

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



January 6, 2019

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 6	Epiphany 1 st Sunday collection No childcare Budget Committee 1 pm
Mon	Jan 7	Pastoral Care task force noon
Tue	Jan 8	Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
Sat	Jan 12	New Year's Yoga Retreat 8 am-1 pm
Sun	Jan 13	Epiphany 1 Rice & Beans, Annual Meeting Worship Task Force 12:30 pm
Tue	Jan 15	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Jan 20	Epiphany 2 Taizé service 5:30 pm
Fri-Sun	Jan 25-27	Vestry Academy
Sun	Jan 27	Epiphany 3 Soup Supper 5 pm
Mon	Jan 28	Taizé service 5:30 pm
Sun	Feb 3	Epiphany 4 1 st Sunday collection
Tue	Feb 5	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Fri-Sat	Feb 8-9	Vestry Retreat Note date change
Sun	Feb 10	Epiphany 5

Serving this Sunday

Chalice: George Rector
Music: Lillian Pearson
Coffee: Harry & Karen Brown
Readings: [Isaiah 60:1-6](#),
[Ephesians 3:1-12](#), [Matthew 2:1-12](#), [Psalm 72:1-7,10-14](#)

Serving during January

Bread: Wesley Satterwhite
Offering Count: Judy Robinson
Greeter: Jake Jacobson

There will be no childcare January 6th.

[Sermon Link](#)

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Epiphany Sunday

By The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer

This Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany, one of seven principal feasts in our liturgical calendar (BCP, 15). It is the day the Word made flesh was first worshipped by Gentiles marking the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would bring salvation, first to the Jewish people, then to all.

Many Episcopal churches celebrate this, the last day of the Christmas season, with a grand party and the de-greening of the church, bringing the season of Christmas to its official end. Since our church will have been de-greened the day before, we will mark this principal feast with the traditional "chalk blessing" of our church and homes—the locations of our spiritual nurture.

Join us this Sunday as we bless the chalk together. The "chalking of the door" blessing will be given out as an insert in our bulletins so that we can take this blessing to our homes to "mark" them as hallowed locations of spiritual nurture and renewal. *Christus manionem benedicat. May Christ bless this house.*



Unified Awakening

Life is full of little deaths that, as Christians, we are called to enter fully and, as best we can, fearlessly, because we believe that death is the gateway to new life: resurrection life. So, whether it's the death of our habits, our expectations, or the death of our self-identifiers, our career, our relationships, or even the final death of our bodies, we who are followers of Jesus Christ know that new life awaits us on the other side.

In his resurrected state, Jesus was hungry, he cooked and ate with his friends, spoke with them, and allowed them to touch his wounds. He was real and really there, yet he was also unrecognizable to those who knew and loved him best until his love unlocked the limits of their thinking. Simply speaking her name was enough to open Mary Magdalene to recognize her beloved Jesus. Letting go of what made sense in that moment (she was at Jesus' tomb to tend to his dead body), Mary surrendered to her love of Jesus and was transformed by it. Her transformation led to the transformation of the disciples which led to the birth of Christianity.

Every death we know in this life is like that, and Jesus is as real for us in these moments as he was for Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Promising to be with us always Jesus dwells in us. Uniting his spirit with ours, Jesus is our gateway into eternal resurrection. This is a huge truth which I have to reflect on often because of the limitedness of my humanity. It changes everything to recognize that my smallness is made vast, my weakness strong, by the presence of God in me for the purpose God has which is beyond me.

So, it matters that we believe that Jesus was the Christ who came to reconcile humanity to God and that Jesus' death and resurrection were real. When we choose to let go of what makes sense in our worldly experience and surrender to the love of Jesus that is present within us nothing is impossible, just as Jesus said. (Mt 17:20) Every mountain actually becomes moveable, every created thing becomes a thing of beauty and great value, and every death becomes a gateway to another resurrection.

Resurrection is not only something that happens after we die. It's a way of being alive - awakened to the reality that the spirit of God in Christ "[tabernacles](#)" within us both as individuals and as the universal "us." It is a state of unified being in which we have eyes that see, ears that hear, and hearts that are one with God's own heart. In this state of unified awakening, what our tradition calls resurrection life, our wills are aligned with God's will, and that affects what we do. We act, not out of fear or obedience to laws or traditions, but in love—divine, creative love—which flows from us making everything it touches through us new, whole... holy. The church, the community of faith with all of its supportive traditions, is where this process is (or could be) discovered, nourished, and manifested.

The key to this unified state of being in awakening is surrender. It helps to remember, however, that surrender is not weakness or loss. There is no white flag to wave, no humiliation to face. The English word *surrender* is derived from the Old French: *sur* "over, on top of" + *rendere* "give back, return." To surrender in faith, then, is to choose to return ourselves to our Source. In doing that, we become so much more than

ourselves—we become one with all that is, that was, and that will ever be. When that happens, the individualism of western Christianity, in which most of us were reared, fades into foolishness.

Yet, each time my life leads me to another death I dread what's coming, and I go into the experience with trepidation. I don't know why... I've been through these deaths enough to know that the new life it will open for me is totally worth the pain of dying for it. I take solace in knowing Jesus struggled similarly in the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest. "I am deeply grieved," he told his disciples. Then he asked God if it might be possible for the cup to pass from him. (Mt 26: 38, 39, Mk 14: 34, 36)

Could it have gone another way? Nothing is impossible for God, but for us, the only way to resurrection life is through death. Dying involves a total detachment from expectation and outcome, and I always forget how hard that is as the dying happens.

To me, it's like the selective memory many of us mothers have about the intensity of labor in childbirth until, that is, we are in the midst of giving birth again. Then we have that moment where we wonder why we did this again. When the baby emerges, we remember why. The new life is totally worth the pain involved in its birth, and the pain is soon forgotten, lost in the joy of the overwhelming love.

We really must die, over and over again, in order to truly live. This is what Jesus was saying to us in the story of the seed that must die in order to bear fruit (Jn 12:24) and when he cautioned us that whoever seeks to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life will save it (Mt 10:39, Mk 8:35, Lk 17:33, Jn 12:25).

Dying, in the spiritual sense I'm describing here, is an unconditional giving over of ourselves and all of our perceived control back to our Source. Our fabulously designed but limited minds fight against that again and again as if our survival were at risk. The truth is our survival, as individuals and as a people, is in the hands of God in Christ who showed us the way and calls us by name to follow him. Unlocking the limits of our thinking, Jesus transforms us and our world by his divine love. For our part, we respond to this truth by entering every moment of our lives fully and fearlessly, knowing that even when we are called to die, we live eternally in Christ who lives eternally in us.

From the Senior Warden

By Betsy Swift

Dear Friends

Soon—on Sunday January 13th—we will gather for our Annual Meeting to review the year just past and to elect three new members to the Vestry. We have five parishioners standing for election. I am grateful to each one for their willingness to serve and proud to belong to a group of such generous people.

According to Church Canons, members who are regularly part of corporate worship, "who work, pray and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God," are qualified to stand for election once they have been confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of the Church. Bishop Jose's position is that as long as a candidate intends to be confirmed/received and is in preparation with the clergy, they are eligible to stand for election and serve on the Vestry. The formality of being received can be arranged when the Bishop is visiting a nearby Parish since he will not visit us again until 2020.

Every member of St. David's who is 16 years of age or older and who has contributed to the support of the parish financially or otherwise during the past six months is eligible to vote. In lieu of a Parish Register and a list of eligible voters, we leave it in your hands: if you love St. David's and consider yourself a member, you are eligible to vote. One of the tasks going forward will be to update our Parish Register.

If you are unable to attend the Annual meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot. Simply make your selections—remember this year we are electing three (3) to the Vestry—and give them, in a sealed envelope, to the Rector, Senior Warden or Junior Warden prior to the Annual Meeting. This will assure your participation in the first round of the election. (Should a second round be required, only members present will be able to participate for obvious reasons.)

So here we go into an exciting time—the Vestry we elect this year will have as part of their work the directing of our search for a new Rector. I know we will all support them with our love, beginning with our thoughtful and prayerful participation in the Annual Meeting on January 13th.

Betsy

Nominees for Vestry

The following individuals have agreed to be nominated to serve on vestry to fill three vacancies: two for 3-year terms and one for a 2-year term: **Nancie Wilson, June Smith, Jake Jacobson, Gael Graham, and Vance Davidson**. Please email Betsy bswift4252@gmail.com or Maggie magbowles@gmail.com with any additional input you may have. Betsy and Maggie are the vestry members who rotate off; Paul Yanik resigned earlier accounting for the three vacancies to be filled.

Gael Graham

I was drawn to St. David's nearly 20 years ago by a personal invitation from Scott Philyaw, and stayed because of Michael's fresh, poetic, and widely eclectic approach to scripture and theology. Over the years, I have worked with children in the Godly Play program, led small groups of enthusiastic singers and recently became a member of the Altar Guild. The reasons I have not yet formally joined the church do not reflect any reluctance on my part to call St. David's my church home. If there is a way to 'fast-track' my formal membership, I would be honored to deepen my commitment to the community of St. David's by serving on the vestry. I have no experience in church governance but would do my best to learn its ways as we move into the next chapter of St. David's history.



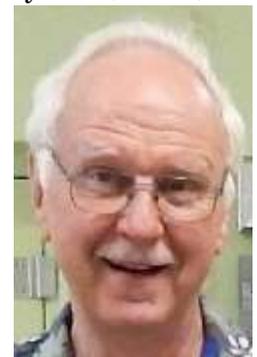
Nancie Wilson

I'd like to serve on the vestry at St. David's because I have a vital interest in how the parish will grow, prosper, and serve our community in the coming years. Vestry service is a privilege as the vestry represents the parish membership and makes decisions on behalf of that membership. My four years of service on the Diocesan Executive Council, which is the "vestry for the diocese," will enable me to offer that experience to St. David's.

Jake Jacobson

Faye and I started attending the Episcopal church a few years after we married, and I was baptized in my late 20's at St. Francis Episcopal church in Macon, Georgia at the same time as our only child, Chris, was baptized. When Chris came out to us as a gay man during his college years, we quickly realized that we had become members by proxy of a minority group in our society. Not long after that, we started attending a PFLAG group (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and then formed a PFLAG chapter in Macon.

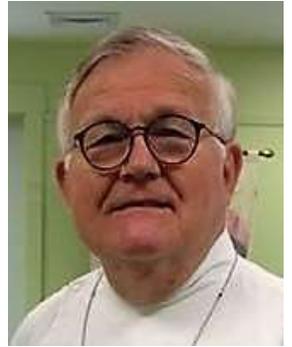
We have attended St. David's for about ten years now, and I knew the first time we walked up the steps and saw the "Safe Zone" triangular sticker on the door that I had found my church home. I have served once before on St. David's vestry and served as senior warden during that time. I currently serve on the cemetery committee and am the "convener"/calendar scheduler for our group of greeters. St. David's is an amazing parish and family group, and I know that we have a wonderful future ahead. If I am elected to the vestry, it will be an honor to serve.



Vance Davidson

Kathy and I have been married for 37 years. We have one son and two grandsons. We have been members of St. David's for over seventeen years and have been Episcopalian for almost forty-two years. I am a retired trust banker and lawyer. I served for over eleven years as Development Director and Deputy Director of Region A Partnership for Children.

At St David's I have served as Stewardship Chair for four years and as a member of the budget and finance committee for sixteen years. I also served a previous term on Vestry at St. David's beginning in 2002. Kathy and I together coordinated 21 wine tasting fundraisers at St. David's. More recently, I served as project manager for second floor parish hall completion. I have served as a chaliceist and lay reader at St. David's for 17 years.



June Smith

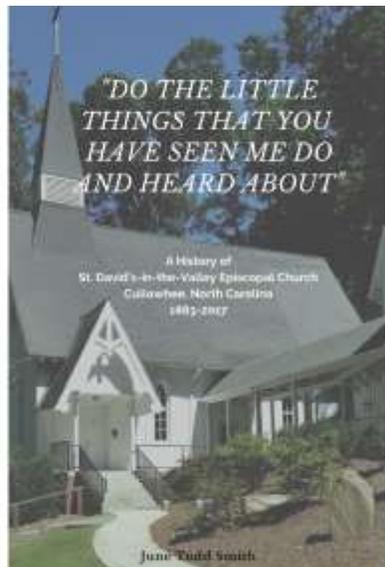


As most of you know, I have spent the last two years writing and preparing for publication a history of St. David's-in-the-Valley. (The last three months have caused progress to stall, but it really is almost ready!) My 40-plus years as a member here and all the research I did for the book have given me a unique window into our past and a rich hope for our future under a new priest. I would very much like to be a part of that future as a vital member of St. David's community and as a dedicated member of the vestry.

As a member in good standing of St. David's, I have pledged for the budget each year and have financially supported all our extra endeavors, from the St. David's Festival Auction to the new parish hall. I am a long-standing member of St. Clare's Altar Guild, have represented St. David's at the diocesan convention multiple times, taught Sunday school in the 1970s, have given reflections for Advent and other times as well as being a lector, was on both the Fund Raising and Construction Committee for the new parish hall, and have served on the vestry under the Rev. Dr. Heber Peacock and the Rev. Michael Hudson, being senior warden in 1991, 1997 and 1998. Not much has happened at St. David's in modern times that I have not been a dedicated participant in. I am at a unique time in my personal life. I feel that my becoming a member of the vestry will be good for St. David's and for manifesting God's love here, as well as for myself.

History of St. David's Coming Soon

This is what the cover of the comprehensive history of our church will look like. June Smith has been working on it for a very long time.



St Clare's Altar Guild of St David's Episcopal Church

By Judy Robinson

Our altar guild invites you to join if you are not a member. We have lost several members this past year and could use some help on these committees: Flowers (provided throughout the year weekly by altar guild members; you can bring from your garden or even roadside); Linens (washing and ironing of linens used weekly in our services); Communion Altar prep (set up and break down of the altar every Sunday); Bread (bake bread for Communion; we have a great recipe); Task Reminder (we need someone to email whoever is signed up at the start of each month). We usually sign up by the month, but you can help by the week if that is what works for you. Currently, Muff Lyons and Faye Jacobson are our co-chairs. If you are interested or want to know more details, please contact Judy Robinson (task calendar organizer) at judyleroyrobinson@gmail.com. We appreciate your considering this!

WCU Outreach: Home Base Program

By Judy Robinson

Thanks to everyone for your very generous contributions to the personal hygiene items for Home Base students. We more than filled the giant blue bag! We were going to deliver on the Monday of finals week, but got snowed out. The items will be delivered on Monday, January 14th, the first day of classes for the Spring 2019 semester. We wanted students to be there when we made delivery. The WCU Outreach Team thanks you and you will hear from us soon about next steps towards supporting students, faculty, and staff. Please contact Judy Robinson if you want to join the team, or have questions. judyleroyrobinson@gmail.com

Parish News & Notes

Birthday

Jan 10 Heidi Dinkelmeyer

Margot and Tom Wilcox celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary last week with a family trip to Hayesville to a special restaurant.



Congratulations to Tyler Kinnear and his new wife Susan Song, shown here with parents Terry and Linda Kinnear.



Congratulations, also, to Andy and Jane Coburn on their 27th wedding anniversary.

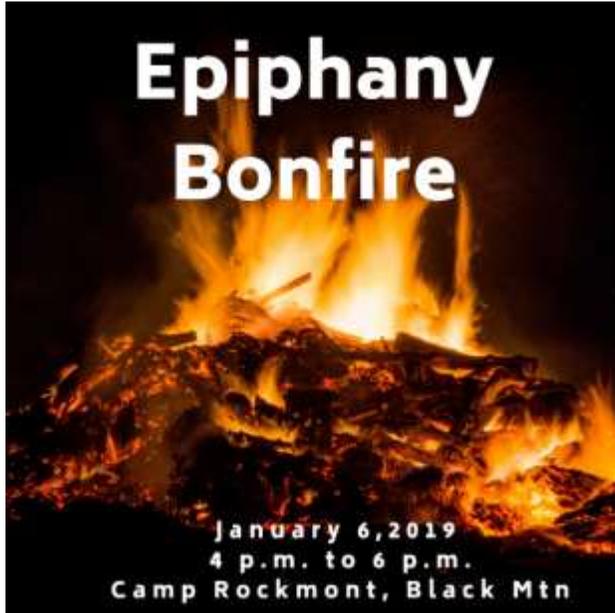
Great thanks to all for the deliciously beautiful and lucrative reception you created for last Sunday's coffee hour. It has been a true joy for me to play the Zimmer pipe organ these last 26 years and to be a part of St. David's vibrant community for the last 44 years. I'm not going away, just not warming the organ bench any longer.

With everlasting thanks,

Nan



Diocesan Youth Events



Epiphany Bonfire

January 6, 2019
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Camp Rockmont

Rising 6th through 12th graders, join us for an afternoon of fun at Camp Rockmont for an Epiphany bonfire. We will have s'mores, a hot chocolate bar, games, and a chance to join together in community.

In celebration of Epiphany we will be collecting men's socks (new) which will be donated to the Church of the Advocate. Also, please feel free to bring a tree to burn.

RSVP by Jan 3, 2019. Thanks!

Directions:

375 Lake Eden Road, Black Mountain NC 28711
Turn into Camp Rockmont entrance and parking is available beside the tennis courts. Once parked, walk toward building on the right, which is the Dining

Hall. Walk around Dining Hall and the Fire Circle will be within view beside Lake Eden.

90's Skate Party

February 3, 2019

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Smokey Mountain Skyway, Waynesville, NC

Join us for a 90's themed skate party. Come dressed in your best 90's outfit! Cost and registration information will be available in January.



Save the Dates

High School Spring Retreat

March 1-3, 2019

Valle Crucis Conference Center

Registration will open in January.

Dismantling Racism Retreat

April 5-7, 2019

High School Youth Only

Retreat will be located in the Asheville area but the exact location is TBD. Registration will open in February.

Glory Ridge Camping & Service Retreat

May 4-5, 2019

[Glory Ridge Camp](#)

Middle School Youth Only

Registration will open in February.

**Vestry Stewardship Covenant
St. David's Episcopal Church
2018**

We believe that our community is called upon to fully trust in God's promise to provide. Sometimes, however, we are fearful that it won't happen due to our lack of trust, our fear, and our need to control.

We commit to remember who we are in God and for the world, near and far: beloved servants. We commit to make financial decisions remembering that God provides for us, sometimes in surprising ways, by keeping the Gospel promise of abundance as our guide and touchstone, and by constantly evaluating this new way of thinking.

We invite everyone to join the vestry in reflecting on the grace and good luck that pervade our lives which leads us to a natural and comfortable means of sharing the abundance with which we have been blessed.

Save the Date

Jackson Neighbors in Need

Charlie's Challenge

Saturday, January 26, 2019

6:00pm

First Baptist Mission &

Fellowship Hall

Main Street Sylva

Dinner Provided by Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort

Entertainment Provided by Summer Brooke & The Mountain Faith Band

Meditation Opportunities at St. David's

Accessible Mindfulness: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10-11:15 am. This is especially geared for those new to mindfulness meditation.

Other Meditation Opportunities

WCU Mindfulness and Meditation: Thursdays at 4 pm 224 Bird Building. For details, call 227-7469 and ask for Michelle. To view a flyer, [please click here](#).

Mindfulness Meditation: 9:15 am on Thursdays at Sylva Yoga above Lulu's on Main Street in downtown Sylva. Meditation gives students the opportunity to focus on the deep interconnection between mind and body, which can be experienced directly by practice in mindfulness.

Virtual Closet

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact Claire Marsh: clairemrsh@gmail.com 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	Mondays 10:30 am 4 th Mondays 5:30 pm 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr	Cullowhee Men's Group Taizé Service Accessible Mindfulness Soup/Bread Community Supper
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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:

Betsy Swift, Senior Warden

Muff Lyons, Junior Warden

Maggie Bowles

Sandy Frazier—Judy Robinson