

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



January 19, 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 19	Epiphany 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Annual Parish Meeting after church
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
Thu	Feb 6	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Feb 9	Epiphany 5, Holy Eucharist 11 am
Mon	Feb 10	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
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
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

Serving this Sunday

Chalice: Betsy Swift
Reader: Vance Davidson
Music: Savannah Bennett
Coffee: **ALL**-Annual Meeting
Readings: Lectionary: Isaiah 49:1-7;
Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

Serving during January

Bread: John Slater

[George Rector's Prayer Collection for Discernment](#)

[Parish Profile 2019](#)

[Sermon Link](#)

Annual Meeting This Sunday

We will hear reports from committees and elect two new vestry members and two convention delegates plus at least one alternate delegate.

Please bring a food item to share at Coffee Hour.

From the Interim Rector

Stepping into our Discerned Vision

By The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer

This is an exciting time we share at St. David's. The search process is in full swing, and a new year has begun—literally! As I've mentioned from the beginning, one goal of interim time is to discern a path forward and begin it so that the new rector can step in and go with you where you're already going. The work we did together in the Task Forces gave us not only the path but the means to get there—the customaries. These can be found on the [Ministries](#) page of our website.

The time has come now to put those dreams into action. There were so many wonderful, creative ideas offered and they are recorded in the customaries linked on our website.

- ✦ Christian Formation: We have just completed our book series for Christian Formation and it's time to plan for the 2020 series, at the very least through the summer.
- ✦ Sandy Railsback is building a new children's formation program. Who feels called to join with her in this endeavor?
- ✦ Mission & Outreach: It's time to ponder, plan, and organize for the SEOL community workshops for 2020. The topics can reflect issues of interest or concern that arise in our local/global communities or the agencies we currently support through our Outreach.
- ✦ The Outreach schedule will continue as is unless vestry is asked to make changes. These agencies are supported each month with the 1st Sunday loose-plate collections and with contributions offered at the Soup and Bread suppers. The improved communications with these agencies have aided in garnering increased financial and personal support for the agencies. Well done!
- ✦ Campus ministry development is a priority this year, and there is a team working with the diocesan missionary to organize this. The existing team, led by Brian Railsback, welcomes anyone who would like to be part of this.
- ✦ Pastoral Care: In what ways are we ready to enact our stated desire to incorporate music into this ministry, or animals? Are there any organizational needs regarding our visiting, food, or hospitality ministries? Which steps are do we want to take right now?
- ✦ Worship: This is such a vital part of St. David's identity and is our strongest evangelism tool. Now is the time for planning for music, lay-led services, and the other priorities addressed in the customary.

I'm asking, therefore, that everyone—really, every one at St. David's—pray and discern which team you'd like to offer your gifts to serve.

The first step is to contact me as soon as possible. We need two (or at least one) team leaders to organize these planning meetings. I'm happy to offer whatever support I can as you plan, organize, and step into your discerned vision and sacred purpose!

Confirmation and Reception, February 4th

Our bishop will visit us on Tuesday, February 4th to Confirm and/or Receive Abel Despeaux, Gael Graham, and Gerlinde Lindy. We will celebrate the service of Confirmation (which includes Holy Eucharist) at 5:30 that evening. After the service we'll celebrate the newest Episcopalians with a reception. Please make plans to join us—this is truly reason to celebrate!

The collection taken up at this service will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. In the Episcopal Church it is the role and ministry of the bishop (only) to Confirm as the sacramental rite is one of the larger Church, not just a local congregation. The bishop's discretionary fund works at a diocesan level much like the rector's discretionary fund works at a local level. Your contribution will enable the bishop to respond to important pastoral needs within our diocese that cannot be responded to otherwise.

If you'd like to serve at this service, please let me know and sign up on the white board in the *Gathering Place*. Thank you in advance!

Valari +

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, its 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.

A Big Thank You

By Judy Robinson

I could not let my tenure as Senior Warden end without thanking everyone in our dear congregation for your support and willingness to engage with Vestry business. Several people have commented that they bet I will be glad this year is over. Not at all. While I admit that I had no idea how time consuming the job would be, I am a person who likes to have a to do list...even a full one. I want you to know that I have been so touched by lots of support that I received throughout the year. Even when people disagreed with Vestry actions, or really wanted things a certain way, that information was always shared with me in a respectful way that was never a personal attack. It confirmed for me what a caring and capable and spiritual bunch we are at St. David's. I feel grace, delight, and luck that I am part of this terrific community.



Special thanks to the Vestry: Muff Lyons, Vance Davidson, Gael Graham, Jake Jacobson, Sandy Frazier, and treasurer Steve Steinbrueck. Their insights, active participation and support made my role easier, and I could not have come up with a better team for leading our parish during this very eventful Rector Search Year. They are my friends and have my love and devotion forever.

Special thanks also to the DC: Harry Brown is the most capable and positive man and his leadership skills were just what we needed. I thank him especially for his patience with me and my sometimes impulsive activism. Margot Wilcox, Maggie Bowles, Marilyn Jody, Vance Davidson (as Vestry Representative) and George Rector have all brought such strong capabilities to that team. I have every confidence that they will guide us to the person who will be our wonderful new Rector. Thank you for MANY hours of hard work as you continue that to the end of the task.

And special thanks to my dear husband Ron, who was patient and provided an excellent confidential listening ear whenever I needed that. He agrees that we are part of a very special faith community. I will declare my unwavering forever love for him publicly here.

I continue to be very optimistic as our Rector Search continues and we come closer to the end. Faith dictates that I know God is part of this search and process, and we only need to trust in and call upon Him/Her to abide with us and lead us to the next wonderful chapter for St. David's.

My love and thanks to you all,
Judy

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.

ABRAHAM'S TABLE: A FAMILY REUNION

Join us as we explore what we have in common and what makes us unique as children of Abraham: Jewish, Christian and Muslim.

Our topic at this our 5th gathering is: PEACE



The lamps are different but the light is the same. ~Rumi

Sunday, January 26 at 6:15 pm

Muslim evening prayer begins at 6:00 upstairs

The Gathering Place at St. David's Episcopal Church

385 Forest Hills Rd., Cullowhee -

Across from the Ramsey Center at WCU

St. David's monthly community Soup and Bread Supper begins at 5:00. Join us for soup and stay for the panel discussion. You are welcome to bring your favorite soup or simply enjoy what's there.



Kyle Jones

By the time he graduated from high school in his hometown of Fort Worth, Texas—known as "where the West begins"—Kyle Jones was certain he wanted to be a lawyer. Several members of his father's family had been members of the law profession before him. "History and politics," he says, "were always my strong suit." As a history major at Texas Tech, he embraced college life with enthusiasm, joining Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Following graduation, he entered South Texas College of Law in Houston.

After "experiencing the real world for a bit," Kyle now realizes that at twenty-two he just wasn't ready to study law. He dropped out of the program in Houston after a year and spent the remainder of 2016 working with a youth literacy program at the library in Arlington, Texas. In 2017 he moved to Western North Carolina, familiar to him from visits he had made with his family from the age of three: longstanding member of St. David's parish, Marilyn Jody, is his mother's aunt. Since spring 2017 he has attended church with Marilyn when he is in town, and he says of St. David's, "It's a good church—accepting, with a feeling of belonging and a strong sense of community."



Kyle is now in his fourth year of working as a raft guide for the Nantahala Outdoor Center, a job that provides him with a flexibility he values: "You can work on the rivers as little or as much as you like." He lived in Jackson County for fifteen months before moving to Greenville, SC, where he now works in finance and fundraising for the local Boy Scout Council and volunteers with a literacy association. He tries to get up to Jackson County a few times a month. "It's a beautiful place to be," he observes, "and there's a lot to do up here."

He is eager to explore other cultures and has traveled in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Poland, Spain, and Costa Rica. Visiting with Marilyn, Kyle has learned Spanish from her housekeeper, Gigi, and is now in a language school and a Spanish conversation club in Greenville. During a recent summer he traveled to Costa Rica with a mission group from his hometown Methodist church in Texas and was called on to translate for other members of the group, most of whom knew no Spanish.

In addition to serving as a raft guide for the NOC this summer, Kyle looks forward to returning to Costa Rica on another mission trip organized by his church. He is currently applying to law schools "all over the country" and plans to resume his study of law in the fall; a cousin of his is currently studying law at Georgetown. Kyle's professional goal is to specialize in the field of energy and natural resources law with an emphasis on appropriate technology—much as his grandfather was an oil and gas lawyer in his day—and he hopes to fit a significant amount of travel into his career.



Please Think About Joining Your Altar Guild

By Faye Jacobson

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

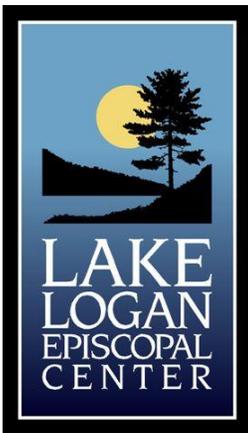
I know everyone is looking forward to a bright new 2020 for St. David's parish. Exciting times are ahead for us! If you would be able to arrive for church about 20 minutes early on occasion and could join those of us who serve as greeters on Sunday mornings, we could surely use your help! If you would 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.



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.



Date	Program
February 7-9	Living the Way of Love: Courageous Conversations About Diversity
March 2-6	Lenten Retreat: Icon Writing
April 13-16	Clergy Rest Days
April 20-21	Parish Administrators Retreat / Youth Ministers Retreat
May 7	Altar Guild Workshop
June 5-6	Cold Mountain Music Festival
June and July	Camp Henry
July 11	Music Series
August 15	Music Series
September 12	Music Series
October 5-7	Artists in Residence
November 9-12	Fly Fishing Retreat
November 26	Thanksgiving Feast
December 4-6	Advent Retreat

Lake Logan offers a variety of fun, spiritual, and educational events open to the public throughout the year. Check our website for the latest program updates.

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Jan 20 **Chris Wilcox, Elliot Reisinger**
Jan 21 **Charles Pringle**
Jan 24 **Donna Ross, Tommy Suggs**

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

Heidi Dinkelmeyer's Girl Scout Cookies are for sale! She has a selection on the piano in The *Gathering Place* at St. D's for any of you that want some. Thank you for your support of her troop! \$4/ box



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.](#)



[Sylva Womens' March](#)

Saturday, January the 18th from 11:30–1:30 pm
at Bridge Park.

The Enlightened Trumpet



January 24 at 7 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St, Asheville

This stunning program by trumpeters Paul Merkelo and Brad Ulrich will include the Telemann Concerto in D, Haydn's Concerto in Eb and the beloved Vivaldi Concerto for Two Trumpets.

Paul Merkelo has been the Principal Trumpet with the Orchestre symphonique de Montreal since 1995 and is recognized as a "spectacular soloist...a most impressive master of his instrument" (Montreal Gazette). He has been featured with orchestras, and in recital, throughout Canada, the US and throughout Europe.

Dr. Bradley Ulrich has been the trumpet professor at Western Carolina University since 1989. He currently performs with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra, the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, and the Fortress Brass Quintet. Dr. Ulrich has performed countless recitals both as a soloist and in quintets across the US and overseas.

Tickets are sold through [Eventbrite](#) (\$20 adults, \$5 students) or sold at the door for \$25 (cash or credit).

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.

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

2019 Outreach Support

From 1st 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