



The Tablet

St. David's Episcopal Church
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January 2006

Vol. 37, Number 1

Sunday Morning Services

8:00 Eucharist I

9:45 Eucharist II

Wednesday Morning Service

9:15 Holy Euch.
And Healing

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,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. I hope that 2006 is a year of happiness and prosperity for each of you and for our beloved St. David's community of faith.

The Christmas rush of excitement and preparation is behind us. It seems to come and go more quickly each year. My first Christmas here as your rector was a wondrous experience, made even better by all of you and your greetings of blessing and good cheer. It was a joyful experience to see so many of our families together in church, worshipping our Lord and greeting each other with God's peace. Thanks to Camilla Jarnot, our church musician, and Deacon Bob Thomas for their parts in making our services so special. A special thanks also to our new choir; you are a wonder to behold and make my heart sing!

Now that January is here, the season changes and we can all slow down a bit. Sometimes I think that January is my favorite month of the year. Although I love to be outside, and I hate to be cold... somehow January offers a rare opportunity for me to be at peace. There is no yard work to be done and the outside does not look very inviting, so there is time to read and reflect, and there is time to sit quietly with God.

During these weeks of late and early darkness, I hope you will take time for yourself and for God. I hope that you will sit quietly and experience the peace that only time with God can provide. A good way for those who are computer/internet savvy to say the Daily Office is to go online to www.missionclare.com where you will find the daily prayers and readings all laid out for you or to www.geraniumfarm.org where you will find daily meditations. There are many books, such as Forward Day by Day (copies of which are available in the church narthex) that offer short reflections on our daily scripture readings. Or perhaps this winter you will find time to attend our Wednesday morning (9:15) Holy Eucharist and Healing Service.

Finally, I hope you will join me in welcoming our Bishop, The Right Reverend George Cuncell on January 7 at 3 p.m. to the St. David's community at my Institution and the Celebration of our New Ministry together.

God's blessing, Karin +

Deacon Deployment

Our diocesan archdeacons have set a policy for deacons when new rectors are called by parishes. The deacon remains on staff for 2 months or so to help the rector get settled in and to give the deacon and rector a chance to work together. After that time, the deacon goes on a sabbatical away from the parish. During the sabbatical the deacon and rector enter into a period of discernment about how best to meet the needs of the parish and how their ministries are best lived out in view of that. After this period, in consultation with the archdeacon, the deacon and rector discuss the future of the deacon's ministry and whether or not they will remain on staff

In the case of St. David's,

our deacon will begin his sabbatical on January 31. During this time he will be discerning a call to the priesthood with the diocesan Commission on Ministry. At the end of that process he, the archdeacon, and the rector will discuss his deployment at St. David's. This time will be one of prayerful discernment for all of the above. Each will be seeking God's will for their ministry and for the future of St. David's. Please keep our deacon and rector in your prayers during this time period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the rector or the deacon. We would like to keep you as well informed as possible about a process that is sometimes simply confusing and other times frustrating.

Celebration of New Ministry

On Saturday, January 7 at 3 pm we will welcome our diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend George Cuncell, to St. David's for a Celebration of New Ministry and the Institution of our new rector, the Rev. Karin Rasmussen Mitchell.

Please make it a point to be there to meet our new bishop and celebrate with our new rector. There will be a reception following the worship service.

.Our December outreach project was a resounding success !!!!! We helped to make a joyous difference in the lives of 11 families with our gifts donated to ENABLE. Every wish for a special gift was fulfilled. We delivered three cars FULL of brightly wrapped Christmas gifts. Thank you to everyone including the J2A youth group for their generous support of this wonderful project. Carol Rodgers

Our Special Thanks to:



Kathy Herzog and all those who helped host another fun Women's Christmas Party this year.

Donna Munde, John Aveni, Gwen Lockhart and Russ Beaulieu who served as our Nominating Committee this year.

All the members of our Altar Guild who worked so hard to make our sanctuary beautiful for our Christmas services.

The members of our new choir for their hard work and diligence leading to such beautiful anthems and carols being sung during our worship services.

Corinne Peters whose series of paintings entitled "Lift Every Voice and Sing" are on loan to St. David's and are hung on the back wall of the sanctuary. They are a beautiful addition to our worship space.

Rex van Veldhuisen for his work hanging our new paintings and keeping up with so many odds and ends.

Carol Rodgers and all those who donated so many wonderful gifts to the Enable program. Thanks for making that connection, Br. John!

All our ushers, acolytes, lectors and Eucharistic ministers who helped out for our Christmas services.

Annual Meeting January 22

Everyone should plan on attending our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, immediately following the single 9:00 am service. We will be holding vestry elections and presenting the budget for 2006. This is a great way to find out more about your church and the people who are involved with its governance as well as the ministries of the people of St. David's. Thanks to our Nominating Committee we have a superb slate of candidates for our vestry positions. Bios of the six candidates are listed:

Corrine Peters

Kevin and I have been a member of St. David's since 1995, supporting the Sunday School program by contributing our six children to the school population. I've most recently served the church by chairing the Profile Committee (and producing the brochure), membership on the Search Committee, singing in the Choir, and am the newest member of the Altar Guild. I hold a MBA from the Graduate School of Business, Pace University in NYC and a MFA from Villa Schifanoia, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Florence Italy. For twenty years I was a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch, PaineWebber, Janney Montgomery Scott, ending that phase of my life as a Vice-President with Chase's Asset Management division. Today I have resumed my painting career and the national and international exhibition of my work, in addition to the all encompassing duties of a supermom, chauffeur, caterer, financial manager, medical technician, interior decorator, education tutor and family entertainment coordinator.

Ian Bailey

Ian Richard Bailey is a resident of East Windsor. Ian and wife Lesline have two daughters, Hilary and Tanja, and a son, Ray-Sean. Mr. Bailey is a Senior Project Manager at New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation. He is a graduate of the University of Technology located in Kingston, Jamaica.

Lincoln Crosley

I have served St. David's vestry for the last four years, much of which has been through its period of transition. This incumbency has afforded me an opportunity to understand the inner workings of our parish, its goals and how it goes about accomplishing them. During my tenure I have served on the Evangelism committee, the mission of which is still being developed.

St. David's has been my family's church home of the last 11 or so years of attendance; with my wife of 18 years Jackie, and sons, Ajani who serves as an acolyte, and Kobie. We all enjoy the warmth and fellowship this parish provides and it is that hope and optimism that I look forward to your support for another term on the vestry, one in which Evangelism will grow to have a special meaning and during which I hope to continue to lend a voice to the leadership of our parish.

David Thomsson

David Thomsson grew up in East Brunswick. He and his wife Patty have one daughter, Katie, and they joined St. David's in 2000 when they moved to Cranbury. Mr. Thomsson was an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn

before he began his own business. He imports wood veneers from all over the world and sells to companies in the US and Canada. Because of his international business, Mr. Thomsson is well traveled, having been to about 50 different countries.

Kathy Herzog

I found St. David's Church at The Peddie School in July of 1976. I have had various duties while at St. David's including Sunday School teacher, Nominating Chairperson, Lay Reader, Choir, Church Secretary, Social Chairperson, Altar Guild member and Altar Guild Directress.

I live in East Windsor with my husband Ron and three children, Christian, Timothy and Lindsay. As a member of St. David's for almost 30 years I have had the pleasure of watching St. David's grow along with my own children. At this time in my life I can look back and cherish the memories of St. David's of old in my heart and look with excitement to travel with St. David's to the future.

Bonnie Rumpf

I have been a member of St David's for the past 17 years. I am an active member of the Altar Guild and been very active with the youth of the church as a Sunday school teacher, youth group advisor and serve on both the Search and By-Laws committees. I also served as vestry replacement after the death of Chris Curry. St. David's is in a time of change and new growth with our new rector. I would like to be able to assist in the decisions for the future and participate in the changes in our spiritual community.

Children celebrate by completing crèche

The Jesse Tree decorations and accompanying readings concluded with the children decorating the crèche. This was a wonderful and holy Christmas celebration. The children's rendition of "Away in the Manger" sung on Christmas Eve was precious. Kudoos to Camilla Jarnot and the staff for a family delight. The carols and prayers lit up the church as all of the parish family shared in the merriest of Christmases at St. David's.

No Sunday School will be held on January 1 so that all can celebrate the beginning of 2006. There will also be a church school holiday on January 22 when we have St. David's Annual Meeting; however, there will be child care during and after the 9:00 am service. On Saturday, January 28, the Sunday School staff will have the opportunity to attend Christian Educators Day with the Bishop at Trinity Cathedral from 9am to 3pm.

Check out the new bulletin board by the water fountain to see samples of the Sunday School youth's work. The Junior High youth will begin preparing for the Rite 13 service held in May; the Senior High continues with the discovery of spirituality and also is planning for the nursery renovation in the spring.

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 so many in the congregation who make our program a success. We also thank God for Linda Kelly, John Aveni, Kim Duck, and Gwen Lockhart who have served so well on the Christian Formation Committee this year. Happy New Year to all of St. David's parish family from the Christian Formation Program.

Deacon Bob

2006 Diocesan Acolyte Festival Announced

The 6th annual Diocesan Acolyte Festival of the Diocese of New Jersey, an event that grows in size grandeur and fun each year, will be held on Saturday February 4, 2006 from 9:30 to 3:30 at Trinity Cathedral.

The festival features a spectacularly colorful Eucharistic Service of rededication, nine different workshops for acolytes of all levels and ages, lunch and a day of unrivaled fellowship and celebration of this unique and ancient lay ministry.

This year the workshops include the following:

So You're an Acolyte – Now what?
For novices and team building

Taking the Next Steps! To learn
how to serve the celebrant

Ghosts of the Cathedral – Chilling
stories of the past and beyond

Making Your Service Shine – Best
practices from around the diocese

Games and Practical Tips - Team
building and skills development

Cathedral Scavenger Hunt – Can
you find it???????

Vessels and Vestments – What are
they? Why? And how did they
come to be?

Holy Smoke! – yup...the Thurifer
and swinging that incense

Acolyte Master's Roundtable

Each acolyte may attend two work-
shops.

The cost of participation is minimal, \$20.00, and it covers lunch, a commemorative certificate, pin and T-shirt. In addition 16 acolytes will be chosen to serve at the altar in the rededication service. Seven others will serve as ushers or readers. The earlier we register the more likely it is that a St. David's acolyte will be among them.



Acolyte Master Miller will be calling in mid-January to line it all up.

Parents are more than welcome to join in the day's activities, especially the afternoon service. You've never seen anything like it.

Whether you've participated in the past or never before, get ready for an event like no other. Last year over 145 acolytes from 35 parishes participated, and it just keeps growing and getting better. Mark your calendars now, February 4th for the sixth annual Acolyte Festival.

David Miller

Special Announcement from Deacon Bob...

For quite a while, I've been telling you all that I had an announcement coming. I had hoped to have a few more details and be able to give you a firm idea of what's happening, but it seems that God has other plans. It is one more simple reminder that the life of a person seeking ordination is never under his or her own control and that there's always another hoop to jump through. At this point, I have been given permission to go ahead and make the announcement.

These other plans have nothing to do with the ministry I share with the Rev. Karin Mitchell here at St. David's. We have worked together very well since her arrival on Nov. 1. She has been a blessing. As I adjust my diaconal ministries under her as my rector, I must observe a sabbatical period beginning January 31, 2006 as required by the diocese. Although the structure of this has changed slightly, this should surprise no one as we have discussed that the deacon must step out of ministry when the new rector comes on several occasions.

But God is calling me in another direction, also.

Several members of the congregation have commented that my role had grown during the interim to include some duties and prerogatives normally reserved for priests. This was done deliberately because I am in the process of discernment for the priesthood. This discernment is supported by Canon Fish and both Revs. Fred Nestrock and Geoff Collis.

In July, I met with Bishop George Cuncell and requested his support for this process. He granted it and shared that I should only inform those whose ministry in the parish depended on my input. I informed the members of the Christian Formation staff and Personnel Committee I was working with at that time. I was specifically told not to share with the vestry or the entire congregation at the parish at that time.

Since this is not the call of a lay person to ordained ministry, the diocese needed to set up a protocol for me to follow to pursue this change in ministry. They are still working this out. It led to some confusion on my part as I got different answers from different diocesan representatives who each had their own ideas of how this should proceed. Mother Karin has been instrumental in getting the diocese to give us some clearer direction as I proceed to follow this new call. I had tried to do this myself, but was having no success. As I shared with others, I always ended with "Stay tuned for the latest update." I am deeply grateful for Mother Karin's help and support.

I will be meeting with a subcommittee of the Commission on Ministry (COM) in January to continue to answer God's call to the priesthood. As plans proceed, I will report the details to Mother Karin and the vestry. In accordance with the new archdeacons' plans, Mother Karin and I will discuss the continuance of my ministry as a deacon and a new letter of agreement, negotiated by all three parties, only when my discernment period with the COM is completed.

I want to thank you all for the support and encouragement that you have given me as I go through the discernment process and ask for your prayers as I continue to follow God's call.

Deacon Bob

Local Integrity Chapter at Trinity, Princeton

Last year a new chapter of Integrity, the organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Episcopalians, was formed at Trinity Church, Princeton for the Central New Jersey Area. A Eucharist, followed by discussion group, is held at Trinity Church the second Tuesday of every month (except summer) at 7:30 pm. There will be a special service for the Feast of St. Aelred, the patron saint of integrity, at 7:30 on Tuesday, January 10, 2006. All interested members of St. David's (and friends) have been invited to attend.

Scout Religious Awards

Three of our youths, Brian Laustsen, Laura Ribardo, and James Kelly have been working on their senior scout religious award. They have spent many hours researching, reading the Bible, and discussing their discoveries with Bonnie Rumpf. The final project to complete their badge work was to interview a senior member of St. David's. Below is James' interview with Jo Brant; look for Laura and Brian's work in the next issues of the Tablet. We will celebrate their achievement in a service in the near future.

Mrs. Josephine Brant

Among those who live their lives in Christ, there are many ways to serve the Lord and to benefit from his guidance. Mrs. Josephine Brant has, for a good part of her life, made a strong commitment to live by faith and in thanksgiving of what the Lord has given her. She looks to faith and to God on a regular basis to guide her life. The most enlightening of Mrs. Brant's words when interviewed on the subject of faith was contained in her answer to the question, "What has being an Episcopalian in your life meant to you?" Her answer was simple, but poignant. She stated, "Faith has always been there, and does not change." This shows that, in her life as an Episcopalian, faith is a constant and she looks to it as a source of comfort at all times, good times and difficult ones both. Without faith in God as an Episcopalian, Mrs. Brant would lack the guidance and constancy that stabilizes her in an ever-changing world.

Throughout her life, she has been active in religion. Mrs. Brant has continued her worship and service in her adult life. One of the most powerful experiences of her life was her travel to Mexico working with her husband Father Harry Brant, and the Church. As she taught and traveled throughout Mexico she learned a lot about God and people. Bringing Holy Communion and religious lessons to the inhabitants of rural areas, Mrs. Brant was able to interact with people using faith in God as a common bond. As she taught children of Mexico, she learned from them. She saw that even in their lives, they could be moved to true happiness when they thought about God and his works. She was able to employ this attitude in her life, keeping the Lord as the cornerstone in her life, both throughout her work in Mexico and in her life today.

One of the difficult things that struck Mrs. Brant in these towns was the reaction the children had when they received them small things or treats. Faced with such poverty, the children still found joy in their lives, something that many people cannot do. She said that they were so thankful for these kind gestures. Not just that but, that people could truly learn by watching these children, being so gracious. This type of positive attitude in the face of difficult circumstances, Mrs. Brant says, is, in her life, a result of her faith in God as an Episcopalian.

Living her life as an Episcopalian has helped Mrs. Brant to maintain stability in her life. Allowing her life to be supported by the unwavering love of God through her faith as an Episcopalian, Mrs. Brant has endured difficulties, such as travel through rural Mexico, by finding the positive characteristics, both of situations and in people. It was truly an experience to speak with Mrs. Brant and learn how her life has been guided by faith. It has given me a new perspective on how to live my life, strengthening my relationship with God.

James Kelly

Parish Prayer List

Beginning in January there will be a notebook in the narthex in which parishioners are requested to record names they would like included on our parish prayer list. Each name will remain on our list for two months at which time it will be removed if not re-entered. The current prayer list will remain in use with additions through the end of January. Please remember to enter names in the notebook that you would like to remain on the list by then. As always, you may also call or email the office with this information. The Pastoral Care team hope that this effort will help our prayer list to be more current and useful to all of our parishioners.

Cursillo group shares December Ultreya

An Ultreya is a group meeting where members of the Cursillo community join together to pray, share their walk in the world with Jesus and seek encouragement in living their life in Christ from other Cursillistas.

On Saturday, December 17, we left behind the chaos of the preparations for our joyous celebration of Christmas to rest awhile in the peace of the Holy Spirit. In Bishop Croes Hall, we discussed the many changes in our own lives and prayer concerns.

After the prayers and reflections, I provided a hearty pumpkin soup from a Colonial period recipe and some zucchini bread to prepare for a holy and happy celebration. While sharing a dessert from Gwen Lockhart, the community talked of preparations for the January Ultreya and candidates for the next election at the parish meeting.

The next meeting of the Cursillo group is at 5 pm on Saturday, January 14 and a member of the group 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."

De Colores!

Deacon Bob



Congratulations to:

Lincoln Crosley who recently received his MBA degree from the University of Phoenix.

Susan and Jared Kurtz on the baptism of their daughter, Caitlin Alyce.

Thanks to:

Marna McDermott and Donna Munde for their long and committed service on our vestry. Please remember to thank Marna and Donna for their commitment to our church.

Edmund Abramovitz will also be finishing his term on vestry. Ed has been an outstanding Senior Warden and deserves many thanks for serving during these past years of transition.

We are looking for volunteers to:

Help sell Grocery Store food vouchers after our Sunday services once a month.

Put out the recycling cans every other Sunday.

Type up the list of books for our library.

Help with newsletter mailings once per month.

Please call Debi at the office, 655-4731, or speak to the rector if you can help with one of these tasks...it will be greatly appreciated!



More help needed



$2 + 2 = ?$ If you know the answer to this equation, you have the skills needed to be a counter! Counters are needed after the 9:45 am Sunday service to process the donations. It only takes about an hour; can you fit this into your

schedule for 2 or three Sundays a month?

Please contact Penny Stout at 688-9443 or Kathy Aveni, 426-9839 if you can help out with this important volunteer opportunity!

There will be a Martin Luther King Worship Service on January 15 at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Hightstown, 187 Stockton Street.

Albert Einstein on the Church

Being a lover of freedom, when the revolution came in Germany, I looked to the universities to defend it, knowing that they had always boasted of their devotion to the cause of truth; but, no, the universities immediately were silenced. Then I looked to the great editors of the newspapers whose flaming editorials in days gone by had proclaimed their love of freedom; but they, like the universities, were silenced in a few short weeks... Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I feel a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly.

– *Time* magazine, 23 December 1940, page 38.

newjersey.anglican.org

This is the website of the Diocese of New Jersey. Visit the site for news of the people, parishes, and places; you will enjoy your visit!



