

Visions



Mission Statement

Building Bridges of Hope with the Living Christ

DECEMBER 2018



Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm - Festival Holy Eucharist
Christmas Day Service 10:00 am - Christ's Mass with Carols
Sunday December 30, 10:00 am Service of Lessons and Carols
One Service only

Celebrating 59 Years of Caring & Sharing

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From our Priest, The Rev. Jon M. Richardson



Dear Friends,

Advent is the time when we prepare for Christmas, but even more, it's the time when we prepare for Christ. One of the things you're likely to hear most often in our worship at St. David's is that we are called, as Christians, to keep looking for Christ in the world around us. During Advent, we live into that calling in a different way, joining with our ancestors of the faith from those millennia ago: the people of Israel who would become the first Christians – even before there was a name for this band of followers of Jesus who came to believe that he was, indeed, the Messiah, sent from God.

We hear it and say it again and again, year after year, but it's important to remember that the Christ did not come as expected. The ancestors of our faith believed that the Messiah who had been promised and long-expected would come as a mighty king – one who would overthrow their oppressors and make them free.

In hindsight, knowing the story as we do, it's easy to miss how radical the truth that they discovered turned out to be. The Messiah was not a mighty warrior, but a vulnerable child. The Messiah was not a product of the best families and "good breeding", but a child born out of wedlock – an embarrassment even.

So let us not discount the miracle that would come – not just in the birth, but the miracle that happened in the people recognizing God's own anointed leader, "God *with us*", even though the form was unlike any that might have been imagined. The miracle wasn't just in the person of Jesus, but in all the people of God who recognized him.

When we look for Christ, it is entirely possible – even likely – that "packages" won't look as we'd probably expect. In fact, if the character of God remains consistent, Christ is almost certain to not look like we'd expect. So don't just look for Christ in church. Look under the rocks, and around the corners, and in the dark alleys, and at the homeless shelters, and even in the faces of the grumpy people waiting in lines at stores and frustrated in traffic. It has been promised: when we seek, we will find.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jon M. Richardson".

Reminder

***LAST CALL!** Ingathering Sunday is December 2.

PRISON MINISTRY—GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS. Remember to use gift bags and mark for boy/girl and age.

***NORTH PORCH**—the box and cradle are ready and waiting for baby oil, powder, shampoo, infant clothing.

***This year** we will also be receiving mittens, scarves, caps and sweaters for the Seamen's Church Institute program for merchant seamen. They've been knitted and crocheted by several of our nimble-fingered members.



THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES for contributions toward the Christmas decorations will be in the pews **December 2, 9 and 16.**

Both memorials and thank offerings are appropriate—just be sure to clearly write the first and last names on the envelopes. They will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. The deadline is Monday December 17.

Outreach

AGAIN THIS YEAR the offering collected through the special Christmas envelopes included with pledge envelopes has been designated for our various outreach programs. The Vestry is sending Christmas greetings to those on their lists and included will be a special envelope for those who do not have pledge ones so everyone will have the opportunity to make a special gift.



TO ENHANCE your observation of Advent and Christmas, there are seasonal pamphlets in the narthex tract rack.

Help yourself!

Attendance

November 2017	November 2018
37	50

CALLING ALL CAROLERS! Open House for all!

On **Sunday, December 16**, following the 10:00 Service, we will be caroling at some of the local assisted-living facilities. Following this at 5 PM, Fr. Jon and Michael will host a holiday get-together at the rectory. There are two sign-up sheets in the narthex, one for caroling and one for the event following. Sign up for either one or both!



Don't Miss

- **Sunday, December 2**—The Annual budget forum will be held immediately following the 10:00 Service. You will receive the 2019 materials for study prior to the event.
- **Sunday, December 23**—The annual Greening of the Church, following the 10:00 service. Many hands make light work and will be much appreciated

OFFICE CLOSURES DURING DECEMBER

The Parish Office will be closed from
Monday December 24 through Friday December 28.

It will reopen on Monday, December 31.

The office will also be closed on Tuesday January 1 for New Year's Day.

Fr. Jon will be on vacation beginning December 30 until January 6.

If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact Rev. Jon on his cell phone.
No telephone or email messages will be answered during the office closure.

SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 26, 2018

FOOD AND WINE PAIRING

A Christmas Carol



November 24 "A Christmas Carol"

What a special way to usher in the holiday season!

A special "thank you" to everyone who provided the reception refreshments and to John Simonelli for arranging this unique performance!

Vestry Meeting Highlights November 26, 2018

John Simonelli led the opening prayer and spoke about his call to prison ministry.

We discussed matters brought to us by parishioners – about posting Jon’s sermons online, which he is now doing, and about keeping joys and concerns strictly about personal matters.

Stewardship reported that the net profit from the Beefsteak Dinner and Auction was \$6766.16 and the net profit from A Christmas Carol was \$316.00. They proposed possibly arranging a performance of A Christmas Carol next year at a date closer to Christmas, which the Vestry supports.

Outreach reported that so far this year we’ve donated \$5,200 to 5 local food pantries, and beginning this month to North Porch, that Gill has delivered coats to the Lakeland YMCA, that 4 have signed up to be knitters, that ERD has been added to our Christmas outreach giving, that we are planning to hold a special blessing when the Kinnelon Animal Shelter reopens next Spring, and that we would like to include ‘food loading helpers’ on the list of ways to help for outreach meals to the St. Paul’s Men’s Shelter.

We gave thanks for Mike Roehrer and his crew for the Fall clean-up, for Michael Kidney for taking on maintenance of the church sign and for his commitment to the knitting ministry, for the Budget & Finance Committee for preparing the 2019 budget, for all those who provided food and help for the Community Thanksgiving Service and A Christmas Carol, for Lee Moody for delivering the prison outreach gifts, and for the Rev Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton for facilitating the Vestry Mutual Ministry Review.

We reviewed the October Quickbooks reports and voted to accept them.

We reviewed the 2019 Budget prepared by the Budget & Finance Committee and voted to accept it.

The Property Committee reported that the Fall clean-up day addressed many areas both outside and inside the church, that the dampness issue in the sacristy has been addressed and is much improved, and that issues with the handicapped bathroom door, the outdoor electrical problem, and the driveway visibility are being addressed.

The Property Committee also recommended that we go forward with the work of replacing the sanctuary lights with LED bulbs and replacing the dimmer switches which control the lights, which the Vestry approved.

We amended and approved the December calendar.

Respectfully submitted,

John Simonelli, Senior Warden

Eat, Drink and Be Merry!
Beefsteak Dinner and Silent Auction 2018
DINNER



Eat, Drink and Be Merry!
Beefsteak Dinner and Silent Auction 2018
AUCTION



Beefsteak Dinner and Silent Auction 2018
Church Members and Friends Who Made Donations

Mary-Esther Arther

Pat Brinks

Sandy Caparotta

Joan Carpenter

Vicky Dawson

Rich Dobson

Karen Dunn

Sandy Dunn

Herb Grieshaber

Steve and Jeanne Grieshaber

Wayne and Nancy Hammaker

Mary Harbinsky

Pat Hodde

Bonnie Hook

Steve and Kathy Kent

Michael Kidney

Laura Rose

Jay and Joan Ludwig

Vicky Lutz

Bertha Hudak and Pat Stump

Nancy Moody

Caroline Mossip

Sondra Odian

Gill Otto

Jon Richardson

John Simonelli

Tom and Chris Snyder

Marty Stanton

Jennifer Trevisan

Bob and Nancy Ward

Irene Williams

The Stewardship Commission—Mary-Esther Arther, Pat Hodde, Kathy Kent, John Simonelli, Jennifer Trevisan.

Caroline Mossip for photographing the event.

Mary Harbinsky and her team for bringing all the baskets and donations together—Karen Dunn, Sandy Dunn, Jeanne Grieshaber, Bonnie Hook, Michael Kidney, Nancy Moody

Dinner and Auction set-up team—Guy Baskinger, Karen Dunn, Sandy Dunn, Mary Harbinsky, Rich and Bonnie Hook, Michael Kidney, Jon Richardson, John Simonelli, Chris Snyder, Irene Williams

Master of Ceremonies—Marty Stanton

Auction Cashiers— Rich Dobson, John Simonelli, Jennifer Trevisan

Auction Runners—Joanne Leser, Norm Leser

Clean up—Mary Harbinsky, Nancy Moody

THIS YEAR WE NETTED \$6,766.16

CLEAN UP DAY—NOVEMBER 10
Thanks to you all for your dedication and enthusiasm!



Julie Dolci
Jeanne Grieshaber
Lee Moody
Jon Richardson &
Michael Kidney
Bill and Catherine Speed
Marty Stanton
Bob Ward
Dale Wilhelm



Vestry Mutual Ministry Review—November 17

On Saturday, November 17th, the priest, wardens and vestry gathered with the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Kaeton as facilitator for the Mutual Ministry Review, which is a way we ask ourselves how we are doing. It was a time to celebrate what we have done well and to understand what might be done better. We began with a brief meditation and then engaged in a spiritual exercise which asked us to consider what gospel story or parable or character animated our sense of ministry as individuals. We reviewed what a MMR is and is not, and looked back on our accomplishments for 2018 and what we hoped to accomplish in 2019, such as considering a lay preaching course, having a monthly breakfast for between both services, and increasing parishioner participation and involvement. We then established three major goals for 2019:

- * Increase stability of leadership
- * Increase stability in our communities
- * Increase participation of the congregation in the life of the Church.

All present agreed that it was a very meaningful experience and came away with a renewed sense of optimism.

- John Simonelli, Senior Warden



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE—November 18
“Now thank we all our God”

Many thanks to Sal and Katherine for their wonderful playing and for their able leadership of the combined choirs of St. David’s and The Reformed Church of Kinnelon.



*St. David's welcomes all to the Community Thanksgiving Service
November 18th*



Rev. Jon with Rev. Beverley Sullivant from the Reformed Church and Pastor Chuck from the Butler Community Church/Church of the Nazarene. Msgr. Carroll from OLM also took part in the service.

Thanks to everyone who created such a delicious reception!



Thank you!

Your Food Pantry vouchers at work -

Through your amazing generosity, St. David's has been able to distribute \$5200 to date to support the work of five local food pantries and from November onwards, North Porch Dover as well.

These food pantries use your monetary donations to buy supplies from places like the Community Food Bank of NJ which makes your donations go even further.



May the
Lord
reward
your
Kindness

Sincere appreciation for your generosity to our food pantry. We distributed to 97 families in need. Thank you for your donation baskets. Your donation will help us restock our shelves.

God Bless You
&
Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Ms. Wilhelm:

11/18

With gratitude, we acknowledge your generous donation.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care.

As a special Thank You, your intentions will be remembered in our prayers.

DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Advent 1 White Team ONE SERVICE ONLY Christmas Outreach Ingathering 9:15 am Choir Warm up 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing 11:15 am Coffee Hour Parish Budget Forum	3 7:00 pm Readers Circle Book Group	4 7 pm AA mtg	5 1:00 pm Meditation 2:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 8:00 pm AA Wed night meeting	6 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 <i>Office closed</i> <i>Priest's day off</i>	8
9 Advent 2 Green Team 8:00 am Holy Eucharist* 9:15 am Choir Warm Up 10:00 am Holy Eucharist* 11:15 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Joyful Noise *Includes Birthday & Anniversary Prayers	10	11 7 pm AA mtg	12 1:00 pm Meditation 2:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 8:00 pm AA Wed night meeting	13 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 <i>Office closed</i> <i>Priest's day off</i>	15
16) Advent 3 Gold Team 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Warm Up 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Dream Group Christmas Caroling 5:00 pm Open House at the Rectory	17	18 5 pm St. Paul's Shelter Meal 7 pm AA mtg	19 1:00 pm Meditation 2:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 7:00 pm Vestry 8:00 pm AA Wed night meeting	20 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 <i>Office closed</i> <i>Priest's day off</i>	22
23) Advent 4 Red Team GREENING OF THE CHURCH 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Warm Up 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Boonton Care Center Service 11:15 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Joyful Noise PM Elizabeth Williams' Memorial Service	24 <i>Office Closed</i> Christmas Eve 5 pm Service	25 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i> Christmas Day 10:00 am Service 7 pm AA mtg	26 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i> 1:00 pm Meditation 2:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 8:00 pm AA Wed night meeting	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Healing Prayers Service	28 <i>Office closed</i> <i>Priest's day off</i>	29
30) 1 Christmas Rev. Jon on vacation ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:00 am Service of Lessons and Carols	Rev. Jon vacation 31 New Year's Eve	<i>Office closed</i>	Rev Jon vacation	Rev Jon vacation	Rev Jon vacation	Rev Jon vacation

St. David's Leadership Team

Empowering all our members to build bridges of hope with the living Christ through worship, spiritual formation, hospitality and outreach.

Bishop *The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes*
Priest-in-Charge *The Rev. Jon M. Richardson*

Senior Warden: *John Simonelli*
Junior Warden: *Jennifer Trevisan*

Vestry: *Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer, non-voting)*
Mary Harbinsky (Clerk, non-voting)
Pat Hodde
Kathy Kent
Lee Moody
Mike Roehrer
Dale Pappas-Wilhelm
Marty Stanton
Irene Williams

Staff: *Mary-Esther Arther* *Newsletter Editor*
Dr. Salvatore Mallimo *Music Director*
Gill Otto *Parish Administrator*
Guy Baskinger *Sexton*

