



Pentecost 2018

### **An Update from the Senior Warden**

I like to review the previous newsletter, in this case the Lenten newsletter, to get a sense of how things have progressed. Since the Lenten newsletter, there has been a lot of movement in a couple of areas with more movement on the horizon.

#### **Search Update**

In the Lent newsletter, I talked about the February 17 Vestry retreat with Canon Kissinger. That retreat never happened. Canon Kissinger fell ill just before the retreat, later went on medical leave, and as we just heard from Bishop Jennifer, Debra Kissinger will not be coming back. The Vestry needed guidance. We got approval from the Bishop to contact Kay McLaughlin, who led the parish discussions last December. Among many other things, Dr. McLaughlin was involved with Transition Ministries and Communications for the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington for many years. Kay answered the Vestry's questions during a two day retreat in April. At the end of that retreat the Vestry made 3 important decisions:

1. St. David's would search for a ½-time priest.
2. That priest would be called as a Priest-In-Charge (PIC).
3. The search would be conducted by a 5-person Search Committee.

On May 5, I was pleased to announce that the Search Committee will consist of Joan Amati, Jan Benham, Maggie Linscott, Gene Niednagel, and Madeline Webster and that Kay McLaughlin, their Search Coach, will be advising the committee. The Vestry hopes that the Search Committee can get St. David's name out to prospective candidates by this fall. This is going to be a busy summer for the Search Committee.

The Search Committee is going to gather with Kay McLaughlin June 8 and 9. She is going to explain the steps that are necessary before St. David's can start the active search. One of the first key steps is to get input from the congregation. Kay is going to lead the members of the congregation in two evening meetings, Wednesday June 13 and Thursday June 14. These will be similar to the meetings she led in December. The topics will be different each night. It is important for all us to attend each evening. This is the golden opportunity for those of us who are not on the Search Committee to be heard. Stay tuned; there will be more details about these meetings coming.

After June 14, the Search Committee will start the detailed process of putting together the information that will actually go out to prospective candidates.

#### **Graffiti**

It was May 4, 2017, just over a year ago, that we learned that Nathan Stang had been arrested for spraying the church with graffiti. There have been several key developments.

- On April 17, Nathan plead guilty to a Class A Misdemeanor offense of spraying the church.
- The judge accepted Nathan's plea and set sentencing for 1:15 p.m. on June 5. We will provide you with more information about this hearing as we get it.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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- The Vestry wanted to thank the community and the Sheriff's Department for their support and work. We invited Sheriff Southerland and his detectives to coffee hour May 6. It is because of their hard work that we know who defaced the church. The Vestry had been discussing what should be done with the remainder of the money St. David's received right after the church was defaced. We resolved this by presenting the Sheriff with two checks totaling \$1,568. These were split between Shop-with-a-Cop and the TRIAD program. Both programs provide a real benefit to the community.

I have talked about two important items for St. David's: searching for a new priest and dealing with the fallout from the graffiti. We have made significant steps in each in the last 3 months but both are still works in process. That will give me something to write about in the next newsletter.

Jim Huber,  
Senior Warden

## **St. David's Episcopal Church**

corner of SR 45 and SR 135  
in Beanblossom,  
5 miles north of Nashville  
PO Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448

**Website:** [www.stdavidsbb.org](http://www.stdavidsbb.org)

**Church office:**  
812-988-1038

**Senior Warden:**  
Jim Huber  
(812) 320-0424  
[jim@haushuber.com](mailto:jim@haushuber.com)

**Organist/ Choir Director**  
Adrienne Shipley

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Darlene McDonald  
[secretary@stdavidsbb.org](mailto:secretary@stdavidsbb.org)

## **St. David's Vestry 2018**

Jim Huber  
**Senior Warden**  
**Finance Committee**  
P.O. Box 1278  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(812) 320-0424  
[jim@haushuber.com](mailto:jim@haushuber.com)

Jan Holloway  
**Junior Warden**  
**Communications**  
4646 State Road 45  
Nashville, IN 47447  
(812) 325-1018  
[holloway@indiana.edu](mailto:holloway@indiana.edu)

Sharon Kitchens  
**Parish Life**  
435 Virginia Ave.  
Unit 204  
Indianapolis, IN 46203  
(317) 695-4266  
[kitchens435@gmail.com](mailto:kitchens435@gmail.com)

Mike Day  
**Christian Formation**  
436 Pine Ridge Road  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(317) 695-0196  
[mikeday47@gmail.com](mailto:mikeday47@gmail.com)

Madeline Webster  
**Buildings & Grounds**  
404 W. Kirkwood  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
(217) 822-3120  
[mwebster@stonebelt.org](mailto:mwebster@stonebelt.org)

Jan Benham  
**Pastoral Care**  
7538 Hamilton Creek Road  
Columbus, IN 47201  
(812) 345-6292  
[Janicebenham@gmail.com](mailto:Janicebenham@gmail.com)

Ed Kacena  
**Fresh Expression Ministry**  
2225 Greasy Creek Road,  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(765) 212-4908  
[bcin988@gmail.com](mailto:bcin988@gmail.com)

**Parish Treasurer**  
Ralph Linscott  
(812) 350-1379  
[rmlinscott@gmail.com](mailto:rmlinscott@gmail.com)

**Assistant Parish Treasurer**  
Sandy Ridenour  
(812) 597-0135  
[jsridenour@live.com](mailto:jsridenour@live.com)

**Vestry Clerk**  
Judy Huber  
P.O. Box 1278  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(812) 988-4007  
[judy@haushuber.com](mailto:judy@haushuber.com)

## **Update on Nathan Stang**

At the Nashville courthouse, Nathan Stang, accompanied by his lawyer, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor of spray painting the walls at St. David's. A separate sentencing hearing is set for Tuesday June 5, at 1:15 at the Courthouse. Our Senior Warden Jim Huber made a short statement to the Brown Country Democrat, <http://www.bcdemocrat.com/2018/04/26/man-pleads-guilty-to-vandalizing-church>. We will update the members of the congregation with the details of the sentencing hearing. Anyone who wishes is invited to make a statement before the judge on the day of Nathan's sentencing hearing.

## **Our thanks to the Sheriff**

On Sunday, May 9, St. David's welcomed Brown County Sheriff Scott Southerland and two detectives to a special coffee hour (and in St. David's tradition, a special cake) held in their honor to thank them for their dedication and persistence in discovering the perpetrator of the spray painting. Our Senior Warden, Jim Huber, presented Scott with two checks—one made out to the Shop-with-a-Cop program and the other to the Triad program, which provides services and company to people who are isolated in their home. These funds were money that other congregations and individuals sent to St. David's after the incident to help with our repair costs. Given the circumstances, and because we had an outpouring of clean-up help from the community, we felt the money would be better used helping other local organizations. Sheriff Southerland asked that we write the checks to organizations he felt would put the money to best use. The sheriff and his deputies commented later that local kids especially loved shopping with cops. But if you asked the cops, they'd say they were the ones who had more fun.

## **Customs of the Feast of the Ascension**

Certain customs or rituals were connected with the liturgy of this feast, such as the blessing of beans and grapes after the Commemoration of the Dead in the Canon of the Mass, the blessing of first fruits, afterwards done on Rogation Days, the blessing of a candle, the wearing of miters by deacon and subdeacon, the extinguishing of the paschal candle, and triumphal processions with torches and banners outside the churches to commemorate the entry of Christ into heaven.

The antiquarian Daniel Rock records the English custom of carrying at the head of the procession the banner bearing the device of the lion and at the foot the banner of the dragon, to symbolize the triumph of Christ in his ascension over the evil one (and can also be interpreted by analogy as the triumph of England over Wales). In some churches the scene of the Ascension was vividly reproduced by elevating the figure of Christ above the altar through an opening in the roof of the church. In others, whilst the figure of Christ was made to ascend, that of the devil was made to descend.

In England it was once common for churches to "beat the bounds" on this day, and some continue the custom (e.g. the church of St Michael at the North Gate in Oxford). Members of the parish walk round the parish boundaries, marking boundary stones (e.g. by writing on them in chalk) and hitting them with sticks. Knowledge of the parish boundaries was once important, since churches had certain duties such as the care of children born out of wedlock in the parish.

In Venice the ceremony of the Wedding with the Sea was traditionally celebrated on the Feast of the Ascension, while in Florence the Feast was observed by having a dove slide down a string from the high altar of the cathedral to ignite a large decorative container filled with fireworks in front of the main entrance of the cathedral.

In Portugal on "Wheat stalk Thursday", small bundles of poppies and wheat stalks are picked in the fields and placed at home until next year, for good fortune.

## **Completing the Circle for Us and God**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter Sermon, Acts 1:1-14*

*The Rev. Tim Hallett*

We're in the part of the Easter season known as Ascensiontide. It's a time when we relive liturgically the ascension of Christ and anticipate the continuation of his work in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. You know the story of the ascension: Jesus with his disciples for a last time and then he is taken into heaven.

But the story of the ascension presents difficulties for modern people. The ancient cosmology gets in our way. There are some pretty big differences between the biblical world-view and ours. The biblical writers speak of a three-decker universe consisting of the heaven above, the earth beneath, and the water under the earth. Perhaps this cosmology was once taken quite literally. No doubt also, the more sophisticated of the biblical writers, if pressed, would have been the first to regard this as symbolic language intended to represent and convey spiritual realities. But they weren't pressed, probably because people back then were more comfortable with symbols than we are. Even St. Luke, who was concerned to interpret Christianity to its cultured despisers, feels no need to apologize for his language. And the most mature theologians of the New Testament can write quite uninhibitedly of comings down and goings up within their universe.

Our universe is larger, more complex. We still speak of Christ's coming down and going up, but inhibitedly, symbolically. We're not sure where to locate the place of his origin and return.

It may be helpful to note that the New Testament as a whole treats the ascension as an integral part of the Easter event. That is, Christ was always proclaimed as risen and ascended, but in the earlier accounts there is no distinction between the resurrection and ascension as events, and there was little preoccupation with their physical details. The conviction that God had raised Jesus from the dead was coupled with the conviction that at the same time God had highly exalted him. Thus in Paul and in the first two gospels, the resurrection appearances are understood as appearances of the risen and already exalted Lord. Resurrection and exaltation were seen as two aspects of one event, one reality.

A tendency to portray the ascension as a separate event comes forward in the later stages of the tradition. But still, resurrection and ascension are not really regarded as two successive events. They are separated in order to contemplate the meaning of two aspects of a single, indivisible event.

When separation occurs, the ascension is variously located. In the gospel of Luke, it takes place on the evening of Easter Day, or at the latest the next day. In John, it apparently occurs between Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and his appearance to Thomas. In the Acts of the Apostles (the best known account), the ascension happens 40 days after Easter. But even there the 40 days are to be understood symbolically as a holy period of revelation. It was several centuries before the church in its writings and liturgy began to treat the ascension as though it had actually occurred on the 40<sup>th</sup> day.

So our celebration of the ascension is not primarily a historical commemoration. It is a dramatization of an important emphasis in early Christian proclamation and faith, one facet of the Easter faith isolated for contemplation and celebration.

All this suggests that the details of the ascension are less important than the reality it represents. That is, how it happened is less important than the fact that it did happen. So we'd better look at that reality.

The significance of the ascension rests on the significance we see in the wholeness of the act of God in Christ. The ascension is a piece of the whole. Our faith is not a series of discontinuous beliefs strung out one after the other. Rather, it is part of a wholeness that centers on the life of Christ and life in Christ – life lived out of the conviction that God is focused and shown in person in Christ Jesus. That in Christ, our fellow human being, the life of God was truly lived in truly human terms. That in Christ, God made human life his own. When we want to be theological, we call that the incarnation. But that is only the beginning of the story.

Humanity rejected God in its midst, God with us. And God who has always given himself to humankind gave himself again, in Christ, at the cross. God involved himself in our life, even to our death. But still God was not finished. For out of human death he brought new life, new life for Christ, new life for all humanity. We call that reality resurrection. By it our humanity is lifted and exalted in Christ. And that's what ascension means. It completes the circle. God becomes one of us, takes on humanity; and then, in the ascension, humanity is taken into God. Henceforth, humanity is part of the Godhead. Humanity becomes an aspect of God. Did you hear that? Humanity is now part of God. Our humanity is now part of God. Is that cool, or what?!



So Christ's work for us, Christ's identification and participation in our human experience, does not end with his death. It continues. For after his death he lifts his human sisters and brothers to the same relation with God that he possessed in his human nature. Bringing God to humankind concludes in bring humankind to God. We are raised with Christ, right? Think about it. We are raised with Christ. God knows and understands humanity and human experience through human life in Christ. And Christ, no longer bound by time or place or history, makes available his life in God to all humanity at all times and in all places.

The feast of the ascension is a sort of coronation of Christ – the real feast of Christ the King. As such, it is also a coronation of sorts for us. Because it is our humanity – no other, no lesser, no greater, but our very own, which is forever established and involved in the life of God. Our humanity, ours, is part of the Godhead.

In today's gospel, Jesus says, "Now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world." We are in the world, but must also be for the world, as Jesus was in his life with us. We must care with his care for the world he came to recreate, act with his concern of the humanity he lifted up. It's our turn to be incarnate, to be other Christ's, and to live the life of God among our human sisters and brothers. Live it. Live it to the full.

## Christian Formation

I just recently finished reading a book entitled “All the Light We Cannot See“. The author is Anthony Doerr. This is a novel, recently on bestseller lists, but I also found it inspirational and reflective.

It got me to thinking about the possibility of again having a church book read this summer. The vestry does not have a designated book to read this year, so I thought I would take a poll of you all to see who would be interested in having a book discussion, probably after church this summer. We could also do one in the fall, if we are interested.

With this idea in mind, next week I will put a questionnaire/ signup sheet in the Gathering Place to see who may be interested, what books you would recommend, and when to meet for the discussion. Or you can just let me know verbally or by email.

The Pub Theology group met again in April and May. We had a near record turnout of about 15 people in May! We will plan on skipping the meeting in June, since that is going to be a very busy couple of weeks when we start our search for a new priest. We will resume our pub theology meeting on the first Thursday in July, probably again at The Ordinary. Stay tuned.

Let me know of any other concerns or suggestions regarding Christian Formation. Have a great summer and stay cool!

Peace, Mike

### Joan goes to Washington

On March 24<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC, with over 850,000 in attendance, was the March Against Gun Violence. I had the privilege of attending the march with a group from the Cathedral. 35 kids from our Diocese and a handful of adults all left Indianapolis at 5 am on Friday morning, the day before the march was to take place. After driving through the day, we all arrived at St. Georgia Church in the suburbs of our nation's capital and were greeted with a dinner. Following our meal, we loaded back into the bus and headed for the National Cathedral for an evening vigil on the eve of the march. The power of the building, the music, and the speakers was truly awesome.

The next morning, following breakfast, having stayed at the church overnight, we all walked as a group to meet up with fellow Episcopalians who were heading to the march. There were folks from all over the country. We walked towards the Capitol, but due to the size of the March we ended up 15 blocks from the Mall where the speakers were assembled.

We stood shoulder to shoulder in a sea of people, all with the same purpose. I listened as these “kids” tell of their experiences, of their communities, and of their fears. But we also listened to their tales of support and hope for the future. Many people made protest signs and waved them throughout the March. Our group all dressed in orange t-shirts and we had the best group of young people to travel with.

We left that evening at 5 pm and arrived back at the Cathedral in Indianapolis the following morning at 6 am. In total we spent 49 hours away from those church doors and returned on Palm Sunday. This was, for me, a mountain top experience. I met wonderful people who want assault weapons banned, not all guns. I continue to write to my congress people and anyone else accepting lobby money from the NRA and other anti-gun control lobbyists expressing our shared goal of ending gun violence and having better regulated gun laws.

History was truly made that day, and I feel blessed to have been a part of it!

--Joan Amati

## Farmer's Market News

### **Snow Gone! Flowers Here! It's Market Time!**

It seems not too long ago that we were watching large snowflakes fly through the air and covering plants due to freeze warnings. Many of us planning a Farmers Market feared that we would experience a short growing season that would limit local produce for the market. But suddenly, everything is green, leaves are on the trees, flowers are blooming—all bursting open with new life.

Like the plants, the Bean Blossom Farmers Market Advisory Committee is “bursting” into activity to grow and produce the 6<sup>th</sup> Bean Blossom Farmers Market. St. David's will serve as host providing a vibrant community gathering place that serves as a community resource for local goods, contributes to the success of local food growers, producers, and artisans.

The Market, beginning May 25<sup>th</sup> and ending August 31<sup>st</sup>, will be child, animal, family, and all-ages friendly -- with food, fun, and “community” building for all. This season the St. David's food booth has become a Bistro/Café with air conditioned indoor dining or outdoor dining on the deck. Guest chefs will prepare menus and food each Friday. Don Ford and Adie Smith are recruiting musicians each week. There will be children's activities in and around the Children's Garden—and a special children's day at the market on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Outreach Community Service Booth features new community programs and services. SNAP (food stamp) will be available with eligible vendors. The Strawberry Festival is coming again on June 8<sup>th</sup> and the annual St. David's Rummage sale on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Blood Mobile is also planning a return to the market on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

For three months this summer, let's hope that St. David's and Beautiful Downtown Bean Blossom is the place to be on Friday evening! Sponsoring and Hosting the Farmers Market began as and continues to be a ministry in our community.

See you at the Market,

Donna Niednagel  
Farmers Market Coordinator

### **Joan goes to Convention**

General Convention is coming up this summer, and I am a deputy representing our Diocese. This convention is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the United States, and this summer we will be heading to Austin, Texas for this year's gathering. I'll be heading to the Lonestar State on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and returning on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

One of my assigned duties during the convention is to serve on a committee looking at “Protecting God's Children” and making any modifications to the curriculum that is needed. These suggestions will have to go to the convention floor and be voted on by the collective before taking effect.

St. David's can help in this effort by praying for the convention, for all the folks there, and for all to be open to change. You can help me specifically by sending me Snicker's Bars and Diet Coke.

I look forward to the privilege of representing you all, and everyone in our diocese at this year's convention.

—Joan Amati

## A Word from Charlie Hill

### High-tech Stuff on Cars

It's mind-boggling the stuff you can get on cars these days. In addition to a rear-view camera so you can see what you're backing into, there is a sensor that tells you when you are about to front into something and it automatically puts on the brakes and prevents it. There is even a thing that tells you when you are getting out of your lane and also when someone is getting into your blind spot. The car will dial your phone, text your spouse, tune your radio, and play your favorite music, all on voice command. And, of course this is in addition to cruise control, which automatically maintains a set speed, automatic temperature control, and a gadget that dims your headlights for oncoming cars and turns on the wipers when it rains.

However, I have had all this, and more, on every one of my cars, going clear back to my old 1951 Chevy. These vehicles have all been controlled by voice command: "You're getting too close; someone's coming up on the right; the light is red; the light is green; you're going too fast; you're getting too far over to the right; put on the brakes; your turn signal is still on; dim your lights." In addition, as soon as I come into a parking lot, the voice says, "There's an empty spot" or "that spot is too narrow." Heater, radio, and phone are also taken care of.

That's right. She sits right there beside me and does all the things these new gadgets do, does them nicer, and she has been doing it for years. Hey, maybe that's where the manufacturers got the idea.

Oh, I forgot, there's a gadget that finds your way to your destination, telling you when to turn and which way. My "gadget" does that too, with a paper map, and we still get lost. But so do the people with the electronic gizmo.

You can turn some of the new gadgets off when they get too irritating, as they do in some traffic situations.

You can't turn mine off. I wouldn't even dare.

Charles McClure Hill, 5-1-18.

The Sandhill Crane family of Weeki Wachee, FL are the proud parents of two adorable chicks. The little ones are doing well in spite of briefly stopping highway 505 traffic from both directions while Mr. and Mrs. Sandhill chased them off the road.

—from Jan Drum





## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### MAY

6 Coral Hamlin  
10 Jan Halladay  
20 Ray Laffin  
26 Dona Glentzer  
27 Jim & Judy Huber - Anniversary  
27 Gene & Donna Niednagel - Anniversary  
28 Marge Wright  
29 Charles & Margie Hill - Anniversary  
30 Joe Ridenour

9 Fran Dugan  
20 Yvonne & Bob Oliger - Anniversary  
21 Carol Bell  
27 Judy Huber  
29 Ruth Reichmann  
29 Lou Wentzler  
29 David & Jane Savage - Anniversary  
31 Joan Amati & Joe Miller - Anniversary  
31 Eli Rodriquez

### JUNE

2 Marge Grimm  
4 Anne Hawk  
6 Ben Smith  
7 David Savage  
21 Jim Huber  
22 Judy Laffin

### AUGUST

1 Maggie Linscott  
1 Sharon Kitchens  
21 Carol Walker  
22 Sandy Ridenour  
23 Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger - Anniversary  
26 Richard & Jan Halliday - Anniversary  
30 Richard Halladay

### JULY

7 Verne Sindlinger  
8 Steve Biggerstaff

*Don't see your birthday or anniversary - drop me  
a line at [jane@rjherr.com](mailto:jane@rjherr.com)*



"If you ever took truly to heart the ultimate goodness and joy of things, even at their bleakest, the need to praise someone or something for it would be so great that you might even have to go out and speak of it to the birds. Frederick Buechner

—from *Sandy Ridenour*



### 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](mailto:jane@rjherr.com)

Next deadline for submissions:

Fall: August 26, 2018  
Advent: November 18, 2018

St. David's Episcopal Church  
 PO Box 1798  
 Nashville, IN 47448

<p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 9:30 AM Holy Communion</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 6:00 PM Evening Prayer</b></p>
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### **Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events**

Sunday	May 20	Pentecost service <i>(at Strahl Lake, followed by Pentecost pitch-in picnic)</i>	9:30 am	BC State Park
Friday	May 25	Farmers' Market at St. David's <i>(will continue on Fridays through Aug. 31)</i>	4—7 pm	St. D parking lot
Friday	June 1	Children's Day at the Farmers' Market	4-7 pm	St. D parking lot
Saturday	June 2	Euchre	7 pm	
Friday	June 8	Strawberry Fest at the Farmers' Market	4-7 pm	St. D parking lot
Wednesday	June 13	Search Committee Dinner	6 pm	St. David's
Thursday	June 14	Search Committee Dinner	6 pm	St. David's
Thursday	July 5	Pub Theology	6 pm	Out of the Ordinary
Saturday	July 7	Euchre	7 pm	
Thursday	Aug 2	Pub Theology	6 pm	Out of the Ordinary
Friday	Aug 3	Rummage Sale at the Farmer's Market	4-7 pm	St. D parking lot
Saturday	Aug 4	Rummage Sale	9 am—12 pm	St. David's
Saturday	Aug 4	NO Euchre		
Sunday	Aug 26	Fall newsletter info deadline		