

# The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



July 5, 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 2, 2020

Dear friends,

What a wonderful beginning we have had! It was so good to see so many of you on Sunday, even if it was on Zoom. It is my hope over the next weeks and months that we will get to know each other more and more. I recognize that we all have our own comfort level with social interaction these days and am working on offering a variety of ways we can meet for conversation and worship. I also recognize that this will be an evolving process as we all try out various ways to connect.

Next week we will have our first in person worship since March. The bishop's guidelines for Phase 2 allow outdoor worship of no more than 25 people. I am starting with even smaller groups as I have felt that many are not ready to be in groups of 25 yet. On Tuesday at 5:00, I will offer Evening Prayer on the deck of the gathering place. I encourage those who attend this or any other service to bring their own Book of Common Prayer, if you have one. This will cut down on the spread of germs on communal materials. If you do not have a BCP, no problem. I will have them ready for you on the deck. You may also bring your own chair if you prefer. I have created a sign-up for Evening Prayer that you may access here: <https://calendly.com/gaelyn/evening-prayer>. If we run out of space, I would appreciate an email letting me know. This will help me know how often to offer worship during the week. It is my hope to add more small services over the next week or so to both meet people and to meet our collective spiritual need to gather in prayer.

I have also created an easy way for you to sign-up to meet with me either in person, online, or by phone. You may schedule with me by visiting <https://calendly.com/gaelyn/meet-with-the-rector>. These are not the only times I am available, but again, we needed to start somewhere! You may call me (828) 331-1427 or email me at [rector@stdavidscullowhee.org](mailto:rector@stdavidscullowhee.org) to schedule a different time, or whenever you need me.

I am so looking forward to gathering with you all in whatever ways are safe for us to do so for as Jesus says, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). What a blessing that will be!

Peace,

*Mother Gaelyn*

## Service Information for the Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Join us Sunday, July 5 at 11 am on Zoom with this [LINK](#). Download the [BULLETIN](#) for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost and join us "inside" St. David's church with our new rector, The Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene.

### Serving this Sunday

Reader: Paul Cooper  
Prayer Leader: Gael Graham  
Prayers of the Congregation: Betsy Swift  
Special Prayers: George Rector  
Email prayer requests to [Muff Lyons](#)

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## Vestry News

by Jessica Philyaw

([seniorwarden@stdavidscullowhee.org](mailto:seniorwarden@stdavidscullowhee.org) or 828-506-4478)

Vestry members have enjoyed talking and emailing with each of you over the last many weeks. Our weekly dial-arounds have been a good way to stay in touch and remain connected during uncertain times. However, we are reaching fewer of you on a weekly basis, as people perhaps are settling into new routines. As a result, we have decided that we will no longer make these weekly round-robin calls as a matter of course. But if you would still like to receive a call or email from one of us each week, please don't hesitate to let us know! Every vestry member remains delighted to speak to anyone who would appreciate a check-in or just a little extra company and companionship via phone, but it seems time to move to an "opt-in" model at this point.

Also, as you may know, vestry has been gathering for an informal "check-in" meeting every Monday, in addition to our monthly business meeting. We are now moving back to a less frequent meeting schedule, with just one check-in meeting a month, in between the regular business meetings. If you have any questions or a potential agenda item for consideration for our regular July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, please contact Mtr. Gaelyn at [rector@stdavidscullowhee.org](mailto:rector@stdavidscullowhee.org) or me at [seniorwarden@stdavidscullowhee.org](mailto:seniorwarden@stdavidscullowhee.org).

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## COVID-19 NEWS—Taking Measures for Parish Safety

In keeping with Bishop José's guidelines, St. David's is taking measures to keep the church and the gathering place safe for prayer and other visits. Please use the sign-in sheets located in both the church and gathering place to log your presence. We need to track this information in the event we need to notify people of an outbreak of Covid-19. We appreciate your cooperation.

Additionally, if anyone sees disinfectant spray or wipes at the store, please consider buying some to share with St. David's. We are doing our best to keep our buildings disinfected during this pandemic.

**Love your neighbor:**

**Wear a mask, keep a 6-foot distance from others, and wash those hands often!**

**Peace and Health**

## A Word of Thanks to and from the Discernment Committee

By Harry Brown

On March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019, when I was asked by Judy Robinson, the Senior Warden at the time, to be the chairperson of the Discernment Committee, I felt a number of things—honored, interested, uncertain, daunted. But I mostly felt a heavy weight of responsibility, and the only thing that kept me from saying no to Judy's request was the knowledge that no matter who was on the committee, I knew that it would be composed of good people, because that's who makes up our parish. So, with a lot of trepidation, I said yes. I have said more than once that the Vestry could have drawn names out of a hat, and we would have gotten a good group of people, but they did spend time choosing the group wisely for the talents and qualities that they brought to the group. Maggie Bowles was the IT guru for the group, and I cannot express my gratitude enough for her long hours in figuring out some of the computer/internet/communication issues that we faced. Margot Wilcox was a fount of institutional knowledge, as well as an editor par excellence. Marilyn Jody is an incredible wordsmith, and although everyone in the group contributed to the extensive writing that the undertaking required, Marilyn could often find a better way to express ourselves. Vance Davidson was tasked with being the liaison to the Vestry, and he did an outstanding job in this regard, as well as having a great deal of insight into many different aspects of the process. George Rector was chosen to be the chaplain for the Committee, and what a phenomenal job he did in that regard! Every meeting that we had opened and closed with [a prayer composed by George](#) that was always just right. Maggie, Margot, and Marilyn (the 3M's, as I liked to fondly call them) did the heavy work of crafting the [Parish Profile](#). If you have not seen it, please look at it on the website—it is a beautiful representation of who we are at St. David's. The 3B's (Vance, George, and I) had the somewhat less difficult, though still not easy, task of composing the OTM Portfolio for the Office of Transitional Ministry website. Both of these documents were informed and composed with the input we received from the parish through the Church Assessment Tool Survey and the Holy Conversations meetings. There were also many individuals who gave informal input to the group. At the risk of leaving someone out, I would like to say a special thanks to June Smith, Paul Cooper, and Nancie Wilson for their input to the work. A special thanks to Muff Lyons for her prayers and input and snacks. I would also like to express my appreciation to the spouses of the Discernment Committee members for your support and longsuffering—Jim Bowles, Kathy Davidson, Tom Wilcox, Joan Byrd, and Karen Brown.

The Discernment Committee could not have been successful without the support of the St. David's Vestry—Senior Wardens Judy Robinson and Jessica Philyaw, and all the other members: Sandy Frazier, Gael Graham, Muff Lyons, Jake Jacobson, and Doug Hanks. Of course, Vance had to do double duty as both Vestry and Discernment Committee member. We had essential and invaluable support from the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Bishop Jose McLoughlin not only held us up in prayer, but contributed greatly by reviewing all of our written documents and helping us to improve the drafts. We had a number of meetings, and I had numerous phone calls, with Canon Augusta Anderson. We could not have had a better guide to lead us through the process. My experience throughout this process has made me very grateful to be a part of the Diocese of Western North Carolina, and made me realize how fortunate we are to have their leadership.

It has truly been one of the best experiences of my life to be part of this discernment process. We ended up with four potential candidates who are all fine servants of God's church, but in the end I feel certain that we got the one who fits St. David's best—the Reverend Gaelyn Evangreene. I very much look forward to Mother Gaelyn's shepherding for a long time to come.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to ALL the members of St. David's and to Valori+ and Caroline+, our interim rectors. Your prayers, your input, your words of encouragement, and your patience sustained us throughout the journey.

Harry J Brown  
Chair, St. David's Discernment Committee

## The Work of the Junior Warden is Never Done...

By Judy Robinson

Sandy Frazier is currently serving as our Junior Warden for 2020. He is doing the job with his usual bon homie and efficiency. Sandy inherited our roof project and oversaw the painting of the steeple, new cross installation, and roof replacement, pronouncing all a job well done.

He is currently working on accepting quotes for the re-installation of the playground as well as the replacement of the steps adjacent to it. Some of those step timbers were unfortunately crushed by the heavy equipment used to gain roof access.

You will remember that Kyle Jones (Marilyn Jody's nephew) had volunteered and completed some outside projects in recent weeks. Kyle is returning to Cullowhee soon and will be working with Sandy to stain outside woodwork around the gathering place. We thank Kyle in advance.

Sandy has been seeking a plumber to fix the outside faucet which has not worked properly for months. Apparently, it is very hard to get on a plumber's work list during the time of corona. It looks like plumbers Sandy (Frazier) and Vance (Davidson) will be fixing that faucet for us.

The continued problem of squirrels in the attic also has Sandy's attention. He reports that removal by professionals is quite expensive (\$500 per varmint)! So, he is considering other solutions.

Sandy was also the organizer for the work project of setting up newly configured office space upstairs for Mtr. Gaelyn+ and Carol Payton, our parish administrator.

Many thanks to Sandy for his enthusiastic time and efforts to keep our church property in shape. He does not mind us knowing that he is looking forward to December just a bit, when his tenure ends.

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## Now Who Does That?

From the Workbench of the Jr. Warden

I was at church on Monday morning and saw that the fence around the children's playground had been reinstalled (with mostly new hardware). I called Franklin Fence to get a final invoice for Steve Steinbrueck, our Treasurer. I spoke with Michael Harvey, owner, and was told by Mr. Harvey that there was **no charge!** "We are to take that money and put it toward our outreach ministry." Now who does that?

Apparently, Franklin Fence and Mr. Michael Harvey!

**Thank you, Mr. Harvey!**



## Three Old Guys and Their Trucks—(With Their Young Sidekick)

From the Workbench of the Jr. Warden

Who says an ad in the Coracle won't work? It certainly worked for me! My asking for "gently" used outdoor furniture paid off when Marilyn Jody and Nancie Wilson gave me a call. They both had furniture that was no longer being used that they were willing to donate for the back deck of the gathering place.



The back deck has been an under-utilized space since our gathering place was constructed. Now thanks to Marilyn and Nancie for their furniture; and Jake Jacobson and Steve Steinbrueck with their trucks and strong backs; and Kyle Jones and his pressure-cleaning skills, we have a space that can be used for a morning cup of tea, a relaxed lunch with nature all around, an afternoon respite, or a meeting with staff or parishioners.

Thanks to everyone involved!

**The Back Deck Furniture Prep Gang**

# Parish News & Notes

Jul 7      **Birthday**  
            **Maleah Pusz Rios**

Jul 8      **Anniversary**  
            **Betsey & Ed Hamlet**

## **Black Kitty Update**

Nan Watkins reports that her kitty received a warm welcome at the Cashiers Highlands Humane Society.

## **Safe Shopping**

Sloan Despeaux reports a very positive experience with pick-up service at the Waynesville Wal-Mart. "It's so easy!", she says. Email her at [despeaux@wcu.edu](mailto:despeaux@wcu.edu) for more information.

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### **St. David's Links and Contact Information:**

Website: [stdavidscullowhee.org](http://stdavidscullowhee.org)

[St. D's Public Facebook Page](#)

[St. D's Private Group Forum](#)

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