



# The Tablet

**St. David's Episcopal Church**

**90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512**

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December 2005

Vol. 36, Number 12

## **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,

The season of Advent is upon us (already!) and it is a season of preparation and anticipation. We are preparing to welcome the Christ Child into our midst and into our hearts and we are also anticipating a time that can be full of love and at the same time very stressful.

When you have a moment, try to sit with God and create some space for the Spirit to replenish your soul, for Christ to come into your heart. Whether the holidays are a time of joy and love or stressful and lonely (or both!) taking time to pray and reflect on the meaning of the coming of Christ into the world will give you the strength and grace you will need to see you through.

What are the things about Christmas that you treasure? What lifts your heart? Is it writing to old friends...maybe baking cookies...visiting those in need...wrapping gifts...decorating the house? Try to find something life-giving and be sure you make time for it as the holidays approach. Think about what is truly meaningful to you and include it in your plans.

In this season of welcome, I urge you to think about our church and how we extend the love of Christ to those who are new to our community of faith. Reach out and take a risk-- invite someone to church; make sure that new face in church on Sunday morning comes over to coffee hour; offer help to the person trying to juggle the Hymnal while searching for the right page in the Book of Common Prayer. As Christ has told us, when we serve each other we are serving him; it is that simple.

I wish you and your families a joyous holiday season, one filled with laughter and good cheer that is a time of openness and hospitality to those whom God has given us to love.

God's blessing,

Karin+

## For the Ladies

Save the date for the annual Women's Christmas Party! This popular event will be held on **Monday, December 5 at 6:30 PM** in Bishop Croes Hall. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex so that I will know what you will bring to share: either an appetizer, main course, or a dessert. Please bring a gift valued at \$7. for the present exchange. If you have any questions call me at 448-6385.

Kathy Herzog



## A Special Note of Thanks to...

Bob and Carol Rodgers, Rob and Lana Sarchiapone and Ron and Kathy Herzog for hosting our Progressive Dinner in November. Marna McDermott and her committee put together a great evening with the help of our gracious hosts and hostesses.

Bonnie Rumpf and Tom Ribardo for the great paint job in the Rector's office.

Dave Miller for transporting our acolytes to Washington DC for the National Acolyte Festival on a very rainy Saturday in October.

Russ Beaulieu, Angela Levy, John Aveni and Deacon Bob for attending the Evangelism Workshop at Trinity Cathedral with our Rector.

To all who attended the Anti-Racism Day at Trinity Cathedral with our rector.

To Jean McFarland, Anne Benenson, Bob Rodgers and Deacon Bob for representing St. David's at the Trenton Convocation Meeting at Trinity Cathedral.

## New Traditions for Jesse Tree

This year's trimming of the Jesse Tree and retelling of the ancestry of Jesus Christ will look a lot like last year's until Christmas Eve.

Members of the senior high school J2A class will read one of the stories of Jesus' ancestors on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve during the children's sermon time. The children of the lower school will then decorate the trees in the sanctuary. Deacon Bob will lead the festivities on Advent 1, 3 and 4. Mother Karin will lead on Advent 2.

On Advent 4 in the middle of the Lessons and Carols service, the Junior High J2A class will select young buddies to help finish the decorations. The children at the Christmas Eve service will participate by placing the figures in the crèche for our celebration of the Birth of Jesus. They will stay with Deacon Bob for a special Christmas lesson and then join around the altar for a special consecration prayer.

Surrounding all the excitement of making decorations and getting them on the tree, the Lower School will continue with their Life Together Advent classes while the Junior High and Senior High



continue to explore the life decision making processes of the J2A curriculum.

We thank God for all those who support the program, particularly the 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.

The Merriest of Christmases to all of St. David's parish family from the entire Christian Formation Program.

Deacon Bob



### Christmas Services:

**Dec. 24:** 5:30 pm family service, Eucharist II

10:45 pm Hymn sing

11:00 pm Eucharist II

**Dec. 25:** 10:00 am Eucharist II

# Stewardship 2006 Campaign

As of mid-November we have received 44 responses to our 2006 Stewardship Campaign, for a total of about \$131,000. These numbers do not yet fulfill our expectations and our needs, and are between one-half and three-quarters of the 2005 numbers.

If you are among those who have already responded, THANK YOU! Nearly all of you have been able to increase your pledge amounts.

If returning your pledge card has slipped your mind, now is the time to do it! If you can't find the card, call the Church Office (609) 655-4731, or Bob Rodgers (609) 443-6978, or drop an email to [Stewardship@ StDavidsCranbury.com](mailto:Stewardship@StDavidsCranbury.com) and we'll get one sent

out to you! Pledge cards are also available in the Narthex. You may drop the completed card in the offertory plate, return it to the church office, or send it in by mail.

We would like to wrap up our 2006 campaign by Dec 4, in time for the December Vestry meeting. 2006 envelopes will be available in early December.

At the recent Trenton Convocation our Bishop told us about the commitments that congregations make to the Diocese. Only about one-quarter of the congregations in the Diocese commit to their full-asking amount. I am happy to say that St. David's is among that group! As a corporate body,

St. David's is committed to mission and to God's work outside our parish walls. Your vestry recently committed to 'tithing' 10% of fundraiser income to outreach!

Our vestry has set high goals for our stewardship as a congregation. Let us keep these goals in our prayers as we review our own personal stewardship goals for the upcoming year.

Bob Rodgers

*"Stewardship is an outward sign of an inward commitment!"*



## Cursillo Fourth Day community meets in prayer for NJ# 20 Cursillo

De Colores! People who have been through Cursillo greet each other with this term reminding each other to celebrate and give thanks for the colors and diversity of the wonderful creation of God. There was much to celebrate this month.

Kim Neighbor's gift of music kept the New York Cursillo swaying in praise to the Lord. Deacon Bob attended the Clausura and brought greetings back to the St. David's family from Sister Eugenia, who spoke of her own commitment to Christ at a service here last year.

Deacon Bob and Angela Levy were members of the team who shepherded Bob and Nancy Gleason into the Cursillo family in NJ # 20. Brother John worked with the remaining members of St. David's Cursillo community in prayer and discussion on Saturday,

Nov. 12. As they shared soup and bread at the end of the meeting, they planned to attend the Clausura, the final service of the Cursillo weekend at the Vincentian Retreat Center.

The weekend was an intimate look into the personal relationship of Jesus Christ with each member of the team and new candidates. Celebrating God's love, they spent the weekend of prayer, liturgy, and conversation over lots of good food. There was wonderful praise music and lots of fun as we all drew closer to God. Bishop George Council, a Cursillista himself, presided over the Clausura and set the tone with inspirational words to the entire Cursillo family.

He spoke of bringing back the joy of Christ's love into our parish families and renewing the world and the

diocese for Jesus instead of going back to business as usual. The Rev. Phil Kasey from Holy Spirit, South River, delivered the sermon, asking all present to renew their Baptismal Covenant and work to help live out their rule of life in their home parishes. Congratulations to all, especially Bob and Nancy!

The next meeting of the Cursillo group is at 5 pm on Saturday, December 17 and Deacon Bob will have some special soup and bread to go along with the good company of friends.

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

# Fireweed Evangelism: A Workshop

On November 5, 2005, Rector Karin Mitchell, Deacon Bob Thomas, Angela Levy, Bob Rodgers, John Aveni, and Russ Beaulieu attended an all-day session at the Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, NJ learning about the components of a successful evangelism program.

Canon Elizabeth Geitz served as chairperson. During the morning session, a discussion was held about the need for each church to develop a system that will reach out, bring in, and welcome guests to God's house of worship. It is no longer appropriate to wait around for people walk through the church door. To "just stay even" with our present-day membership and financial stability most churches have to find ways to attract and hold the newcomers.

In her newest book, Fireweed Evangelism, Canon Geitz explains in detail the complex but necessary steps that have to be taken to successfully build upon our present church structure. For

instance do we realize 50 % of the American people do not attend church? Should this be a concern? If we want to "stay in business" and even grow a little there has to be a concerted effort to attract these "unchurched" people. Canon Geitz discussed the steps that can be taken to achieve this goal.

The afternoon session was led by The Rev. David Stout from Trinity Church in Asbury Park. He explained and showed the materials he and his congregation uses to respond to newcomers. Each step taken is done to make the newcomer feel at ease and makes it as easy as possible to become a useful member of the parish. All newcomers are contacted within 24 hours of their initial visit. Monthly calls are made and newcomer receptions are held throughout the year.

Fr. Stout also emphasized that contact with the newcomer should not be confusing. What the church has to offer should be clearly explained. Opportunities for the newcomer to

ask questions about the life of the church are provided with his "coffee with the clergy" get-togethers. Both newcomers as well as the "old timers" are encouraged to actively participate in these coffee sessions. The children need to be warmly welcomed as well as the adults.

If we are to hold on to the newcomer, Fr. Stout points out we must know as much about them as they want to know about the church. Therefore, an effort is made to collect and store information about each family or individual who walks through the front door. In other words, he tracks them.

Fr. Stout uses two specific criteria to become a member of the church: be baptized, and have a desire to play a part in the local family life of the church.

A good day was had by us all.

Russ Beaulieu

# A Letter from Togo



October 22, 2005

To the St. David's Community:

Greetings from Togo! Thank you very much for your continued support throughout my Peace Corps service. I recently celebrated my one year anniversary in Togo. Needless to say, the past twelve months have been incredibly difficult and challenging; yet, equally fulfilling and rewarding. I sincerely appreciate all of your prayers and words of encouragement. Whenever my parents call or write, they always express well-wishes from the St. David's community and I am very grateful.

I appreciate your interest and enthusiasm concerning the Peace Corps and its global initiatives. I am aware that your recent Social Outreach Project was funding for Peace Corps projects. Whether your contribution will benefit my own projects or the projects of my colleagues throughout Togo, I thank you all for your generosity and thoughtfulness. I would especially like to thank Carol Rogers for her diligent advertisement of this outreach project.

Likewise, I would like to thank the Youth Group(s) and its members' efforts to solicit donations for the schools in my community. I have decided to distribute the school supplies among the five primary schools in my village. I know that the students and teachers will be overjoyed by your donations and your interest in supporting the well-being of their schools. Not only does my mere presence in Avetonou excite the villagers, but knowing that I share their struggles with friends and family back home makes them feel even more appreciated by American society. I hope to be able to enclose pictures with my next letter, so that you may see the children who benefit from your donations.

I resumed my responsibilities as a school teacher this past September. I enjoy working with the students; however, Togolese teachers can be frustrating to work with. There is a high prevalence of sexual harassment between the male teachers and the female students. At the end of last school year, I invited a Social Services officer to come and explain the laws that are in place against harassment. The students enjoyed hearing the presentation; however, they still remain fearful of the social stigmas and negative repercussions that they might encounter if they report incidences of harassment. Older brothers and boyfriends might also encounter difficulties if their sister or girlfriend refuses to have sex with a teacher. This is a country in which status and hierarchy play a tremendous role; the girls are placed in an unfair position and more often than not they will accept their teachers' requests. I am concerned for these girls, but there is only so much that I can do before my own work and lifestyle is jeopardized.

On a lighter note: I was selected to sit on a committee of other volunteers to re-evaluate the Peace Corps initiatives of the Girls Education and Empowerment Program. During the months of June and July I attended conferences throughout the country to discuss how to enhance the effectiveness of the program and the roles and responsibilities of Peace Corps volunteers and their Togolese counterparts. I enjoyed meeting Togolese legislators, public officials, and older volunteers who are scattered throughout the country. This was also a great opportunity for me to travel and see other parts of Togo's five distinctive regions.

In December I will leave Avetonou and move to a new post. I was chosen to replace a volunteer who has initiated several projects that still need to be maintained by Peace Corps. I will no longer be living in a village community; rather, a small city. My primary *(con't on page 6)*



### A Letter from Togo (con't from page 5)

responsibility will no longer be teaching; rather, I will be working closely with Education legislators and regional school directors to enhance the Togolese secondary school system. I will work to promote girls' education and civic duties among youth, and train teachers to incorporate these ideas and curriculum into their classrooms. I am looking forward to this new post and the opportunity to experience another aspect of Togolese society.

Thank you again for all that you have done for the Togolese community in which I live. Your thoughtfulness and prayers do not go unnoticed by me, or them.

Sincerely,

Nicole L. Fischer

P.S. I recently mailed 36 letters written by my students. I wanted to give them an opportunity to practice writing in English. Please ask the Youth Group to reply to the letters, either individually or one letter addressed to all of the students. Despite the poor English, the students spent a lot of time and effort writing the letters and they would really appreciate a reply. You may reply via written mail or email; addressed to me. Thank you so much.

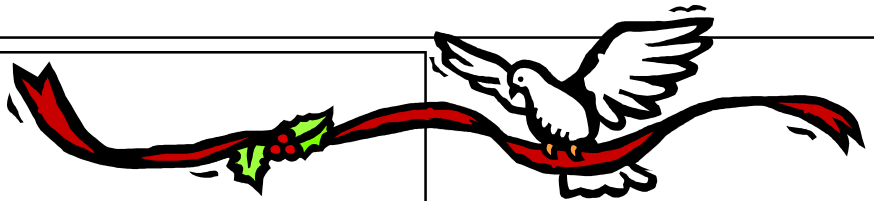
## Annual Meeting Scheduled

Come one, come all! The annual meeting for St. David's Church will be scheduled for January 22, 2005 immediately following the service.

Plan ahead: all committee members should note that reports for the meeting are due to the office *ON OR BEFORE* December 21 so that the information can be copied and assembled in time for the meeting. You can email the report to office@stdavidscranbury.com or submit photo-ready copy to Debi Ribardo's mailbox.

## Congratulations to

Corinne Peters on the display of her art work in conjunction with Ruth Councill at Trinity Cathedral!



## Committees and Members

Acolytes: Dave Miller, Rex van Veldhuisen

Altar Guild: Kathy Herzog

Building and Grounds: Suzanne Camlin, Angela Levy, Rex van Veldhuisen

Clerk of the vestry: Carol Rodgers

Education: John Aveni, Linda Kelly

Evangelism: Lincoln Crosley

Finance: Donna Munde

Journey to Adulthood: Colin Doerr

Library: John Aveni

Outreach: Suzanne Camlin, Dave Miller, Carol Rodgers

Personnel: Donna Munde

Social: Suzanne Camlin, Marna McDermott

Treasurer: Tim Doutt

## Notes of Music

You might have noticed that the Bulletin for the 9:45 am Eucharist II now lists the organ prelude and postlude. I would like to briefly share with you some of my feelings on the purpose and relevance of these as elements within the service.

The prelude gathers everyone together and allows us to sit in quiet reflection before the service commences. This is an excellent time to use to prepare yourself for worship. In contrast, the postlude defines the close of worship after the dismissal, and--often joyously--sends us out into our daily lives. It is not obligatory to remain in the Sanctuary to listen to the postlude, but you are most welcome to if you so wish!

Dr. Camilla Jarnot

## Outreach for December

Your food donations will be delivered to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen in time for the holidays! The December delivery will be during the week of December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have a frozen turkey to donate, PLEASE contact me so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

Currently needed food items include:

Frozen turkeys

BBQ sauce

Tuna salad with crackers

Chicken salad with crackers

Canned black-eyed peas and collard greens

Canned chicken or beef gravy

Canned fruit

Canned green beans, corn, mixed vegetables

Chef Boyardee or similar canned or microwave individual serving of pasta

Elbow macaroni

Granola bars

Individual servings of pudding or jello that do not require refrigeration

Individual servings of fruit

Juice boxes

Rice

Salad dressing

Spaghetti

Vegetarian baked beans (NOT pork and beans, please)

Thank you in advance for your generous food donations for the less fortunate among us.

Carol Rodgers

Home: 443-6978, Carol@deloreanmotorcar.com



## Holiday Gifts Requested

Enable is a non-profit agency serving over 400 individuals with disabilities and their families. Ten percent of persons in our community are seriously affected by a disability. Parents and families of these individuals depend on us to be there for the life-span of their family member.

Your participation in this program helps fill the holiday wishes of these individuals.

Gift suggestions can be picked from the list in the Narthex. If you select an item, please mark it with a red dot sticker.

Please wrap the gift(s) and identify the person who should receive the gift. Items should be dropped at St. David's by December 1.

Questions? Call Carol Rodgers at 443-6978 or email at carol@deloreanmotorcar.com



## J2A Christmas Party

On December 18, the J2A Youths will hold their annual Christmas Party between 5:00 and 8:00 pm. One guest per youth may be invited; each attendee should bring \$5. for dinner as well as their secret Santa gift, ranging in price from \$5. to \$10.

In keeping with the spirit of giving, each participant should bring one item of food listed on the December TASK list to the left of this article.