

GLAD TIDINGS

Volume XIII, Issue 11, December 2020

Christmas Brings Light

Holiday Service Times
Christmas Pageant Debut

Outreach & Volunteer Opportunities

Returning Wrapped Gifts
Christmas Flower Dedications
2021 Flower Dedications



Saint David's

...a community of disciples passing on God's love to all.

Reflection

The Christmas cycle of the church-year, that begins in Advent and runs through the Season After the Epiphany, includes wonderful references to light: God's light coming into the world, the light of God's love made visible in a newborn infant, and a bright star in the night sky that guides shepherds and wise men. In many (or most?) of the sermons, meditations, and reflections on these images, the power and goodness of the light is contrasted with the gloom, mayhem, and anxiety that attends the dark. This makes sense. As autumn turns to winter and the sun's light yields to encroaching darkness, we take solace in the church's proclamation that light is coming and that the darkness will not prevail. The really good news is that God's light does so much more than chase away the darkness.

The Psalmist's poetic license notes that in God's light "we see light." While this may seem to be a tautology, it is actually a meaningful insight. When God's light enters into the world (and into our lives) we receive a host of benefits. God's light brings clarity, banishes fear, soothes and heals, provides hope, energizes our bodies and our spirits, and even inspires creativity and courage. With the darkness gone, we see what the Psalmist did — light is everywhere!

The ancient story of God's creative work begins with light. God said, "Let there be light." And it was so. Advent is a reminder that God is still in the light making business. Perhaps this is what we mean when we say "as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be!"

May the light of Christ
be with you now
and always.

BAH +

With you is
the fountain
of life;
in your light
we see light.

-Psalm 36:9

A fresh look

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
God Is in the Manger



Open Air Christmas Caroling!

On Sunday, December 20th, St. David will host two Christmas carol sing-a-longs. Each of these sing-a-longs will be half an hour long to ensure limited exposure and to make sure we can accommodate the numbers we anticipate from the parish and day school. We will provide the lyrics, and you will provide the flashlights so you can read the lyrics. The first session will be at 5 pm and another at 6:30 pm. Everyone will park in the side parking lot and gather to sing in the rear parking lot. We will maintain a 15 foot distance between households for maximum safety during this Covid-19 spike.

It is our hope that people won't arrive too early or stay too late, as we need to accommodate two different groups of singers with only one parking lot. Make sense? Cool!

Look for the Sign-Up Geniuses in the Weekly E-Pistle and choose the session you desire. We will sing a couple secular songs at the beginning (Rudolph...Jingle Bells) and round out our singing time together with popular religious favorites of the season.

Weather and current state restrictions permitting.

Sharing God's Love

We Give Thanks for Holiday Generosity & Caring

Many thanks to all who went online, signed-up, bought gifts, returned gifts, wrapped gifts, and returned the wrapped gifts! Whew! That was a lot of hoops to jump through to help a few foster children and seniors have a Merry Christmas. But in this difficult time, it's what we all do to continue to care for God's children. It's what we do to show we care. It's what we do to spread our love at St. David's.

We look forward to an easier process next year, along with the normal festive wrapping party that comes with pizza, some sweet treats, music, and merriment. Until that time, we press on. Again...thank you, thank you, thank you.

-Amy Myers
Outreach, *Chairperson*



Nursery Necessities Thank You

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Nursery Necessities collection. We were amazed! As the line of cars went by we soon realized Megan's car would be stuffed to overflowing with all the necessities as well as cute handmade items. Giovanna Andrews will be holding her next Harper's Heart give away event in December, so our timing was just right. No one could say it better than Giovanna---- "WOW! This is huge, thank you very much. There are plenty of families this will bless."

Many thanks for all your help.

-Janie Jersild
for the Outreach Committee



The most obvious lesson in Christ's teaching is that there is no happiness in having or getting anything, but only in giving.

- Henry Drummond

Christmas Pageant 2020

On Christmas Eve at the 5 pm service, Saint David's will debut its first ever socially distanced, filmed in-house NATIVITY PAGEANT. Plans have been hatched, kids volunteered, parts given out, musical underscoring recorded, and lines being learned. All this will soon be filmed and assembled by Kathy Hanna, Mother Maryann, and Jackie Somers.

This film will be presented for the first time anywhere at the 5 pm Christmas Eve service being broadcast on Facebook Live or for those who have reservations to come for in-person worship. This is our first attempt at this type of thing, so we ask your prayers as we leap any technological hurdles that lay in our path. Continue to walk in the Light!



-Kathy Hanna



Christmas Flower Donations/Dedications

Monetary donations (check or cash) for Christmas flowers may be sent to Saint David's in any envelope, along with a dedications in whose name the gift is given. Personal dedications may be made in thanksgiving for loved ones still with us or in memory of those who have crossed over to that brighter shore.

Donations and dedications must be received in the parish office by Monday, December 21st to be included in the online and in-person bulletin.

St. David's Episcopal Church
2320 Grubb Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

2021 Sunday Flower Dedications Sign-Up is Live

People give flowers for many reasons: in honor of friends, children, and spouses, and in memory of a loved one who has passed away. Simply sign-up for any date listed on the Sign-Up Genius link found in the Weekly E-Pistle, and send your check in a timely manner in the parish office.

When signing up, please, fill in all information. This insures the dedication will be correctly printed in the bulletin online and in-person.

Christmas at St. David's

Day School Chapels

Wednesday, December 16th

Thursday, December 17th
9 am via Facebook Live

Christmas Eve Services

Socially Distanced Service
with Holy Communion
5 pm via Facebook Live

Socially Distanced Service
with Holy Communion
Pre-service Music at 7:30 pm
Service at 8 pm via Facebook Live

Christmas Day

No Services on this day



All people wishing to attend in-person worship must sign-up using Sign-Up Genius. There are a limited number of spaces available, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Both the 5 & 8 pm Christmas Eve services will be broadcast on Facebook Live, just like our regular Sunday morning worship. Every email address in our parish will receive an email with our usual Facebook Live link for these special services.

Growing in the Spirit

Women's Spirits Future Topics

Like most groups, Women's Spirits have migrated to Zoom. We miss the hugs, but that can't suppress our cherished fellowship and sharing! We're so grateful that many of our "wimmin" are willing to step up and lead our monthly discussions. Recent meetings were led by Susan Marengo on Anger, and Carolyn Luttrell and Jane Bordzol on Forgiveness.

On **December 12**, we'll talk about holiday traditions in the time of COVID.

On **January 9 & February 13**, Anne Doberstein and Diane Camarote will lead us through "The Four Agreements", a well-loved wisdom book by Don Miguel Ruiz. We won't be surprised if those conversations extend into March!

This group meets the second Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you'd like to be a part, contact Carol Van Zoeren at cmvz1@comcast.net or 302-345-6484 to receive a ZOOM link to the meet-up.

-Carol Van Zoeren



The Tuesday Morning Wisdom Seekers Enter 2021

Grace Will Lead Us Home: The Charleston Church Massacre by Jenifer Berry Hawes
Discussion Leader: Tom Deschaine

Wisdom Seekers will be reading and discussing the book, **Grace Will Lead Us Home** by Jenifer Berry Hawes starting on Tuesday January 5, 2021 and on the following Tuesdays on January 12, 19, 26, and February 2 & 9. Our meetings will be zoom meetings from 10 -11:30 am.

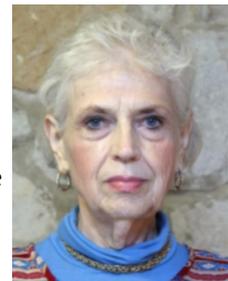
"On June 17, 2015, twelve members of the historically black Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, welcomed a young white man to their evening Bible study. He arrived with a pistol, 88 bullets, and hopes of starting a race war. Dylan Roof's killing of nine innocents during their closing prayer horrified the nation. Two days later, some relatives of the dead stood at Roof's hearing and said, " I forgive you." That grace offered the country a hopeful

ending to an awful story. But for the survivors and victims' families, the journey had only just begun."

In this book, Pulitzer Prize -winning journalist Jennifer Berry Hawes provides the definitive account of the tragedy's aftermath. With unprecedented access to the grieving families and other key figures, Hawes offers a nuanced and moving portrait of the events and emotions that emerged in the massacre's wake.

If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Carlene Deschaine at tcdesch966@aol.com, and she will send a ZOOM link to you. Participants should order their own books from the book vendor of their choice. Questions about the book? Please contact Tom Deschaine at the same email address. All are welcome.

-Carolyn Luttrell



Day School News

On the December calendar:

- 2 CPR/First Aid Class, 6pm,
Great Hall*
- 3 St. Nicholas Chapel, 9:15,
Facebook LIVE
- 3 Staff Breakfast, Courtesy of our
Great Parents
- 9 Chapel, 9:15, Facebook LIVE
- 9 Staff Christmas Dinner, 6:30 pm,
Great Hall
- 16, 17 Christmas Chapels, 9:15 each day,
Facebook LIVE
- 21 School Board Meeting, ZOOM, 7pm
- 23–31 **Preschool, SAIL, & Extended Care
Closed**

January 2021

- 1 **Preschool, SAIL, & Extended Care
Closed**

*Advanced registration is required for the monthly CPR/First Aid Class. Call the school office (302-475-3747) for more information and to register. Certification is good for two years and includes AED training. You will need a photo ID. The class is conducted with COVID-19 protocols in place for sanitation and safe distancing, masks required. No charge.

Birthdays

Belated November Happy Birthday to:
Debbie Tansey

Happy December Birthday to:
Gina Zarrilli and Marcie Jorgensen

Traditions

Perhaps this is the year that your family makes new traditions – either by choice or by the circumstances that you find yourselves in (like a pandemic). This is true for the school community. For decades of children (and staff) the period between Halloween and Christmas has been filled with coming together as a school to learn lots of seasonal songs to sing in the “never to be missed” Christmas Chapel and Program. This year, we’ll still be singing “Mary Had A Baby,” and “Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star” but it will be to an online audience. So be sure to tune in!

Thanks

I want to publicly thank Linda Doyle (Benjamin, Andrew, and Charlotte’s mom) for her four years of dedicated to service on our Board of Directors. Linda’s perspective as a parent and as a medical professional was invaluable, and her presence will be missed.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff (teachers, assistant teachers, specialists, and the administrative team), and our families, I hope I am the first one to say Merry Christmas to all!



Fondly,
Janet Leishman
Director

Vestry Highlights

At the November 9th Vestry meeting, the Vestry, via Zoom, . . .

- heard positive news regarding both October and year-to-date pledge income from Treasurer Karen Olmstead. Most pledges are coming in on-time!
- heard an update that the Now More Than Ever pledge campaign is going strong in its third week. Previous pledging households who have not returned a pledge card will receive a follow-up communication. The Vestry will decide on a 2021 Parish Operating Budget in December.
- discussed progress towards the 1st Online Auction
- discussed the various opportunities for Outreach – Adopt-A-Foster Child/Senior, Family Promise, and the food drive for Emmanuel Dining Room and St. Patrick's Center.
- heard plans for the Christmas pageant and the revised time for the Christmas Eve services (5 and 8 pm rather than 10:30 pm).

The most recent approved minutes are posted on the blue bulletin board opposite the parish office.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet D. Leishman
Clerk of the Vestry

You and Your Pledge

To Our Wonderful St. David's Community – Thank You! The Vestry is filled with gratitude for the inspiring outpouring of love and generosity we have seen over these last few weeks. The 2020 St. David's pledge drive has officially ended. There are still pledges that we are hoping and praying will come through. Now, more than ever, we believe that our mission at St. David's is aligned with God's mission for the world and with your generosity, 2021 will be a great year. Thank you!

Your Pledge Captains,
Rob Carver
Rebecca Ford



Electronic Giving* in 2021

If you changed the amount of your pledge going into 2021, please contact the parish office to request a new VANCO sheet. Adjust the amount of your pledge and sign the form giving the parish your permission, and return it to the parish office to make the switch. If you are not changing the amount of your pledge, there is no need to fill out a new form.

***Electronic Giving** enables every household or individual to give their church offering by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). There is no cost to you for this giving option. You won't need to write weekly or monthly checks as the amount will be withdrawn from your checking account. It is fast, easy and safe.



Words of Wisdom

“He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

—Augustine of Hippo

The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel
and found their Lamb;
the wise men saw the light of a star
and found their Wisdom.

—Fulton J. Sheen



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

The Parish and Day School Offices will be closed from December 24th through the 27th.

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The Reverend Brad Hinton, *Rector*
Steven Weatherman, *Publications Editor*

Articles to Glad Tidings! may be submitted
via email to stdavidschurchoffice@verizon.net.
The deadline is the 15th of the each month.

The Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

In our thoughts and prayers

Renee Tilley
Carron Ingham
Hirsch & Amelia
Marianna Hamilton
Carolyn Bell
George Karney
John Yovino
Walter Zlotnick
Vivianne Meffen
Mary Megee
Jennifer Harrison
Crystal R. Everly
Michelle Hall
Pamela Osborne
Rebecca Craig
Mike Brooks
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Hugh Wheeler
Jeanne Morris
Richard Hastings
Joe & Sara Bubble
Elke Mackiewicz
April Robinson
Carolyn Luttrell
Linda Bradford
Delia Reid
Susan Moyes
Andrea Matheny
Alberta Keahey
Clare Werba
Steve Frederick
Carly Claire Fedena

Alexander Zlotnick
Barbara Zlotnick
Shannon Kern
Carissa Krawchuk
Joan Murphy
Samuel Pusey
Maureen Brickley
Jacqueline Janssen
Jimmy Myers
John Misch
Beth Root
Shelly Onorato
Duncan Macbeth
Jerry Pierce
Carol Robinson
Jim Von Dreele
Nicholas Childs
Donald Beidemann
Roberta Kordowski
Andy Oxenborn
Becca

David Stilwell
Bill Haas
Phoenix
Dierdre O'Connell
Morgan Schaen
Mary Rhodunda
Barbara Kaufman
Austin Mares
Courtenay Hoerem-
mann
Paul Moran, Jr.
John Alstadt
Chuck Summer
Abe Bailis
John Erickson

Deceased
Carl Walbeck
Bob Bowen

Please call the Church Office to put someone on the Prayer List or to remove a name from the list. Each person on the list remains there for one month unless the office is notified that an additional month is desired. The name is read during Intercessory Prayers in worship the first week of the listing. We remember these people in our prayers and in our hearts.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Allison Olmstead
Kelsey Olmstead
5 Tom Byrne
Sarah Kashner
Nancy Myshko
8 Ryan Cluss
16 Carson Hanna
17 Luke Byrne
18 Liz Porter
19 Gabrielle Ford

21 Rose Mulveny
Jason Roux
25 Gwyn Casalvera
27 William Goeller, Jr.
Tyler Wilson
29 Alexander Williams
31 Alexa Rhodunda
Cathy Zimmerman

10 Schneider, Ann & Charles
28 Zimmerman, Cathy & JT



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