



Fall 2025

Numb•skull

numb·skull ['nəm- skəl:](#) a dull or stupid person : [dunce](#)

I became a numbskull a month ago today. I didn't realize it for a few weeks. I've heard the word my whole life – haven't you? I haven't thought much about it, just that it meant that someone was stupid. Super stupid. Intentionally stupid. It seemed handy in today's political climate.

A month ago I took our sweet Saffron out for his last emptying of the evening, as Jan Holloway so lovingly and hysterically says of her pup. We have feral cats here, and Saffron is no dummy. So he bolted, I landed, and my plans, even to go to bed early, were over. He came back with a look of concern. I was the ad, "I've fallen and I can't get up." All those replacement joints are great but have their limits, especially with blood coming down my face and on my clothes.

Happily, I always have a house key and my phone, so I called a couple of neighbors who were in bed and then 911. The short version of the trip to the St. Vincent ER is that they did two CT head scans and released me at 3:00 in the morning in a Lyft. It was not a great experience, but it was also a Friday night and their 40 beds were all filled as were the hallways.

I texted a couple of priests for Sunday but don't remember if I heard back just then, but Richard was there on Sunday and William preached, so.

The doctor ordered anti-nausea meds and Tylenol, and the nurse didn't think to give it to me for another three hours. So I went home in the Lyft and walked in and went to bed.

Apparently, Tina visited me on Sunday the 27th. I have no memory of that. My friend Annie also visited me on the 27th and realized that my language was not making sense. So we returned to the St Vincent ER where I stayed in a small uncomfortable room from 6:30 pm until 2:30 pm on Monday. That poor ER is no place for sick people. All the docs tell you you'll be sent to a room and all the nurses laugh because they know the hospital is jammed too. It reminds me of sales reps who tell customers that everything will work and then the consultants or others from the company have to hear the complaints and make it true.

Neuro step down seemed like heaven. A whole room. Quiet. One bed. Telemetry. The bed and chair were alarmed in case I decided to walk. That's how I found out.

So meals came. Ice and water. Lots of blood draws at all hours. An occasional quiet specter adding something to my drip to lower or raise my blood pressure. I didn't realize it was a thing. It didn't matter. They were here. I was OK.

My neighbor Kent picked me up that Friday in the hottest, most powerful Honda Civic you can

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St. David's Episcopal Church

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Senior Warden:
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Deacon:
The Rev. William Morris

Organist/Music Director:
Dr. Vicki King

Parish Administrator:
Jean Brown
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St. David's Vestry 2025

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imagine. I've never imagined a powerful Honda Civic. But this one is racetrack ready. Kent was an MD until he had a terrible illness. Now he fixes bikes and saved his pennies to get this hot car, and to pick me up. We haven't known each other very well although I can see his sliding glass door across our little pond and he can see mine and that has been true for ten years now. My friend Annie moved in, leaving her own animals with a mutual friend at her house. She held vigil. Made meals. We've had a blast. It's been good for both of us to share meals and laugh, and for me to have someone reporting my progress back. I didn't realize I needed to make progress. I didn't realize for two weeks that the entire left side of my skull is, in fact, numb. **Numb•skull.**

The outside looks awful from the fall, but it's the inside that is the concern. There was a bleed for sure. An MRI sometime along that week showed it better than the CT. Until the seizure meds (I didn't know I was having seizures, but that's why my right hand would go dead and my language would go with it), things were iffier. (That's a real word.) (And that is also justifiable syntax, until Phyllis fixes it.)

So I've learned a lot. I've learned I was in a life-threatening situation. I may still be, we'll find out I guess when they do another CT on September 2. Then they'll know if the brain bleed is still happening or if it is resolving itself. If it is still a thing, there will be an outpatient draining. I can't imagine that that is outpatient, but there it is. That's 2025, at least as long as our coverage isn't stopped.

I've learned of the enormous generosity of spirit and love and care of St. David's, which I've been able to witness since 2016 but having so much drenching me is overwhelming. The song still makes me cry when I think of hearing it and seeing all of you on my computer screen. And the prayer shawl made me cry just like the one in 2018 when my sister was dying and I felt so very alone in Connecticut. My God. Of course I love you back.

I've been cared for by the diocese—Mary Taflinger, priest to priests; Guilanna; the Bishop called from the Staten Island Ferry – she's visiting her mom to see what her mom's health needs are, as they are changing.

I've been cared to by neighbors whom I've nicknamed "That 70's Show" because we all are, although like good mid-westerners they've held back and wait for my approach.

And I was cared for by our local handyman Allen who is booked to the gills but came over and installed a new grab bar in each bathroom just like the visiting occupational therapist recommend happen. I'm doing my imperfect best with the OT and PT included in my recovery team. At home. Seriously.

I thank God for this life. I thank God for hearing jets flying overhead and remembering prop plane engines and the 10pm train whistle. I thank God for my dear friend Annie and for each of you. I thank God that Tina appeared like a vision and is hanging in with us so faithfully. I thank God for our Vestry and all the people who make life better for others in Brown County because that is who you are. And I thank God for Saffron who has made it all possible.

God blesses us. Endlessly. I just need to pay more attention.

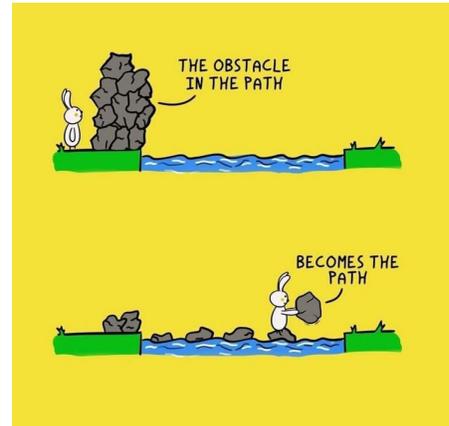
Love,
Kate+

Navigating Transition

I will teach you and tell you the way to go and how to get there: I will give you good counsel,
and I will watch over you.
-Psalm 32: 8 The Voice

As a teacher, I've been tasked with designing the world around me and determining how my students engage in that world. I've had the pleasure of doing this for more than 20 years and in 5 states. When I was a 5th grade student, I played school with my cousins where I recall writing math problems on the chalkboard. I've always known my place in the world of education.

Back in March 2025 I felt a nudge, an awareness that I should head back to St. David's. It seems that God has been trying to get my attention for something different this time. I read in the back of the St. David's bulletin that there was a need for an acolyte. I remember thinking I can stand up in front of people because that lady up there in white (Yvonne as I would come to know) all made it look easy. As I was walking out of the church into the gathering room, a woman (Vicki, I later learned) approached me and asked me if I was an acolyte at Trinity in Bloomington. I admitted I was on the Vestry there and loved playing in the Handbell Choir, but never an acolyte. What a coincidence though.



So the next time I came to church I sought out the priest in charge who I came to know as Pastor Kate and I shared with her that I'd like to help out as an acolyte. She seemed to be pretty ecstatic about the news. I also signed up to do some of the readings...I do like to tell a good story! I thought that was ALL I was signing up for.

The end of the school year was approaching and I was settling into the vibe of St. David's, getting to know more people, enjoying the competitive nature of a good Euchre game! Finally summer vacation and I started attending Wednesday evening services, popping in for Pub Theology and dinner church. I showed up to the Food pantry and helped out at the Pollinator Camp. Pastor Kate humored me as I asked her all sorts of questions. I do recall telling her at one of our chats that I really wasn't sure what was in store for me, but I'd let her know when I figured it out.

Then I got the call from Pastor Kate. As I stood looking out the window of my home, at the beauty of the trees and the water, she invited me to be the Senior Warden. Now everything made more sense, but why me? How could I possibly be the right person for this important responsibility? I shared all of this with my spiritual director who reassured me that God had blessed me with the gifts needed to step into this role. I am so grateful to be part of this amazing place where the love for each other and passion for helping the community shines brightly. I'm looking forward to finding out what's next!

Tina Goodlander
Senior Warden

UTO News

From Jane Savage

Our offerings through the United Thank Offering are based on promoting gratitude by encouraging us to notice good things in our lives. UTO is a part of St. David's extensive outreach activities. The following will refresh the memories of those familiar with UTO and it may be new information for St. David's newer members. The UTO Ingathering of our offerings will be November 2nd.

"The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box (or a bowl as I do where I put coins). UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion."



Each year has a focus determined by identifying pressing needs or gaps in services. The focus for 2025 grants is on water based on Jesus' words, "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." This includes a wide range of issues: access to water, care of water sources, water rights, education about water resources, water quality, aftermath of contaminated water, water for personal hygiene, drought tolerance, flood prevention.

For the Sunday bulletin I will be writing about some of the grants given for projects concerning water needs.

I am very grateful for clean water and try to be a good steward of my water use. I am especially grateful for hot water.

"Go, sit upon the lofty hill, And turn your eyes around,
Where waving woods and waters wild Do hymn an au-
tumn sound. The summer sun is faint on them— The
summer flowers depart— Sit still— as all transform'd to
stone, Except your musing heart."

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *The Autumn*

Getting Better Acquainted

with John and Skip Wood

Part 2 SKJP

My phone rang. The caller ID read Adele Wood. At first, I thought, I don't know anyone with that name, but then a light bulb went off and I knew who it was: Skip! The story I was told went like this: Her father had always wanted a boat and when she was born, he looked at her and said "what a cute little Skipper" So, Adella was from then on called Skip and until starting school, she thought that was her real name.

Skip was born and raised in Anderson, Indiana. She and her sister were both only children, her sister being 20 years older. As Skip says, her sister was a child of the 40 's and she of the 50's; they shared the same father. Both of her parents worked for General Motors. Skip said she enjoyed school and participated in many activities. She did tell me of being in a Spanish Class of four students. She's not sure the teacher survived.

Skip met her husband, John, when going on a double date with her best friend who was dating his brother. Her parents okayed the date because it was a church-held event. It was the beginning of their long love story: they were married in 1961 and lived in Anderson until retiring to Brown County and the 3 ½ acres on Fruitdale Road where they had built their dream home.

Their two children are only five months apart in age! When son Chris was just starting kindergarten, John and Skip adopted their daughter Randie who was one month short of being 4 at the time. Skip let Chris hand out lollipops in class to announce "his new sister's" arrival. The kids were immediately best friends. Chris now lives in Charleston, SC and Randie near Lebanon, IN. There are three grandchildren and 8 great-grands.

After the children were school-aged, Skip became Head of Visual Merchandizing for J.C. Penny's in Anderson, a position which involved all the décor in the store. At times, she was also sent to Louisville and Fort Wayne to help open new stores and her skill with decorations soon won contests. After completing 20 years with J.C. Penny, she worked with Homebound Meals and supervised that program. Instead of just retiring, in Brown County, Skip became director of the Hickory Ridge Senior Center and later transferred to the center in Nashville.

In her spare time, Skip has amassed a collection of Halloween related things and enjoys our Trunk and Treat. She is a member of St. David's Altar guild, volunteers at the Thursday Food distribution, plays euchre in the church's group and is often in demand when decorations are needed. She has enriched us with her cheerful, creative and willing presence. We are blessed.

—Phyllis Sindlinger

"The weather just went from 90 to 55 like it saw a state trooper."

Unknown

News from the Choir Corner

from Vicki King, Music Director

St. David's music ministry received a \$1000 grant from St. James Music Press to buy tone chimes for our church. Tone chimes are a way to involve children in worship and to provide an addition to the choir. One Sunday the children played and one Sunday Vern, Marge, and Phyllis played. Playing tone chimes enables anyone to contribute to the music program, without actually singing in the choir. The grant enabled St. David's to also have a year's subscription to St. James Music Press. The majority of the anthems used by our choir are published by St. James Press and, with a year's license, these anthems are available for digital download. On August 16th, I held a tone chime workshop at church that was attended by Adie, Westley, and Gordon Smith, Yvonne Olinger and Zazzi the dog, Verne and Phyllis Sindlinger, Marge Steiner, and Tom King.





Outreach Receives Grant for Food Pantry

St. David's is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation (BCCF) in support of our Thursday Food Pantry.

As the number of hungry clients in our area continues to grow, St. David's (an integral partner of the Brown County Food Alliance) faced a storage problem for fresh and frozen food shared by St. Vincent DePaul and Hoosier Hills food distribution. Due to lack of cold storage we had to turn down frozen meats, vegetables and refrigerated items (milk, juice, lettuce). This left us short of healthy foods for the community (particularly protein items).

Thankfully the BCCF assisted with a \$1000 grant to help purchase a refrigerator and freezer allowing us to increase storage and distribution of food to the community. In addition, a surprise donor added \$933 to this grant, completing the entire purchase!

We appreciate the support of the BCCF (and our surprise donor) which will help with food insecurity throughout our community.

Photo above (L to R): Alice Susmichael (CEO of BCCF); Donna Niednagel (Chair of St. David's Outreach); Marilyn Day (Outreach Committee); Gail Fields (Outreach Committee); Yvonne Oligier (Treasurer, St. David's); Carol Brown (BCCF Development)



John, Skip and Lisa at work at the Thursday Food Pantry.



New refrigerator and freezer for the Food Pantry.



This is the St. David's Outreach Committee discerning the use of your giving. We practice being "the hands and feet of Jesus in our world" today.

Skip Wood, Joan Amati, Gail Fields, Tina Goodlander - Senior Warden, Angie Aumage, Lisa Sbai, Donna Niednagel , (not pictured-Marylin Day)

More Outreach News

Grateful & Blessed to have been given a grant from Brown County Community Foundation & donor, John Elliot, to cover the cost of our much needed stand-up freezer & refrigerator freezer for the continually growing Thursday Food Pantry.

Looking forward to a Christmas collaboration with The Salvation Army & St Vincent de Paul to provide gifts for our families in our community. Signup sheets & more information to come.

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 25 from 4pm to 6pm

Chili Supper: Saturday, Nov 1st

Volunteers needed - signup sheets & details to follow for both.

Packing for the Weekend Backpacks meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month starting in September. Joan Amati will be coordinating our volunteers. Also, a donation of \$500 given to assist with the purchase of food from John & Skip Wood was recently matched with a donation from Outreach for this wonderful program.

Grants approved and to be gifted:

- 1) Hope for Hearts Scholarships
- 2) Brasilia Dioceses
- 3) Haiti Parish
- 4) Lifting Hands (funds go to Ukraine and Ethiopia)

Making Cards with Marylin



Here is Marylin Day's Elegant Embellishment's greeting card class on June 12, 2025. The group made 3 handmade greeting cards each.

Golden Oldies Committee

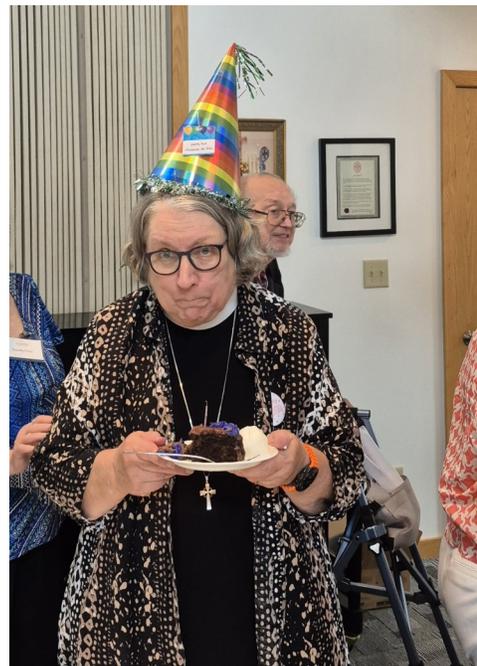
The Golden Oldies Committee, formed & consisting of eleven different organizations in our community, continues to meet with the goal in mind to connect our many resources with the people in need. Plans are in the works to have a center at the Y to provide an in person location for the people of Brown County. Parish members Donna Niednagel and Gail Fields are bringing their many talents to this project. More to come in the near future.

Celebrating Kate's Birthday



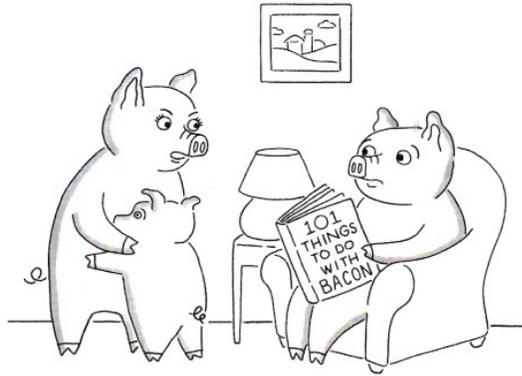
The parish put together a birthday celebration for Kate on July 20, 2025. The kids made big cards for her and Donna and Fran brought cake and ice cream. Danny Fields made this beautiful walking stick for her.

Pictures thanks to Vickie King and Marilyn Day.



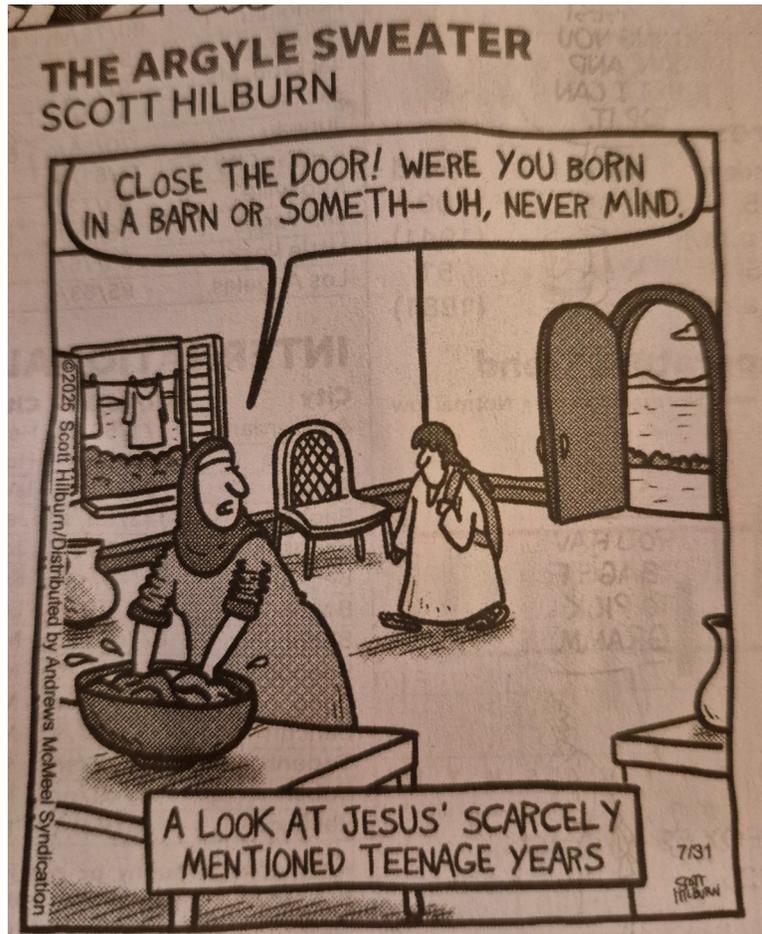
Fun

THE
NEW YORKER



m.e. mcnamee

"Your morbid curiosity about the afterlife is scaring the children."



—from Marilyn Day

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August

1 Maggie Linscott
 1 Gail Fields
 1 Sharon Kitchens
 6 Arnold Fulton
 7 Lauren Woodworth
 17 Angie & John Aumage - (Anniversary)
 17 Theresa & Steve Sims (Anniversary)
 18 Adie Smith
 23 Verne & Phyllis Sindlinger -
 (Anniversary)
 30 Richard Halladay
 31 Tom King

September

3 Ralph Linscott
 4 Len Glosque
 7 Ed McCabe
 11 Jennifer Heller
 11 Ben Herr
 13 Juniper McCabe (Ed & Cori's daughter)
 13 Sally Walker Simpson
 16 Jan Benham
 24 Louis and Laura Wenzler -
 (Anniversary)
 26 Tina & Jenn Goodlander (Anniv.)
 27 Mary Studley

October

4 Marylin Day

7 Bob Olinger
 7 Jonathan & Linda Lee Gosser -
 (Anniversary)
 10 Marge Steiner
 11 Westley Smith (son of Ben & Adie
 Smith)
 11 Jim Drum
 16 Lisa Sbai
 18 Adie & Ben Smith - (Anniversary)
 18 Ayana Smith
 26 Yvonne Olinger
 26 Laura Wenzler
 31 Jonathan Gosser

November

9 Joan Amati
 9 Tim & Laurie Stant - (Anniversary)
 10 Ed & Cori McCabe - (Anniversary)
 11 David Sindlinger
 12 Jan Holloway
 12 Jane Herr
 13 Andrea Barber
 15 Ben & Lauren Woodworth -
 (Anniversary)
 18 Mariana Stawig
 20 Ralph & Maggie Linscott -(Anniversary)
 23 Mikey Fulton
 23 Kate Nolan
 25 Skip Wood
 28 Carol Ruffin

*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 deadlines for submissions:
 Advent: November 16, 2025

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

SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 5:00 PM Communion

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

Friday	Aug 29	End of Week Bible Study <i>(Bible study continues every Friday)</i>	7:30 am-9 am	by Zoom
Tuesday	Sept 2	On-line Centering Prayer <i>(Centering Prayer continues every Tuesday)</i>	7:15 pm	by Zoom
Friday	Sept 5	Euchre <i>(Euchre continues on the 1st Friday of the month)</i>	7 pm	St. David's
Wednesday	Sept 10	Dinner Church <i>(Dinner Church continues on 2nd Wednesday of the month)</i>	5:00 pm	St. David's
Wednesday	Sept 17	Weekend Backpackers <i>(Weekend Backpackers continue on 3rd Wednesdays of the month)</i>		St. David's
Wednesday	Sept 24	Pub Theology <i>(Pub Theology continues 4th Wednesday of the month)</i>	5:00 pm	Out of the Ordinary
Saturday	Oct 25	Trunk or Treat	4-6 pm	St. David's
Saturday	Nov 1	Chili Supper		St. David's
Sunday	Nov 2	UTO Ingathering		
Sunday	Nov 16	Advent newsletter deadline		