing up for them on the white board in the Gathering Place. More on that in a minute.

There are regular activities happening here on a weekly basis - from Bible Study on Sunday mornings (whoever shows up gets to read & reflect on

one or more of the readings for that Sunday) to the craft & needlework group on Thursdays. Women of a Certain Age Book Group meets on Tuesdays and is starting their 9th book since beginning last spring. Episcopal Campus Ministry meets on Wednesday evenings during the academic year. I would like to focus the rest of my report on some of those internal ministries. "The Board" offers many opportunities for service every week -the predictable, ongoing tasks that keep our common life humming along. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to participate in something - it takes all of us to really have a common life at all. If you aren't already an altar server, or a lector, discuss with Mother Gaelyn how to begin, or how to arrange training to get you comfortable with starting, then - sign up! Take a turn! Same with our greeters - if being a greeter appeals to you, ask one of them when you arrive, and they smile and hand you a bulletin - they can tell you how to get involved in that ministry - I bet there is mentoring and on-the-job training available! Providing a student supper may seem a little daunting - but teaming up with another person or two to divvy up the meal, and keeping it simple are the main things to bear in mind. Sign up with a buddy! Take a turn! Being a coffee hour host is a real way to embody our value of being a welcoming community. Coffee Hour is another time when Keeping it Simple is key!

All we need to do to keep our people from disappearing after the Sunday service is to entice with a few treats - it doesn't have to be fancy! Again, sign up! Take a turn! If you are someone who has done it before, offer to share the task with someone new - make it less daunting for them. Soup suppers - same! Just come & see. No need to bring anything at all, but after the first time, if you are so moved, bring a soup to share, or some bread. Our rice & beans ministry has evolved over the years from a partnership with Vecinos and Cullowhee Methodist Church, and is now going alternately to United Christian Ministries and the Community Table. This is one of the easiest ways to participate in a feeding ministry that we have.

Just add a pound or two of beans and rice to your grocery cart when you shop, then bring them to church and put them in the big galvanized can at the back - that's it! When the bin is close to full, the food is delivered to the local food agencies by Barb

Manke, who apprenticed with Muff Lyons over the past year. Lastly, fundraising is another internal/also external ministry. It is essentially both because money we raise goes into church operations which in turn funds everything we do as a community in one way or another. In 2022 we began to offer parking for Home Game days during football season. Once we settled on a competitive price, (\$20 was too much; \$10 was just right) we were off & running. All it requires is a couple of hours of your time on a Saturday - and the ability to stand up, assist drivers, and collect cash. The folks who volunteered this fall found it to be fun besides. We got to hang out with one another, outside, and raise some needed funds for St. David's besides. Win/Win! Some creative thinking about other fundraising is needed, and that idea is possibly percolating among one of us right now. Thank you all for all that you bring to our parish community, and all that you share with us. WE are grateful you are here, and we need your participation to really reach our potential as a christian community in 2023 in this little part of God's Kingdom. Thank you.