



Advent 2016

Dear St. David's

Well it has been a heck of a few days. As you know St. David's was vandalized.

By the time you read this in our Advent Newsletter we be gearing up to have our first of the two events we plan to have as we try to move forward.

If I haven't had the platform yet (and if I have please let me reiterate) let me say how incredibly proud of you all I am. We were victims of a hate crime and no matter how many things we can blame it on – conservative area, inclusive agenda, national election – this is a difficult thing to accept, let alone embrace. You all took the message of love, joy and forgiveness and ran full force. I never had worry, I knew that when I spoke for St. David's you stood behind me.

I hope by this time you have had some time to process and decompress. You are truly loving children of God and loving Christians.

As you know though, just because we were victims our normal business does not go away. Your Evangelism & Marketing Committee continues to meet with committees of the church to speak about the future of St. David's. These meetings have been going well and are enlightening. Added side effects of these meetings are systematic changes. Some committees are clarifying their mission, while others are becoming more active and others are officially forming. I believe that the effects of these meetings will continue to be felt at St. David's for a long time.

Your Christian Education/Formation committee has become more active over the past few months with the addition of programming. Our pub theology had gotten off to a great start and is continuing that momentum. Episcopal Worship begins in December and we may have a book study or two starting soon as well.

Your Finance Committee and Vestry have been working hard on our budget and our dreams for St. David's in the long term.

Our Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion will begin again for the Wednesdays of December remember to invite your friends!

It is very difficult to recount everything that has happened since our last newsletter, St. David's is just too active for that.

I want you all to know that I am continuously impressed with your willingness to engage with me, to dive into the messiness of Christian life and to show Christ's love to ALL people.

As always you are in my prayers!

In Christ's Ever Present Love,

Kelsey L. Hutto

What is the Experience of Kindness?

It is time spent with another: listening, walking, sitting, working, playing, singing – it is a heart always inclined towards the other.

Kindness connects people; it does not isolate. Kindness emerges through concern for, consciousness of, engagement with, or giving space to another. It rises up to the other.

Kindness surfaces unexpectedly. It is like a mist, a cloud, a wave, a fragrance, a gentle breeze, a melody; it is a song, a smile, a chuckle that draws us in and envelops us.

*It cannot be captured;
it can only be given away.*

-Rise Up with a Listening
Heart, Monks of New Skete

*New Skete is a monastic community
of men and women rooted in the
tradition of the Eastern Church.
New Skete Monasteries
Cambridge, New York*

—from Judy Huber

Fire Engine Christmas

I got to thinking, the other day, about Advent and Christmas, and what came to mind was the time, when I was about four or five years old and got a toy, push-peddle fire engine for Christmas, my first “wheels”. Of course I had previously owned the usual little boy’s fleet of cars and trucks I could push around in the old sand pile. This, however, was different. This was a fire engine I could get in and ride around and steer and pedal to make it go, my first real “wheels”. This thing even had ladders on the back which I could take off and walk around on for stilts to make me taller.

I have been in love with “wheels” ever since: my first tricycle, my first sidewalk bike, thru regular bikes, my first car and all the rides I have owned since.

But enough about my addictions. What I really want to talk about is what prompted the gift of this fire engine for Christmas.

I was always taught that the gifts I received at Christmas were out of love that my elders had for

me and not from Santa Claus. I believe this was a truer understanding of love than the Santa thing, which would have to be explained away later on anyway, and which could be a great let down.

I was also taught to give gifts to others at this time of the year.

I don't know just when I began to understand the connection between all this gift-giving and Christmas, but somehow I began to figure this out.

What this is all about is putting love into a physical shape, something real, something in the flesh, so to speak.

I don't know about you, but I can't think of a better way for God to show his love for us than for God to join up with us, just like we do, as a little baby. And there he is in the manger, in the stable, with his parents, and all the animals. He grew up as we do. He worked, he taught, he healed, he loved, he died, and somehow he lived again and is with us and in us.

How's that for "wheels"? Not bad, in my estimation.

Maybe he even makes us feel a little taller.

*Charles McClure Hill,
9-1-16*

Chapel Garden

Dream Became Reality for Chapel Garden on All Saints' Day

The All Saints' Day consecration of the Chapel Garden and Commonbarium on Nov. 1 was a blessing and an exclamation point to the committee's multi-year process of moving a 34-year-old dream to a viable ministry of the parish.

We interred/scattered the cremains of Bud and Fran Snyder, Mary F. Carpenter, and Gene and Mary Lou Russell, giving them back to the earth in their forever resting place known to St. David's and to God.

Work still remains to complete the Commonbarium by adding the benches, staining the patio, securing the Tree of Life covering the vault, and adding the memorial back plates and attaching the name plates remembering the people recently interred. Phase II landscaping will be designed over the winter and finish grading, pathways and plantings will happen in 2017.

Administratively, we need to set up a Chapel Garden website for remembrances of all whose remains go in the garden. We need to complete our forms and descriptions of the Chapel Garden ministry and set the fees that will make the Chapel Garden sustainable. We need to finalize the

process for recording the interments with Brown County and explore putting them on genealogy websites like *Find a Grave* and *Ancestry.com*.

We now have three pitchers available for interring/scattering cremains, true earthy works of art from the local Larry Spears Gallery, that are ideal for our funeral and committal services. As the needs are discovered, liturgical additions can be made for use during services. We still have a portion of the cremains of Bud and Fran Snyder, awaiting time when the family can gather to scatter the ashes on their Brown County homestead.

We give thanks for the guidance of this parish and particularly the Chapel Garden Committee, the Vestry, the Altar Guild, the Parish Life Committee, the Music and Worship Committee, the Christian Formation Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, the Finance Committee, the Rev. Kelsey Hutto and Bishop Cate Waynick for their support of this work so far. We also give thanks for the patience of families during all the time we held cremains-in trust. Further, we thank the larger community, particularly Trinity Church Bloomington, St. Thomas Church Franklin/Whiteland, area funeral homes, Brown County Planning and Zoning Office and State of Indiana funeral codes for help, knowledge, and advice.

Submitted by Gene Niednagel for the Chapel Garden Committee: Joan Amati; Jan Benham, Sandy Fittz; Marge Grimm; Jim Huber; Judy Huber; the Rev. Kelsey Hutto; Ed Kacena; Ralph Linscott; Gene Niednagel, chair; Joe Ridenour; Sandy Ridenour; David Savage, and Verne Sindlinger.

Farmer's Market News

Planning for the Next Season

After another successful market season the Farmer's Market Advisory Council has been hard at work planning for season 2017. We established terms—two year limits with optional renewal as approved by the board. Each non vendor member will nominate a replacement at the end of their term. Two vendor reps will be appointed by the board with input from vendors also for a two year term. Members for 2017 are as follows (ending term date in parentheses):

Market Manager-Sarah Ford (2018)
Vendor Chair-Sharon Kitchens (2017)
Facilities Chair-Donna Niednagel (2017)
Marketing Chair-Marylin Day (2017)
Community Liaison-Annie Hawk (2018)
Food Booth Chair-Jane Herr (2017)
Vendor Reps-Sarah Ford, Linnea Good (2018)

The board participated in a little continuing education with a presentation by Torrie Birkemeier from SEED, Inc. We found out about developing a local food system which includes food

education, partnership with other food agencies, hosting information classes at the market and encouraging diversity of offerings at the market. Torrie will be working with us to help achieve goals through networking and education.

We formulated a mission statement: **The Bean Blossom Farmers' Market seeks to a vibrant gathering place which contributes to the success of the local good growers, producers and artisans while serving as a community resource for local goods.** We worked on potential goals/visions to be approved at our next meeting in December.

Our next meeting is Monday, December 12 at 4 PM. We will be finalizing goals, creating a calendar for the 2017 market and finalizing job descriptions.

Market Advisory members are looking for input on ways to achieve goals of increasing attendances, keeping booths full, offering fun community events and providing educational programs that can be paired with the market. Please contact any council member with your ideas!

—*Jane Herr*

Meet our new Market Manager - Sarah Ford

Sarah has been providing wonderful organic products and serving as market rep. She owns and operates Lone Walnut Farms which specializes in organic produce, eggs, chickens and goat milk products. She is originally from Columbus, IN, has been married for nine years and has three children. She has degrees in sports administration and business administration from Ball State. She is co-leader of a girl scout troop along with St. David's own Jeanette Evans.

Sarah will be holding **office hours at the Parish Hall on most Wednesdays from 8:30 to 1:30.** Anyone is welcome to by and chat or share ideas and concerns regarding the market. Let her know what you think! Her e-mail is sarahrford@gmail.com

Parish Life News

Coffee Hour:

11/27 - Jane Herr
12/04 - Maggie
12/11 - Dona/Fran
12/18 - Sharon/Donna
12/25 - no coffee hour

11/30/16 - Cleaning graffiti from church, service afterward, and a chili supper after the service.

Our Celtic Prayer & Communion start on Wednesdays in December.

St. David's will be hosting a community concert and reception at Brown County High School's auditorium sometime in early December. The theme will be "**Reclaiming the Darkness**". Parish Life has been asked to host the reception after the concert - just cookies and drinks. The concert will consist of music and speakers, and Kelsey would like to have t-shirts made that say "**Beautiful Downtown Bean Blossom - Where Love Abounds**" or "**St. David's - I Stand with You**".

Kelsey is preparing to launch a "Go Fund" me page, donations of which are to go to the cleaning of the graffiti and outreach.

12/17/16 - St. David's Children's Christmas Party

Questions? Contact Parish Life Coordinator Sharon Kitchens. kitchens435@gmail.com

Outreach News

Here Comes the Giving Tree Children's Christmas Giving Party

During Advent at St. David's, the Christmas tree comes out and ornaments of blue stars adorn it. Each star has a name, family number, and "wish list" for each individual in a family. This tree has been named "St. David's Giving Tree".

Families are referred to us by community social services and sometimes neighbors. This year, we have military service families referred by the Family Assistance Center at Camp Atterbury. Although we know only first names, ages, favorite colors, sizes, and special wishes of toys, art supplies, or much needed household goods, we are sharing with them the joy of Christ's birth.

Our ingathering of gifts will be the week of December 11-16th, so the gifts can be delivered to families on December 17th and 18th.

On December 17th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the Outreach Committee will host our A Polar Express Children's Christmas Giving Party. All children are invited to experience "giving" by making gifts for others, decorating Christmas cookies, enjoying refreshments, and other holiday fun.

Tis the season of anticipation and preparation. Tis the season of joy and hope!

Donna Niednagel

Christian Formation

Upcoming events and forums:

Pub theology:

December 1, Thursday, at 6 PM at the pine room. Topic either "doubt", how do you approach doubt in your life? Or "anger with God"

Episcopal worship:

December 4 and 11, Sundays, after church. Kelsey will show video and discuss the episcopal liturgy; why is it structured the way it is, the meaning of various prayers, the purpose of hymns, etc.

Aging/end of life forums:

December 8, Thursday, at 6 PM at Brown County Community Foundation meeting room. Carrie Foley and I will lead a discussion on caring for friends and relatives as they get older; mental health aspects of aging; nursing homes, what is available, levels of care, what to expect and not expect; hospice, when it is appropriate, and what to expect and not expect.

January 12, Thursday, at 6 PM at Brown County Community Foundation meeting room. Verne Sindlinger will moderate a discussion regarding Christian burial versus cremation; planning funeral or memorial services; and touching on Saint David's chapel garden as an example. Representatives from Meredith funeral home, and Green Burial of Bloomington will be present for discussion.

Plans and ideas for the future:

Learning about and working with people of different religions for mutual understanding and benefit. Hopefully include Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism .

Adult book studies/club. Consider one of the books on the list for the vestry for next year.

Adult outings (movies/theater/concerts). Work with Parish life on this.

Peace, Mike Day

On September 7, 2016, about 25 members of the Brown County Woodworkers Club met at St. David's for their monthly meeting. The program for the evening was presented by Ralph Linscott who described the crafting of the new chancel furniture. The Club members were impressed with Ralph's skills in furniture design, surfacing rough sawn boards, creating sliding dovetails, perfecting mortise and tenon joints, and even correcting mistakes. As an introduction to Ralph's presentation, I provided some historical perspective.

THE TALE OF A PIN OAK TREE

St. David's Episcopal Church was founded in 1959 and for ten years conducted worship and

programs in what had been the old Georgetown School which sat on this site since being built in 1909. In 1969 the congregation decided to build a new church building on this site and moved the old schoolhouse to the west where it still serves as a parish hall and offices. The new building served the needs of the congregation for nearly 40 years. When that building was completed in 1969, two Pin Oak trees were planted, one on the east side and one on the west side. Those two trees grew in stature and became sentinels whose jobs were to stand and watch on either side of the building.

In 2009 the congregation decided to expand its building and the logical place for this expansion was to the west. This would require cutting down the west side Pin Oak. You can imagine the controversy this decision created. There were folks who believed a solution could be found which would save that wonderful old tree. Finally, after proposals to harvest the wood from that tree to be used somehow in the newly expanded building, the congregation decided to move ahead with the planned expansion and the tree was removed. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project was conducted on June 28, 2009, as the congregation gathered around the Pin Oak. Some folks hugged the tree while others attached notes of thanksgiving.

The Pin Oak and a smaller cheery tree were harvested. Leon Fowler took the logs to his wood miser on Green Valley Road where he sawed them into boards and dried them in his kiln. He was so moved by the decision to use the boards as part of the expansion that he returned the lumber as a gift to the church. The lumber was taken to Ralph Linscott's garage wood shop. Using sketches drawn by former member Ed Fleming, Ralph perfected the designs for new chancel furniture to be used in the newly remodeled worship space. Four of those pieces have been completed - the altar, lectern, and two kneeling benches - and there are plans for at least on more.

This is the tale of a Pin Oak Tree. Planted in 1969, it stood watch for forty years with its sentinel mate on the east side of the church. As per the desire of many members, it continues to live on in the life of this congregation through these beautiful pieces around which the congregation gathers when it comes together to worship.

Poet Joyce Kilmer probably said it best at about the turn of the last century in his poem # 119, entitled "Trees."

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that in summer may wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain

Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Submitted by Verne Sindlinger

Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

1 Erin Fleser
3 Mark Rainey
4 Kelsey Hutto
12 Donna Niednagel
27 Jim & Jan Drum -Anniversary
28 Phyllis Sindlinger
29 Deborah Hutchison
31 Karen Richards

JANUARY

3 Dan Snow
17 Dave Richards
18 Jan Drum
19 Natalie Stant
22 Gordon Smith

FEBRUARY

2 Tim Stant
2 Ed Kacena
2 Sarah Eads
4 Mike Day
5 Jaden Fish (Niednagel's grandson)
7 Logan Fittz
15 Sandy Fittz

MARCH

5 Bess Smith (Joan Amati's daughter)
11 Charles Hill
12 Angie Aumage
21 Kyle Fittz

28 Laurie Stant

Don't see your birthday or anniversary - drop me a line at jane@rjherr.com

Newsletter Submissions?

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, recipes, etc. to Jane Herr (812)320-2340 or 4923 Stevens Rd., Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com.

Next deadline for submissions:

Lent: February 19, 2017

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Sunday	Nov. 27	First Sunday in Advent service	9:30 AM	St. David's
Wednesday	Nov. 30	Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion <i>Continues Wednesdays through Advent</i>	6 PM	St. David's
Thursday	Dec. 1	Pub Theology Topic: Doubt	6 PM	Pine Room
Saturday	Dec. 17	Children's Giving Party	10 AM-12PM	St. David's
Sunday	Dec. 18	Ftr. Stichweh Reception	after service	St. David's
Saturday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist	7 PM	St. David's
Friday	Dec. 25	Christmas Day		
Friday	Jan. 6	Epiphany		
Sunday	Jan. 24	St. David's annual meeting <i>pitch-in to follow meeting</i>	after service	St. David's
Sunday	Feb. 19	Lenten newsletter deadline		
Tuesday	Feb. 28	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner		St. David's
Wednesday	March 1	Ash Wednesday (<i>Lenten season begins</i>)		