

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



December 23, 2018

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 23	Advent 4 Final Greening of the Church No childcare
Mon	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 9 pm No childcare
Tue	Dec 25	Christmas Day Service 11 am No childcare
Sun	Dec 30	Christmas 1 No childcare Celebrating Nan
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

There will be no childcare December 23rd, 24th, 30th, and January 6th.

[Sermon Link](#)

Poinsettias for Christmas Services



Now is the time to speak up if you want to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving. Contact Margot Wilcox no later than Sunday (mtwilcox@frontier.com). She is willing to accept IOUs and promises to pay, or you may write a check for any amount you wish made out to St.

Clare's Altar Guild. Please include the name(s) to be memorialized on the memo line and indicate that it is for Christmas flowers. You can mail the check or just hand it to Margot Wilcox or Muff Lyons.

Serving this Sunday

Chalice: Vance Davidson
Reader: Muff Lyons
Coffee: Betty Lynn Kirwan
Music: Nan Watkins
Candle lighting: Judy Robinson
Readings: [Micah 5:2-5a](#),
[Hebrews 10:5-10](#), [Luke 1:39-45](#),
[\(46-55\)](#), [Canticle 15 \(or 3\)](#),
[or Psalm 80:1-7](#)

Serving Christmas Eve

Readers: Bill Kirwan, Joan Byrd,
George Rector, Margot Wilcox,
June Smith, Betsy Swift
Torches: Abel & Angus
Despeaux
Chalice: Nancie Wilson

Serving Christmas Day

Chalice: Betsy Swift
Reader: Muff Lyons

Serving during December

Advent Wednesdays music:
Nan Watkins
Bread: John Slater
Flowers: Judy Robinson
Dec 25-Muff Lyons

Linen: Gerlinde Lindy
Eucharist: Gracia Slater &
Margot Wilcox
Offering: Muff Lyons
Greeters: George Rector &
Joan Byrd

Serving during January

Bread: Wesley Satterwhite

Final Greening

This Sunday after church, the final touches for Christmas will be done—poinsettias and magnolia will be placed above the altar along with candles and greenery in the windows. The red bows will be attached to the wreaths, and the liturgical hangings will be changed from Advent to Christmas ones.



The Gospel for Advent 4

Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Time Between

By The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer

I love this time of year, and no, I'm not a shopper. Ask anyone who knows me. What I love is that this is a period of time between the knowledge of a new thing about to come and its coming.

I remember, when I became pregnant with my first child, how I couldn't wait until I could wear maternity clothes so everyone would know what I knew, that a new life was being formed in me. By my third child, I couldn't wait to get rid of those maternity clothes, but I digress.

Advent is the time between the prophetic proclamation of John the Baptist and the Nativity—the knowledge that new life was coming into the world and the coming of that new life. A transforming moment in this story happens at the Annunciation to Mary—the moment Mary gave her consent to God to serve as the God-bearer and bring the Word into the world.

I have often wondered what Mary felt as she carried this new life in her body—new life that was different from anything anyone had ever known; new life that would change all life forevermore, including hers. She knew that her life was going take a direction she had not imagined and for which she couldn't fully prepare. She knew that the hope of her people—in fact, the hope of all people—was being formed in her womb. Bearing that hope to the world would require much from Mary: humility, courage, faith, perseverance, and a life prayerfully devoted to the will of God.

Each year as we cycle through the liturgical calendar, we come to this place at the end of the calendar year, when the cultural frenzy, focused mostly on shopping, happens. Our lives get extremely busy while, at the same time, the church season calls us to slow down, to wait, to listen with expectation for the new thing God is doing in our lives.

Seeds of new life have been planted in us by God, and that new life abides within us, unknown by those looking at us and our lives from the worldly perspective. But it's in there, growing and preparing to bear fruit.

We know that it is God who is planting those seeds of new life, and we have been faithful tending to them, nourishing them to fruition through the work of our Task Forces so that they can bear fruit in us, and through us, into the world.

As we wait together in this common “pregnancy,” I offer this prayer-poem written by my vestry at St. Mary's in Cadillac, MI. It was shared at our last meeting together and it inspires me still.

Hope is a state of mind not dictated by what appears to be:
a promise
built on faith.
We look beyond the fear,
and begin to trust what we do not yet know.
We must listen with love,
for though we prepare and plan
and strive to organize,
God will take us in a new direction,
a re-birth beyond our comprehension.
With prayerful work
we can
be true to who we are
as we trust and continue in God's love and become truly ourselves.

God bless us and lavish grace upon us as we practice this final week of Advent together that we might joyfully consent to bear its fruit into the world in the year to come.

Valori+

Advent Reflection

Here is a link for Bob Dodd's reflection from last Wednesday's Advent service:
[Bob Dodd 12/12/2018](#)

Soup & Bread Community Supper

Wesley would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of Soup Suppers in its third year. Remember there will be no Soup Supper in December. Please join us the last Sunday in January as we resume this joyful and nourishing gathering.



Mind the Thermostats

PLEASE, begs your junior warden, if you turn the thermostat up either upstairs or downstairs in the Parish Hall, turn them back down to 60 degrees when you leave. We try hard not to be wasteful of energy!

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.** Additional names and nominees for delegates and alternates to convention will follow, as will short write-ups about each candidate. 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.

Greeters Needed in 2019

By Jake Jacobson

We have been blessed with a good group of folks who serve as greeters each year. In the next couple of weeks, I will be contacting each of them to ask if they will be able to serve for 2019. If you would like to join us to help in this service to the church, please contact me by email or mention it to me at church. I usually ask folks to serve for one or two months during the year, in teams of two. It is also very helpful to have a few names of people who cannot commit to a full month at a time, but are agreeable to be contacted to serve as "backup" when the scheduled greeters have a conflict and are not able to be at church. If you can help with this in either way, please let me know, and I will be in touch with the group by email to plan the schedule. My email is thejakes@frontier.com. Thank you!

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Dec 24 **Elena Reynolds**
Dec 26 **Ellen Perry**
Dec 28 **Boot Hanks, Hannah Stevens**
Dec 30 **Brad Ulrich**

Anniversary

Dec 27 **Tom & Margot Wilcox**

Ann Suggs is home at last but still faces a long recovery.



Lego Tournament 2018

Josh Vinyard, Heidi Dinkelmeyer, and Angus Despeaux all participated again this year in the Lego Robotics Tournament.

Shown at left are Josh Vinyard, Heidi Dinkelmeyer, and Barrett Yanik at the CVS D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony





Greening of the Church 2018



**SYLVA GARDEN CLUB
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**



MAMMOTH HALVES - 16 OZ BAG -	\$12.00
MAMMOTH HALVES - 12 OZ BAG -	\$10.00
DARK CHOCOLATE - 12 OZ BAG -	\$11.00
MILK CHOCOLATE - 12 OZ BAG -	\$11.00
PECAN CLUSTERS - 10 OZ BAG-	\$11.00

**CASH OR CHECK.....MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO-
SYLVA GARDEN CLUB
LET'S TURN NUTS INTO
SCHOLARSHIPS !**

Sylva Garden Club Pecan Sale

The Sylva Garden Club pecans are finally here. One change in content –they sent 12 oz. mammoth pieces not halves for the same prices. Proceeds are dedicated to two scholarships, one at WCU and one at SCC. Last year the WCU scholarship was for \$1,500 and the SCC one for \$1,000.

The pecans can be purchased from any Sylva Garden Club member or by contacting us through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SylvaGardenClub/>. They are also available at the following merchants:

City Lights Bookstore
Country Road Farms
Dr. David M Lemay Office
KrisMart
Nancy Tuts Christmas Shop
Ray's Florist
Tuckasegee Trading Company
Tunnel Mountain Crafts
Visage Salon

**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.

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 2018](#)

Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: magbowles@gmail.com

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stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

[Altar Guild Schedule 2018](#)

[Greeter Schedule 2018](#)

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