

# The Tablet

**St. David's Episcopal Church**

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

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February 2006

Vol. 37, Number 2

## **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,

Perhaps you have heard the saying, "If you want to make God laugh, make plans..." Well, God must have been belly-laughing as I wrote my January "Dear Friends" letter for this space. IF you remember, it was in part about January as a time of peace and reflection...

Needless to say, life is often unpredictable at best. When I planned last summer to vacation in Mexico with my family between Christmas and New Years, I had no way of knowing I would be called to be rector of St. David's. The Bishop's calendar dictated the date of January 7 for my Institution as said rector, hard on the heels of Christmas and vacation, would be hectic, but manageable, I thought... never imagining that my dear 87 year old mother, Mabel, would choose that very week to slip off to be at peace with our Lord. Life does indeed have its ups and downs and we never quite know what is in store for us.

Weathering all of the above was made possible by the Grace of God and by you, my brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. David's. I can't imagine how I would have gotten through without the daily helpings of Grace that came to me by way of the love and support of all of you. Your offers of help were heartfelt and honestly made, and I was forced to accept! Imagine that... and with that help my family and I were buoyed along through the past few weeks in ways for which I will be grateful for a long time to come.

The phone calls, emails, donations, food, help with both the institution and my mother's funeral reception—they all kept me going and gave me a view of God's people at their best and most generous.

A heartfelt thank you to each of you who in your own way showed me God working in you and in our church with your generous embrace of my family and me through these trying days. I can never express how much it has meant to me, and it gives me great strength and hope for our future here at St. David's. God is indeed very good, and I am very blessed to be your rector.

God's blessing,

Karin+

## Bishop's Ball

On Friday, Jan. 29, several Senior High youths from St. David's J2A group attended the 49th annual Bishop's Ball at Trinity Cathedral.



The occasion began with a "Hip-hop" service that included rap music and prayer closings of "Word!" instead of the usual "Amen." Amanda Thomas, Sam Mitchell, Robert Thomas, Steven Black, Samantha Doult, and Laura Ribardo were chaperoned at the ball by youth group leaders Kim Duck and John Aveni. Everyone was dressed beautifully for the semi-formal and enjoyed dancing and refreshments in the catacombs of Trinity Cathedral. Everyone had a great time!



## Poetry Contest

Poets for Christ Teen Poetry Contest

Saturday, February 18, 2006

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Hightstown

On Saturday, Feb. 18, 12:00-4:00, present your poem in competition. Hear the inspirational reading of poetry by sister Roberta M. Heck accompanied by music and song by Br. Ron Perry and Dorothy Robinson. Admission is free, refreshments will be served.

Contest prizes will be awarded; all participants will receive a Teen Poet for Christ medal of participation.

Poems can be in any style, 60 lines or less, not to exceed three minutes reading and should glorify God with praise, thankfulness, or love for Him. Contest entry fee is \$10.00. Please contact Debi at St. David's office for a registration form.

## Christian Formation

While Deacon Bob is on a sabbatical, I will be assuming his duties and responsibilities for the Sunday School. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions I can be found in the Sunday School hall after church or you can call me at 609-585-0990 or email me at glockhart\_2000@yahoo.com.

There is a new bulletin board by the water fountain in the Narthex. Each month a different Sunday school group will be responsible for sharing their work with the congregation. For the month of February the PreK/Kindergarten

grades will be displaying their work. Stop by and take a look to see what our youth are creating.

During Lent each class will be performing a service project. Look for details in next month's newsletter.

Before Deacon Bob left, he led a lively discussion with the PreK/K, First, and Second Grade classes and discussed the Holy Eucharist. Deacon Bob came equipped with all the trimmings, including bread and wine. The children were introduced to the correct names for all the articles used for the Eucharist. They also tasted the bread. This

lesson is taught each year to the younger grades.

Don't forget the Souper Bowl fundraiser sponsored by J2A on Feb. 5. Come and give us your support! J2A is planning a skating party in February. The nursery redecoration will begin in March. This is a big undertaking and will take several days. The nursery will be painted, new equipment will be added, curtains hung, toys cleaned and/or replaced.

Gwen Lockhart

## Bishop Belshaw visits April 30



On Sunday April 30, The Right Reverend Mellick Belshaw, the ninth bishop of New Jersey, will be visiting St. David's. This will be an occasion for baptism, con-

firmation, reception, and reaffirmations of faith. We have a number of young people who have been prepared for confirmation by our J2A program. If you are over 16 and have not been part of that program and would like to be confirmed, or if

you are an adult who would like to explore making a commitment to the Episcopal Church, there will be a series of Inquirers Classes (3) offered this spring. Please speak to the rector for more information.

## February Outreach: Interfaith Hospitality Network

**Please consider donating your time and treasure (February's Outreach collection) to this important community service.**

### What is the Interfaith Hospitality Network?

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Mercer County (IHNMC) serve homeless families with short-term housing, meals, transportation, employment assistance, and counseling. The goal of IHNMC is to break the cycle of homelessness. On a [rotating](#) basis, participating congregations convert space in their facilities to house guest families. Volunteers provide meals, fellowship, and a warm, loving environment.

### How Does Interfaith Hospitality Network help?

This national organization coordinates with congregations who agree to provide shelter, meals, and support to homeless families while they are seeking housing. IHN of Mercer County has a full-time director who screens applicants, coordinates with Host Congregations, and provides referrals for training, employment, and housing. The IHN Day Center is located at 121 East Hanover Street in Trenton. Host Congregations take turns providing overnight lodging and meals for 3 to 5 families (up to 14 adults and children) for one week.

### Who is served by the Network?

IHN of Mercer County provides only for families with children; in fact, half of our guests are children. IHN's Director, a social worker, assists non-working parents to find employment, enter vocation training programs, or obtain the necessary schooling and other social services. This intensive focus on a small number of families results in almost 90% of IHN families finding permanent housing.

### What does a Church do?

Ten Host Congregations have been involved since IHN of Mercer County began operating in April, 1998. IHN families stay at a church about four or five times a year. Each time, the church facility is "the room at the inn" offering clean, safe lodging and nutritious meals for seven nights. The IHN committee trains and supports volunteers from the congregation and the community, furnishes supplies, and coordinates with the network director and committee.

### What is the schedule during a Host Week?

Families first arrive at the Host Church on a Sunday afternoon from the previous week's Host location. Each weekday, the IHN van (and driver) leaves about 7:00 a.m. to take the families to the Day Center. From there, children go to school or day care while parents go to work or meet with the director to look for job training, employment or housing. At about 5:00 p.m. they return in the van. Every night (on weekends too), volunteers prepare food, share dinner, chores and conversation, and stay overnight at the Host Church.

### How does St. David's help?

We partner with the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown by providing volunteer support. For one of the seven days that the family will spend at the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, St. David's will provide the meals and we also provide the overnight adult supervision by sleeping at the church.

Carol Rodgers

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Our Lenten Soup Suppers this year will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6- 7:30 pm and will be based on Sister Joan Chittister, OSB's 2006 Lenten program, "Blessed are You: Overcoming Evil with Good". "Sister Joan delivers penetrating insights into the nature of evil in

our times. She calls us to confront the banality of evil with the brash ideals of Christ." Questions such as, 'Where does evil come from?' 'What feeds it?' 'What is it that lies in the center of the human heart waiting to destroy?' and 'What is the Christian response to

evil?' will be explored in our discussions. Please bring bread, salad or dessert to share; soup and beverages will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex, so please sign up soon!

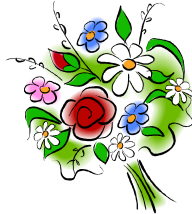


## Retreat Scheduled

Your vestry will be participating in a "working retreat" the first weekend in February. This is the first such retreat in many years and requires our vestry members to be away overnight and give up a Saturday. Please keep them in your prayers and thank them for their commitment to provide our church with the very best leadership possible.

## Flower List

Please don't forget to sign up on our flower donations sheet! Our sanctuary is made all the more beautiful by the flowers our congregation donates in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. Please sign up to sponsor a Sunday soon. Our Altar Guild reports that flower prices have gone up recently and that as of February 1 the donation will be \$40 per week.



## Scout Sunday Planned



**Attention all Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Eagle Scouts...**St. David's will be observing Scout Sunday at the 9:45 Service on March 5th.

Please see either Rex van Veldhuisen or Bonnie Rumpf to be roll-called, recognized and possibly included in service activities. Plan on wearing your uniforms with all your regalia. Participation patches will be presented to all scouts attending the service. Parish youths who have completed their God and County activities will be given their awards.



## Want to be an Acolyte?

Please contact Dave Miller for information about Acolyte training. You can reach him at 448-8561 or email [ignatzrats@aol.com](mailto:ignatzrats@aol.com).

## Thank you to:

Suzanne Camlin who single-handedly organized and cleaned up the kitchen.

Russell Beaulieu and his crew of Corinne Peters, David Ribardo and Sarah Mitchell who painted Bishop Croes Hall!

Virginia Davis who helped out in the office with mailings.

Our outgoing vestry members: Donna Munde, who chaired our Finance Committee and Marna McDermott who chaired our Social Committee and spearheaded our supermarket certificates fundraiser. Our outgoing Senior Warden Ed ably led the vestry over his four years in office. Colin Doerr, who served on vestry, representing J2A youth. Ed, Donna, and Marna have done a fine job representing the members of our parish, especially during our transition period. We are grateful for their willingness to donate their time and talents. The numerous contributions they have made over the years are greatly appreciated.

Bonnie Rumpf, Kim Neighbor and Dave Mitchell who served as our Parish Bylaws Committee. Our Office Assistant, Debi Ribardo, for our Annual Meeting Booklet.

Our outstanding slate of nominees for vestry positions for allowing their names to be considered for election.

Marna McDermott and Linda Kelly for hosting the reception for our Bishop's visit at the institution of our Rector. Deacon Bob Thomas for serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Institution and Debi Ribardo for the service booklet prepared for that day.

## Congratulations to:

Bill and Danette Terhune on the birth of their new daughter, Carissa Marie, who came into this world on January 17, 2006. Special congrats to proud grandparents, Talia and Harry Terhune!

To Angela Levy, our new Senior Warden, continuing vestry members Kathy Herzog, and Lincoln Crosley and new vestry members Ian Bailey, Brian Laustsen and Corrine Peters. Congrats also to our delegates Kim Duck, Marilyn Fischer, and Jean McFarland and our alternates Anne Benenson, Dave Miller, and Rex van Veldhuisen.

Blessings on our deacon, Bob Thomas, as he begins his discernment process with the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers as he explores his call to the priesthood and his future vocation as deacon.

**Whoops!** In last month's Tablet, while thanking Marna McDermott, Donna Munde and Ed Abramovitz for serving on St. David's Vestry, we inadvertently forgot to include Lincoln Crosley. Our apologies to Lincoln, who has now been re-elected to the Vestry!

## WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>

AT GRACE ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

MERCERVILLE, NJ

**Stories that Heal & Stories that Restore**

*How the narratives of our lives can be the ground  
for the work of the Spirit.*

With The Rev. Susy Norris & The Rev. Linda Carlson Scholer

We welcome the women of St. Andrew's, Lambertville, St. David's, Cranbury, and St. James, Yardville to join the women of Grace St. Paul's, Mercerville to this Lenten Retreat Day.

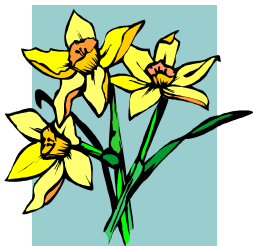
Every woman knows the power of stories. Every Christian knows the power of the Gospel narratives or stories. We invite you to come and rediscover your own stories and to find the healing and restorative power of the Spirit within stories. Whether you are reading a book, an email, talking with a friend, or seeing a movie it is the story and its characters and events that inspire, produce laughter, draw out tears or even make new something old and heal what is broken. With worship, song, prayer, meditation, silence and Eucharist we will see how in this Lenten Season stories can heal and stories can restore.

**Location:** Grace St. Paul's Church, Mercerville, NJ

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:30pm

**Lunch:** will be provided and a free will offering will be collected to help with cost.

*Come comfortably dressed! Even sweats, etc. are welcome!*



### St. David's Day

We will celebrate St. David's Day on February 26th. When you come to church you can bring home a symbol of St. David: not a leek, but a beautiful relative—a daffodil!

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 Laura's interview with Jean McFarland; look for Brian's work in the next issue of the Tablet. We will celebrate their achievement in a service on March 5th.

Jean McFarland is a regular member of St. David's Episcopal Church, centered in the small town of Cranbury, New Jersey. She grew up in Queens, New York and was brought up as a Methodist. Later on in life she met her husband who was baptized as a Catholic boy. When they got married, they decided that the somewhat relaxed Episcopalian religion would be a good compromise for the both of them. The rules and regulations were considered "fair" in their eyes and so, they baptized their children as Episcopalians. After they moved to New Jersey, their kids became acolytes when the family attended St. David's. While there, Jean filled the role of Senior Warden and was elected to attend the Convention of the Episcopalian Church; of which she returned several more times. The next convention is to be held in 2006 and Jean anticipates the trip.

Jean and her children are all Episcopalian lectors and together, enjoy having discussion about their readings. One of the aspects of St. David's that Jean appreciates the most is the friendly, comfortable atmosphere and the lack of gossip among members. Jean is very active in the church. For years, she took turns hosting Seekers meetings in her home and believed it was truly a "good organization" made up of the people in the church. In addition, she was a member of the Episcopal Women's Caucus which held annual meetings where they would hold intellectual discussions on the direction of the church, important issues and problems that the church was facing. Jean also was a member of the Episcopal Church Women organization, which was more social than anything and within that, she made many friends in other churches. She enjoys attending St. David's annual women's Christmas party and is preparing to go to the General Convention which is to be held in Ohio. In the past, she participated in an early form of the Cristillo as well as many other spiritual retreats.

Jean agrees that the Episcopalian church is becoming more liberal and indeed is in favor of that. She is a strong believer in women's rights and has marched in Washington for such cause. In college, Jean took exploratory religious courses and says that her "sweet" and "bright" professor was really her first experience meeting an Episcopalian clergy man. She remembers him saying, "Does it really matter whether or not Mary was a virgin?", and from that point on, was open and drawn to the religion. She taught Sunday school from the age of 16 and all throughout college. Studying as an English major, Jean used to write commercials for the radio show she hosted.

She had a great love for theatre and thoroughly enjoyed reading and learning about Shakespeare. Unfortunately, her beloved husband died at the age of 51, leaving Jean McFarland a widow. Today, Jean can still be found among the growing number of parishioners at St. David's in Cranbury and is a deeply adored and greatly admired mother of the church.

**February  
Lord's Pan-  
try Items:  
Canned  
soups and  
Canned  
Vegetables**

**Ash Wednes-  
day**

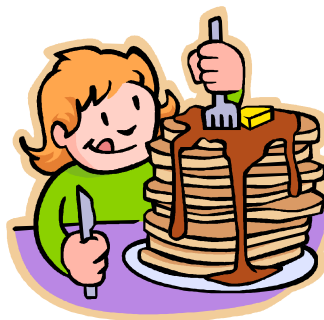
**Services**

**March 1st**

**7:00 am**

**12:00 Noon**

**7:30 pm**



Join us for that  
yummy **Pancake  
Supper** on  
Shrove Tuesday,  
February 28,  
from 6:00 pm to  
8:00 pm. Bring  
everyone in your

family! A sign up sheet will be posted on  
the bulletin board in the narthex.

## **J2A Youth Begins Nursery Project**

Back in Oct. 2005, the J2A youth donated their services to the annual Fantasy Auction to help raise money for the church. Due to the amazing generosity of our parish family we were able to raise over \$1000 to paint and update the nursery. Now that we've rolled into 2006, it's time we got started on our project and we're asking for everyone's help.

This is a big undertaking and will take several days to complete. We're asking each J2A member to sign up for a shift. In addition, we greatly need the assistance of moms and dads, brothers and sisters to help us with this wonderful project. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Bishop Croes Hall to sign up for the work shift of your choice.

**Sunday March 5, 12pm-3pm:** Participants will have to help clean out the nursery, tape and prime the walls, get one coat of paint on the walls, begin cleaning the toys and accessing what toys will need to be replaced. Lunch will be provided.

**Friday, March 10, 7pm-10pm:** Participants will paint the second coat on the walls, continue cleaning the toys, unpack, and assemble new nursery accessories. Snacks will be provided.

**Saturday, March 11 10am-1pm:** Participants will have to complete assembling new equipment, hang curtains, final touch-up to paint on the walls and make sure the nursery is ready for Sunday morning services. Lunch will be provided.

We thank you in advance for your gift of time and service with our nursery project.

Kim Duck and John Aveni

J2A Program Coordinators