



Advent 2022

It's been a heck of a year plus some change!

In these confusing times amidst growing uncertainty about so many aspects of life, finding a sense of genuine gratitude for the gift of life, for the gift of love and for the respect of others is more important than ever. Even if we are fortunate enough to feel safe, we all know people who are sick or alone or suffering.

Giving thanks is something I incorporate into every prayer in two specific ways: first, I thank God for what He's done for me in the past, and then I thank Him for what I trust He'll do in the future. Recalling prayers that he's already answered bolsters my faith to believe He will do it again...and again. Most of all, what would life be like if Jesus hadn't been born? Just the thought of living without Him is enough to give me pause.

I'm also reminded how thankful I am for the people who have been, and are presently, in my life and how different my life would have been had they NOT been a presence in it.

Being thankful has helped me resolve past injuries, especially if it wasn't just a rough moment, but a difficult month or year, or multiple years. It helps me provide a reason for the pain or the loneliness. If I hadn't met My Steve, I wouldn't have known that I had the strength to overcome the kind of sorrow brought on by his death, and that I'm thankful and at peace to know he's now with Jesus and suffering no more.

God has given us each a great deal to be thankful for. It's my experience that it's much easier to thank God for our blessings than to find a way to be thankful in the midst of our troubles.

I'm thankful that I have the strength to meet the challenges that come with life. I'm thankful for each memory that family and friends has given me. I'm thankful for having a profound understanding that it is more important to give than to receive; not only on Thanksgiving, but every day. I have much to be thankful for.

And finally - and I firmly believe this - being thankful makes us more generous. Seeing the good things in our lives spread out in front of us frees us up to offer things to other people. St. David's is a perfect example of the generosity that abounds, not only throughout the year by providing food and services to our community, but also by the generosity of our church family choosing to comfort others, to welcome others into our homes and to respond to their sufferings as if they were our own.

Please be thankful, not of what you have received, but what you have to give.

Peace, Sharon Kitchens

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

2023 deadlines for submissions:

Lent: February 12, 2023

Pentecost: May 14, 2023

Fall: August 29, 2023

Advent: November 19, 2023



St. David's Episcopal Church

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Inspiration

There fared a mother driven forth
 Out of an inn to roam;
 In the place where she was homeless
 All men are at home.
 The crazy stable close at hand,
 With shaking timber and shifting sand,
 Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
 Than the square stones of Rome.

For men are homesick in their homes,
 And strangers under the sun,
 And they lay their heads in a foreign land
 Whenever the day is done.
 Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
 And chance and honor and high surprise,
 But our homes are under miraculous skies
 Where the yule tale was begun.

A Child in a foul stable,
 Where the beasts feed and foam,
 Only where He was homeless
 Are you and I at home;
 We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
 But our hearts we lost - how long ago!
 In a place no chart nor ship can show
 Under the sky's dome.

This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
 And strange the plain things are,
 The earth is enough and the air is enough
 For our wonder and our war;
 But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
 And our peace is put in impossible things
 Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
 Round an incredible star.

To an open house in the evening
 Home shall men come,
 To an older place than Eden
 And a taller town than Rome.
 To the end of the way of the wandering star,
 To the things that cannot be and that are,
 To the place where God was homeless
 And all men are at home.

Source: "The House of Christmas" (1915) by G. K. Chesterton



A Note from Our Interim - Pastor Kate

Today is the eve of resuming a wonderful tradition, St. David's Thanksgiving Pitch-In Dinner. The campus is abuzz. A work crew of Jim Huber, all three of the Woodworth clan (Everett ready for action with his tool belt, Ben and Lauren armed with extra tyke-sized activities), Carol Ruffin, and Ed Mc Cabe tackled a pile of nagging problems, from mold on the outside to taming fall-hazard wiring to elevating a TV and emptying out closets. Sandy Ackerman came by to set up the sanctuary for our Eucharist the Realm of Christ, and Carol continued into a new project of reading flatware and serving utensils and washing and setting the tables for the Thanksgiving feast. And do you know what you have to do if a door doesn't open right? About a week ago Verne Sindlinger and Jim Dunn jacked up the shed to the west of Ackerman Hall, and placed it down, square to the ground where it should have been – and Open Sesame! The door opens and closes properly again. People say that hitting a gnat with a hammer is overkill, but not this time. The “simple” job of fixing a door really needed more than moving the door; it needed moving the structure itself to make it right. And they did it.



These are not the only members of St. David's who supported our community and our neighbors these past few days, these are the folks who worked here on campus. Others have prepared dishes at home for our feast. If you feel bored, ask a fellow member of our parish for a way to help and you will never be bored again.

Our thanksgiving tomorrow is for our return from the long, long separation of COVID-19. It is the joy of breaking bread with old friends and welcoming new. It is our thanks to one another for the completion of our annual Stewardship Campaign, a dinner where we clearly will have “More than Enough,” combining the time, talent, and treasure of each for the benefit and deep enjoyment of all. It is a time to hear “Thank you” for all you have done and for all we have and are.

Balancing action and stillness is a trick few master completely. During the quiet season of Advent, many of us are running in circles trying to buy the perfect gifts and to visit all who expect us. We make our homes hospitable and decorate for family and friends. We write our Christmas and Solstice cards. We have peace at last when our heads hit our pillows, but it starts again with the morning light. Sometimes it makes sense to slow down. To stop. To consider the moment. Advent is that time. Advent, from the Latin *ad-venire (to come)*, is a time of waiting, of reflection, of expectation for the coming Emmanuel, from the Hebrew name *עִמָּנוּאֵל Immanu'el* meaning “God is with us”. It is a time of waiting, of yearning, of “Anticipation”, a song Carly Simon wrote about waiting for her very first date.

Work will always be with us. Improving our community for ourselves and each other, and being fully present for those who may come, is part of our commitment to one another. But for these next weeks, let's pause, let's have that cup of tea. Let's steal a few moments for our own peace of mind and consider the miracle to come. Let's simplify what we can. Let's let go of what we can. Let's breathe in the very fresh winter air and allow ourselves to pause during the candle-lit peace of Celtic Evening Prayer each Wednesday night at 6 pm. Let's make space for it.

And in those quiet times, consider and be grateful for those who touch your life with love and

peace. Give thanks for opportunities to share love and peace with others. And at the end of each day, sleep well, knowing that the Son of Peace will be here among us soon.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.
--Irish Blessing

Gather with your families in peace. The on-going work of our beloved St. David's community will soon return, calling us back to the St. David's we are creating for today and tomorrow, a place of ongoing love and peace. We will continue to pray for the discovery of our rector, we will see what our pledges allow us to do, we will stand for the Vestry and for all the opportunities we have to stretch and grow, and we will welcome our organist Abolade Olatunji (Bola to us!) and make joyful noise for our Lord. Celebrate! God blesses us!



Thanksgiving at St. David's



Dear Music Lovers,

We are in for a treat! Baritone Bruno Sandes and soprano Cathy Compton will be singing carols and songs of the season, accompanied by pianist Allen Armstrong on Saturday, December 10th at 7pm at St. David's as part of the Bean Blossom Music Series.

Please come and join the festivities! There will be a wine-and-cheese reception...amplified by holiday cookies...and a chance to meet the artists. Attached below is the electronic poster...please feel free to share with friends and family.

Looking forward! Annie

Bean Blossom Music Series

SATURDAY
DEC. 10th
7:00 PM


ST. DAVID'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Corner of Rt 135 & 45
www.stdavidsbb.org
812.988.1038



Carols & Songs of the Season



Allan Armstrong
Pianist

Catherine Compton
Soprano

Bruno Sandes
Baritone

Meet-the-artists reception to follow.
Join us for this family-friendly event.
Free-will offering. Donations gladly accepted.

To add your name to the Bean Blossom Music Series email list,
write to beanblossomsounds@gmail.com



Outreach News

Godspell and Advent Gift bags

I was so looking forward to Godspell which I knew would keep me singing “Prepare ye the way of the Lord” as I went about preparing for the Advent season and participating in a special daily reminder of the birth of Christ. Advent is a time of reflection and anticipation and symbolizes our waiting for the birth of Christ and his return.

We take out our advent wreaths. The circle of the wreath and candles symbolize God’s unending love and eternal life offered through Jesus Christ bringing us the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love.

As we fill our Advent bags and share these gifts, may those who receive them experience these same gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we place a gift in the bag each day say a prayer of thanksgiving and petition so God’s love dwells among us all. “Prepare ye the way of the Lord” and spread the good news of Christ’s birth.

—Donna Niednagel

Fill a Grocery Bag for Each Day of Advent To be Given in a Food Distribution

December 1	roll of toilet tissue
December 2	roll of paper towels
December 3	peanut butter
December 4	stuffing mix
December 5	boxed potatoes
December 6	macaroni and cheese
December 7	canned fruit
December 8	canned tomatoes
December 9	canned tuna
December 10	cake mix
December 11	canned applesauce
December 12	canned sliced potatoes
December 13	canned cranberry sauce
December 14	cookie mix
December 15	box of crackers
December 16	canned green beans
December 17	package of rice
December 18	package of pasta
December 19	can spaghetti sauce
December 20	package of Christmas candy
December 21	package of oatmeal
December 22	can of cranberry sauce
December 23	Bottle of dish soap
December 24	Christmas Cookies with card

Deacon's Corner

A recent experience in my life has allowed me a small bit of insight into the an old discussion regarding the "inerrancy" of the four Gospels of the New Testament. Bible scholars estimate that the four Gospels were written about 50 years after the historically-approximate year of Jesus' death, sometime between 33-36 AD.



Critics question how the Gospel writers could recall with any precision the occurrences in Jesus's life, including his family, his travels, his relationships, his miracles, and his teachings. Of course, the Gospels are often inconsistent. The Sermon on the

Mount is a clear example. The Sermon in Matthew, arguably one of the most cited passages in all of Christendom, is presented forth in one format. The other version in Luke offers another format. And there are, some argue, inconsistencies. These inconsistencies have created great debate and fodder for believers and unbelievers, alike.

Recently, I had the wonderful privilege of being inducted into my high school sports Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony took place outside of Newark NJ, where most of us lived and attended Essex Catholic High School.

And, but for Facebook communications, I have had very little, if any, contact with my classmates in almost 50 years- the approximate same time between Jesus' death and the writing of the Gospels.

At the hall of fame banquet, over the course of several hours, I heard many stories about the times spent with my classmates-- both on and off the athletic field. And, in one moment of epiphany, as I reflected on the memories --memories good and sad, in triumph and in loss, on fields and in places near and far, including many teammates who have departed this life-- it occurred to me how "easily" the Gospels could have been written 50 years after Jesus' crucifixion.

Of course, my high school career, even the totality of my life's work, is less than a speck in the vast sea of human history. Still, my friends' various recollections, intertwined with my own, gave me an opportunity to see how stories can be remembered, retold and retraced -- even after 50 years!

Of course, the Gospel writers (and Paul) had much more compelling reasons to set forth the Life of Jesus.

First, Jesus was/is Jesus, the central figure in the Greatest Story Ever Told, the author of our faith and savior of our souls. Next, the Gospels are inspired by God; written by humans, the accounts were/are lifted up by the Holy Spirit of God herself. Third, the Lord's followers gave their very lives to preserve and share the Gospel news of the life end resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

I am thankful to God that a Hall of Fame banquet, intended to honor some highlights of my pedestrian life, could still resonate with insight and appreciation of Jesus and the Gospel writers. To God be the glory.

—Rev. William Morris

Other Christmases

Perhaps, it's the other Christmases that I remember:

Little hands
tapping me on the face
before dawn -
anticipating

Driving back to Ohio
on a snowy
morning
to be home for
the holidays -
anticipating

Receiving news
that someone close
had passed
that
very day -
it had been anticipated

Perhaps, it's the other Christmases I remember
which gives this one
a poignancy
a bittersweetness
and
a sense
of
anticipation

Phyllis E. Sindlinger
December 2022

Pub Theology

Our pub theology group is continuing to meet monthly. We decided to move up our December meeting to December 12 because of Christmas. We continue to meet at the “Out of the Ordinary” restaurant, which has turned out to be an excellent place to hold our discussions.

Some recent topics include:

- “Before and After: Life Events that Shape Us” (September)
- “Did Adam have a Belly Button?” (October)
- “Original Sin” (November)

In December we will each talk about “My best Christmas present ever, given or received.”

We all have a good time and (maybe) even learn something! All are invited, including guests.

—*Mike Day*

Christmas Cookies

CLARA'S ORANGE COOKIES

1 C BUTTER OR SHORTENING
2 EGGS, BEATEN
4 C ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1 t. BAKING POWDER
1 t. SODA

2 C SUGAR
¼ t. SALT
JUICE & RIND OF 2 ORANGES
1 C SOUR MILK

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. grease cookie sheet. cream butter, sugar and eggs together. Mix in orange juice and rind (grated finely). Sift flour, baking powder, soda together and add to butter mixture. Add 1 c. sour milk and mix well. Drop cookie dough by spoonful unto greased cookie sheet.

Bake at 350 degrees for 8 -10 minutes or until very lightly brown. Ice.

Icing: Mix juice of 1 orange, 1 T. softened butter & enough powdered sugar to make icing. Ice while hot.

Verne's Aunt Clara O'Donnell

NOTE: SOUR MILK = BUTTERMILK C=CUP T=TABLESPOON t=teaspoon

I've had this recipe for probably 50 years and am going to try it SOON.

DATE SWIRL COOKIES

COOKIE DOUGH:

1 C SOFT SHORTENING
½ C BROWN SUGAR
2 ¾ C ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
1/2 t. SALT

½ C SUGAR
2 EGGS
½ t. SODA
1 t. VANILLA

FILLING:

1 C CHOPPED DATES
½ C COLD WATER
¼ C CHOPPED NUTS

½ C SUGAR
DASH SALT

TO MAKE COOKIE DOUGH:

Combine shortening and sugars; cream together and add eggs. Mix well. Add flour, soda, salt and vanilla. Mix dough well and divide into two balls.

TO MAKE FILLING:

Cook and stir low heat until thick: dates, sugar, water and salt. Add ¼ c. Chopped nuts. To assemble cookies; roll out each ball on floured board to ¼ inch thickness. Spread half of filling on each. Then roll up, jellyroll style: seal edge good. Put in refrigerator or freezer. When firm, slice (about ¼ inch thick) and bake on greased cookie sheet. 400 degrees for 9-10 minutes.

This is Verne's mother, Verda's recipe and I don't know how old this recipe is! Older than I am for sure.

—*from Phyllis Sindlinger*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

15 Susie Chestnut
 16 Skip Patchin
 18 Jan Drum
 19 Natalie Stant

22 Gordon Smith (son of Ben & Adie Smith)

FEBRUARY

3 Cori McCabe
 4 Mike Day
 5 Jaden Fish (Niednagel's grandson)
 7 Logan Fittz
 14 Jane Land
 15 Sandy Fittz
 27 Linda Lee Gosser

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

Search Committee Update

The season of Advent invites us to join one another in hopeful patience and preparation - it is a journey with a joyful and spirit-filled conclusion. This blessed season seems to perfectly set the tone for the current phase of our pastoral search process.

Your search committee has worked diligently in order to complete our parish profile and capture the essence of St. David's to the best of our ability. With much thanksgiving, we went fully live with our search in mid-October, and we have been working with the diocese to advertise and spotlight our parish through every avenue available to us. Now we begin the work of waiting.

Still, we remain beyond blessed to have Pastor Kate with us as our interim rector, and we are grateful to continue our journey with her at our side, both as a spiritual leader and as a close companion and friend!

A few Sundays back, I mentioned that I have a new understanding of the idea of prayerful patience. As we forge ahead in our journey together to shape our parish's future, may we all continue to be prayerfully patient - together.

Peace,
 Ed McCabe, Search Committee Chair



St. David's Episcopal Church
 PO Box 1798
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SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday 6:00 PM Evening Prayer

In-person services may be temporarily suspended when Covid cases increase in Brown County. You can attend our worship services via zoom and/or Facebook. Please contact the church office for more information.

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Sunday	Nov 27	1st Sunday in Advent	9:30 am	St. David's
Sunday	Nov 27	Acoustic Sunday	9:30 am	St. David's
Wednesday	Nov 30	Celtic Evening Prayer <i>(continues each Wednesday through Advent)</i>	6 pm	St. David's
Friday	Dec 2	Euchre	7 pm	
Monday	Dec 12	Pub Theology	6:30 pm	Out of the Ordinary
Sunday	Dec 25	Acoustic Sunday	9:30 am	St. David's
Friday	Jan 6	Epiphany		
Friday	Jan 6	Euchre	7 pm	
Wednesday	Jan 25	Pub Theology	6:30 pm	Out of the Ordinary
Friday	Feb 3	Euchre	7 pm	
Sunday	Feb 12	Lent newsletter info deadline		
Wednesday	Feb 15	Ash Wednesday		