

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



December 22, 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	Dec 22	Advent 4, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Greening of the Church following service
Tue	Dec 24	Lessons & Carols 5:30 pm, Readers: June Smith, Margot Wilcox, Gracia Slater, Paul Cooper, Sloan Despeaux Torches: Abel & Angus Despeaux
Wed	Dec 25	Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist 11 am, Vance Davidson, Chalicist
Sun	Dec 29	Christmas 1 Holy Eucharist 11 am
Thu	Jan 2	Accessible Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Jan 5	Christmas 2, Holy Eucharist 11 am
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, 5 pm

[Sermon Link](#)

[Parish Profile 2019](#)

Serving this Sunday

Chalice:

Reader:

Music: Rosa Reily

Coffee: BYO sandwich, cookies

Readings: [Isaiah 7:10-16](#),

[Romans 1:1-7](#), [Matthew 1:18-25](#),

[Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18](#)

Serving during December

Flowers: Judy Robinson

Muff Lyons Dec 25

Linen: Gerlinde Lindy

Communion: Gracia Slater &

Margot Wilcox

Bread: John Slater

Greeter: George Rector &

Joan Byrd

St. David's Greening

December 22nd following Sunday Service

For this year we are going back to our old tradition of greening following the church service. Russian Tea and cookies will be provided. Bring a sandwich, clippers, and any greens you might have that would be suitable for wreath making.

Everyone is welcome, and if you haven't done it before you will find it so rewarding. After all the windows are decorated and the wreathes are hung, we go and sit quietly in the sanctuary. The smell of fir and cedar and the beauty of the greenery creations is magic.

Christmas Poinsettias Donations to the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild purchases poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to St. David's Altar Guild with Christmas flowers on the memo line. There will be an insert in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletin recognizing those who donate and the name of anyone you might like to honor, give thanks for, or recognize. Place your checks in the alms basin or hand them to Margot Wilcox.



And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

From the Interim Rector

By The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer

Dear friends,

"For we are God's servants, working together..." 1 Cor 3:9

As our interim time together is drawing to a close, I am happy to share with you that I have accepted a call to serve as Interim Rector at a church in MO. My last Sunday at St. David's will be February 9th. By that time the discernment process will be well underway with interested candidates who are already discovering this jewel in the WNC mountains known as St. David's in the Valley.

You are ready. Everything in the church office will be ready by then. My prayers for you will continue as you complete this exciting process and step into the new life God has been preparing you for these last two years. As Milton Erickson once said, "I look forward to the day when we can all look back and behold with wonder what you and your next rector and God have done."

One of the things I have cherished and will carry with me in my heart as I leave is how much I have enjoyed and grown from our time in ministry together. Thank you for serving God and St David's so well. God bless you lavishly as you await the birth of the Christ and prepare to welcome a new rector.



Meet Carol Payton, our new Parish Administrator! Carol is a retired educator who lives in the area, attends the Methodist Church in Sylva and, more recently, our book study on Richard Rohr's "The Universal Christ" at St. David's. Carol's first day was this past Tuesday. Her email is: parishadmin@stdavidscullowhee.org.

Valori +

Steve Sherer's Very Special Chocolate Amaretto Pecan Cake

1&1/2 cup pecans slightly chopped pecans
1 fudge chocolate cake mix
4 eggs
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup oil (canola)
1/2 cup Amaretto

Oil & flour Bundt pan. Preheat oven 325. Mix all ingredients except pecans and pour 1/2 of mixture into pan. Spread pecans over the mixture in Bundt pan. Pour remainder of mix over the pecans. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cake comes out clean. While cake is baking start glaze.

1 cup sugar
1 stick butter
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup of rum

Melt butter in pan/skillet. Add sugar & water. Simmer on low heat. Add rum to pan/ skillet when cake is done, then pour glaze over cake while it's still in the Bundt pan. Cool 15 minutes then remove cake from pan & cool.

P.S. Before starting the glaze, it's a good idea to pour yourself a healthy drink of the rum just to make sure of the quality... 😄😄😄

Enjoy, Steve

Jubilate Deo Revived



The Jubilate Deo small choir is reuniting again for 2020! All who love singing are welcome to join this group. We will meet every four (4) months for a 2-hour session at which we will practice four (4) songs. On the Sundays we sing we'll gather at 10:15 to review the song for that day. We will usually sing on the last Sunday of the month. The first practice will be on Sunday, January 5th at 3 pm at the home of Rosa Reily. Please contact Rosa at reily2@frontier.com or 828-293-9358 for more information and to express interest. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100)

Peace

An Advent Reflection by Judy Robinson

This week, we lit the candle for peace on our advent wreath. For me, it seems a bit easier to be attuned to the spiritual and peaceful aspects of Christmas here in the mountains and woods than in the urban places I have lived. I can hear "Silent Night" as a lullaby and imagine Jesus gently cuddled by Mary in their own quiet, private, moments as mother and child.

St. David's has been a place of peace for me since I first found our church 16 years ago. Even when there is a lot to be done for a committee meeting, for getting ready for coffee hour, and when the gathering place is filled with conversation and laughter, there is peace. I think this comes from our shared faith, our hillside setting, and the spirit love that is God, that is in us and connects us. It also comes from knowing that we are present for each other without question, in need and in joy.



Our congregation has been through changes in the past two years which are significant, and progress has not always been peaceful. But even through disappointments and disagreements, while a few felt the need for distance, most of us have held on to our connections and allowed ourselves to be held steadfast in the love of this community. There have been moments of mutual respect, and the peace that comes with "going with the flow" throughout the process.

New things and more changes are coming in the months and year ahead as we find our new rector and he or she finds us. My best hope for us, in this season of hope, is that we can approach whatever unfolds peacefully, with open hearts and open minds. Let us be the magi or the shepherd boy as they greeted baby Jesus with positive anticipation and innocence regarding what might be. Let us not be the doubters, nor the "just so" persons that have a pre-conceived notion of the only way things should be. (I am speaking to myself here, because, as my husband Ron would tell you, I can very much be a "just so" person). There can be peace in welcoming change instead of trying to direct it. There can be peace in looking forward to being awed by someone's unfamiliar gifts. And right now, in this moment, in the candlelit quiet of this brief service, we can find the peace that comes with knowing that our God will give us all we need. All we need to worship, all we need to be community, all we need to serve, and all we need to grow. All we need to allow the life cycle of our dear church to unfold and bring us closer to the hope of future that is the Christ child.

It is Advent. Believe in the miracle. Believe in love. Believe in hope. Be at peace.

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Dec 24 **Elena Reynolds**
Dec 28 **Boot Hanks**
Dec 30 **Brad Ulrich**

Anniversary

Dec 27 **Tom & Margot Wilcox**

Here are the addresses of several folks who have recently moved so that those of us who are so inclined may send them holiday greetings:

Claire Marsh
Bryson Senior Living
314 Hughes Branch Rd.
Bryson City NC 28713

Frank Lockwood & Donna Ross
Henry Hall, Rm. 2301
11 Wakefield Dr.
Asheville NC 28803

Bill & Betty Lynn Kirwan
316 Cedar Club Cir
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Congratulations!

Valori gave Paul and Melba Cooper a blessing on the occasion of their 49th wedding anniversary.



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

2nd Sundays
Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr
Mondays 10:30 am
2nd Mondays
1st & 3rd Thursdays

Rice & Beans Ministry
Soup/Bread Community Supper
Cullowhee Men's Group 10:30 am
Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
Accessible Mindfulness 10 am

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

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)			

St. David's Vestry

Senior Warden, Judy Robinson

Sandy Frazier

Vance Davidson

Steve Steinbrueck, Treasurer, is ex-officio to the vestry.

Junior Warden, Muff Lyons

Gael Graham

Jake Jacobson

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.