



Advent 2018

A Christmas Wish List

This is an Advent newsletter, so it is only natural to think about Christmas lists. What is my Christmas list for St. David's? If I had done a list last year, I think that finding the path would have been the top priority. We were not adrift; we had been through it before, but St. David's needed to resolve the wounds from the past and move on to the future. Our sessions with Kay McLaughlin were helpful in looking both at our past hurts and our strengths to move forward. The appointment of the Search Committee is well on the path to searching for a new priest.

What about my wishes for next year? Obviously, calling a new priest tops the list. The search is about to enter a new phase; the profile will soon be online. This means that priests will be able to search for St. David's and hopefully apply. This will be done according to God's timetable, not mine. The Search Committee will then have to evaluate the candidates and will need the strength to say no to those who are not quite a match.

The Search Committee has identified building strong leadership as an important goal. This needs to start with the Vestry. Last year we froze the Vestry's membership because we thought that the Vestry would be the Search Committee. Now, with a separate Search Committee, we can resume rotating Vestry members. This means we will have seasoned members leave and people with other various talents coming on the Vestry. Leadership is also an issue with the Farmers' Market. The Market had a great year in 2018 and is financially in great shape, but we need someone from the congregation or community to step up and be Market Manager. Donna Niednagel cannot do it all.

St. David's needs to be a place that will interest and excite a potential priest. We have a rotation of good supply clergy. We should continue and hopefully expand special services. The picnic at Brown County State Park was delightful. With Matt Bruce doing his Eagle Scout project and Troop 193 helping with the parking at the Farmers' Market, we may want to reconiler a Scouts' recognition Sunday this year.

We have had four deaths in the church family in little more than a year. Some of those were very involved with St. David's and others had drawn back. We need to continue to be a place where people can come to be nurtured. This means listening to those who are hurting, reaching out to the sick, and comforting those who are in need. I think we have done well but the need continues.

Music has always been central to St. David's and the Bean Blossom Music Series is one example. This last year we have had more frequent concerts with a great variety of music and dance. Hopefully this will continue to expand in 2019.

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(Continued from page 1)

I am feeling excited. Next Advent I am going to dust off my copy of this newsletter and see where we stand. I am sure that my wish list will be filled and that St. David's has done a great deal more.

Jim Huber,
Senior Warden

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Non-vestry members coordinate other areas:

Verne Sindlinger-
Building & Grounds
Donna Niednagel-**Outreach**

A Word from Charlie Hill

By the Time We Get to Christmas

By the time we get to Christmas, I'm tard ('tard' is southern Indiana for tired, and it's tireder than just plain tired: close to 'plum wore out', if you know what I mean).

Just look at the situation. Sometimes shopping days until Christmas are counted from way back in the summer, often after Labor Day or Halloween, and always from Thanksgiving on. One wag listed the number of shopping days the day after Christmas, 364.

The day after Thanksgiving is Black Friday in the stores. There are even pre-Black Friday sales before Thanksgiving, and, now cyber Monday after Thanksgiving to order on line.

Wherever you go, the background music is Christmas music, both secular and religious, and sometimes barely recognizable.

Climb up to attic or down to basement for lights and decorations for house and tree, and then up and down ladders to attach. Answer the question: "What'll I get for so and so and such and such", what seems like a thousand times. Fight the traffic, get the stuff, wrap them up, hide them. Remember where you hid them.

It seems like a race to run, but it does stimulate the economy, provide a lot of extra jobs, and get us thinking about someone else instead of just ourselves: giving not getting.

In the midst of all this secular noise, I like what Episcopalians do. We have Advent: a season of quiet devotion and expectancy. We don't even sing Christmas hymns until Christmas, and then only for a couple of Sundays. Many other denominations similarly change the emphasis.

We wait for the One who comes. We try to understand the Holy One who comes to be a part of the world, a part of us. Big thought! Heaven come to earth, rather than earth to heaven. This is beyond us and yet for us. It is love carried to the nth degree.

Somehow this makes me feel not so tard.

Charles McClure Hill, 10-24-18.



Search Committee News

ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER, SEARCHING FOR OUR NEXT RECTOR

What's Happening Now with the Search?

As you are reading this newsletter, all the rector search information about who we are as St. David's, Bean Blossom, and the skills and characteristics we would like for our new rector is destined for New York to be placed in the hands of transition officers in 111 dioceses and in the email of priests across the Episcopal Church who are ready for their next chapter in parish ministry.

We will soon list the information about our next priest with the Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) in New York that includes our answers to 12 narrative questions, asking us to describe honestly who we are: Name a ministry success, what's our liturgical style, our practice of incorporating others, and how do we care for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. We describe St. David's involvement in the wider community, how we engage in pastoral care, tell about a ministry we have recently begun, and how we're preparing for the church of the future. We are asked about how stewardship shapes our lives, how we have addressed conflict and church change, and how that change worked out for us. And we listed gifts and skills we want visible in our priest.

How's the Website Coming Along?

It's critical that our updated website go public at the same time that OTM material is available to the church, so we will release both at the same time. We're updating all the information from our current website using less copy, more pictures, and up to date information. Right now we are in the final process with our website designer David Squire Design.

The new site will carry our welcome message, easy to find calendar, newsletters, Scoop, latest service bulletin, audio sermons, and information about our worship community, ministries, and important links to our wider community. The important thing to remember is that it can be edited and updated easily.

We will let you know when the new website goes live so you can keep up-to-date on St. David and see all the information our priest candidates can see, including the Search section. There you'll find our narrative questions, challenges and goals, and other search information.

When Will We Have our New Priest?

All applications will be received by Canon Kristin White in the diocesan office. Priests who apply will have background checks made by the diocese before applications are sent to the search committee here. The church-wide information on St. David's search will be available at least until mid-January because we realize the seasons of Advent and Christmas are very busy times for most priests, and we don't want to miss applications by rushing ahead. Also, there is a smaller pool of priests who, having other professional employment or a stable personal income, will be looking for a half-time position.

When we receive our applications, the search committee will review them for the gifts and skills evident and begin contact and conversations with those we want to know more about. As the search committee prepares for onsite visits with finalists, we will invite our vestry members

to meet them so that when the vestry receives the recommendation of the search committee, they will have the same information as the search committee. After the vestry makes a decision and issues a call and the candidate accepts the call, we will take time to formalize the relationship in a letter of agreement and plan our welcome while the rector-elect makes leave-taking plans. A beginning date for the priest will be set.

Any Changes to Search Committee Updates to the Parish?

The big change involves the search committee confidentiality agreement with St. David's, the diocese, and our candidates. While the search committee will continue to share updates about the process, we will not be able to reveal any personal or professional information about candidates. For instance, we will have an agreement with our rector-elect on the exact time the announcement of the leave-taking is shared with the rector-elect's location and the acceptance of the call is made public at St. David's. And it is our pastoral responsibility to communicate with any other candidates about our decision before the announcement is made public.

We're comfortable that each search committee member will be able to talk about confidentiality with friends and family. None of us want the responsibility of confidential information shared too early on social media.

So keep the search committee and St. David's in your prayers that we will come to know a faithful pastor who will join heart and hand with us in mission and ministry.

-- By Gene Niednagel

Hear the Angels Sing

It came upon a midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold.

Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long,
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong.

And warring human-kind hears not,
The tidings which they bring,
O hush the noise and cease the strife
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years
Shall come the time fore-told.

When peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

—from Marge Grimm

Symbols

“And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We’ll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.”

Moina Michael, 1918

On November 11, Armistice Day, what is now known as Veterans Day here, in 1918, the guns of WW1 finally fell silent. But only after the deaths of 16 million persons. On that day 100 years later, I found myself reading an article in the New York Times about the legacy of WW1 and how some of the same forces that threatened democracy and peace 100 years ago, e.g., nationalism, may be resurgent today.

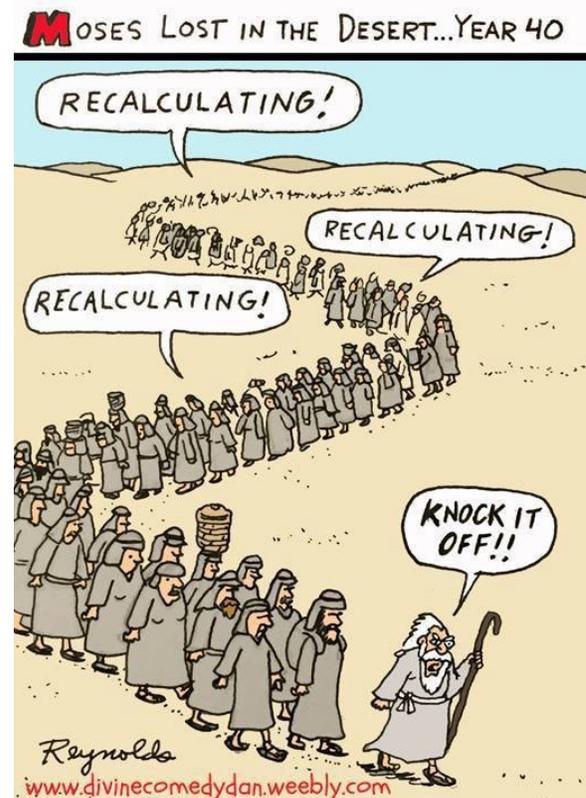
Disheartened by this thought, I was circuitously led to read about Moina Michael, the “poppy lady”, who, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields” by Canadian soldier John McCrae, helped to establish the poppy as the symbol of remembrance or commemoration of those who had died during WW1. It also was looked at as a symbol of our responsibility for the future, so that the victims would not have suffered and died in vain; that it would be, as was hoped, “the war to end all wars.” Unfortunately, as we know, that dream was not to be realized.

After pondering this notion of “poppy responsibility,” I walked downstairs to do some exercise on our treadmill. Nothing like some physical activity to pull one’s thoughts out of foreboding. As I climbed onto the treadmill I happened to glance at the opposite wall and noticed our cuckoo clock hanging there. It was a souvenir of my time in Germany in the 1970’s, where I saw many soldiers with physical and psychological wounds from the war in Viet Nam.

My thoughts still focused on symbols, I imagined what might be an appropriate bird symbol of war. We tend to think of the eagle or the hawk in that capacity, but wouldn’t the cuckoo be more appropriate?

What do you think?

Peace, Mike Day



Pub Theology

Our monthly gatherings for Pub Theology discussions have now continued for over 2 years with only 2-3 missed months during that period.

For review, the following are the subjects that we have examined:

Oct. 2016—Spiritual, Not Religious
 Nov. 2016—Anger with God
 Dec. 2016—Doubt
 Feb. 2017—Forgiveness
 Mar. 2017—Guns and God
 Apr. 2017—Grace
 May 2017—Toxic Charity
 Jun. 2017—Embodied Spirituality
 Jul. 2017—Creativity
 Aug. 2017—Spiritual Landscapes
 Sep. 2017—Music that Speaks to the Soul
 Oct. 2017—Sexuality
 Nov. 2017—Gratefulness
 Dec. 2017—Simplify, Simplify
 Jan. 2018—Free Will
 Apr. 2018—The Resurrection: What does it mean to us
 May 2018—Debauchery
 Jul. 2018—Poetry: How it Inspires and Comforts Us
 Aug. 2018—Constructive Discourse
 Sep. 2018—Love: What do we mean when we say it?
 Oct. 2018—Our Animal Friends: How they Inspire and Comfort Us

Our topic on Dec. 6 will be “What Do We Have to Be Thankful For?” It will be held at the Brown County Inn at 6PM.

As I probably will be out of state during the months of Jan. Feb. and March, I am looking of volunteers to convene and facilitate discussions during those months. This is not a hard job and can be done with minimal preparation. The following are some topics that have been suggested by participants in the past but which we haven't got to yet:

- Contemplation Time: Scheduling and Using It
- Quality of life: When, Where, How
- War: When, if ever, is it a Moral Act?
- Who Is My Neighbor?
- Comedy and Spirituality
- Volunteerism: Its Rewards and Costs
- Spirituality in Literature

A person can choose one of these topics or come up with one of his/her own. Of course, we could always take a month or two off this winter.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Nothing is written in stone. And remember that this all began at least partly as evangelism. So, invite your families and friends. It's not a religious service and all opinions are welcome.

Mike Day

Bean Blossom Music Series

The Bean Blossom Music Series recently hosted a unique pair of musicians on Saturday evening, November 10 at St. David's Episcopal Church. "Music from the Chapels and Courts of Germany" featured Samuel Breene (Duke University, Duke Collegium Musicum) on a Baroque violin and Jeffrey Noonan (University of Notre Dame, Hart School of Music) playing the Baroque guitar and a theorbo. Much of this Baroque music is from the early/mid seventeenth century and was composed for the instruments of the age.

The audience learned the history of these beautiful instruments and enjoyed the performance by these two talented, professional musicians. The Baroque violin is smaller than a normal violin and has a slightly higher pitch; the Baroque guitar is also smaller but has a very deep body and 12 strings. The theorbo (a very large lute) is the Baroque version of a "bass" with a deep, throaty accompaniment to the other instruments. The theorbo is nearly 6' in length and is played while sitting.



Please plan to attend the next BBMS event on December 16 (Sunday) at 7:00 pm as we host a vocal *a Capella* quartet singing madrigals and old Christmas carols.

The four singers are: Elijah McCormack, soprano Paulina Francisco, alto Blake Beckemeyer, tenor Grant Farmer, bass

They're all students at the IU Jacobs School of Music.

Tenor **Blake Beckemeyer** specializes in performances of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries with frequent performances of cantatas and other sacred works. He sings as soloist with Bloomington Bach Cantata Project, IU Baroque Orchestra, Concentus, IU Opera Theatre, Weimar Bach Cantata Academy, IU G&S Society, DePauw Symphony Orchestra, DePauw Opera, among other ensembles. As chorister he has appeared with Oregon Bach Festival, Christ Church Cathedral (IN), Columbus (IN) Philharmonic Chorus, Charlotte Bach Akademie, Bach-Ensemble Helmuth Rilling and many more. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Early Music Voice at IU-Jacobs with Steven Rickards.



Elijah McCormack (Miles) is a male soprano currently earning a Master's degree in historical performance voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and studies with Steven Rickards. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Skidmore College, and there studied voice with Gene Marie Callahan and Sylvia Stoner-Hawkins. He has appeared as a soprano soloist in the Historical Performance Institute's St. John Passion, and as Pirro and Amore in *La Didone* with Haymarket Opera. He has also appeared in *Hansel and Gretel (Sandman)* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea (Valletto/Lucano)* in concert with the New York Lyric Opera Theater, and in the Albany Symphony concert premiere of Evan Mack's *Roscoe (Gilby)*.



Paulina Francisoco holds a Master of Arts degree in Early Music from USC and a BA in Vocal Performance and Communication from Carroll University. As a professional musician, Paulina has performed with ensembles throughout Los Angeles and the Milwaukee area. Her professional specialties are centered in the fine arts administration industry where she brings a unique and engaging style to professional writing for organizations and creative approaches to social media.

Grant Farmer has spent the majority of his career serving as a high school choir director in the Nashville, TN area. Grant received his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal music education from Middle Tennessee State University in 2009. After six years of secondary teaching, Grant obtained his Master of Music in choral conducting from the Westminster Choir College. Over the past ten years, Grant has engaged in various soloist and professional ensemble positions including Music City Baroque Ensemble, Tennessee State University, Sewanee Chorale, Nashville Chamber Singers, and Nashville Opera. Grant is at the Jacobs School of Music in pursuit of his Doctorate in Choral Conducting and serves as the Choral Assistant for the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus.



Refreshments will be served and invite your family and friends.

Treasurer's Notes

The figures in the table below reflect the October financial statement which is the most recent month available as of press time for the newsletter. Note that the revenues and expenses are for the operating budget and do not show other expenses and revenues. These other items include primarily the farmers' market, which has its own budget, and the restricted funds that are separate from the operating budget and changes in these funds are not reflected in the operating budget numbers.

Farmers market has had a very good year and there should be no doubt that it is a self sustaining proposition at the current time. The farmers' market account started the year at \$2,524.56 and as of the end of October is at \$5,126.00 for a net increase of \$2,601.44. Items of significance in the restricted funds are the siding work that was done on the bell tower north side and the south side of the sanctuary which will cost about \$14,900 overall. In addition, as is typical about this time of the year, the outreach budget has been used and further outreach expenses are being taken from the outreach restricted account. Both of these restricted accounts were funded separate from the operating budget, with outreach getting revenue from fund raisers and donations and the building and grounds contingency fund getting part of its revenue from lower expenses occurring as long as we do not have a priest.

One other observation is that pledge revenue has fallen slightly behind budgeted. We will see how that develops over the final two months of the year.

Assets (not including fixed)	End of October 2018	
	Previous Year	2018
Fifth Third Accounts	\$13,576.01	\$31,437.99
IUCU Accounts	\$28,065.30	\$24,357.21
IUCU Investments (CD's)	\$60,202.22	\$66,610.79
Total Assets	\$101,843.53	\$122,405.99
Revenues & Expenses Year through July (not including Farmers Market)		
	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Revenues	\$86,025.77	\$90,319.11
Expenses	\$59,259.18	\$94,866.84
Net	\$26,766.59	-\$4,547.73
Pledge revenue	\$82,755.50	\$87,269.21

Respectfully,

Ralph Linscott
Treasurer

Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

8 Rich & Eli Rodriguez Hill -Anniversary
 9 Joan Amati
 9 Tim & Laurie Stant - Anniversary
 10 Joe & Sandy Ridenour - Anniversary
 11 David Sindlinger
 12 Jan Holloway
 12 Jane Herr
 13 Andrea Barber
 20 Ralph & Maggie Linscott -Anniversary
 23 Rich Hill
 28 Carol Ruffin
 29 Roberta White
 30 Pat Bolinger

DECEMBER

3 Mark Rainey
 9 Quinn Cole (Bess & Eric's son)
 12 Donna Niednagel
 27 Jim & Jan Drum -Anniversary
 28 Phyllis Sindlinger
 29 Deborah Hutchison

JANUARY

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

The art of praying, as we grow, is really the art of learning to waste time gracefully—to be simply the clay in the hands of the potter. This may sound easy—too easy to be true—but it is really the most difficult thing we ever learn to do.... This is the real reason why so few of us ever come, in this life, to the full experience of God's love for us.

- **Thomas H. Green**, *When the Well Runs Dry*

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: Sunday February 24, 2019

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 PO Box 1798
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SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Holy Communion

Wednesday 6:00 PM Evening Prayer

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Sunday	Dec. 2	First Sunday in Advent service	9:30 AM	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec. 5	Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion <i>Continues Wednesdays through Advent</i>	6 PM	St. David's
Thursday	Dec. 6	Pub Theology Topic: "What Do We Have to Be Thankful For?"	6 PM	Brown County Inn
Sunday	Dec. 16	BBMS—a <i>Capella</i> quartet singing early Renaissance music		
Monday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist	7 PM	St. David's
Tuesday	Dec. 25	Christmas Day - no service		
Wednesday	Dec. 25	no evening service		
Wednesday	Jan. 2	no evening service		
Thursday	Jan. 3	Pub Theology Topic: TBA	6 PM	Brown County Inn
Sunday	Jan. 6	Epiphany		
Sunday	Jan. 20	St. David's annual meeting <i>pitch-in to follow meeting</i>	after service	St. David's
Sunday	Feb. 24	Lenten newsletter deadline		
Tuesday	March 5	Shrove Tuesday		