

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



May 9, 2021

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

News from the Vestry

By Jessica Philyaw, Senior Warden

Vestry held an “extra” meeting after church on Sunday, May 2nd, to discuss several timely matters:

In the wake of our Black Lives Matter banner being stolen, we will replace it (in plywood this time, so as to be harder to remove and carry away) and place motion-activated trail cameras in the vicinity to see what we can see. We will also lock the side door of the church, but keep the main doors unlocked so as not to interfere with anyone’s private prayer. However, we will also place a trail camera outside near the doors so that we have a chance of seeing someone if (and only if) there is any trouble caused on the grounds or to the buildings. (That is, no one will be reviewing pictures unless there is a reason to do so.)

As many of you may know, the Gathering Place’s hot water heater recently suffered a catastrophic failure, but Doug and Vance were able to turn it off and get it drained before any lasting damage was done. We will be replacing it with an on-demand/tankless system that will be more energy efficient and should last longer, as well. The local real estate and remodeling boom is so hot right now that it has been difficult to get work done quickly, but we have a plumber set to do the job as soon as he can work us in over the coming couple of weeks, or sooner we hope.

We are also at (or nearing) the end of the process of getting bids for pressure washing and repainting (the exterior of the Gathering Place in those areas that need it and in the interior of the church.) There’s no timeline yet, but we’ll keep you posted. And please thank Doug when you see him—his many jobs are never done, and wrangling lawn care, plumbers, and painters is no easy task!

On another note, entirely, it’s wonderful that Bishop José has issued new guidelines for worship during the pandemic. We will now dispense with signups for in-person worship—just come if you want! We can accommodate up to 50 people, with the new 3-foot rule for social distancing. Masks are still required for indoor worship, but we can SING while wearing them! Hooray! We will continue to use fans and open windows for improved air circulation. Outdoor worship will also continue, without any attendance cap.

And more on the worship front: mission and ministry. Vestry had a wonderful retreat back in March, and very much felt God’s presence with us as we discerned our work together. In this brief report, I cannot do justice to our conversations, but I do want to share with the congregation that we believe that an important part of St. David’s mission lies with students on campus. One reason that we had a special vestry meeting this past Sunday is that our usual meeting time on May 10th will be spent with Kelsey Davis, the WCU Campus Missioner, in order to talk with her about the needs she sees among the students with whom she works. As we continue to discern God’s path for us, we want to tune in closely, and with intention, to the needs of students as they are in this historical moment, and in our midst. And we have realized that in order to do that listening, we need some insight from those who are already working in that community. This will be an ongoing learning process involving the entire congregation, members of whom are also dedicated professionally to the WCU student community, and this meeting between Kelsey and the vestry is only just the first step. (For those who might be interested, in preparation for our

meeting with Kelsey, vestry members are reading *Belovedness: Finding God and Self on Campus*, by James Franklin and Becky Zartman.)

Finally, I know that Mother Gaelyn asks for your prayers, as she has had two deaths in the family this past week—her cousins Chris and Kelby (brothers) who were killed in a swimming accident in Georgia. Please keep the family in your prayers as they cope with this sudden double loss. Chris, who had served as a paratrooper in Panama, was able to donate his organs and thereby save lives. His funeral will be Saturday, May 8th, and the family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to WoundedWarriorProject.org. Kelby's funeral was held on Thursday, May 6, and the vestry sent flowers on behalf of Mother Gaelyn's St. David's family.

Kelby Bryant: <https://www.townsendfuneralhome.com/obituary/Kelby-Bryant>

Chris Bryant: <https://www.townsendfuneralhome.com/obituary/Chris-Bryant>

Church Hike Planned for May 16th

Our first church hike of the season will be on Sunday, May 16th. We will walk around Wolf Lake in the Little Canada area for about a mile to a cemetery where the road ends. It is a lovely place to have Eucharist.

Meet at the church at 1:30 pm to caravan to the trailhead or meet there at 2 pm. (Directions to trailhead: From Cullowhee, take 107 South to Tuckasegee; turn left onto Hwy 281. Go approximately 13 miles and turn left on [Vess Owens Rd.](#))

We plan to have a church hike with Eucharist on the third Sunday of each month throughout the summer and fall.



Altar Guild Welcomes New Member



Mary Michael Hanks has come on board as the newest member of the Altar Guild. She helps with bread baking and with cleaning up after the service. We have to soak those little glasses and pour the water on the ground since the wine has been consecrated, and that is a good job for young knees.

The other members will welcome her at their upcoming brunch on May 22nd at 10:30 a.m. Whether the brunch will be held indoors or outdoors is yet to be decided, but if it is indoors, we will space the chairs apart and wear masks when we are not eating.

If you know of someone who you think might be interested in Altar Guild as a ministry, please invite them. We have a great group but always welcome new additions.

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

May 9	Maggie Bowles, Tom Wilcox, Ann Guessford
May 14	Carole Hill
May 15	Sarah Harvey, Emily Lamm

Beans & Rice

Please remember our ongoing collection of rice and especially beans for our Vecinos families and farm workers. Donations may be left in the big containers inside the church doors at any time.



Necessary Information

The Coracle is getting an updated look to better coordinate with the information that Mother Gaelyn puts into the weekly bulletin.

As always, news items from the parish and especially photographs are always welcome. Send submissions to [Maggie Bowles](#).

HAPPENING AT ST. DAVID'S

SUNDAYS

11:00 IN-PERSON AND FACEBOOK LIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

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3rd SUNDAYS: CHURCH HIKES, short-ish hikes with Eucharist. Next hike, May 16th at Wolf Lake. See *The Coracle* or contact [Maggie Bowles](#) for more information.

MONDAYS

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WEDNESDAYS

9:30 AM MORNING PRAYER RITE I, on Zoom, (See website for link)

12:00 OUTDOOR EUCHARIST 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (bring a chair, no sign-up needed)

RECTOR IN OFFICE

St. David's in the Valley, Clergy and Staff

The Right Rev. Jose A. McLoughlin, Bishop

The Rev. Gaelyn Lei Evangreene, Rector

Carol Payton, Parish Administrator

Lillian Pearson, Organist

Serving this week:

Randi Neff, Lector

Muff Lyons, Intercessor

Jessica Philyaw, Chalice Bearer

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