



THE TABLET

St. David's Episcopal Church

90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512

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November 2005

Vol. 36, Number 11

Sunday Morning Services

8:00 Eucharist I

9:45 Eucharist II

**Rector: The Rev.
Karin R. Mitchell**

**Associate: The
Rev. Richard
Cromwell**

**Deacon: The Rev.
Robert W.
Thomas**

**Pastoral Care:
Brother John
Baptist, OSF**

**Office Assistant:
Debra Ribardo**

**Musician:
Camilla Jarnot**

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I write this first "Dear Friends" letter for the St. David's Tablet as your rector. God does indeed work in strange and wondrous ways! I think my first order of business in this space needs to be an introduction, which for some will be an update and for others new information.

A proud New Jersey native, I began my journey in Bergen County. After graduating from Douglass College at Rutgers University, I settled in the New Brunswick area, marrying a Cook College grad, David Mitchell. After a brief five years back in Bergen County, during which time I enjoyed a short political career, finished a Master of Science degree at Rutgers and gave birth to two children, Dave's job brought us to Mercer County and Hightstown. I think we found St. David's about two weeks after our move and never looked elsewhere for a church home.

I began to get seriously involved in church life during those early years at St. David's with help from The Rev. Canon Larry Fish and The Rev. Betty Berlenbach. Each, in their own way, showed me the church from a new perspective, active and relevant, spiritual and alive. After giving birth to another child and in the process of thinking about my own future, I decided to enter Princeton Theological Seminary to see what there was to find there. Being a science major, seminary was a new world, but one that I quickly found to be a place of life for me. I began the process towards ordination in the Diocese of New Jersey at St. David's in 1995 and was ordained at Holy Innocent's Episcopal Church in Beach Haven in December of 2002. I served as both Deacon and Priest Associate at HIEC until February 2003.

Our family still resides in Hightstown. Our eldest son, Scott is a senior at Central Connecticut State University as a Business major and lives in West Hartford, CT. Sarah is a junior at Muhlenberg College majoring in Business and Art and continuing her track career in Allentown, PA. Sam is a junior at Hightstown High School and active in band, swimming and the J2A program at St. David's, recently serving on vestry. I am presently the president of the Rocky Brook Garden Club, member of the Friday Club of Hightstown, a Democratic county committee-woman and member and past president of the EW-H League of Women Voters.

The past almost three years I have served as Vicar of St. Francis' Episcopal Church in Dunellen, NJ. My time at St. Francis' was (*con't on page 2*)

Progressive Dinner is Planned

**Saturday, 5:00 pm,
November 5**

You are all invited!

It is easy---just sign up on our bulletin board to let us know you are coming! Please bring an appetizer or a dessert and advise us which item you choose to bring. We will have addresses, directions and phone numbers available on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or call the office for this information.



A small charge (10.) will be assessed to help the hosts with the groceries they need to procure.

First stop will be at the home of Bob and Carol Rodgers, for wine, punch and appetizers.

Dinner will be served at Rob and Lana Sarchiapone's.

Our dessert course will be waiting for us at the home of Ron and Kathy Herzog's. This is a fun evening—we hope you can join us!

Marna McDermott

Dear Friends, (con't from page 1)

grace-filled, a time of learning and great growth in a church community that needed stable leadership. It was very hard to say goodbye to them, and they will always have a place in my heart and in my prayers. But now I am delighted to come home to this church and for the opportunity to minister in Cranbury, East Windsor and Hightstown (and others) among my brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Saturday, January 7, at 3 p.m., The Right Reverend George Cuncell will make his first visit to St. David's on the occasion of my institution as the second rector of St. David's Episcopal Church. Please mark your calendars now; you are going to love our new Bishop!

During my first months at St. David's, I hope to get to know all of you as your rector. I look forward to learning about *your* hopes and dreams for *your* church, your families and for your own lives. Please drop by the office for a chat or call and ask to make an appointment to spend some time together, either to catch up or to introduce yourself.

God's Blessing, Karin Mitchell+

Cranbury Day a Success

Many thanks to all our good bakers who made Cranbury Day on Sept. 10 such a great success again this year! We like the "presence" that St. David's makes with a booth on Main Street in Cranbury---this same Saturday our J2A group was making their presence known with a major car wash just

down the street!

\$500 profit was received from the Bake Sale.

I'd like to acknowledge Amy Mansue with a very special thank you. Amy booked the space, was at the church by 7 am and returned after working her real job all day to

help us haul tables, etc back.

Thanks, too, to those who baked AND helped man the booth: Barbara Beaulieu, Susan Coulter, Amy Doult, Jean McFarland, Angela Holman, and Patti Thommsen.

Marna McDermott



Support the Troops Overseas!

Boy and Girl Scouts across the country are asking for support of an initiative to send a little bit of home and the holidays to our service men and woman around the world.

Until November 16th, 2005 scouts are asking citizens to sponsor 11 oz. tins of Carmel Corn which will be sent to troops away from home during the holidays. Each tin costs \$8.00. You may also send a message with the tin to show your support and encouragement. Besides the satisfaction of supporting the service men and woman, you will also receive a magnetic

(con't on page 5)

African Team Ministries Sale

Just in time for holiday gifts!! The African Team Ministries sale of crafts and jewelry will be held on Nov. 6 and 13 in the Narthex of St. David's. The purchases of these crafts will help bring relief to little children and those in need by providing:

*Help in the care and education of African orphans in eight Anglican dioceses,

*Provision of jobs for unemployed women as they make crafts and are enabled to care for their children and parents, and

*Resources for projects of refugee relief, health education, clergy and lay education and building repair.

Thank you, everyone, for your gracious participation and enjoy the beautiful handmade crafts!

Fantasy Auction was Great!!

Thanks to everyone who attended the Auction on October 14th and to all who donated items and worked to make the affair a success. We made \$10,650 that night. After expenses we should realize a little over \$10,500

profit. Out of that amount \$1,020 was given to sponsor J2A in their plan to refurbish the nursery.

Many thanks go to Suzanne Camlin who once again persevered to get top dollar for each and every item

auctioned. It was a fun evening and anyone who missed it, missed seeing the sanctuary transformed into the fellowship hall we hope to have in the future. We look forward to many more such events in the future.
Marilyn Fischer

Journey to Adulthood

"Hello," from the St. David's J2A. We are off to a pleasant start this fall and are anxious to continue on with the year. The J2A would like to extend our thanks to all the families who donated money at the Fantasy Auction. We truly appreciate your support and are looking forward to planning and completing the project of redeco-

rating the nursery.

Nominations for officers have been submitted and our election process is near completion. The new officers will be contacted prior to the next meeting. The acceptance of an officer's position in J2A is a serious commitment and it shows dedication to the program and all that we do.

A reminder to all students that \$5. is due at the beginning of each meeting. If there are any problems, please speak with our treasurer or Kim Duck or John Aveni. Eligible youths are encouraged to attend each J2A meeting; remembering that participation is a responsibility and responsibility is a major stepping stone on every one's "journey to adulthood." Laura Ribardo

Smooth beginning ushers in big plans

Sunday School began smoothly with a little concern about attendance. By October 1, Assistant Superintendent Gwen Lockhart assured me that the lower school was missing only a few unregistered students from last year.

We are now at the point of having 71 students in the entire Sunday School program. That's the same as last year and we still have a few new families who haven't registered yet. Come and join the fun.

Our newest staff member is Greta van Veldhuisen who will be helping out in the PreK-K class with Linda Kelly and Ann Holmes.

We'll all be waiting for the great celebration of the beginning of the ministry of our new rector, the Rev. Karin Mitchell. The Sunday School will be planning something to celebrate January 7. Mother Karin and Deacon Bob have been in consultation concerning the Advent Jesse Tree. Deacon Bob will be narrating the traditional Jesse Tree for three of the four weeks and Mother Karin will finish up at the family service with a special treat on Christmas eve.

The library committee has completed cataloguing the library collection. Debi Ribardo has graciously taken over the typing process to get the large amount of the book information into the database. We are still looking for that one or more than one person to be the li-

We are still looking for that one or more than one person to be the librarian/historian so that we can officially open to the parish.

This will be critical with the coming of a new rector. Most of the church's historical stuff sits on one shelf in the library. We need someone with deep roots in the parish to tell St. David's story. The profile gave an overview, these are the details that show what a special parish family St. David's is.

A huge thank you to Marcia Ruhl, Gioia York, Cyn Thomas, Becky Wilson, Dorothy Lavin, Deacon Mary Ann Jensen, Paula Morgan and Debi Ribardo for their help in this huge undertaking.

The Diocese is pushing all Christian Formation volunteers, vestry and people who have any position of authority or leadership to attend the Abuse workshops. Several teachers became certified this fall.

We thank God for all those who support the program particularly the entire staff who give themselves to this teaching ministry. All of this would not be possible without the generosity of so many in the congregation who make our program a success and the volunteers who give so willingly and lovingly of themselves.

Deacon Bob



Acolytes Journey to Washington, D.C.

It took all our strength, and patience and sense of direction (sort of like **The Amazing Race**) but we got there! Four junior acolytes (Josiah Doult, Katherine Peters, Eric Curry and Greta van

Veldhuisen) and three adult acolytes (Dave Miller, Angela Levy and Rex van Veldhuisen) left the Central Jersey area Saturday October 8 and made the 4 hour drive to Washington D.C. to renew our vows to serve God and our congregation to the best of our abilities. The weather was foul and a roadblock stalled our final ap-

proach to the D.C. area but we scuttled into the Cathedral in time to make the procession just a little bit wet. As we passed the altar in procession the Verger directed us to some seating, and we lucked out with good seats to the side of the altar. *(con't on page 5)*

Parish Cursillo meetings continue work of adult Forums

We all remember those Friday night series during Lent when the clergy team took on explaining the history and practice of the Episcopal Church and it's place in the wider Anglican community. They were very well attended.

We shared some of the results of this as we celebrated the licensing of the Eucharistic Ministers at the end of September. All the while, a few members have been continuing their Christian Formation by going off on the retreat called Cursillo in both New Jersey and New York.

After the retreat, the members are encouraged to seek out other people who are interested in learning more as adults in Christ and meet to pray for and with each other as they become leaders in their church family.

Support Troops... (con't from page 3)

Thomas and Derek van Veldhuisen of Cub Scout Pack 55, Chesterfield, NJ have the order forms and ribbons available until Sunday November 13th. Messages may be placed immediately or turned in before November 16th.

Acolytes... (con't from page 4)

The Procession and Mass were long (about 2 hours) but, well suited for the younger acolytes. The music was familiar for the youth and homily was right on! Beware St. David's!! The Dean of the National Cathedral has given the acolytes a charge. Great things can be done by young and old! Everyday ordinary people can do great things! Even in the face of incredibly adversity and evil, examples such as Rosa Parks, Harry Potter, Bilbo Baggins, Martin Luther King summed up their inner strength and sense of right to overcome the challenges placed before them. You can make an impact on the world around you. Use your leadership skills and insight to the fullest.

The day was rounded out by a visit to the Smithsonian Institutes Museum of the Native Americans and a long wet ride home on the tail of Tropical Storm Katrina.

Thanks to Dave Miller for arranging for the event the ride and leading us on this worthy pilgrimage.

This meant going off to South River and sharing with the community of Holy Trinity in an Ultreya. This was good, but the Cursillo group at St. David's has become large enough to begin its own meetings.

The Cursillo group at St. David's is planning the first of its monthly meetings called Ultreyas. The first meeting is on Saturday, November 12 at 5 pm and every second Saturday of the month. They plan a monthly prayer, bible study and/or social time with soup. The meetings will begin in the church and end in Bishop Croes hall.

They will also be planning a trip to the end of NJ Cursillo #20 the following day.

Brother John Baptist and Gwen Lockhart hold offices in the governing bodies of the two state organizations. Kim Neighbor, Angela Levy and Deacon Bob are on the teams that run the weekends this fall. Suzanne Camlin and Anne Benenson have also shared weekends searching out their roles as leaders in the church.

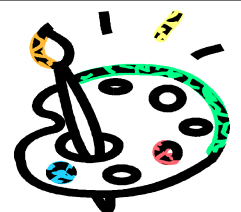
One of the results is an enrichment in their personal relationship with Christ as they focus on studying the Bible and living a Christian Life in a non-Christian world. The idea of these meetings is from a folk song, "We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load."

The Cursillo community of St. David's invites everyone to this part of our Adult Education program and to consider attending a Cursillo weekend as we, "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ."

Deacon Bob

Art Show

Our own Corrine Peters will have a display of her artwork at Trinity Cathedral! Beginning Nov. 19, three of her paintings reflecting the subject of Anti-racism will be displayed at the Bishop Croes Hall at Trinity. Paintings done by Ruth Cuncell and photography of African American amateur photographer William Earl Perry will also be displayed. Congratulations, Corrine!



Stewardship 2006

The next chapter in the history of St. David's is opening and we need your support.

A time of new beginnings is an exciting time. It is filled with new ideas for the future and the excitement of planning for them. In order for the vestry to plan for 2006, they need to know the resources that are available. They need your commitment.

You can return your completed Stewardship Commitment by mail, put it in the offertory plate, or drop it off at the church office. Every pledge, big or small, is needed, welcomed and appreciated.

Stewardship is about more than pledge cards! It is also about the gifts of time and talent. These can take many shapes. Consider volunteering the next time someone asks for help with coffee hour, buildings and grounds, outreach, or ushering. If you have a talent that can serve God's work, approach a member of your vestry and offer it!

“Bring offerings and come into His courts.”



Your Vestry Members

The Rev. Karin R. Mitchell

The Rev. Robert W.

Thomas, Deacon

Ed Abramovitz,

Sr. Warden

Rex van Veldhuisen,

Jr. Warden

John Aveni

Suzanne Camlin

Lincoln Crosley

Colin Doerr, J2A

Linda Kelly

Angela Levy

Marna McDermott

Dave Miller

Donna Munde

Carol Rodgers, Clerk

Tim Doult, Treasurer

Thanks be to God!

