

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



January 12, 2020

Called to embody God's love by welcoming everyone who enters and by empowering all who stay to make a difference in the world.

Calendar

Sun	Jan 12	Epiphany 1, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Mon	Jan 13	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
Thu	Jan 16	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Jan 19	Epiphany 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Annual Parish Meeting
Sun	Jan 26	Epiphany 3, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Soup Supper and Abraham's Table, 5 pm
Sun	Feb 2	Epiphany 4, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Tue	Feb 4	Bishop Visit with Confirmation 5:30 pm
Sun	Feb 9	Epiphany 5, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Sat	Feb 15	Vestry Retreat 9am-4pm
Sun	Feb 16	Epiphany 6, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Thu	Feb 20	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Feb 23	Epiphany 7, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Soup Supper 5-7 pm
Wed	Feb 26	Ash Wednesday
Sun	Mar 1	Lent 1, St. David's Day, Holy Eucharist 11 am

Serving this Sunday

Chalice:

Reader:

Music: Savannah Bennett

Coffee:

Readings: [Isaiah 42:1-9](#), [Acts 10:34-43](#),

[Matthew 3:13-17](#), [Psalm 29](#)

Serving during January

Bread: John Slater

Greeter: Jake Jacobson

[Sermon Link](#)

[Parish Profile 2019](#)

Thu	Mar 5	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Mar 8,	Lent 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Mon	Mar 9	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
Sun	Mar 15,	Lent 3, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Thu	Mar 19	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Mar 22,	Lent 4, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Sun	Mar 29,	Lent 5, Holy Eucharist 11 am

January Soup Supper and Abraham's Table

By Judy Robinson

As the New Year unfolds, we are looking forward to our first Soup Supper on Sunday, January 26th at 5 pm in the *Gathering Place*. This month's supper is designated to support **Circles of Hope**, a local non-profit that helps lift persons out of poverty through individual support. Please participate by bringing your wonderful soups. Or by just coming to eat!



This evening will be special because we are combining the Soup Supper with the first Abraham Table event of 2020. For the past year, St, David's has led the way for several gatherings where our Christian, Jewish and Muslim neighbors have come together to share insights into our shared roots and develop relationships. We have shared meals and discussion. We thoroughly enjoyed a family picnic with participants this past summer. We will continue this on January 26th when the topic will be PEACE. Everyone will enjoy soup together starting at 5 pm. For those interested, Muslim prayer will occur upstairs at 6 pm. At 6:15, we will begin the discussion in the *Gathering Place* as part of the Abraham Table Program. All are encouraged to stay and participate in the discussion. Given world events during the past week, both the topic and gathering seem important and worthwhile. This dual event demonstrates St. David's commitment to our community and our understanding that we are citizens of the world.



Abraham's Table

All community members and WCU students are welcome!!!

From the Interim Rector Connected as One Body, One Spirit

By The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer

We are all connected: God and us, and us with one another and all that is. As Theresa of Avila once said, “it is like rain falling from the heavens into a river or spring; there is nothing but water there and it is impossible to divide or separate the water belonging to the river from that which fell from the heavens.” (“Interior Castle,” 235)

Experiencing the reality of this is part of the excitement I experience attending annual diocesan convention. It’s truly a big family reunion, and it helps us remember the wideness of our identity boundaries; that the church isn’t just our location but a large body of faithful people connected to God and one another here in Western North Carolina and beyond to our regional and worldwide Episcopal kin.

Each year at convention, we catch up with people we know and spend time with others we are meeting for the first time. As a body we worship, sing, play, eat, and work hard together to heed the Holy Spirit as we carry our institution forward step by step, year by year. It is truly holy work and it enables us to embody what we hear in our Eucharistic prayer: we are one body, one spirit in Christ - in all our diversity.

It is customary to elect delegates and alternates for convention at the Annual Parish Meeting. The habit at St. David’s has been to wait until closer to November, then ask for volunteers. This has presented two problems during my interim time: 1) the delegates and alternates don’t receive the necessary communications from the deans and bishop ahead of convention, and 2) the task of obtaining and preparing the delegates falls to the clergy creating an unnecessary burden at a very busy time of year.

I hope we can make this final shift in habit at our Annual Parish Meeting on January 19th and elect our delegates (we need two) and alternates (we can get away with one) for our diocesan convention. I realize that November seems like a long time away and who knows what might happen in our schedules by then? Like everything else in life and church at St. David’s, if a problem arises for the elected delegates, I feel sure the family will cover for them.

Please pray about this and let me know if you feel nudged by the Spirit to be part of the WNC family reunion at convention in Shelby this coming November. I can recommend some great places to eat, hike, and visit while you’re there!



Vestry Candidates Statements Jessica Philyaw

In the late 1990s, St. David’s was my introduction to the Episcopal Church (with the Yard Sale as my introduction to St. David’s), and I’ve been a member of the congregation ever since. My husband, Scott, teaches at WCU, and I am currently happily settled into my third career, as a librarian at the Jackson County Public Library in Sylva. (Previously, I worked in academic publishing for 8 years and as a bookseller at City Lights for 15 years.) Our sons, Adam and David, are now grown and living out of state, but they grew up at St. David’s. In recent years, we went through a period of being scarce in the pews because we were traveling every weekend to take care of Scott’s aging parents. Those duties have come to an end, and it has been rejuvenating to be back at St. David’s. I’d like to have the opportunity to serve as a vestry member because I value this community, which has been so important to the life of my family over the years. We went through some extremely difficult times as parents, and then so many years later as caregivers, and St. David’s was always there for us, for support in the hard times and celebration of the good times. St. David’s is such a special place. The spirituality of openness, radical welcome, intelligence, introspection, kindness, and activism are central to what I think a church should be. At this important time of transition, as we call a new rector, I would be honored to have a role in helping St. David’s continue to express and expand its vitality and mission.



Doug Hanks



My name is Doug Hanks and I am running for a position on the Vestry of St. David's Episcopal Church. I am blessed to be married to an amazing wife, Boot, and have three incredible kids, Stephen, Henry, and Mary Michael. I would like to tell you all why I am interested in becoming a member of the Vestry, but will begin with a little bit about myself and my journey to the Episcopal Church.

I was born in Lake Charles, a small town in southwest Louisiana. I was Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church, Our Lady Queen of Heaven. My family attended church regularly and I participated for some years as an Altar Boy. Like most kids, I never questioned the Faith into which I was born and quite frankly rarely considered other faiths or attended other churches. As a matter of fact, the Catholic Church was so prevalent in southwest Louisiana that I had few friends that were not Catholic. It was not until I moved from Louisiana to Winston-Salem, North Carolina that I realized the prevalence of the Protestant faith outside of Louisiana. It was during my Anesthesia Residency in North Carolina that I discovered the Episcopal Church. Given the few options for attending Catholic Church in Winston-Salem, I think that there was only one, I considered other options. I found that the Episcopal Church was very similar to the Catholic Church in its organization and mass. I welcomed the familiarity but was especially drawn to the foundation of the Episcopal Faith, particularly the threefold sources of authority: scripture, tradition, and reason. This presented a refreshing alternative to the Catholic Faith, one that tended to favor tradition over scripture and reason. I cherished the idea of considering some of the difficult situations that we all have to deal with in our lives, and allow not only the tradition of the church, but prayerful reflection on scripture AND reason to guide me toward a spiritual resolution. One that I feel as though I had a part in rather than a resolution that had been made for me by the governing body of the church. Following an enquirer's class at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, I participated in Confirmation preparatory classes and completed the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Episcopal Church May 29th, 1994, just one month before returning to Louisiana. My membership in the Episcopal Church prior to St. David's has been for the most part at St. James Episcopal Church, a large church in downtown Baton Rouge whose congregation was made up of a number of generations who were born and raised in the Episcopal Church, many in St. James. While it was possible for me to take an active role in worship at St. James, I felt as though it was unlikely for me to become a member of the Vestry. I "threw my name into the hat" for a position on the search committee for a new Rector at St. James just prior to our decision to move to North Carolina and was not chosen to participate.

This has not discouraged me from my desire to play a more active role in the church that I attend, and having discovered St. David's, I hope to have the opportunity to do just that. If elected to the Vestry, I intend to continue to focus on what I love the most about my new home at St. David's, it's warm and sincere welcoming of visitors, its passion for community service and environmental awareness, and most of all its insistence on inclusivity. At no other place of worship that I have been a member have I felt that "all are welcome" like I feel at St. David's. This was so important to me when I discovered and became a member of the Episcopal Faith and remains paramount for me as I continue to grow spiritually. Finally, while I welcome the opportunity to serve St. David's in any way my fellow members see fit and at any time, I am particularly excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Vestry during our transition to a new Rector. I am confident that God has a plan for St. David's that includes a Rector that will embrace the spirit of our congregation while revealing to us potential for spiritual growth that exceeds our expectations. I am grateful for the hard work of our tireless Vestry and Discernment Committee in positioning us for our greatest opportunity to see God's plan through and look forward to continuing that hard work if elected.



Please Think About Joining Your Altar Guild

By Faye Jacobson

Hello Everyone. Your Altar Guild could use a few more hands. We have 20 very capable members currently, but there is a lot to do for each Sunday service: flowers, bread, washing linens, and laying and stripping the altar. Doing the math, you will see that each member has to commit to two-three months of doing a task. Sometimes people travel or are ill and substitutes are needed. We always manage to get things done, but we would greatly appreciate a few more willing members. If you are able to join and help, please contact Faye Jacobson, our current Chairperson at fayebj50@gmail.com. One of the fun perks is a fun and delicious yearly brunch with other guild members. Please pray about it, think about it, and join.

It's Time to Get the Greeter Schedule Together

By Jake Jacobson

I know everyone is looking forward to a bright new 2020 for St. David's parish. Exciting times are ahead for us! If you would be able to arrive for church about 20 minutes early on occasion and could join those of us who serve as greeters on Sunday mornings, we could surely use your help! If you would like to serve in this ministry, please email a note to Jake Jacobson at fayebj50@gmail.com, or call Jake at 349-9592. It is an easy and pleasant way to serve, and I will be glad to add you to our roster or to answer any questions you might have about serving in this way.



Roof and Cross Replacement Financial Details for Your Information From the Vestry

As you know, we have a contract with the roofer to begin work this Spring. The cross has been constructed and arrangements are being made to pick it up (thanks to Jake Jacobson, Sandy Frazier, and Steve Steinbrueck). Here are the details of the costs and plan for payment for your information:

Breakdown of costs		Our plan for payment:	
Video evaluation of roof, steeple & cross	\$800	From congregation contributions	\$6,300
6x4 cross	\$1,450	From Episcopal Foundation Grant	\$20,000
Remove playground fence and steps	\$800	From ASMDO Grant (approximate)	\$900
Replace roof, two coats paint on Steeple and attachment of cross	\$44,500	From our Capital reserve account	\$12,000
Total Project Cost	\$47,550	Total in hand	\$39,200

Costs \$47,550-Available funds \$39,200 = \$8,350

We have applied for a no-interest \$10,000 loan from the Episcopal Foundation for the remainder needed. This is a bit more than the balance needed as we will have costs to regrade the parking area and rebuild the playground fence and steps. This is a 5-year loan, with monthly payments which will be about \$175/month.

Special thanks to Muff Lyons, George Rector and Vance Davidson for hours of initial leg work to find a roofer, negotiations, and then for finalizing our contract with Litespeed. We also thank our generous contributors to the roof fund.

Obituary of Nancy Joyner

Nancy Carol Joyner, 83, died Thursday, December 19th, 2019 in Chapel Hill, NC. She was born on July 27th, 1936 in Asheville, NC to John C. Joyner Sr. and Edith Pickens Joyner.

Nancy received her bachelor's degree from Meredith College (1958), master's degree from Columbia University (1960) and PhD from UNC-CH (1966). She began her career teaching English and American literature at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. In 1970, she joined Western Carolina University where she taught for over 27 years. Nancy was president of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association and a longtime active participant in many professional organizations devoted to the study of American literature, particularly the writings of women and authors from Appalachia and the South. In addition to her critical bibliography of Edwin A. Robinson and a novel with her Aunt Kate, Nancy lectured and published on many other authors including, Thomas Wolfe, P.D. James, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, and Mary Lee Settle. Her dedication to literature was exemplified through her encouragement of her students and numerous contemporary authors. Colleagues and authors always found a warm welcome and introductory party in her homes in Lexington, Cullowhee, and Chapel Hill.

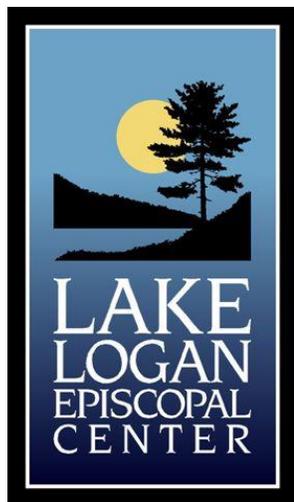
She is survived by her two nephews, William Lindsley Humbert (Julie) and John Bryan Humbert (Roshanak), and niece, Nancy Humbert Sweeney (Christopher); two great-nieces, Austin Humbert, Alison Sweeney, and great-nephew Patrick Sweeney. She is predeceased by her long-time partner, Coye Rogers, sister Jeanette Joyner Humbert, and brother John C. Joyner Jr.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 10th at 2:00 at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meredith College, Western Carolina University, Binkley Baptist Church or St. David's Episcopal Church (Cullowhee NC).

Living the Way of Love: Courageous Conversations About Diversity

At this two-day retreat February 7th to 9th at Lake Logan Conference Center, participants will

- Examine their own attitudes about the continuum of diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging and the role our faith plays
- Meet people with differing backgrounds and viewpoints.
- Generate open, honest, and frank dialogue at the retreat and a desire to continue the conversation after the weekend.
- Understand the relationship between diversity, inequality, socio-economic-political power, and faith
Identify and incorporate changes in communication which promote inclusion
- Leave with a clear individual action plan for "what next?" in their own lives, churches, and communities.



This retreat will count as credit for attending Dismantling Racism in the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina.

Overnight and commuter options are available. Subsidized rates are available to help ensure this retreat is accessible for all. Register at lakelogan.org/events. Questions? Call 828.646.0095.



Paul and Melba Cooper and June Smith enjoyed a *Dine Around* lunch hosted by Steve and Pat Steinbrueck over the holidays.



Do Your Part to Keep the Junior Warden Happy

When you are the last to leave the *Gathering Place*, PLEASE make sure the thermostat is set at **60 degrees!** It was left at 68 from Wednesday until Friday this week, two full days of heating with no one there to enjoy it, which greatly dismayed the Junior Warden.



Parish News & Notes

Birthday

Jan 18 **Doug Hanks**

Anniversary

Jan 17 **Karen & Harry Brown**

Faye and Jake Jacobson have a new email address; fayebj50@gmail.com

Charlie's Challenge—*Jackson Neighbors in Need* Annual Fundraiser

January 25th, 2020 at 6 pm at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Sylva.

It's that time of year again, time to come together, enjoy good conversation, be entertained, have an excellent meal, and give to those in need. At this year's Charlie's Challenge, we will have raffle items, door prizes and everyone's favorite cake auction. We will be entertained by Scott Baker and Geoff McBride's soulful sounds. This annual fundraiser honors the beginnings of *Jackson Neighbors in Need* and the late Charlie McConnell's "can do" attitude to help others. [Please RSVP by January 17th.](#)

DINNER • CAKE AUCTION • RAFFLE ITEMS • DOOR PRIZES

JANUARY 25, 2020 • 6PM

CHARLIE'S CHALLENGE

JACKSON NEIGHBORS IN NEED

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
SYLVA NC



RSVP TO: JNINSYLVA@GMAIL.COM
BY JANUARY 17TH

REQUIRED DUE TO LIMITED SEATING

DINNER PROVIDED BY HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO RESORT
ENTERTAINMENT BY SCOTT BAKER & GEOFF MCBRIDE

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND MAIL DONATIONS TO:
MOUNTAIN PROJECTS 25 SCHULMAN ST, SYLVA NC 28779

Virtual Closet

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact [Nancie Wilson](#). She keeps a list of who has what to facilitate sharing.

Box Tops for Education

There is a basket under the white board in the Parish Hall where you can place any of these box tops you may have. This is an ongoing project for our children.

St. David's Vestry

Senior Warden, Judy Robinson	Junior Warden, Muff Lyons
Sandy Frazier	Gael Graham
Vance Davidson	Jake Jacobson
Steve Steinbrueck, Treasurer, is ex-officio to the vestry.	

	2 nd Sundays	Rice & Beans Ministry
	Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr	Soup/Bread Community Supper
Regular	Mondays 10:30 am	Cullowhee Men's Group 10:30 am
Activities	2 nd Mondays	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am

2019 Outreach Support

From 1 st Sunday's loose plate offering and Soup Suppers			
Jan	Circles of Hope	Aug	School Supplies drive
Feb	Clean Slate	Sep	Vecinos
Mar	Community Table	Oct	Midwives of Haiti
Apr	Mainspring Conservation Trust	Nov	to be determined
May	(general)	Dec	(general)
May-Jun-Jul-Aug-no Soup Suppers (general outreach)			

Vestry Stewardship Covenant 2019

St. David's Episcopal Church

We believe that God loves us unconditionally and desires that we love one another without exception; that God wants us to use the gifts we've been given including the gifts of listening, discerning, and doing. We trust in God's abundance and can respond in generosity and love by serving our community and creation in ways we never thought possible.

We commit to fostering a broad vision of stewardship as encompassing our physical church, our congregation, the community that surrounds us, and all of creation.

We invite the St. David's family to explore how we can embody God's love and promise of abundance in our process, practice, and reflection.

St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: stdavidscullowhee.org

[Lectionary Page 2019](#)

Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: magbowles@gmail.com

Church phone # and email: 828-331-1427

stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Diocesan Links:

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

[Sign up for Diocesan Newsletter](#)

[Camp Henry Facebook page](#)

www.lakelogan.org

St. David's Vestry Members:

Judy Robinson, Senior Warden

Muff Lyons, Junior Warden

Sandy Frazier—Gael Graham

Vance Davidson—Jake Jacobson