

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



August 23, 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

August 23rd, 2020

Dear friends,

There is excitement growing at St. David's as we prepare to find new ways to embrace the campus community around us, especially making it known that St. David's welcomes those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer. We are taking steps to show our neighbors we welcome them and also equipping ourselves with the language and knowledge necessary for those we meet to feel welcome.

As most of us know, the church has not always been a place of welcome. In 1989, I was serving on the National Youth Council of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. At our fall meeting we were tasked with evaluating the National Youth Triennium that took place the previous summer. The Triennium gathered thousands of high school youth from across the country for prayer, study, fellowship, and worship. Groups from across the Presbyterian church set up booths in a marketplace with information. One group was a gay and lesbian group and that fact was brought up at our meeting. Many were sharing that it was inappropriate for "such a group" to be at a youth event. I fell silent. I watched the conversation as though I was not part of it, recalling painful rides home from church with my parents discussing the morning's homophobic sermon with each other. The negative comments continued from youth and adults on the council. Then my friend Sarah spoke up. She said, this group has a right to be at the Triennium as much as any other group. And if youth are going to get information about gays and lesbians, what better place for us to get it than our church? It was the end of the conversation.

I tell this story because even today there are youth who have no idea that a church would welcome them just as they are. There are people of all ages hungry for Good News, belonging, and safety; intangibles that St. David's is blessed to be ready to offer. Over the next weeks and months many of us at St. David's will be taking Safe Zone training through WCU to renew our commitment to being a Safe Zone. I hope many more will join us in that. You can sign up [here](#). We are also in the beginning stages of working on signage that will tell those who drive by a little more about us.

For two decades St. David's has welcomed the LGBTQ community and blessed our relationships. It is exciting to be experiencing the joy and passion of continuing this legacy into a third decade. I am reminded of Psalm 84:11, "no good thing with the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity." We are walking with integrity. We are taking the steps needed to let the world know that there is room for them at our table. Thanks be to God for that!

Peace and blessings,

Mother Gaelyn

Service Information for the Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

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

[Bulletin](#)

Serving this Sunday

Lector: George Rector

Intercessors: Paul Cooper & Margot Wilcox

Organist: Lillian Pearson

Email prayer requests to [Muff Lyons](#)

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.

[Facebook Link for Past Services](#)

For the First Day of Class During COVID-19

Kelsey Davis, our new Campus Missioner offered this lovely prayer for Kelley Dinkelmeyer, her colleagues, and students for the first day of classes:

“God of New Beginnings, this start is not like the others we are used to, space and time and a pandemic keep us at least 6 feet apart. And in the space between us, even through our computer screens, a new beginning is happening. This day that has never been before and will never be again marks the start of a new school year where teachers, students, and staff open themselves, yet again, to new learnings, new friendships, and new possibilities. Be with Kelley, her colleagues, co-workers, and students at WCU. May many moments of laughter, surprising moments of connection, growth in wisdom, compassionate action, and an inexplicable peace be on their side. Amen.”

Vestry News

By Jessica Philyaw, Senior Warden

Change in Junior Wardenship: Because of family responsibilities that necessitate his time and attention right now, Sandy Frazier has stepped down from his position as Junior Warden (but he'll remain on vestry through the end of his term in December.) This vestry is grateful to Sandy for shepherding us through a lot of work on the church grounds, including the HUGE job of overseeing the roof replacement and playground refencing, as well as organizing a tremendously successful parish cleanup/workday last month, and helping get the office in order for Mtr. Gaelyn's arrival. Being Junior Warden is a big job in any year, and of course 2020 is just harder all the way around! Thank you, Sandy, for everything you've done for St. David's as Junior Warden this year!

Thanks are also very much in order for Doug Hanks, who has agreed to become Junior Warden. He's already been Sandy's helper in a lot of tasks around the church and property, and he graciously accepted when asked to step into this new role. Thank you, Doug!

Vestry is also pleased to announce a loving gift from Joan Byrd of a handsome antique desk belonging originally to her late mother, and then to her late brother, Frank. The desk sits in the second office upstairs, a space that will soon be used as a parish reading room and library after the late Rev. Alice Mason's book collection is received and arranged. Thank you both, Joan and Nancie.

Outdoor Holy Eucharist

worship from your car or bring a chair

Wednesday, August 26 at Noon

Love your neighbor...
from a distance and wearing a mask

Book Study and Discussion

St. David's History, Chapter 2: Celtic Spirituality

By June Smith

Our final session of reviewing St. David's history through my book will be a focus on Chapter 2, Celtic spirituality. The Celtic way of seeing the world has been a thread running throughout our history. After Michael spent his sabbatical in Wales, he brought a fresh emphasis of the spiritual practices of the Celtic Christians to the worship and corporate life of St. David's.

To deepen our understanding of Celtic spirituality, I have invited the Rev. Elizabeth Canham to Zoom with us and lead our discussion. She sent me this brief bio: Though a Brit. Liz Canham did not discover the Celtic lands until after she moved to the USA in order to be ordained priest in 1981. Since then she has led many pilgrimages to places of Christian origin from Israel and Egypt to the Celtic lands of Great Britain. She has a special interest in Monastic settlements and the wisdom of these early Christians that continue to enrich our worship today.

Rev. Canham is not a stranger to St. David's. She was the retreat leader for our first parish retreat at Lake Logan in the fall of 2002. The theme of that retreat was 'community,' a concept dear to the ancient Celts and to the parishioners of St. David's. At that time, Rev. Canham was director of Still Point Ministries, which offered retreats, retreat leadership training, and spiritual direction.

When she moved to the US to be ordained, the Church of England had not yet embraced the ordination of women. Rev. Canham also lived for five and one-half years as a monastic oblate in a Benedictine monastery. She has published a book which our Carol Payton highly recommends, *Heart Whispers: Benedictine Wisdom for Today*.

If you have not read St. David's history or participated in any of the discussions thus far, I urge you to join us on August 26th at 4 pm to engage with Rev. Canham as she leads us in a discussion of Celtic spirituality. I believe we will be spiritually richer for it. Carol will send the Zoom link to the discussion on the 26th.

School Supplies Fundraiser for Vecinos Children

By Muff Lyons & Melba Cooper

Muff Lyons and Melba Cooper need your help to purchase and organize basic school supplies for the children in our Vecinos families. Our goal is to provide 30 tote bags of supplies for children grades pre-K-8th. Here is how you can help:

1. Supplies have been ordered. Our goal is to raise \$600 to cover the cost. With this plan we will be able to provide the necessary age appropriate materials for each child. No shopping excursions for you!

**Please make your donation check out to
St. David's Episcopal Church (School supplies)
POB 152
Cullowhee, NC. 28723**

2. Now for the *fun stuff*... We will have an assembly day on Thursday Aug. 27th from 11 am-3 pm. The purpose will be to make 30 tote bags, label, and fill with supplies. (Melba's sister Becky has contributed the no ravel fabric and pattern to make them) This is really easy. We will meet in Melba's open-air art studio. It is set up with a sewing center and long work/assembly tables.

Bring your own snack food. Water provided. Wear mask. The studio walls open up, fans and air-conditioned. Comfortable seating. Restroom available. We will divide up tasks. No previous experience necessary!

Six-person space. Let Melba know if you can help. She will send you directions. She lives very close to the Dillsboro exit 441N. You may want to carpool from the BP station.



Melba's contact

melbacooper@mac.com
828 506 7559 (text or call)

**We can help level the playing field for our Vecinos children
in our church without walls!**

Thanks! Muff and Melba

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Aug 26	Dave Nelson
Aug 27	Judy Annis
Aug 28	Ron Robinson

Melba Cooper Participates in Digital Art Show

August, 2020: "This Is A Movement, Not a Moment" is ARTivism Initiative's third gallery show which seeks to continue the conversation around the Black Lives Matter movement through amplifying art that speaks to historical and contemporary issues of racial injustice. The show invited artists of various mediums to engage in a conversation around racial justice through their art.

<https://www.artivisminitiative.org/tiamnam>

These are Melba's words about her painting, *'1953' The Little Girl and the Water Fountain*

In 1998 a group of African American women artists organized by indigo artist Arianne King Comer, curated a show of community artists in Beaufort, SC. The exhibit prompt was based on remembrances of the 1950's Civil Rights Movement. I ask Arianne if I could participate. I am a white art teacher. I have a vivid remembrance that I would like to share. She graciously agreed.

I chose to paint a self-portrait of a vivid memory of "me in 1953". On the surface the painting tells the story of a defining moment suspended in time, etched in my memory as a 6-year-old. I was with my grandmother in a public building in Montgomery, Alabama. As a new reader, I noticed the stenciled signs on the fountains. Colored! White! In the literal mind of my child-artist, I interpreted the word "colored" to mean that the water from the fountain was rainbow water. Why not? My Fruit Loops for breakfast were evidence of the wonders of manufactured food and drink. As I climbed onto the box and reached for the porcelain knob that would spout a stream of multicolored kool aide, my grandmother grabbed my arm and jerked me off the box. She spanked me and I remember feeling the electric shock, a flush of fear replaced her usual dimpled smile. "Don't you ever drink out of one of those fountains again!" she shouted red faced, still clutching my arm as she wagged her finger at the fountain marked "colored".

As Rosa Parks moved to the front of the bus that year, I moved to experience the dissonance in the southern conscience. At that moment a rebel emerged and contrary to the religious admonitions against integration, the proposal that "coloreds" didn't have souls, and the "biblical" justification for the practice of slavery, I believed in my child-heart the song we sang in Sunday School that "Jesus loved the little children, all the children of the world. Red and Yellow, Black, and White, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the children of the World." In my child-heart, grieved for what was not, I hoped.

At a deeper symbolic level, the painting has a life of revelation that has become far greater than my original intent. I began to see other more subliminal symbols.

Dorothy off to see the Wizard. My desire for a perfect world in the perfectly tied bow of my "bluebird" dress. I feel my playful red canvas Keds, with bouncy rubber soles, my checkered black and white ground of history on which I am reprimanded and now I stand. I see the box I wanted to crawl into during a humiliating public reprimand for violating a social taboo. Over the rainbow and through the wall is my search for a lion's courage, a tin man's compassion, a scarecrow's memory. I see the institutional green walls and the ever-present flag of oppression suspended over my head. I feel my hesitation. Would I be



able to transform these constrictions of embedded bigotry? Wrestle with my own repeated patterns of inherent attitudes toward race and class? So, it was before these “fountains of life” that I could fashion my own life of belief, acceptance, and amazing grace.

For me, the language of art provides a path to liberation because the nature of its process is the insistence for revelation and change. Each of us has moments of realization that changed our perceptions and understanding of race. What picture would you paint?

St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: stdavidscullowhee.org

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

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

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