



Lent 2025

My dear friends,

The truth is that I forgot today is the deadline for my newsletter article. Sometimes these opportunities for humility are also opportunities for new insight and grace.

I just read that today Marco Rubio fully backed Netanyahu's plan to eliminate Hamas as bombardment in Rafah resumed. Two more people have died. I am heartsick. I suspect that people who voted to have their grocery costs lowered, which a President cannot do, did not vote for all we have witnessed in this past month.

+Mariann Edgar Budde made me proud and comforted by her simple use of the teachings of Christ in the gospels and epistles. She also strengthened me. Turning to God is not my first response to pain and anger. Sometimes the traditional God of my upbringing just seems so out of touch. When I asked my first spiritual director what God was to her, she said, "Sometimes, a warm blanket." How quickly that frees me from that old guy in white robes and long white beard.

The work of Thea Bowman (1937-1990), a Franciscan Sister, impacted many, including Richard Rohr, a man who has his writing fingers on the pulse of our needs. But what are Sr. Thea's images of God?

I was reared in the traditional Black community—in song and prayer and conversation and story. My people graced me with multiple images of the living God.

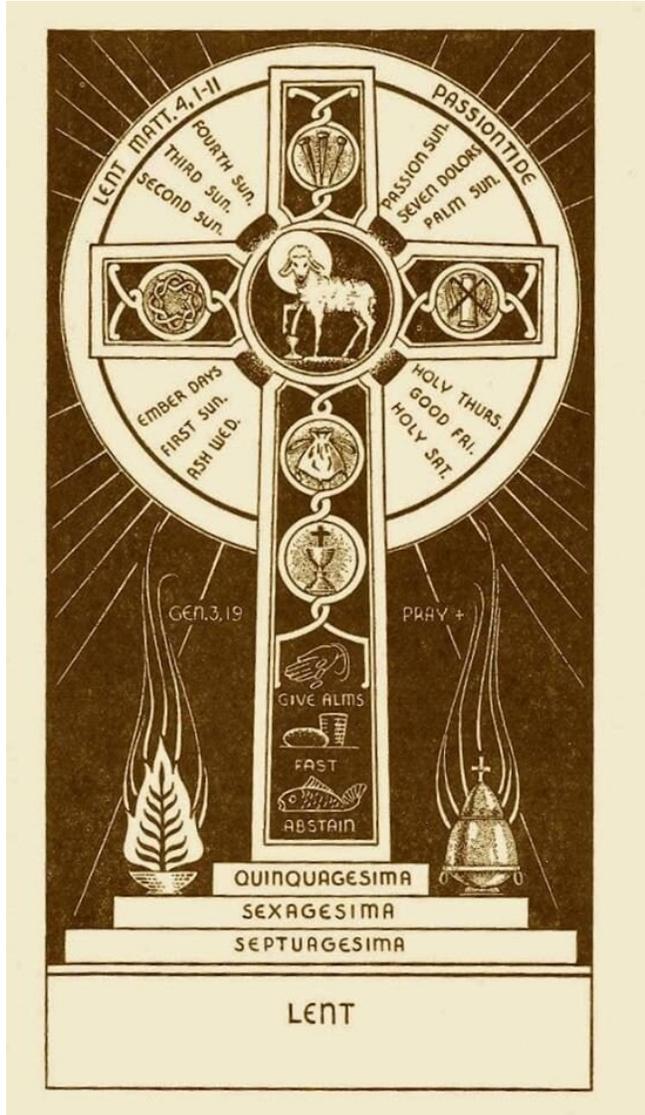
God is bread when you're hungry, water when you're thirsty, a harbor from the storm. God's a father to the fatherless, a mother to the motherless God's my sister, my brother, my leader, my guide, my teacher, my comforter, my friend. God's the way-maker and burden-bearer, a heart-fixer and a mind-regulator. God's my doctor who never lost a patient, my lawyer who never lost a case, my chaplain who never lost a battle. God's my all in all, my everything.

God's my rock, my sword, my shield, my lily of the valley, my pearl of great price ... Counselor, Emmanuel, redeemer, savior, Prince of Peace, Son of God, Mary's little baby, wonderful Word of God.

These images come from Scripture and from the meditations of Christians. Some people see them as contradictory, but Christians see them as inadequate—all of them. But all these images are available to me....Each one corresponds to a particular need. All these images help me as I call upon God's name.

Right now I am looking for Holy Guidance, Essential Compassion, Sacred Understanding. I am looking for opportunities to see Christ in every soul I encounter. I am looking for opportunities to link myself to others of different beliefs and attitudes.

(Continued on page 3)



St. David's Episcopal Church

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in Beanblossom,
5 miles north of Nashville
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Senior Warden:
Theresa Sims

Deacon:
The Rev. William Morris
Organist/Music Director:
Dr. Vicki King

Parish Administrator:
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Our call is always to reconciliation. It is always to respect the dignity of every human being, and I can use all the help I can get, whether eternal or temporal, in achieving that.

This is the hardest time I have experienced to be a Christian to the core. Christian is not synonymous with “doormat”, by the way, but to one who lives a faith out loud and in actions that demonstrate that faith.

When I was a child, we prayed every week for the conversion of (godless) Russia. That meant the entire Soviet Union. I believed to the bottom of my little soul that “they” might take over the United States, and that I would be called upon to defend my faith with my little bow and arrow. Sweet image of a child full of faith and full of Prince Valiant, whose exploits began to appear in American newspapers in 1937 and continue to this day. I attribute it to being born a Leo as well. I’m pretty sure that astrology is a real thing. Aren’t you?



I think right now I need God to be a large basket for my concerns, or open hands to receive my fears and doubts. By releasing these, I’m not becoming passive, but free of the negativity and concerns that I am stumbling over. I become free to think, to use my best abilities to address what very well might be a new normal. It frees me to engage, to live my faith out loud. I so often forget that. It is good to be reminded.

Oh. As to Lent, beginning March 5? I will continue to give up my fears, my doubts, my anger by turning it over to God or what’s its name to maintain some serenity and clarity of thought. That will free me to live my faith out loud as best I can. Let’s pray for one another.

Kate+

Prince Valiant

A little more info about Prince Valiant: *Prince Valiant in the Days of King Arthur*, often simply called *Prince Valiant*, is an American comic strip created by Hal Foster in 1937. It is an epic adventure that has told a continuous story during its entire history, and the full stretch of that story now totals more than 4500 Sunday strips. The strip appears weekly in more than 300 American newspapers, according to its distributor, King Features Syndicate.

The setting is Arthurian. Valiant (Val) is a Nordic prince from Thule, located near present-day Trondheim on the Norwegian coast. Early in the story Valiant arrives at Camelot where he becomes friends with Sir Gawain and Sir Tristram. Earning the respect of Merlin and King Arthur, he becomes a Knight of the Round Table. On a Mediterranean island he meets the love of his life, Aleta, Queen of the Misty Isles, whom he later marries. He fights the Huns with his powerful Singing Sword, which, in a 1939 strip, a witch identifies with the legendary sword Flamberge, a magical blade apparently created by the same enchanter who forged Arthur's Excalibur. Val travels to Africa and America and later helps his father regain his lost throne of Thule, which has been usurped by the tyrant Sligon.

—from *Wikipedia*

Querencia

This is a story I did for a meeting of the Maven Project “Narrative and Humanities” group on the subject “Where is my Querencia?” It’s taking me a while to try to think of a place where I go for solace, for security, for rejuvenation, for hope for the future. I keep thinking of a place, but I really could not identify a special place where I would go. Rather, I go to certain thoughts and memories. Not really a place at all, but an activity.

It seems that it’s more of an idea or thought process, a substantiation of the good in life. This takes a leap of faith, a general hope that there is something intrinsically, or innately good and valuable in human beings, and in life in general.

I can’t come to this conclusion easily, and certainly not through rational, logical thought. Certainly not by reading or watching the news. It comes from within, an emotional feeling, from the “heart“. That feeling or hope is then substantiated by certain experiences that I’ve had. It seems to go against the rational or what I can explain scientifically. It is more mystical.

What are some of those experiences? They can be varied. For example, recently sharing Thanksgiving with Filipino and Danish friends where comradery was enjoyed and no one’s feelings were hurt. Laughter with friends over a beer in a tavern. Helping a friend by giving advice, such as I do as a Maven mentor, and feeling that they actually look forward to talking with me. Expressing love. Gazing at the woods reflected in the sunlight. Serving customers at a soup kitchen, hearing the thank you. Working there with a 6th grader from a broken home, maybe helping him in just a little teeny way. Reading about people who do good for others without expectations for being paid back.

OK, I did come up with the inspiration for this piece while driving home in my car from a luncheon. So maybe the magic is in the hum of the car engine, the vibration of the tires on the road?!

—Mike Day

Reflections during Lent

The approaching Lenten season for me is a time to grow spiritually closer to Christ by recognizing and listening as God acts in moments of my daily life. My prayer discipline is to intentionally and at the moment offer a prayer of thanksgiving, repentance, or guidance. And in that meditative moment, I try to remember that Christ suffered and sacrificed himself on the cross for my salvation. During the Lenten season, I also believe that Jesus recognized that God, his Father had a plan for him that he followed through to resurrection. During Lent, I more deeply believe that as I reflect in prayer on Christ’s suffering and ultimate sacrifice, I believe God acted by raising Jesus from the dead. This resurrection gave and gives me hope. Lent for me then is a time I am called to reflect upon the suffering of others around me listening to their needs and responding to others to help to share God’s love and bring hope.

I give thanks that I am living in the community of St. David’s. I give thanks for the love, support, and encouragement I receive. I give thanks, not just in Lent, but daily that this community also helps me experience Resurrection and brings hope to me and others. It teaches me to be thankful for God acting in all of us and allows each of us to increase our commitment to bring hope to others as we share God’s Love to each other, our neighbors, and our world

During Lent and this spring, opportunities to increase our understanding of others’ sufferings, needs, and conditions, will lead to a commitment to bring HOPE in our ministries.

—Donna Niednagel

Bean Blossom Music Series

SATURDAY
March 1st
7:00 PM

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

“Baroque Metamorphosis”

*Featuring: Miyo Aoki, recorder
Curtis Foster, baroque oboe & recorder
Jonathan Oddie, harpsichord
Erica Rubis, viola da gamba*

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

Bean Blossom Music Series @stdavids_beanblossom

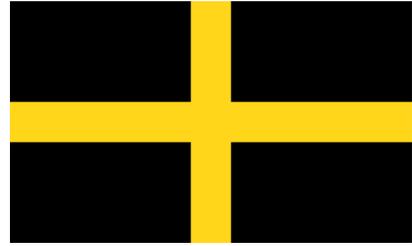
Miyo Aoki (recorder), Curtis Foster (recorder and oboe), Erica Rubis (viola da gamba) and Jonathan Oddie (harpsichord) present a varied program of works spanning a century and a half from Orlando di Lasso to Georg Philipp Telemann and showcasing the range of styles and sounds that led to the high Baroque.

Follow Bean Blossom Music on Facebook for updates!

St. David's Day

St. David: The greatest figure in the Welsh Age of Saints. St. David founded scores of religious communities and was the only native-born patron saint of Britain.

St David was born in the year 500, the grandson of Ceredig ap Cunedda, King of Ceredigion. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire cliff top during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers.



St David became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England – including, possibly, the abbey at Glastonbury. St David reputedly made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, from which he brought back a stone that now sits in an altar at St Davids Cathedral, built on the site of his original monastery.

St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

The most famous miracle associated with St David took place when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. When people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill. A white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

St David died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of St Davids Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.' The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales.

Usually, St David's Day is a day of parades, concerts and eisteddfodau (festivals of music, language and culture). People also celebrate St David's Day by engaging in little acts of Welshness. You'll see plenty of locals proudly pinning our national emblems, the daffodil or a leek, to their lapels, while children go to school in traditional Welsh dress. Flags are flown. The Welsh National Anthem is sung with extra fervor, and across Wales – and in diaspora communities around the world – people gather to wish each other a '*Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus*' – 'Happy St David's Day' in Welsh.

—from www.visitwales.com

Celebrating St. David's Day here at St. David's Episcopal Church

We will be celebrating here in the Gathering Place on **March 2** with a Welsh luncheon after the service. Jane Herr will be making leek and potato soup and Andrea Barber will be making Welsh cakes. A sign up is available with Welsh recipes or bring what you like. Be sure to pick up a paper leek to wear!

King Cake Fun

On January 12 St. David's celebrated a late Epiphany (due to weather) with a wonderful King Cake baked by Adie Smith. Not only did we enjoy a tasty cake Adie included trinkets in the cake with special meanings for whoever received that trinket in their piece of cake. Historically these trinkets are called fèves.

A fève is a small trinket hidden in a king cake or similar dessert. They may also be known as trinkets or favors. The French word fève translates to 'fava bean', which is what was originally hidden in the cake. Modern fèves can be made out of other materials, such as porcelain or plastic, and can take varied shapes and forms. The themes of fève are very diverse and may include religious symbols, tools related to baking or even depictions of famous figures. Cakes with fèves are found throughout Europe and the US and are particularly associated with Three Kings Day or Mardi Gras. The person who finds the fève usually is awarded special privileges or gifts for the day. Fèves have also become collectors items, and in France, their collectors are known as fabophiles or favophiles. *(from Wikipedia)*

Adie wrote a poem to describe the meaning of the items included in her cake:

Epiphany Cake *(chew carefully)*
by Adie Smith

Whether you call it Epiphany, King, or Twelfth Night Cake
Today we have tea ring in which fortunes are baked.

One shall find a thimble to mean this is your year
To work hard and increase your industry so dear.

A second will find in their cake a round button
Which means you'll eat up knowledge of the spirit like a glutton eats mutton.

The next should watch out so they don't swallow a dime.
If you find ten cents, then wealth shall be thine.

To a 4th, a small babe will be found in your treat.
This means you'll come to know Jesus through all those you meet.

The final trinket to find is a small worthless bean
But looks are deceiving, the bean makes you Queen!...
Or King of Epiphany for the whole day.
So let us all go eat cake and see what comes our way.

Here were all the "winners":

Thimble - Marge Steiner
Button - Gail Fields
Dime - Everett Woodworth
Baby - Sandy Ackerman
Bean - Vicki "Queen" King



"We got to celebrate Epiphany a bit late with Adie's King cake on January 12th, and I got the bean and got to be King for a day! However, with a name like mine, I get to be a King everyday! The real highlight of Epiphany was getting to celebrate the wedding of Mariana and Jose on January 19th." Vicki King

Deacon's Corner

by Rev. William Morris, Jr., Deacon

Lent and Mercy

St. David's is the recipient of many, many blessings. From our kind, generous, and creative church body to our wonderful buildings and surrounding landscape. And our location in Brown County is a blessing of rural beauty.

Our greatest blessing, however, is our relationship to – and foundation in -- Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

Each Wednesday and Sunday, and other days as well, we gather to read scripture, reflect on God's word, pray together, and receive the bread and wine of Eucharist. We come together peacefully. We come together bountifully. We come together as friends and family in Christ. We are blessed.

Now, as we go into Lent, please remember the words of our Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, who asks us to grant mercy to the "stranger in our midst." This mercy, he adds "is radical [love], especially given the order of the world around us — [this mercy] is countercultural and not bound to political ideology." As Reverend Mariam Budde, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, reminded *all* of us to "have mercy upon the people in our country who are *scared* now."

And the *scared* among us are many. Some are: the immigrant, our LBGTQ brother and sister; friends who rely on Medicaid; the lifelong, dedicated, and highly skilled government worker; Ukrainian soldiers, residents of Gaza, and many others. Literally millions of people are *scared* right now. What is our response?

Let us first embrace the words of Jesus himself, who taught that "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

The true revolution of Christian mercy, said Martin Luther King, begins with the seeing God's mercies in *each of our lives*: in mercies on our children, sisters, brothers, friends. All the Countless Mercies of Jesus.

Saints and Church Family: As we enter Lent, let each of us take a moment to reflect on the ocean of merc(ies) that we have received – and let us be grateful.

And, let us all remember: the blessing on the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son; the blessing on the prostitute, protected and forgiven by our Lord; and the blessing of Jesus *on each of us* when Jesus prays "Father, forgive them (all of us) for they know not what they do. We are blessed

During this season of Lent, let us recall these blessings. Let us grant an extra dose of mercy to those who face fear and uncertainty. And, in the name of Jesus, let us offer an extra prayer, an extra act of kindness, or any added act of mercy to those who come into our lives. And let us remember: "But for the grace of God, there go I."



Christ in the bread line.

May Christ have mercy on *all* of us, and may we have mercy on others

Lent is a border-walking time: Death & Life, Glory & Shame, Sin & Grace, Temptation & Repentance, all littering the Lenten landscape, all halting us in our liturgical tracks for a 40 day blink of the inner eye.

Lent is a hungering or perhaps better, a time for us to be focused about the hunger that is in us for God and the hunger that is in God for us. Perchance that is one of the reasons for fasting and abstinence during certain portions of the season. That gnawing feeling inside is not simply about ‘daily bread’; it’s also about a daily dose of God.

Lent is a time when the mystery of God is very near us. No! The mystery of God is always near us, but Lent is one of those seasons when we are invited to carve for ourselves a few moments, a ‘leisure’ we might call it, for paying attention to that mystery of God which is always hovering fingertip-close, heart-chambered, nestled in ourselves and nestled in our neighbor too.

Lent is a time for taking advantage of the gifts we are offered. . .

Author unknown



Marianna and Jose Get Married

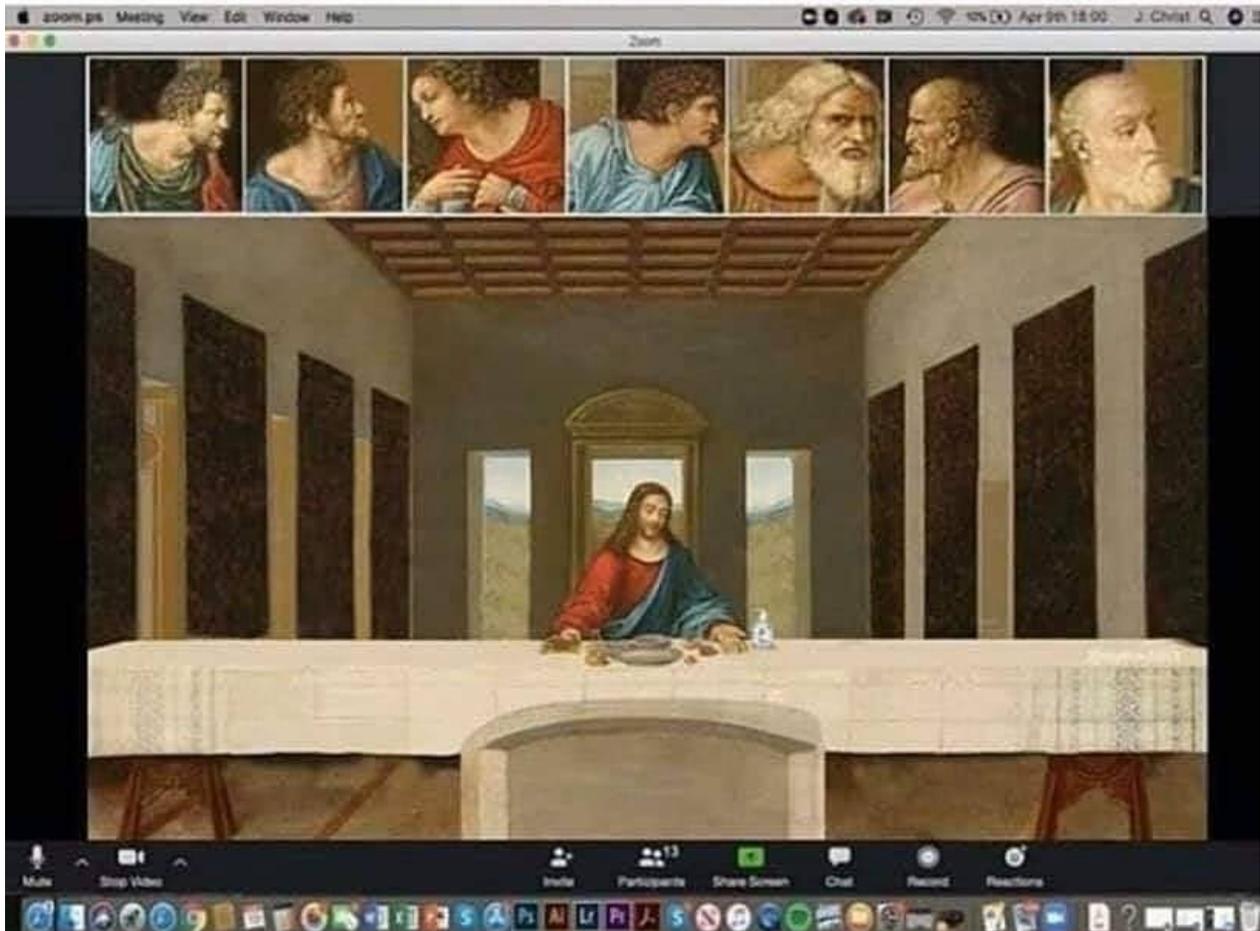
From the bottom of our hearts, José and I would like to thank everyone who came together to celebrate our wedding. We were awed by your generosity and warm embrace, as we have been since we began attending St. David's in September. Thank you for sharing in our celebration of love, and for organizing such thoughtful details that made the day unforgettable. We are profoundly blessed to have found community at St. David's, and we cannot thank you enough.

With eternal gratitude,
Mariana and José



Fun

Jesus getting ready for Easter with his zoombuddies



—from Kate

Save the Date



St. David's Church Picnic is 10:30 am on June 1st. We will meeting again at Waycross. We were unable to meet there on June 8 (actual day of Pentecost) because that is first day of camp and we would not be able to have access past 1 pm. It will be a pitch in with fried chicken provided by the church.

More Parish Life Plans

Sunday March 2 St. David's Day Pitch in

Sunday May 11 Mother's Day brunch

Sunday June 15 Father's Day Taco Bar

Look for a new St. David's cookbook later this year!

Inspiration for Mother's Day

Roses for Mother

This story was told to me by my first husband's mother. The story involved one of her friends. This friend had lost a son who was of an older age, not a child or a teenager, in circumstances that were questionable. This friend worried about her son constantly, during his life and even after he was gone. She had no sense of closure after his death.

The friend began to pray for a sign. She prayed for a sign that would be something to tell her that her son was all right and at rest. She asked for the sign to be something familiar, something that her son knew she liked, maybe like flowers. She particularly loved roses.

Some time passed and another one of the grieving woman's friends called her one morning out of the blue. The woman calling told her, "I had a dream last night about your son, and I had to call you and tell you about it. Your son and I were walking along together somewhere outside that was like a park or a garden. Your son stopped at a place on the path and reached down and pulled out a brown paper bag from under a bush. He handed the bag to me and said, "Would you see that my mother gets these?" After he walked away, I opened up the bag and it was full of roses..."

This is a true story as told to my former mother-in-law by the friend who lost her son.

—Jennifer Heller

Past Remembrance

In 2009 ground was broken for the Gathering Place addition to St. David's. Before the addition could move forward our beloved pin oak needed to be removed. Jennifer Heller found the YouTube video of the ceremony honoring the tree. Check it out: [Farewell to the pin oak](#) or <https://youtu.be/xhq5O-VS5qo> Wood from the tree was later used to construct our altar and podium.



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

3 Gail & Danny Fields (Anniversary)
 5 Bob Westbrook
 12 Cynthia Kafoure
 12 Angie Aumage
 14 John Johnson
 19 Theresa Sims
 20 Maddy Fulton
 21 Kyle Fittz
 24 Frank Fulton
 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
 21 Nick Aumage
 26 Nathaniel Aumage
 29 Knox Nolan (son of Danielle & Kate)

May

2 EmmyLou Fulton
 10 David Jennings
 11 Matt Fulton
 14 Vicki King
 16 Michael & Cynthia Kafoure (Anniversary)
 18 Linda Shackelford
 26 Dona Glentzer
 27 Jim & Judy Huber - (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 deadlines for submissions:

Pentecost: May 25, 2025

Fall: August 24, 2025

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	Feb 21	Zoom Bible study	7:30-9 am	
		<i>(bible study continues Friday mornings)</i>		
Wednesday	Feb 26	Pub Theology	5:00 pm	Out of Ordinary
		<i>(Pub Theology continues 4th Wednesday of the month)</i>		
Sunday	Mar 2	St. David's Day luncheon after service		St. David's
Wednesday	Mar 5	Ash Wednesday		
Friday	Mar 7	Euchre	7 pm	St. David's
		<i>(Euchre continues on the 1st Friday of the month)</i>		
Wednesday	Mar 12	Dinner Church	5 pm	St. David's
		<i>(Dinner Church continues on 2nd Wednesday of the month)</i>		
Sunday	April 13	Palm Sunday		
Thursday	April 17	Maundy Thursday		
Friday	April 18	Good Friday		
Sunday	April 20	Easter Sunday		
Sunday	May 11	Mother's Day		St. David's
		<i>(Brunch after service to honor parish mothers)</i>		
Sunday	May 25	Pentecost newsletter info deadline		
Sunday	June 1	St. David's annual picnic	10:30	Waycross