

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



July 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.

A Message from Mother Gaelyn

July 19, 2020

Dear friends,

In the past week we have had three in-person services of Morning and Evening Prayer on the deck with a total of 14 people for all three services. It has been a blessing to gather in prayer, to share the prayer concerns in our hearts, and to have a few minutes of conversation afterwards. We all wear our face coverings the entire time, have hand sanitizer available, and are rotating our prayer books. We are taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of our community and visitors.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head...It is like the dew of Hermon...For there God ordained the blessing: life for evermore” (Psalm 133). This psalm reminds us of the joy of relationship with each other. Oil was used for cleansing. We can imagine in a hot desert climate what a relief cleansing, moisturizing oil must have been. Hermon was an agricultural area in Israel. In an area that receives little rain, the dew has to provide the much-needed water in order for crops to grow and produce life sustaining food. Oil and dew would have been a comfort or respite from the heat, as well as essential for life, as are our relationship with each other.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” So many of us long not only for relationships but for unity in our country and the world. There is an affirmation that saved me many times in my days as a classroom teacher, “you get more of what you focus on.” The intention was to notice what was happening that was positive, so as to create more space for more that is positive. Did it immediately wipe out all misbehavior? No. But it did increase positivity in the environment and within myself.

So, if you are down, discouraged by the division in our country and/or the isolation of stay-at-home, I encourage you to try considering the blessings of living together in unity, looking for evidence of such blessings, and doing whatever is in your power to create a more positive world. Even if we never leave the house, we can still pray for our neighbors, our loved ones, all those in any kind of authority, and those caring for the sick, the poor, and the friendless. And if it feels safe to you, please join us in prayer on the deck as we continue to live together in unity and to be a blessing to each other and our world.

Peace and blessings,

Mother Gaelyn

This Saturday Morning

Let's join together as a community to give our buildings and grounds some love and care while also getting a chance to get to know each other and our new rector (socially distanced and with face coverings, of course!)

Sign-up here: <https://calendly.com/gaelyn/parish-work-day> or email Mtr. Gaelyn at rector@stdavidscullowhee.org

What to bring:

Face covering

Shovel and a rake, if you can

Rubber gloves

A bucket, if you can

Snacks for yourself



List of Tasks

Remove and vacuum cushions

Clean pews with Murphy's Oil Soap

Vacuum out pew racks

Move some books to the upstairs closet

Clean around the organ

Clean votive rack

Vacuum windows and clean window sills with Murphy's Oil Soap

Make sure all windows on the cemetery side can open

Clean spider webs

Vacuum floors

Mop floor

Refill hand sanitizer (if we can find liquid hand sanitizer)

Pressure wash concrete, deck furniture, and other areas with animal droppings

See if the canopy can be put up and secured on the deck

Dispose of the posts and chain link on the playground

Spread out the sand from the sandbox

Clean out under the outside stairs

Service Information for the Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Sunday Service Online

Join us Sunday, July 19th, 2020 at 11 am in real time on [Zoom](#) or [Facebook LIVE](#).

No internet or smartphone?

You can still join St. David's Zoom church meeting by phone by dialing +1 929 205 6099 and entering the meeting ID number 857 5147 5913. You can even use *6 to toggle mute/unmute.

Serving this Sunday

Lector: Vance Davidson

Intercessors: Harry Brown and Betsy Swift

Organist: Lillian Pearson

Email prayer requests to [Muff Lyons](#)

Worship in Person

If you need some "in person" worship time, please [SCHEDULE](#) here for small gatherings on Monday at 5 pm or Wednesday at 9:30 am, or to meet with the rector for conversation and/or prayer.

RIP

Alex Lesueur

1923-2020

Alex was the Bishop's warden at St. David's in 1977 when the church was still a mission church. His [obituary](#) is online; condolences may be sent to Joan Lesueur, PO Box 22217, Lexington, KY 40522. and contributions may be made to Christ Church Cathedral, 166 Market Street, Lexington, KY 40507

Vestry News

by Jessica Philyaw

(seniorwarden@stdavidscullowhee.org or 828-506-4478)

The vestry met for our regular monthly business meeting on Monday, July 13th. We marveled at the blessing of the owner of Franklin Fence deciding to forgo an earlier estimate of well over \$900 to replace the fencing around the St. David's playground. Instead, he replaced it for free, with a request that we use the money for our Christian mission instead. So, we have made a \$1000 donation to Vecinos, knowing that this is a time of extreme need in the local farmworker community that they serve.

Vestry was also delighted to vote to accept a donation from Nancie of Alice's books on theology and spirituality. It was Alice's (and is Nancie's) wish that these books find a home with the St. David's community. We plan to establish a parish reading room in the upstairs church office—details to be worked out in the coming weeks and TBA.

The Regathering Task Force (via Mtr. Gaelyn) reported to vestry that our strategy for bringing back in-person worship remains to go slowly and carefully. For now, there are weekday services of morning and evening prayer on the back deck, limited to a total of 10 people. The days of the week for these may change, so look on the website for up-to-date information. In-person indoor worship is still limited to the fewer-than-10 participants in the Sunday livestream service. However, the church is open for private prayer during the week, with information at the entrance about the disinfection protocol.

Getting Back to “Real” Church

By Gael Graham

The first week that Mother Gaelyn was with us, the St. David's community took a step toward when the service was filmed (and zoomed) from inside the church. Five people were there, all masked and socially distanced. Some spoke through masks, some without.

With that example, when I was asked to lead the Prayers of the People the following week, I felt comfortable saying yes. Like the previous week, there was only a small group of people in the sanctuary, and again we were masked and socially distanced. On the theory that I will soon be teaching in a mask five days a week (all of my fall classes have a face-to-face component), I chose to pray through the mask, trying to enunciate while also using my voice to suggest emotions that could not be read on my face.

I encourage all of you who feel ready to be back in the St. David's sanctuary to say yes when asked or to take the initiative to volunteer for a role in the Sunday service. It was marvelous to be back in our holy space—to hear and sense others around me. We can't know how long it will be before larger groups are permitted to gather, but this one step forward meant a great deal to me.

Flying to London is Like Covid-19 or Spend More Time with Your Favorite Bull Dog

Reprinted from sandystravels.com by Sandy Frazier

Several years ago, Elizabeth and I had the good fortune to return to London over the Christmas holiday. We booked ourselves on Norwegian Airlines for the first time ever and made arrangements to return to the Crowne Plaza Docklands in East London. We flew to New York from Atlanta and made our way to the Norwegian gates at JFK. Our flight was very relaxed and uneventful until we were about an

hour out from touchdown at Gatwick International Airport. The pilot came on the intercom to announce that due to an emergency at Gatwick our flight was being diverted to a “yet to be determined landing somewhere other than Gatwick.” For the next hour and a half there was much uncertainty among the crew as to where we would land. Finally, it was announced that we would be landing in Doncaster, which is about 150 miles north of London. Whew, at least it was England we landed in, for as we learned later, many flights ended up in France, Belgium, and Holland.

To add to all the uncertainty, the crew was not sure what measures were being taken to get passengers delivered to Gatwick. It was only after landing on Doncaster’s lone runway (with no taxiway) and returning to the terminal by way of the very same runway we just landed on, that the crew was able to provide our options. Option one, Norwegian would return any passengers that desired, by five-hour motor coach ride to Gatwick at no expense. Other alternatives were by train from Doncaster city center or car rental at passenger’s own expense. However, we must all clear Customs and Immigration by way of a completely surprised and unprepared staff of two agents.

Actually, we were pleasantly surprised at how quickly additional customs agents came together and how quickly they were able to move all 350 of us through the process. After clearing Customs and Immigration, we had a decision to make. How do we get to our ultimate destination? Do we take the free five-hour journey by motor coach to Gatwick or catch a train to London’s King’s Cross station which we pay for? It was really a no-brainer! Both destinations are about an hour away from our final destination, Crowne Plaza Docklands. However, a little over an hour and a half by train as opposed to a five-hour journey by motor coach to Gatwick and complete chaos caused by drone sightings over the airport; as I said, “a no-brainer!”

I came out of the restroom very much jet lagged and very much uncertain of the outcome of our decision. However, Elizabeth was on top of it (as she usually is). “Grab your bags and follow those Kids” she commanded me. “They tell me there’s a train in 45 minutes and the station is 15 minutes away by taxi.” “The Kids” arrived at the station just ahead of us and we followed them into the depot. At that moment a completely unexpected blessing occurred. As we approached the ticket counter the agent asked us if we were on the diverted flight into Doncaster. “Yes,” was our reply? “Then there is no charge for the train into London,” was her reply. Wow, who does that? Apparently, the London North Eastern Railway (LNER) does!

We made our way to the correct platform and waited while Elizabeth did one of her favorite things. She visited with an English bull dog that was also waiting for the train. The train was exactly on time; we boarded, found great seats and settled in. Oh yes, can’t forget that 16-ounce Stella Artois was the special beer of the day, and it was delivered to our seat by “Trolley.” Life is good! We were into King’s Cross on time with only two additional stops and to our hotel within the hour for a greatly appreciated Christmas Holiday.

I tell you all this to draw a parallel to our current situation with the Covid-19 Pandemic. No, it is not what we expected or ever anticipated. Uncertainty abounds at every twist and turn of the road. At times it can even be fearful and exhausting as we try to make decisions as to next steps. However, when we look at the evidence, make informed decisions, and follow through in a calm manner, we will get through this together. Along the way we will encounter both obstacles and blessings. There will be opportunities to take care of our fellow travelers as well as be taken care of by others. So, as we struggle to get to our destination of “Normalcy” once again, I encourage you to study the evidence, make informed decisions, and proceed calmly. Most of all be like Elizabeth as you wait on the platform; spend some time with your favorite “English bull dog.”



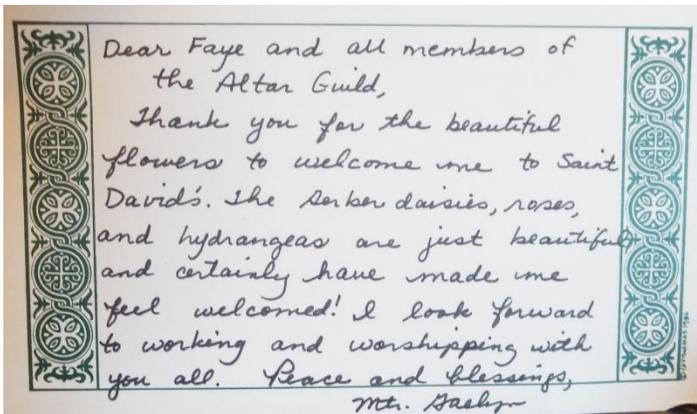
Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Jul 14 Monty Ross
Jul 15 Mark Tomczak
Jul 17 Cailee Ladd
Jul 18 Sloan Despeaux
Jul 20 Miriam Brown
Jul 21 Brian Dinkelmeyer
Jul 25 Mary Ann Nixon

Anniversaries

Jul 14 Kelley & Brian Dinkelmeyer
Elizabeth & Jim Addison
Jul 27 Elizabeth & Sandy Frazier



To all at St. David's,
I cannot thank you enough for the generous card and gift that you sent me. My time at St. David's was a joyful and learning experience and I am so thankful to have met you all. When I am visiting the area I will make sure to come back and visit.

In Christ and With Love,
Savannah Bennett

St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: stdavidscullowhee.org
[St. D's Public Facebook Page](#)
[St. D's Private Group Forum](#)
Church phone # and email: 828-331-1427
stdavidscullowhee@gmail.com
Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Newsletter
Editor: Maggie Bowles: magbowles@gmail.com
Correspondent: Judy Robinson judyleroyrobinson@gmail.com
Proofreaders: Margot Wilcox, Nan Watkins
Diocese of W. North Carolina
The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop
[Lake Logan Conference Center](#)
[Camp Henry Facebook Page](#)