

The Coracle

St Davids Cullowhee



September 23, 2018

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

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| Sat | Sep 22 | WCU football affects parking |
| Sun | Sep 23 | Creation Cycle 3, Children's Sermon, The Rev. George Choyce, supply priest |
| Mon | Sep 24 | Taizé service 5:30 pm |
| Sun | Sep 30 | Creation Cycle 4 |
| Sun | Oct 7 | Creation Cycle 5, First Sunday Collection. |

First Parish Summit after Church

Blessing of the Animals

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| Sat | Oct 13 | WCU football affects parking |
| Sun | Oct 14 | Creation Cycle 6 |
| Sun | Oct 21 | Creation Cycle 7 |

Second Parish Summit after church

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| Sun | Oct 28 | Creation Cycle 8 |
| Thu | Nov 1 | <i>Hands On Jackson</i> event |
| Fri | Nov 2 | Wine Tasting 6:30 pm |
| Fri-Sat | Nov 9-10 | Diocesan Convention Kanuga |

Childcare is available during the church service

Serving this Sunday

Chalice: Betsy Swift

Reader: George Rector

Music: Nan Watkins

Coffee:

Readings: Gen 6;11-14; 9:8-15;

Psalm 24: 1-6 ; Hildegard of
Bingen.; Mark 16;1-8;

Serving during September

Bread: John Slater

Flowers: Donna Ross

Linen: Gael Graham

Eucharist: Laurie Hulbert &

Muff Lyons

Offering: Betsy Swift

Greeters: Hank Sharp &

Jake Jacobson

[Sermon Link](#)

The Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Divine Abundance:

By The Rev Valori Mulvey Sherer

Last month I preached a sermon called, "[Eucharistic living.](#)" In that sermon, I mentioned the five things our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, said Episcopalians need to get busy doing to make the world look more like God's dream and less like our nightmare. One of those five things is creating institutional structures that enable us to serve.

The Episcopal Church (TEC) has been aware for years that our traditional approach to stewardship has narrowed into a fall campaign intended to raise funds for the churches' budgets. These campaigns have demonstrated diminishing success over the last few decades in churches of all sizes and locations. This narrowed financial focus and the strain of diminishing pledges has led to a generalized fear and anxiety for many about the future of our church (TEC) and our churches.

While I was in seminary, we were encouraged to open ourselves to a broader perspective on stewardship and begin to help the churches we served shift their understanding of stewardship to a year-long ministry, not just a fall fund drive. What I have witnessed in the thirteen years since then is that while many clergy might have begun talking about stewardship in broader terms, the pattern of speaking and thinking about stewardship as the fall fund drive persisted because, I believe, there was no clear way to make that shift.

As a rector, I sought out ways to make this shift more concrete, more functional, in the churches I served, but I could find none. The resources I could find were, for the most part, reworkings of the same approach with a focus on the fall fund drive: Stewardship Sunday (not a favorite for most preachers), talk of the budget and "keeping the lights on," pledge cards, all-member canvassing or calling, and a concluding dinner or party at which the total amount raised was revealed.

It has been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. The churches of the TEC have been doing the same thing over and over regarding stewardship hoping that this year, it will "work." So far, it hasn't.

Lost in all of this has been ministry. Stewardship is ministry. The church's budget supports its ministries which enable the church to complete its mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." As our Catechism says, the mission of the church is carried out "through the ministry of all its members." (BCP, 855)

Everything is ministry, including the cost of the priest, staff, lights, copy paper, bread and wine for communion, building repairs. Church budgets are about ministry.

There will be fall campaign with pledge cards. It's part of the TEC institutional structure in which we participate. The difference now is... it's that and more! Our new way of thinking about stewardship now also includes intentional actions ministering to creation, i.e. our upcoming Creation Walk and Planting for Life events. It's about ministering to our animal brethren at the upcoming Blessing of the Animals. It's about sharing the St. David's gift of deep spirituality and inclusion through the monthly ecumenical Taizé services and upcoming Advent evening services; and the radical gift of hospitality so present at St. David's shared through the monthly Soup Suppers.... to name just a few.

This new approach to stewardship enables us to broaden our perspective, remembering that everything we do as church is ministry. When we pledge our financial support, we are giving to support the ministries of the church, which can be boiled down to: worship, Christian formation, mission and outreach, and pastoral

care. The 2019 budget will reflect this shift in understanding and will visually demonstrate how everything in the budget falls into one of these four areas of ministry. More on that at a later date. In the meantime, we are now living out this shift in thinking, talking, and doing stewardship in exciting ways.

Another important feature of stewardship considered in this new way is that it encourages us to connect to our local community, offering invitations to friends and colleagues to join us at these events. For example, learning about native vs. invasive plants species and their effects on our forests is something that will interest many people in our area.

This is why this approach is called, “the stewardship of the entirety of our lives.” It was introduced to the vestry by the Partnership for ReNEWal through a grant from the Roanridge Trust of the Episcopal Church.

This approach is affirmed in the Parable of the Talents. We often hear about giving “time, talent, and treasure” in stewardship discussions. The parable, however, isn’t talking about a talent as something we’re good at, that’s a modern definition of that word. In the story in Mathew (25:14-30 and Luke 19:12-28) a talent is money, a concrete thing of value, entrusted for a purpose: to invest for growth. “I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

Our very lives are our talents, the gifts of value God has given us for the same purpose: to invest them to grow the kingdom of God here and now where we live and move and have our being. The more we give of them, the more we will have. Divine abundance.



Good job!

We realized \$215 from the sale of the "Recipe Booklet for Maleah Pusz," which will be used for church outreach.

2018 Giving Statements

Giving Statements were sent by email to everyone earlier this week showing donations through mid-September. Please let me know if you did not receive the email, if you see any discrepancies between your personal records and the statement you received, or if there is a better email address to use in the future. Also, if you are a bit behind your planned giving and if you are able, please consider trying to catch-up in the next few weeks.

Please be in touch if you have questions, concerns, or corrections. stevesteinbrueck@gmail.com or 828.507.8816



Thank you to 10 members of the parish who signed up for Hands On Jackson set for Nov. 1! It will be a day where Jackson County Citizens rally together to lend a helping hand to those in need. This event is being put on by multiple Jackson County community agencies. Organizers have 60 projects so far. More information will be available closer to Nov. 1. If you have not signed a form please see Todd Vinyard.

Part of the Partnership for ReNEWal program is the Stewardship of the Entirety of Our Lives (SEOL) a new way of looking at stewardship. A module that speaks to our divine purpose is

“Relationships and Communities.” Hands on Jackson fits perfectly in that module - us serving those who need in our community. We don't do it for any reward because by serving them we serve and glorify God who calls us to care for our neighbor. As the scriptures tell us – **“Matthew 20.21-31: 21**And he said to her, ‘What do you want?’ She said to him, ‘Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.’ **22**But Jesus answered, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?’* They said to him, ‘We are able.’ **23**He said to them, ‘You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.’ **24** When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. **25**But Jesus called them to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.’ **26****It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; 28just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’**

SAVE THE DATE



**Fruit of the Vine: A Wine Education and Tasting Event
Friday November 2nd, 2018**



**St. David's Soup Supper returns Sunday Sept. 30, 2018.
All welcome! More in next week's Coracle!**

Parish News & Notes

Birthdays

Sep 25 **Betty Lynn Kirwan**
Sep 28 **Donna Harris**
Sep 30 **Gracia Slater**

Anniversaries

Sep 24 **Donna Harris Nicole McRight**

Continued prayers for a speedy recovery for **Pat Steinbrueck** after knee replacement surgery.

We hold **Newt Smith** and his family in our prayers as he is recovering in Mission Hospital in Asheville.

**Vestry Stewardship Covenant
St. David's Episcopal Church
2018**

We believe that our community is called upon to fully trust in God's promise to provide. Sometimes, however, we are fearful that it won't happen due to our lack of trust, our fear, and our need to control.

We commit to remember who we are in God and for the world, near and far: beloved servants. We commit to make financial decisions remembering that God provides for us, sometimes in surprising ways, by keeping the Gospel promise of abundance as our guide and touchstone, and by constantly evaluating this new way of thinking.

We invite everyone to join the vestry in reflecting on the grace and good luck that pervade our lives which leads us to a natural and comfortable means of sharing the abundance with which we have been blessed.

Virtual Closet

If you need medical-related equipment or have something you can offer, contact Claire Marsh: clairemrsh@gmail.com She keeps a list of who has what to facilitate sharing.

Box Tops for Education

There is a basket under the white board in the Parish Hall where you can place any of these box tops you may have. This is an ongoing project for our children.

Meditation Opportunities

WCU Mindfulness and Meditation: Thursdays at 4 pm 224 Bird Building. For details, call 227-7469 and ask for Michelle. To view a flyer, [please click here](#).

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.

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| Regular Activities | Mondays 10:30 am | Cullowhee Men's Group |
| | 4 th Mondays 5:30 pm | Taizé Service |
| | 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays | Accessible Mindfulness |
| | 1 st Saturdays 10 am | Monthly Mindfulness |
| | Last Sundays 5-7 pm Sept-Apr | Soup/Bread Community Supper |

St. David's Links and Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.st-davids.org/>

[Lectionary Page 2018](#)

Newsletter editor: Maggie Bowles: magbowles@gmail.com

Church phone # and email: 828-331-1427

interimvmsherer@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 152, Cullowhee, NC 28723

[Altar Guild Schedule 2018](#)

[Greeter Schedule 2018](#)

Diocesan Links:

[Diocese of Western North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

[Sign up for Diocesan Newsletter](#)

[Camp Henry Facebook page](#)

www.lakelogan.org

St. David's Vestry Members:

Betsy Swift, Senior Warden

Muff Lyons, Junior Warden

Maggie Bowles—Todd Vinyard

Sandy Frazier—Judy Robinson