



Advent 2019

Brothers and Sisters of St. David's,

I wish you a blessed Advent season. The first Sunday of Advent is December 1 which also marks the beginning of the Church Year. This is Year A in our three year cycle of scripture readings. Advent means coming and it is a time of waiting and preparing for the Nativity of Jesus. Each Sunday in Advent we will light a candle from the advent wreath. The first Sunday represents hope, the second; peace, the third is the pink candle and represents joy, and the fourth candle is for love. The shape of the wreath is circular because of God's infinite love for us. The evergreens used all around the wreath are because of the eternal life brought by Jesus.

Next Sunday we will be stuffing stockings to support Marilyn Day's son and his fellow soldiers. The giving tree will also be going up which gives us a chance to support our community. During Advent the children will get an opportunity to participate in Sunday School the first part of the service. They learn a lesson from scripture and learn how to participate in the heifer project. They will be choosing an animal to adopt. The children will also be interacting more in the Sunday service by helping to light the Advent wreath and sharing their prayers and learnings from Sunday School. Here are a couple of websites that offer devotions and ways of preparing during Advent: https://episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/advent_1_-_english_-_full_1.pdf
<https://www.ecfvp.org/tools/246/ecfs-ten-advent-resources-for-2019>

Our Celtic services will be held during the week on Wednesdays at 6pm. This is a time of quiet worship with candlelight and contemplation. I encourage you all to bring someone from the community to share in this time of waiting and anticipation.

Convention was a week ago and the keynote speaker Dr Kelly Brown Douglas spoke on the historic impact of racism in our church and country. A relevant topic in our country today. We also voted to make our churches Narcan distribution hubs. We will be training those interested in how to be a volunteer in this important program.

You continue to amaze by all the good you do for this community. Your passion to help those who need it and to be the body of Christ in Brown County is Christlike. Finally, we are wrapping up our pledge drive and our still anticipating pledges from many people. Please get those in so we can prepare our budget for the coming year. Your pledges are used solely for the running of the church and the outreach done in the community. May God bless you and keep you in this Advent Season.

Pax,

Mother Mary,



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

Rector:

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info@stdavidsbb.org

Organist/ Choir Director

Adrienne Shipley

Administrative Assistant:

Darlene McDonald

St. David's Vestry 2019

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Can We Sing Christmas Carols During Advent

December 1 will be the first Sunday of Advent. Christmas trees have begun to appear, and Christmas songs have started to pour in over loudspeakers in most stores, since the day after Thanksgiving. It is only in commercial advertising that the Christmas season begins right after Thanksgiving or on the first of December. In the Christian calendar, the Christmas Season does not begin until December 25th, and lasts until January 6 (Epiphany). Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, not the celebration of it.

Advent is a season observed in many Western Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is an anglicized version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year in many Christian denominations, including the Anglican.

As we observe Advent and light the first candle on the Advent wreath it is not yet about joyous celebration of the coming of Jesus. It is about hope, anticipation, and longing in the midst of the stark reality of a world dominated by oppression and injustice, the world in which we all live. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." That is what Advent is about.

December 6 is celebrated in many parts of the world as the feast day of Sankt Nikolaus, a reverend grey-haired figure with flowing beard, bishop's raiment, gold embroidered cope, mitre and pastoral staff. The historic St. Nikolaus is not the jolly old fellow of American celebrations, but the fourth century Greek bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, who died on December 6th, 343. Nikolaus traditions vary widely all over the world.

The first two Sundays of Advent need to emphasize expectation and longing, a preparation for celebration, much as Lent is a preparation for Easter. Without that, the season becomes one long celebration without any context for that celebration and with little contact with the reality of life, that gave birth to the season in the first place. Of course there is a progression to the services of Advent. By the third Sunday, which is usually the Sunday of Proclamation with the Magi or the Shepherds, or the Sunday of Joy, we can begin celebrating.

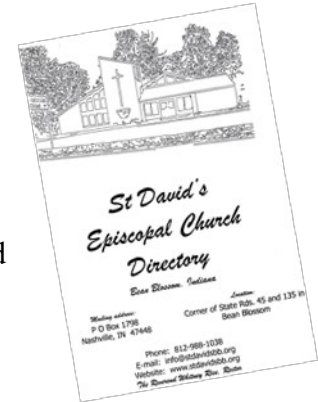
After such preparation, Christmas then becomes the truly wondrous event that it is, not the warm fuzzy that is portrayed on too many Christmas cards and in the media. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the festive Christian season, beginning on Christmas Day (25 December), that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, as the Son of God. This period is also known as Christmas-tide. The Twelfth Day of Christmas falls on 5 or 6 January depending which tradition is followed. The Feast of the Epiphany is on 6 January which celebrates the visit of the Wise Men (Magi) and their bringing of gifts to the child Jesus. In some traditions the feast of Epiphany and Twelfth Day overlap.

When the Christmas trees disappear from the stores together with the Christmas songs, that is the time for us to celebrate the twelve days, with family and friends and in our church. This is the time to sing Christmas songs on every one of the twelve days.

—*Ruth Reichmann (from 2014 newsletter)*

Updated Parish Directory

Jane Herr put out the last Parish Directory back in 2012. Through the years there have been many changes. Old members have left, new members have joined, and many of us have changed phone numbers or email addresses. It is time to put together an updated directory.



Like the last directory, each person or family will have a single page. That page will have your contact information, your picture, and a short bio. Around the new year you will receive an email with instruction and a form for to fill out. Please fill out the form and return it with a photo. If you do not have a current photo, someone will be happy to take one after church.

Jean Brown, our Administrative Assistant, will put all these forms together. Everyone will get a 3-ring folder with a page for person or family. Since it is a binder, it will be easy to add new sheets as people join. Jean will also use the information you provided on the form to update St. David's mailing list.

It is never too late to Pledge!

Today Sunday, November 17, we had the Thank Offering Dinner after the service. Both the food and the conversation were great.

Speaking of offerings, so far, we have received about ¾ of the pledge cards. They normally trickle in at the end. If you have been waiting to send in your pledge, please fill out the attached pledge card and mail it to St. David's or send an email to treasurer@stdavidsbb.org.

Thank you for your pledge. Every pledge is important, regardless of the size.

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<p>Annual pledge for 2020 is \$ _____</p> <p>I wish to make payments: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly, <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly, <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly, <input type="checkbox"/> Annually.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____ Email _____</p> <p>“Growing in Hope”</p> <p>Please put this card in the collection plate or Return to St. David's, P.O. Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448 Notify the Treasurer if you need to modify your pledge.</p>	<p>My Annual pledge for 2020 is \$ _____</p> <p><i>Please tear this off and keep for your own records</i></p>
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Email Phishing Scheme

Fake emails went out this week that looked like they came from Mother Mary, but they did not! **DO NOT REPLY!** In this particular phishing scheme, they were trying to get us to send iTunes gift cards. This has happened to at least one other church in the Diocese.



shutterstock - 290569046

This was a realistic email. It included Mother Mary's picture from our website. The email said that the gift cards were for a cancer patient in the hospital. We all know that Mother Mary is a chaplain at IU Hospital, I am sure she talks with many cancer patients.

The return email address looked like a St David's address, but it was not. rector@stdavidsbb.org or clergy@stdavidsbb.org are valid addresses. These are useful because they apply no matter who is the rector, while mbargiel@stdavidsbb.org is specific to Mother Mary. Emails that are sent to rector@stdavidsbb.org or clergy@stdavidsbb.org are forwarded to Mother Mary's regular inbox.

The phishing email used rector.stdavidsbb@gmail.com which might look similar but is a completely different domain. **DO NOT REPLY TO THIS ADDRESS!**

Unfortunately, if there is one phishing email there are often more. Please keep in mind the following:

- If you are asked to donate money, you will always be asked to either bring the donation to church or mail a check to St. David's Episcopal Church, PO Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448
- If you are asked to donate goods you will be asked to bring them to the church or some other valid charity like Mother's Cupboard or St. Vincent de Paul.

If something looks unusual, please contact the church office at 812-988-1038 or secretary@stdavidsbb.org before you act.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

—*Jim Huber*

Outreach News

May the Season of Giving be a Time of God's Blessing for Us

Advent is a season of anticipation and hope—a time to share the “Good News” that God is sending Jesus to reconcile and restore the world. We recognize that God’s gift to us and the world is meant to be shared.

Beginning December 1st, the children will be learning that throughout the world we are one big family, celebrating children, celebrating God’s creatures, celebrating God’s world, and celebrating sharing as they select an animal to fund and show God’s love by giving this gift to a children in need. The children will share with us asking the congregation to participate—so please help them fill the Piggy Bank.

Also, on December 1st, we will be packing filled stockings to be sent to Trevor Thomas’s 14-sailor Navy unit in Japan. The stockings will be filled with games, jerky, socks, candy, tins of homemade cookies, notecards, etc. You may bring your donations to add to the stockings. This is a reminder of home and our caring and prayers for the sailors.

Many of you will be at St. Vincent DePaul this season as they give food baskets to many families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. The outreach committee granted \$500 for meat for the baskets. Many will be volunteering as Triad visitors to homes bringing gifts, conversation, and Christmas joy. Outreach also granted \$500.00 for this project. Triad volunteers will hold their annual gathering at St. David’s in mid-December.

On December 8th St. David’s Giving Tree will be filled with stars with a wish list of each family member on them. These families are referred to us from neighbors, members, and community organizations. When gathering these names and wishes, the stories of family situations and their need remind us that God calls us daily to follow Jesus’ example of loving and caring for one another. Giving tree gifts should be returned by December 15th through December 17th and will be distributed on December 18th and 19th. Each family has its own number. As you take the wish list, please sign your name on the numbered master list of the families on the outreach table, select and wrap the present for each person on the list, and tag each present with the family number and individual name. Return the presents to the tables in the Gathering Place next to the labeled numbers and names for each family.

As we reflect, meditate, listen, and respond during this season, may all of us experience a sense of peace, joy, and knowledge that in our midst, God is working his purpose out!

—Donna Niednagel

Christian Formation & Pub Theology

Due to the Advent Celtic services on Wednesday evening, there will be no Pub Theology meeting during December. The next meeting will be January 8 2020 at Hard Truth Hills.

No specific topics have been chosen for Pub Theology going forward into next year. Recent topics of discussion have been:

September: Fear: How do we Cope with Disasters?

October: Assistance in Dying; is it Ethical?

November: The Church and Addiction/Mental Health.

Anyone with ideas for discussion at the Pub Theology meetings please let me or Mother Mary know what they are. Certainly anyone who would like to organize and lead one of our discussions would be welcome to do so.

Here are some of my ideas of some POSSIBLE future topics:

1. What is Truth?
2. What is Heaven? What is Hell?
3. Visions of God through Art.
4. Who is my Neighbor?
5. Poetry and Spirituality.

Also, I see no reason why we can't repeat certain subjects that we have talked about in the past, if there is interest in doing that.

Regarding general Christian Education; if anyone has ideas or suggestions for after church presentations, book discussions, or any other forms of education for next year, please contact Mother Mary or myself.

Peace, Mike



Fun

Have you ever told a white lie? You are going to love this, especially all of the ladies who bake for church events:

Alice Grayson was to bake a cake for the Church Ladies' Group in Tuscaloosa , but forgot to do it until the last minute.

She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix & quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and helping her son pack up for Scout camp.

When she took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured and she exclaimed, "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake!" This cake was important to Alice because she did so want to fit in at her new church, and in her new community of friends. So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. She found it in the bathroom - a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect.

And, before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Alice woke her daughter and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it

opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home. When the daughter arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Amanda grabbed her cell phone & called her mom. Alice was horrified-she was beside herself! Everyone would know! What would they think? She would be ostracized, talked about, ridiculed! All night, Alice lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her and talking about her behind her back.

The next day, Alice promised herself she would try not to think about the cake and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob who more than once had looked down her nose at the fact that Alice was a single parent and not from the founding families of Tuscaloosa , but having already RSVP'd , she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, the company was definitely upper crust old south and to Alice 's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Alice felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Mayor's wife said, "what a beautiful cake!" Alice, still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say:

"Thank you, I baked it myself."

Alice smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."

*—from Jennifer Heller
(this is an old one sent to me in 2009, but still good!)*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

1 Erin Fleser
 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

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 Cynthia Kafoure
 12 Angie Aumage
 21 Kyle Fittz
 28 Laurie Stant
 30 Michael Kafoure

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

News from our friends in the west:

Judy and I plan to stay in Sun City West, AZ for the holidays. We have a traditional Thanksgiving at our church on November 27th and we are singing with our church choir in a cantata on December 21st.

Our band responsibilities are over until January 26, 2020.

Judy's health is still in a healing state and she is working at getting her strength back. I am having cataracts removed from my left eye first on November 20th and then the right eye later in January 2020.

We do not have any snow or bitter cold. Just sunshine and no rain.

Wish all of our friends at St. David's Episcopal church many happy memories of year now past.

—Ray and Judy Laffin and five little kittens, 2 mother cats and one male cat who is completely retired.

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 16, 2020

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

SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Holy Communion

Wednesday 6:00 PM Evening Prayer
 (changes to 5:00 PM after December)

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Sunday	Dec. 1	First Sunday in Advent service	9:30 AM	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec. 4	Celtic Evening Payer and Communion	6:00 PM	St. David's
		<i>Continues Wednesdays Dec. 11 and 18</i>		
Friday	Dec 6	Euchre	7:00 PM	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec .11	NO Pub Theology, see you in January		
Sunday	Dec. 15	Caroling at Brown County Health/Living	2:00 PM	BCHL
Tuesday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Festival, Eucharist	7:00 PM	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec. 25	Christmas Day, No services		
Wednesday	Jan. 1	No evening service		
Friday	Jan. 3	NO Euchre, see you in March		
Monday	Jan. 6	Epiphany		
Wednesday	Jan. 8	Pub Theology, Topic: TBA	6:00 PM	Hard Truth
Sunday	Jan. 26	St. David's Annual Meeting	after service	St. David's
		<i>Pitch-in to follow meeting</i>		
Friday	Feb. 6	NO Euchre, see you in March		
Sunday	Feb. 16	Lenten Newsletter Deadline		
Tuesday	Feb. 25	Shrove Tuesday	TBA	St. David's
Wednesday	Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday	TBA	St. David's