



Lent 2024

Happy Lent!

I just received an email that wished me a happy Lent, with the question of whether that was an appropriate thing to wish someone. I responded that good wishes are always welcome. We'd be a happier lot if we were barraged with good wishes. We'd have a bounce in our steps just knowing that someone is thinking of us.

Lent is a funny time. It's as open to interpretation today as it was in the early Church. The early Church experienced numerous periods of persecution, so creating any kind of common practice just didn't happen. What people did was specific to their own community under their own bishop (this was before there were priests, when bishops and deacons served the faithful). As in other cultures, one common spiritual practice was fasting, forgoing food completely or for long periods, but the period and the way of doing it varied by community.

Irenaeus, a second-century Doctor of the Church, wrote a letter to the pope about the controversial variety of fasts before Easter.

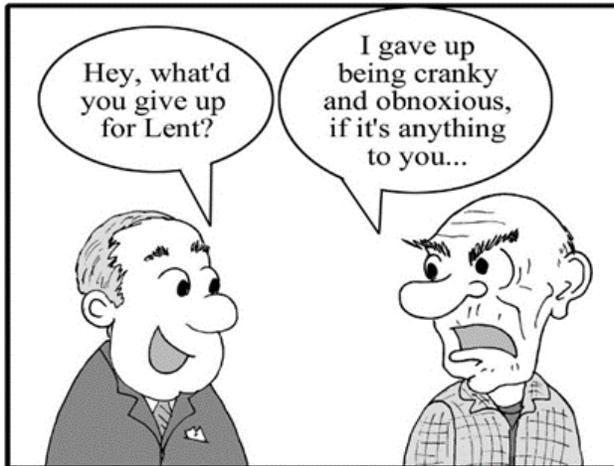
For the controversy is not only concerning the day [of Easter], but also concerning the very manner of the fast. For some think that they should fast one day, others two, yet others more; some moreover, count their day as consisting of forty hours day and night....Yet all of these lived nonetheless in peace; and we also live in peace with one another; and the disagreement in regard to the fast confirms the agreement in the faith.

While the letter of law for Lent didn't exist, the spirit of living in peace surely did. Could we ask for more?

Today, some folks are just grateful to have a period to slow down and get out of the endless busyness and distraction of life. Some have practices of increased piety, or begin regular practices of prayer, meditation, or spiritual journaling to connect to the Holy and Jesus's journey through Easter. Some folks have a practice of "giving up", probably a throw-back to fasting: chocolate, drinking, smoking, computer games or even social media. This "giving up" is a way of sacrifice in imitation of Jesus's suffering and passion. Others change behavior, which may be even more difficult: consciously "purifying" or emptying ourselves of negative characteristics. In this case, we might "give up" isolating ourselves from others, swearing, gossiping, negative or self-defeating thinking.

I find regular practices like these to be difficult to maintain. One of the gifts of Lent is the reminder to align our souls and our actions more closely to the teachings of Jesus. In this way we can be well-prepared for the tragedy of Holy Week and the triumph of Easter. Happy Lent!

--Pastor Kate



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com



The Rector responds to concern that Lent is a downer

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Adie Smith

Deacon:

The Rev. William Morris

Organist/Music Director:

Dr. Vicki King

Parish Administrator:

Jean Brown

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St. David's Vestry 2024

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Search Committee Update

There and Back Again – Our Search Committee’s Final Update

And so, fellow travelers, our journey to seek out our next priest has come to an unexpected, but VERY welcome, close. We began, as journeys often do, with a bit of soul searching – after all, we cannot choose a spiritual leader without first understanding who we are, what’s important to us, and how we can best be challenged to serve the Kingdom and one another.

Throughout the Holy Conversation sessions that we held those many months ago, we had a blessed opportunity to talk with one another about what’s going well, what needs improvement, and grievances that we’ve had – and while these conversations were often difficult, it was a wonderful opportunity to help us understand ourselves. Then, over the course of several months, the search committee distilled the information gleaned from those conversations to build a cohesive parish profile in order to show prospective candidates who we are, and what we seek.

Amidst those meetings, debates, and discussions with the committee, we were often left wondering why Kate was ineligible to join us on a more ‘permanent’ basis. Here we were, with a wonderful interim rector who seemed to check every box for the position that our congregation had defined together, yet she was out of reach to us – rules are rules, as it were. On the other hand, history has shown us time and time again that, when necessity dictates, rules can be bent. Or changed. Or even broken.

So it came to pass that an avenue that was previously unavailable to us miraculously opened up at the most unexpected time. And believe me, I don’t use the word miraculously lightly here – I suspect most, if not all, of you would agree with me. The Bishop and her staff had a WELCOME change of heart, and allowed us to open our candidate pool to include our interim rector. A few conversations occurred, a few papers were signed, and just like that – our prayers were answered, and Kate became our new Priest In Charge.

Since the announcement was made on January 28th, I’ve been contacted by a number of you, letting me and the committee know how wonderful this news was, how grateful everyone is, and how perfect of a fit Kate is for our congregation. The words ‘exactly who we need’ were present in more than one communication. Suffice to say that these responses cemented the feeling that we’ve chosen the right path forward, unexpected or not. Kate, I hope you’re hearing us loud and clear - we love you, and we’re so happy you’re here with us!

Alas, with the end of our search process also comes the disbanding of our faithful search committee – Bob Westbrook, Ben Woodworth, Gene Niednagel, Annie Hawk, and myself. While we still have a few remaining tasks (planning a celebration service with the Bishop, for example) I want to give all of my fellow committee members a heartfelt ‘Thank You’ for serving with me along the way – your thoughts, writings, debates, and contributions were invaluable to this congregation, and I truly enjoyed our time together. Thank you, from the bottom of all of our hearts.

Now we forge ahead, ever onward, to continue the work that we’ve always done in faith. Together.

In Thanksgiving,

Ed McCabe, (former) Search Committee Chair

Deacon's Corner

by Rev. William Morris, Jr., Deacon

For the past couple of months, the Friday Bible Study Group has been reading the Gospel of John. Like the other three gospel accounts, this book gives us a story of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Unlike the other gospels, however, John goes deeply into the theology and mystery of Jesus the Christ, the one who “in the beginning was the Word.”

On the first Friday of February, we read and studied Chapter 11, which gives the account of the raising of Lazarus. While all the accounts of Jesus’ life, works and resurrection are profound in their meaning, this particular account is noteworthy for a number of reasons. First, it occurs just days before Jesus’ arrest, his trial and crucifixion, as he is moving towards Jerusalem. Second, it is deemed by many to be a harbinger of Jesus’ own resurrection. Third, Jesus’ own humanity, sorrow, and tears are described. And, fourth, it is here that Jesus states in plain words: “*I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*”

Many years ago, in the North Carolina chapter of my life, I had the deep privilege of serving as a Stephen Minister -- a lay church member who is trained to provide one-to-one care to folks experiencing difficult times in life, such as grief, illness, or other life challenges. As a result, I spent a lot of time visiting folks with infirmities at home or in the hospital. After Psalm 23, John 11 was perhaps the reading that was most often shared.

At our recent Friday study, John 11 led several of us to share deep personal accounts of how the raising of Lazarus has touched our own lives. For me, it was when my birthmother, Harriette, decided to discontinue dialysis. Prior to our being reconnected, she had experienced many years of poor health, including six difficult months of dialysis. One day, she decided that “enough was enough”. She said, “No more”. She stopped dialysis.

Though Harriette and I had both been baptized earlier in our respective lives, she requested that we be baptized together. Two days after Harriette discontinued dialysis, Deacon Connie Peppler (from Trinity-Bloomington) came to Harriette’s apartment to administer the baptism and the eucharist. Harriette’s brother, from whom she had been estranged, was invited – and he came. We read John 11. “*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*” We were baptized together. The mother and son, who had been separated some 50 years before, now shared the Body and Blood of Christ. There were five or six persons in attendance – and, it seemed, Lazarus, Mary and Martha too. It was a powerful time.

Twelve days later, several of us were gathered around her in the Hospice House. A radio played softly in the background. Moments before her passing, one of her very favorite songs began to play: “*Save the Last Dance for Me.*” Then, as she labored to breath, she suddenly sat up. Color returned to her face. Her eyes opened, and she looked at me. But she was not looking *at* me. She was looking *through* me, as if she saw something breathtakingly beautiful. For 10-15 seconds, she looked at it with clear blue eyes. Then she fell back down, took several more breaths, and passed away peacefully. Those of us in the room were awestruck.

Our Friday Bible Study hearkened my mind back to the last two weeks of Harriette’s life. I can see those moments like they were yesterday. And, I believe deep in my heart that Harriette heard Jesus’ words, “*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*”

Please join us for an “End of the Week Bible Study” on Friday mornings from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. ALL are welcome.

Vestry Update

2024 Vestry

Voting members:

Adie Smith, Rector's Warden
Joan Amati
Gail Fields
Theresa Sims
Marge Steiner

Non-voting members:

The Rev. Kate Wilson, Pastor
The Rev. William Morris, Deacon
Ralph Linscott, Parish Treasurer
Sharon Kitchens, Clerk

*Ministry Chairs will attend the Vestry meetings on a schedule or by their choice to inform and update the Vestry and/or to request approval for activities.

Ministry Chairs – as of 12/31/23

Altar Guild – Phyllis Sindlinger
Budget – Ralph Linscott
Chapel Garden – Sandy Ackerman
Christian Formation – Ed McCabe
Outreach – Donna Niednagel
Parish Life – Carol Ruffin
Pastoral Care – Maggie Linscott
Personnel – Pastor Kate
Search Committee – Ed McCabe
Technology Committee – Lauren Woodworth
Worship & Music – Phyllis Sindlinger

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer."

Ash Wednesday Service, *Book of Common Prayer*, p 26



On December 31 St. David's hosted the Indiana Slavic Choir who performed during the service. The group was doing a fundraiser to collect money for the students of the Salvador Dali Academy of Modern Arts in Kyiv, to help students complete their education under the difficult circumstances during the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine. Vicki King and Sarah Phillips made this lovely presentation possible.



Maksym plays the Bandura, a traditional Ukrainian instrument.

News from the Choir Corner

from Vicki King



As we move into Lent, our music will be more contemplative and I hope that the spirit of the music will help you reflect on your own life—accepting the joys that God has given us, and looking inward to our own hearts for peace during this quieter time in our Church year. The Episcopal Church worship is set up for Community participation—in prayers and the singing of Hymns. I hope that you will help us made a glad sound with our worship each Sunday.

Inspiration

Spring

A flicker of leaves
 Across my book,
 And a quavering bird-note,
 Call me
 To the window;
 And there—
 Is Spring,
 Laughing up the slope
 With jonquils
 In her hair,
 And teasing the thrush
 Because his song
 Is rusty!

By Mabel Linn from Poetry: A Magazine of Verse (May 1917)

Getting Better Acquainted

With Jane Land

I imagine that many of you already know Jane. She is present most Sundays, sitting on the aisle near the Baptismal Font and has a warm response to those greeting her during Passing of the Peace.

But here's some interesting things that Verne and I learned when we visited with her in her lovely home just a stone's throw away from St. David's:

On that rainy January afternoon, as we sat by a welcome fire and exchanged life stories, we learned that Jane, the oldest of three sisters, was born on Valentine's Day in Union City, Indiana. Her father died when she was three years old leaving her mother, Blanche, to raise her daughters as a single parent.

The young family soon relocated to Danville where Jane's mother taught at Central Normal College to support her young family. (Later, Blanche McNeely Wean became the first woman to attend IU's Business School and went on to have a successful career in accounting. But that's a whole story in itself). Jane went to school in Danville and after graduation from High School, attended Indiana University, graduating with a BS in 1949. (later a Master's degree from DePauw University)

After gaining some teaching experience, she contracted to teach for one year (1953) on an army base in Germany. When she began, she did not sprechen sie Deutsch, but picked it up by learning with the children.

Soon after arriving at the army base, she met a young officer, Walter Land. Seven weeks later, they were married. He returned to the States when his tour of duty ended, but Jane stayed to fulfill her contract. When she returned to the states, she was worried that she would not recognize her new husband because she had never seen him in civilian clothes. (She did). They were married almost 64 years when Walt died on October 1, 2018.

Their family grew to include two sons (Casey and Dave) five grandchildren and ten (soon to be eleven) great grandchildren. She is very proud of them all and we listened as she told us that they have all graduated from college (those old enough) and are leading productive, successful lives. When asked why they have all done so well, she attributed it to her mother.

Jane's teaching career spanned 40 years in Danville where she taught first and second grades (20 years in each) What stories she must have to tell of those years.

In 1990, Jane and Walt relocated to Brown County and build their beautiful home. From there they commuted together for many years, Jane to her teaching job Danville and Walt to the Statehouse in Downtown Indianapolis. Jane would drop Walt off and continue on to her job.

After retiring from teaching, Jane volunteered at the Indianapolis Children's Museum for ten years. She tells of discovering that she could indeed relate to older youth. She would immerse herself in whatever subject she was asked to share with the tour groups; the first was on aerodynamics (!) to high school freshmen.

After Walt died, Jane decided she would return to church and came to St. David's. The Episcopal Church is not new to Jane. She and Walt were active for many years in the Episcopal Church in Danville. And served as both Junior and Senior Wardens.

These days, Jane loves to write about her family and has authored a book of history about her mother's family and books about her children and their families. We did get an opportunity to peruse these and were awed with the research and format which included many photos.

She has made four trips to Kenya, Africa to visit her sister Ruth and has hopes that she can visit again this year. She tells of her favorite accomplishments this past year: finishing another book, visiting Ruth, and best of all, passing her Driver's Test

Although she's not crazy about housework, she loves taking care of the outside and can

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be seen at times on her riding lawnmower.

She still gets together with friends from her years in Danville, meeting them for lunch on a regular basis.

Lastly, Jane told us to make sure we told you that she enjoys watching TV sports, namely Notre Dame football and IU Men's Basketball (Go Fighting Irish and Hoosiers!)

We left with smiles on our faces and with hopes to meet again and become even better acquainted.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent. It is also called Fat Tuesday and Pancake Day. Christians made pancakes to use their supply of eggs, milk and butter in preparation for Lent. This year St. David's is celebrating Shrove Tuesday! On February 13 at 5:00pm, we will have pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and King Cake. Vicki King will provide jazz music and Cori McCabe will have an activity for the children. Come and join the fun in our building!

—Carol Ruffin

Got Ink Cartridges?

Want to help save the planet by recycling printer ink cartridges? Drop them off in the basket on the information table in the Gathering Place. I will then take them to Staples for recycling. Jim Huber used to do this small job but I took the last batch and will take them in as they collect. All types accepted. Thanks in advance!

—Jane Herr, ed.



Public Health News

By Jennifer Heller

Listeria has been in the news lately as contaminating foods. It is especially harmful for some people:

1. Adults over 65
2. People with weakened immune systems (have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness).
3. Pregnant people and infants

If you are in any of these groups, choose safer foods to protect your health or your pregnancy:

Do not eat	Choose these instead
Unpasteurized soft cheeses, such as queso fresco and brie Unheated cheeses sliced at a deli	Hard cheeses, such as cheddar and parmesan Cottage cheese, cream cheese, string cheese, feta and mozzarella Pasteurized soft cheeses heated to an internal temperature of 165° F or until steaming hot Deli-sliced cheeses heated to 165° F or until steaming hot
Unheated deli meat, cold cuts, hot dogs, and fermented or dry sausages	Deli meat, cold cuts, hot dogs, and fermented sausages reheated to 165° F or until steaming hot
Premade deli salads, such as coleslaw and potato, tuna, or chicken salad	Homemade deli salads
Refrigerated pâté or meat spreads	Pâté or meat spreads in sealed, airtight containers that don't need to be kept refrigerated before opening
Refrigerated smoked fish	Smoked fish in sealed, airtight packages or containers that don't need to be kept refrigerated before opening Smoked fish cooked in a casserole or other cooked dishes
Raw or lightly cooked sprouts	Sprouts cooked until steaming hot
Cut melon left out for more than 2 hours (1 hour if it's exposed to temperatures hotter than 90° F, such as a picnic or hot car) Cut melon in refrigerator for more than a week	Melon that has just been cut
Raw (unpasteurized) milk, yogurt, and ice cream	Pasteurized milk, yogurt, and ice cream

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

MARCH

5 Bob Westbrook
 11 Jean Brown
 12 Cynthia Kafoure
 12 Angie Aumage
 19 Theresa Sims
 21 Kyle Fittz
 27 Aiden Kopecek
 28 Laurie Stant
 28 Bess Smith (Joan Amati's daughter)
 30 Michael Kafoure

APRIL

7 Steve Sims

9 Asher Nolan (son of Danielle & Kate Nolan)
 11 Jane Savage
 12 Sandy Ackerman
 15 Bess &/Eric Cole (Anniversary)
 21 Nick Aumage
 26 Nathaniel Aumage
 29 Knox Nolan (son of Danielle & Kate)

MAY

10 David Jennings
 14 Vicki King
 16 Michael & Cynthia Kafoure (anniversary)
 18 Linda Shackelford
 26 Dona Glentzer
 27 Jim & Judy Huber - Anniversary
 27 Gene & Donna Niednagel - Anniversary
 31 Ronald and Jane Herr- Anniversary

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 deadline for submissions:
 Pentecost: May 5, 2024



St. David's Episcopal Church
 PO Box 1798
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SERVICES

Sunday 9:30 AM Morning Prayer

Wednesday 5:00 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

Friday	Feb. 9	Zoom Bible study <i>(bible study continues Friday mornings)</i>	7:30-9 am	
Tuesday	Feb. 13	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	5 pm	St. David's
Wednesday	Feb 14	Ash Wednesday service	12 noon	St. David's
Wednesday	Feb. 14	Dinner Church w/Ash Wednesday service <i>(Dinner Church continues on 2nd Wednesday of the month)</i>	5 pm	St. David's
Saturday	Feb. 17	Implicit Bias workshop	10am-1pm	St. David's
Wednesday	Feb. 28	Pub Theology <i>(Pub Theology continues on the 4th Wednesday of the month)</i>	6:30 pm	Out of Ordinary
Friday	Mar. 1	Euchre <i>(Euchre continues on the 1st Friday of the month)</i>	7 pm	St. David's
Sunday	Mar. 24	Palm Sunday		
Thursday	Mar. 28	Maundy Thursday		
Friday	Mar. 29	Good Friday		
Sunday	Mar. 31	Easter Sunday		
Saturday	April 20	Earth Day		
Sunday	May 5	Pentecost newsletter info deadline		