

# The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



February 5, 2012

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

Sat	Feb 4	Monthly Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Feb 5	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
Sun	Feb 12	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
Tue	Feb 14	Vestry meeting 5:30 pm
Sun	Feb 19	Last Sunday after Epiphany Kyra Yoga with Chad Hallyburton 5-8 pm
Wed	Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Sat	Feb 25	St. David's Day Feast & Auction
Sun	Feb 26	First Sunday in Lent
Wed	Feb 29	Lenten Service and Study
Thu	Mar 1	St. David's Day
Sat	Mar 3	Monthly Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Mar 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed	Mar 7	Lenten Service and Study
Sun	Mar 11	3rd Sunday in Lent
Wed	Mar 14	Lenten Service and Study
Sun	Mar 18	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed	Mar 21	Lenten Service and Study
Sun	Mar 25	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed	Mar 28	Lenten Service and Study
Sun	Apr 1	Palm Sunday
Wed	Apr 4	Wednesday in Holy Week
Sat	Apr 7	Monthly Mindfulness 10 am
Sun	Apr 8	Easter
Fri	May 4	Spring Wine Tasting 6:30 pm

## Serving this Sunday

### Holy Eucharist

Reader: Betty Lynn Kirwan

Chalice: Judy Annis

Coffee: Betty Lynn Kirwan

Organist: Nan Watkins

Readings: [Isaiah 40:21-31](#)

[Psalm 147:1-12, 21c](#)

[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#)

[Mark 1:29-39](#)

## Serving during February

Bread: John Slater

Flowers: Fran Wheaton &

Allison Wunder

Linen: Claire Marsh

Eucharist: Linda Kinnear &

June Smith

We collect food for United Christian Ministries on an ongoing basis. Non-perishable food may be placed in the basket at the back of the church. All food is appreciated, but things such as rice and beans (dried or canned) are more useful to the groups providing meals to the needy than are more highly processed foods. Please keep in mind the basket at the back of the church, a place where we can share our bounty with others in need through the food program of United Christian Ministries.

## Canterbury House Activities

Mondays 7:25 am	Mindfulness Meditation
Mondays 9-10:30 am	Chad's yoga
Mondays 10:45 am	Garden Guild
First Saturdays 10 am	Monthly Mindfulness
Thursdays 5:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Fridays 5:30 pm	U-Club

## Project Panama Reunion

**Saturday February 4  
5-7 pm  
Canterbury House**

This gathering is for the volunteers who accompanied Sandy Frazier on a mission trip to Panama in the past, and all others who are interested, to meet Kenia Alvarez, their Panamanian teacher.

Please RSVP to [sandliz222@frontier.com](mailto:sandliz222@frontier.com). It is a pot luck with the Fraziers supplying an entree.

## The Gospel

### Mark 1:29-39

Jesus left the synagogue at Capernaum, and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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### Krya Yoga

#### Sunset Asana and Candlelight Meditation

**Effort, Reflection, Submission**  
A workshop with Chad Hallyburton,  
RYT

Sunday, February 19  
5:00-8:00 pm



**Free!**

**Limited Space:  
Pre-Registration Required**  
A light supper of soup and bread  
will be provided

For information or to register:

[chadjazzguitar@yahoo.com](mailto:chadjazzguitar@yahoo.com)

828 508-2501

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### St. David's Day Feast and Auction

Saturday, February 25, at 5:30 pm in the Canterbury House

It is time to be brainstorming those auction items! Feel free to think outside the box and come up with new and excitingly different items. To see a sampling of items offered in the past, please [click here](#). Contact June Smith [junesmith41@gmail.com](mailto:junesmith41@gmail.com) to get your items on her list.



Spend fall break week at Fripp Island, SC, in a 5 bedroom, 3 bath beach house, second row from the beach. Peaceful and serene but only a daytrip from Beaufort, Hilton Head or Charleston. Newly renovated kitchen and entertainment area. This is a Monday to Monday week, October 15-22, 2012.

# Gracious Space to Move Forward

The result of the parish vote last week on the question of building a new Parish Hall was overwhelmingly in favor of moving forward with the project. As a result, the Gifts Committee has begun assembling written materials to use when they contact and visit church members. The Building Committee has started the process of talking with contractors and developing the details of the plans. And June Smith and Michael Hudson are planning to meet with Bishop Taylor soon to clarify the process with the Diocese.

We are underway!

## Parish News & Notes

### Birthdays

Feb 11 **Frank Lockwood and Michael Marsh**

### Spring Wine Tasting

Look ahead and mark your calendars now for the Spring Wine Tasting on Friday, May 4 at 6:30 pm. Plan to invite your friends, too.

### Garden Guild Meets on Mondays

Tree removal at this point in time seems like a project that could be better addressed later in the building process. Armando, the yard man, will be asked to do clean-up of debris and removal of junky plants on the front bank during these winter months when there is no grass to mow. He may build a stone enclosure for the front sign, also.

To see notes from previous meetings, please [click here](#) then choose the Garden Guild Link. You will need to log in to the web site.



Western Carolina University Professor Emeritus, author, and member of St. David's, Marilyn Jody speaks out against

Amendment One in this interview from the RACE TO THE BALLOT stop in Cullowhee, NC. This constitutional amendment would define marriage in NC as between one man and one woman. The vote is scheduled for **May 8**.

[Marilyn Jody Interview](#)

### A Soothing Touch

Susie Witty, a physical therapist at MedWest, will be travelling to India this March to spend some time working with terminally ill patients in the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center. As her trip approaches, she is collecting scarves, pretty ones, not necessarily warm, to take to offer as the gift of a soothing touch for the dying. If you have any scarves that you can donate for this, please leave them in the Parish Hall.



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

Website: <http://www.st-davids.org/> [Lectionary Page](#)  
Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: [magbowles@gmail.com](mailto:magbowles@gmail.com)  
Church phone # and email: 354-0166 [stdavids1879@gmail.com](mailto:stdavids1879@gmail.com)

#### [Altar Guild Schedule for 2012](#)

Diocesan Links:

[Current Issue of the Highland Episcopalian Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)  
[Center for Spiritual Resources](#)



## It's Carved in Stone... Literally

There is now a St. David's cross engraved in stone in the Gracious Green Space Grotto above the church. Jim Bowles is shown in the photograph at right working on it earlier this week and Michael Hudson is shown posing beside it at left.

Surely, it is time for a local pilgrimage!



## Farewell, Christine!



There was lots of laughter at Coffee Hour Sunday as old friends reminisced about their many years of friendship with Christine Stevens. Christine is moving to Tennessee to be closer to her children. But Tennessee is not that far away, so we hope she will be back to visit often.



Dear St David's Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful sendoff at coffee hour on Sunday. I was truly overwhelmed. St David's is such a unique place, and I know I will never find another church like it. You have shared my joys as well as sorrows over many years, and I am so grateful to all of you. I will not say goodbye because I intend to be back often, and once I get settled I would love to have visitors. My new address is 112 Coyatee Circle, Loudon, TN 37774. My cell phone number is [828 507-1782](tel:8285071782). It is easy to reach my new house by one of two ways, I 40 through Knoxville to I 75 S. Take the first exit, 81, and head south on rt. 321 toward Maryville. Cross Fort Loudon Dam, and take the first right turn onto rt 444. After you see the sign for Tellico Village, my road is the second left just after the public boat ramp. You can also come through the Park, and meet up with Rt 321 in Gatlinburg. Thanks again for your friendship and your love.

Christine

### **Meditation Opportunity at St. David's**

**Monday Mindfulness: 7:25-8:30 am** in the library of the Canterbury House. Our practice is Contemplation of Wise Texts (Lectio), Sitting Meditation, and Informal Dialogue.

#### **Ordinary Mindfulness**

**By Michael Hudson**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012**

#### **What Feels Better Than Being Right?**

Monday I wrote about what it was like for me to be vehemently challenged by an old friend from my Evangelical days about my present support for LBGT couples being able to have the same legal rights as straight folks.

In the blog I mentioned some of my initial feelings--anger, pride, self-righteousness--a quick desire to put this person in his place!

I also mentioned what can happen when we're willing to slow down, to very mindfully pause and notice all the ingredients of what's stewing in us--pause to let things settle so we can follow our deeper desires.

A wise person was asked--'What are the teachings of a lifetime?' The wise person answered, 'An appropriate response.'

Whether we're Muslim or Sufi or Jewish or Hindu or Buddhist or Christian, we have a commitment in common to embody love wisely and courageously. Embodying kindness and compassion wisely *is* an appropriate response.

Sometimes it's embodied forcefully. Most times our best response is more even.

Anyway, after 'sleeping on it' I wrote this back to my Evangelical friend:

Sean (not the real name),

The reason I'm in favor of gay couples being able to marry is a long, long story. Took me a long time to study and pray and listen my way to it.

My middle brother was gay. Having somebody you love and know really well gives you a steady reason to talk to God about something like this.

What I noticed over the years with my brother was how hard he tried to be straight. He was never openly gay. He married. Loved God and his family. But was also miserable deep down in his experience of hiding his true self. I knew he was not a 'deviant' in any way. No more sinful than me--in any way. He was just wired differently.

But (and you know well how this works) I also loved God and the scriptures. I could no more set scripture aside than I could set my love of my brother aside.

I remember reading a book in seminary, a collection of essays by Evangelical scholars about God, gays, and the Bible. I was struck that not one of the writers didn't agonize as he/she wrestled with the issue. I think all of them had friends or family who were gay or lesbian and so their writing wasn't just detached study but was also a real work of the soul.

I went about my search in a similar way. I've read, referenced wise commentary, and pondered every thing the Bible says about homosexuality...too much to put in a Facebook message!

But since I need to pick a few bible passages that have been decisive for me...

The first is from Genesis: "The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." Amen. What a wonderful blessing it is to have a life partner.

The second is from Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus." I don't think this is an exhaustive list, Sean. I think this is the pattern of how God works--continually opening our hearts and actions where they've been closed.

The next is from Mark: "Jesus said, 'Come, follow me...'" The longer I live the more I realize how much faith it takes to follow Jesus. He's the living Covenant, you know? We can't follow scripture the same way we follow Jesus. When scripture gets carved into stone, it becomes Law not Gospel.

Faith has 2 'opposites.' One, as everybody knows, is doubt. The other is trickier...it's certainty.

For myself, Sean, faithfulness and trust keep moving me on to where, to the best of my ability to discern, Jesus is leading me to love in bigger and ever more generous ways.

I've come to know and love a lot of gay and lesbian Christian couples over the years. I see God working in them just like God works in you and me. Faithful, loving, worshiping, praying, vital, growing people.

The main thing that's different is how much they suffer from judgment, discrimination, even demonization. I believe God wants this to change.

This is really ironic if it's true, you know? That what needs to change is not homosexual orientation but heterosexual orientation. We heteros may need to get better oriented to following a *living* Gospel.

Anyway, this is a long story made short about why I'm in favor of LGBT couples having the same rights as straight folks.

## **Other Meditation Opportunities**

**Living Mindfully, Not Mindlessly--Mindfulness Meditation:** Wednesdays at 12:30 pm WCU Health & Counseling Center, 225 Bird Building, Pillow Room. For details, call 227-7469 and ask for Michelle or go to [www.facebook.com/wcumindfulness](http://www.facebook.com/wcumindfulness). To view a flyer, [please click here](#).

The **Tuesday Meditation Group** meets in the undercroft at St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Sylva on the **2nd & 4th Tuesdays at noon**. The format is to meditate for 15 minutes at the beginning and 15 minutes at the end. The inspirational material for the half hour in between will be decided by whoever volunteers to facilitate that week.

**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.