



THE WILD ONION

December 2019

TAKE A MOMENT...
*to breathe,
to prepare yourself,
to experience wonder,
to be grateful,
to appreciate what's to come,
to recognize miracles,
to know your priorities,
to be kind,
to love your neighbor,
to feel God's presence.*

O, Lord, support us all day long until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done, then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

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SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER:

- Holy Eucharist, 8am
- Christian Formation, 9:15am,
- Nursery & Childcare, 9:15am
- Adult Choir Rehearsal, 9:30am
- Choral Eucharist, 10:30am
- Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:45am,
- EYC (grades 7-12), 4:30 pm

OF SPECIAL NOTE:

- All Parish Pot-luck breakfast, Dec 8, 9:00am
- Service of Light, Dec 11 at 6:00pm
- Bishop's visit & Confirmation, Dec 15
- Healing service on the third Monday at noon

*****COMING ATTRACTIONS IN ADVENT*****

Dec. 8 -- Advent Pot Luck Breakfast and group game, 9:00 am

Dec. 11 -- Service of Light, 6:00 pm

Dec. 15 -- Bishop Bauerschmidt Visits, Conversation with the Bishop at 9:15 am, Youth Lunch and Christmas Caroling, 12:00-2:00 pm (grades 4-12)

Dec. 22 -- Christmas Decorations for Nave (craft), 9:15 am

Dec. 24 -- Carol Sing at 4:30 pm, Choral Eucharist at 5:00 pm

fyi, Dec. 29, 10:30 am (only), Choral Eucharist, there will be no 8:00 am service, breakfast or Christian Formation

WORSHIP

MUSICAL & LITURGICAL NOTES

By Stephanie Budwey & Laura Duke

Advent is upon us and the choirs are working on beautiful anthems to help us celebrate the season. The psalm each week will all be based on the hymn tune "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The choir will begin staying downstairs to sing this and the plan is to teach the chant to the congregation as well so you may all join us in singing during this joyous time. Burns will also sing the closing blessing.

We will also be switching the service music to mark the season. We will sing Franz Schubert's *Deutsche Messe* setting from the hymnal. We will be singing the Kyrie (Lord have mercy) in place of the Gloria for the season of Advent. This is a holdover from when Advent was celebrated as a penitential season to prepare for Christ's coming as judge as well as those who were preparing for baptism on Epiphany. Similarly, we omit the Gloria during Lent, which is still observed as a penitential season, including preparation for those who wish to be baptized on Easter. There was a break in the solemnness of both seasons, however, which are still celebrated today. The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) and the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) are sometimes marked with the wearing of rose vestments. This is also the reason why we light the pink candle in Advent wreaths on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Finally, we are excited to announce that the Christmas Eve service will include Carol Singing interspersed with anthems from the adult and children's choirs before the service. This will begin at 4:30pm and end shortly before the service begins at 5:00pm.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

Wednesday, December 11, 6pm in the Chapel

What is "A Service of Light?" It is a sacred hour that offers those who find the cheer and sparkle of the holidays challenging an opportunity to observe and give thanks for the promise of peace the Christmas story proclaims. Part healing service, part Taize (meditative singing), part contemplative prayer--this Service of Light provides plenty of space and time for anyone who comes to the manger with a heavy heart. As always... all are welcome!



Contemplative Prayer

will resume on January 8, 2020

At that gathering we will begin reading *The Interior Castle* by Theresa of Avila. We hope you will join us.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are available to bring communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship services. Please notify the parish office, stdavidschurch@bellsouth.net or 615-352-0293, to schedule a home communion visit.



We are setting up the Nativity Scene a little differently this year...

Saint David's tradition has our children setting up the Creche throughout the weeks of Advent. This year we're going to do things a little differently in order to turn our attention to service during Advent. Please help the children participate by bringing the following on the four Sundays of Advent and on Christmas Eve:

- **December 1 - Advent 1:** bound bundles of pine needles or small sticks (we will have some small hay bales as well)
- **December 8 - Advent 2:** sticks about 5" to 18" long with branches to serve as "trees" that the kids will put in small containers of sand
- **December 15 - Advent 3:** Canned food for STOMP (Spaghetti, Tuna, Oatmeal, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta or Peanut Butter) for the Saint Luke's Community House food pantry.
- **December 22 - Advent 4:** A small stuffed animal (1' or less) to put around the scene, which can be retrieved after the Christmas Eve service.
- **December 24 - Christmas Eve:** Items you've collected for your Reverse Advent Basket that will support Conexión Américas.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC, FLOWERS & DECORATIONS
(circle Music or Flowers)

are given to the glory of God by

_____ (please print)

in honor of _____

in memory of _____

in thanksgiving for _____

Please return this form to the parish office by Wednesday, December 18, 2019,
**with a check in any amount payable to St. David's,
noted "for Christmas Flowers" or "for Christmas Music."**



Reminder

To facilitate participation in our worship services and other activities, the "upper" circle drive by the Sanders Hall entrance is designed for drop-off of passengers with limited mobility and parking for drivers with limited mobility.

FORMATION

FORMATION is for EVERYONE!

Blue booklets with the 2019-2020 Christian Formation offerings are available throughout the church building. Take one home or download the flyer below and post it somewhere at your home. Or do both!



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Epiphany Pageant

9:30am in Sanders Hall

(after the Epiphany Potluck Breakfast dies down...)

The Godly Play children made
Thankful Turkeys before Thanksgiving.
Ask one of them about how much fun they had
and how thankful they are.
Also, we heard the turkeys' noses light up.



December EYC--What's Up?

Sunday, December 1: Youth Group T-Shirt Time, 4:30 - 6:30pm

It's Youth Group t-shirt time! Bring a t-shirt and we will design and screen print our own shirts.

Sunday, December 8: Compline, Queso and Compassion

*5:30-7:30pm, Church of the Good Shepherd
1420 Wilson Pike, Brentwood, TN 37027*

A Diocesan EYC even to be held at Church of the Good Shepherd. Here is what the flyer says: "Join other young people from around the Diocese for an evening of togetherness as we move through the season of Advent. This program provides youth with an opportunity to meet other Episcopal

young people and explore their spiritual side during Advent. We will close with Compline by candle light."

Sunday, December 15: Caroling for Folks Who Can't Come to Church

Grades 4-12, 12 - 2pm, no EYC from 4:30 - 6:30pm

Susan Wood will lead our Christmas Caroling effort this year. Plan to stay after church for lunch and then join Susan and others on a trip to five or six places to bring some warm holiday cheer to some folks who can't get out to Saint David's for a variety of reasons. This is a really sweet thing to do for people you may not know, and it means A TON to them even though it might not mean a whole lot to you. Plus you get to wear a glittery Santa hat--now there is really NO excuse not to go!

Sunday, December 22: Help Hang Christmas Decorations in the Nave

12 - 2pm, no EYC from 4:30 - 6:30pm

In the morning, an intergenerational group of Saint David's good people will gather to make unique Christmas decorations for the nave: people chains, hanging stars and maybe apple/orange garlands--we'll see how we do with the people chains! They will need your help hanging them all when they are done with them and once the glue has dried, which should be right around when the 10:30am service ends. *You may also want to attend this service because of a little bet we have going... You just have to be present to catch it, right?*

Can you help out with EYC in some way?

I can make dinner for EYC!

I can help co-lead EYC one or more Sunday evening!

I can organize an all parish fun event!

Larger Diocesan EYC News...

Winterfest at DuBose

This year's theme is: "A Thread of God in Everything"

Dec 28 - January 1, 2020

(12/28/19 drop off at 4:00pm and 1/1/20 pick up at 3:00pm)

DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tennessee.

Bus runs round trip: Memphis - Jackson - Nashville - DuBose

REGISTER AT: <https://www.duboseconferencecenter.org/winterfest>

Winterfest is a Tennessee Episcopal Youth Retreat which provides a welcoming and safe space for high school students (grades 9th - 12th) to grow in their relationship with God and Christ through creative worship, service, music, love, friendship and understanding. It has served Episcopal youth across Tennessee since the 1990's, unifying youth from all over the state to live, play, talk, eat, sing and worship together as a community of faith. This four day program includes group discussions, daily worship, praising God through dance and song, and playful skits.

**SERMONS IN THE ROUND...
ON HOLIDAY!**

We're just taking a break at the beginning of winter, don't worry. We'll be back at our sermon dissections on February 11 in Sanders Hall. Watch the February *Wild Onion* for more information.

COMMUNITY



ONION RINGS

Mark the date! On December 19th, 7:00-8:00 pm, **G'anne Harmon** will be the featured poet for the Poet's Corner Series at Scarritt Bennett (Fondren Hall). These new poems explore the multiple homes she's inhabited and the stories around them. G'anne would love to share these experiences and meditations with you. A link to the Scarritt Bennett website is below.

<https://www.scarrittbennett.org/events/12-19-2019-poets-corner/>

**SAINT DAVID'S WOMEN WILL GATHER FOR A
COOKIE SWAP**

2:00-4:30 pm on Saturday, December 7

by Jaci Kitch and Heather Davidson

Jaci Kitch will host the gathering at the home of her daughter, Heather Davidson, 833 Williamsburg West, 37221. Please bring your favorite cookie recipes, a sample or an appetizer, and your favorite beverage. Let Jaci know if you plan to attend at jaci.kitch@gmail.com or 615-636-0036.

The Saint David's Men's Group will meet on December 19 for an informal "pop-up" dinner at a local restaurant. Please contact John Kitch at jdkitch@cclawtn.com or Allen Hovious at a.hovious@comcast.net if you are interested.

ADVENT POTLUCK BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 9:00am

Please bring a dish to share and your appetite as the Saint David's community shares the traditional Advent Potluck breakfast feast. There will be intergenerational games available.

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**ALL PARISH LUNCHEON**

*The Monday Lectionary Explorers Group invites everyone to a Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11, beginning at noon, in Sanders Hall.*

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Looking Ahead to Epiphany 2020

Sunday, January 5

We hope you will join us for a festive Epiphany Potluck Breakfast and join in our first effort at an Epiphany Pageant. Everyone is both invited and needed for this particular pageant, and no practice is required. Just show up! Here is the schedule for the morning:

8:00 am -- Holy Eucharist
9:00 am -- Epiphany Potluck Breakfast
9:30 am -- Epiphany Pageant
10:30 am -- Holy Eucharist
11:45 am -- Children's Choir Rehearsal

-CLASSIFIED-

-Available: Peer-led Support Group for survivors of suicide loss

6:30-8:00 pm on December 3 & 17

Held in Community Room 1 at Hillwood Presbyterian Church
6220 Hickory Valley Road, Nashville, TN 37205

For info: Pastor Jule (hillwoodpastor@outlook.com or newmara@hotmail.com)
or call 615-352-6310

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 3 Edie Wear
Dec. 4 Julie Erwin
Dec. 9 Joe Brown, Carol Hornberger, Olivia Cass
Dec. 10 Grady Williams
Dec. 12 Kinsey Wilkinson
Dec. 15 Evie Hill
Dec. 16 Hart Wilkinson
Dec. 19 Katherine Puckett
Dec. 21 Patti Taylor
Dec. 24 Dotty Rogers, Courtney Bahr
Dec. 25 Gareth Aden, Bill Sanders, Ann Walling, Bill Schwartz, Karl Jahrling
Dec. 26 Jonathan Gotterer
Dec. 27 Ellen Robert
Dec. 30 Cal Fox, Kaye Howry
Dec. 31 Staci Spivak

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 19 Pat & Diane Ruth
Dec. 23 Angela & Dick Klausner
Dec. 27 Kathy & Tommy Tompkins
Dec. 29 Lucy & Allen Hovious, Bill & Shelley Tabeling

Parish Safety Training and Luncheon - January 12

Please join us Sunday, January 12, after the 10:30 service for lunch and parish safety training with a local crime prevention officer. He will be going through various tips and techniques to help us keep our congregation safe, and training is intended for all age groups. We understand that this is a sensitive topic, but also discern that many at Saint David's would like to have as many tools as possible to help keep our church family and community safe. If you have any questions please reach out to Cal Fox, dcalfox@gmail.com, or Lucy Hovious, lucy.hovious@comcast.net.

TELLING OUR STORY

Spotlight on a Saint David's Ministry...

The Finance Committee

By David Livingston, Treasurer

The Finance Committee at Saint David's is a small group composed of the wardens (Senior Warden and Junior Warden), two representatives from the parish, and the Treasurer. We meet monthly to review the previous month's financial reports and condition, and to discuss issues and situations that might impact our pledge or loose offering income, as well as the overall expense trends. In addition to reviewing the monthly financial reports, we look at capital expenditures that the church may incur (i.e. the replacement of the air conditioning unit for the Nave), and try to determine the best recommendation to the Vestry regarding payment and/or financing of the large expenses.

One of the most important aspects of the Finance Committee is the development of the coming year's budget. In the fall, we begin looking at our past expenses, and try to project what they will be for the coming year. We also ask the heads of various areas (Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Music Program, etc) for their input and what they think they will need from an expense standpoint for the next year's budget. At the December meeting, we begin to finalize a budget to be presented to the Vestry for their approval, based on the level of pledges, projections of loose offering for the coming year, and looking at other sources of income compared to our expense amounts. Obviously, if expenses are higher than income, we've got to make adjustments in an effort to reach a balanced budget.

Once we've gotten a budget recommendation together, we present it to the Vestry for their consideration and approval. If the Vestry wants changes made, we may then have to make further adjustments. After the budget is finalized and approved, the Finance Committee starts the new year repeating the process.

>>>> TCB! <<<<<

Taking Care of Business!

Reading between the lines of David Livingston's informative article above, we are clearly called to take care of our beloved parish home, not only its human family but also its building and grounds. We **are** Saint David's! We **are** responsible for all of it. If you plan to make a pledge for 2020, please mail it in asap or let the parish office know. Just as importantly, let's help the Finance Committee do its difficult job and **remember to pay 2019 pledge commitments by December 31!!** (contributions mailed by December 31 can be counted toward your 2019 donations also.)

Seeking Nominations for Vestry Class of 2022

Seeking Nominations for Vestry Class of 2022: Nominations are being received for persons to run for election to the Vestry Class of 2022 at the January 2020 Annual Parish Meeting. Candidates must be at least 16 years old, baptized, confirmed or received and in good standing in the church and must be able to attend the annual Vestry Retreat (February 21-23, 2020) along with Vestry meetings on the third Monday of each month. To nominate someone, or yourself, contact one of the following: Rahn Huber (rahnhuber@mindspring.com), Josh McGuire (josh.mcguire@vanderbilt.edu), Greg McNair (greg@mcnair1.com), Edie Wear (edie.wear@gmail.com).

SERVICE

THE BEST EVER SAINT DAVID'S BAZAAR ***By Derrill McRae, Bazaar Coordinator***

It was **BIG**, It was **BUSTLING**, It was **BRILLIANT**, It was **BUSY!**

I would like to thank the Bazaar Committee and the parishioners of Saint David's for all of their hard work on the Best Bazaar Ever this year! So far, we have taken in **\$7,8004.00** and we still have items in Sanders Hall for sale. It really does take a village. Thank you!

2019 Reverse Advent Basket for...



Reverse Advent Basket? What's that?!

As we have done for past few years, Saint David's will participate in a "Reverse Advent Basket" spiritual discipline. This is how it works:

1. Get a box or basket the size of a hat box or a small laundry basket and set it near a place in your home you see everyday. Maybe put a big sign that says, "Reverse Advent Basket." Kids could have a good time decorating box/basket.
2. Each day read the suggestion on [The Way of Love's Advent Calendar](#) (which can also be picked up in the narthex and hallway).
3. Try to live into the suggestion--Days 10 & 15 are particularly challenging--then put one of the many items requested by Conexión Américas into your "Reverse Advent Basket."
4. Then bring your Reverse Advent Basket to the Christmas Eve Service and place it around the Nativity scene that will be set up just below the altar.

Why Conexión Américas?

The EYC, with the very helpful guidance of Marilyn Leathers, is sponsoring the Reverse Advent Basket program this year. In August they discussed what kinds of organizations they would want to serve. By a very large majority, the group wanted to find an organization that helped immigrant families get settled into Nashville. Edie Wear did some research for us and found that Conexión Américas would be a great organization to help out.

Who is Conexión Américas and whom do they serve?

While you could read and learn more about [Conexion Americas](#) on their website, the following crystallizes what they are about.

Conexión Américas' mission:

Our mission is to build a welcoming community and create opportunities where Latino families can belong, contribute and succeed.

What do they need?

Thanks to Carol Hornberger, we know that Conexión Américas can use the following items. Focus on one thing or cover everything! Just DO NOT Christmas wrap any of these items.

1. children's English/Spanish picture dictionaries and children's activity books-connect dots.
2. health/ first aid/med supplies: Pepto Bismol tablets, aspirin, Tylenol, cough drops, antibiotic ointment, Band-aids, small Kleenex packets, small bottles of hand sanitizer, children's dosage medicines
3. bottled water
4. small toys (without parts to lose)- cars, trucks, small stuffed toy animals or dolls
5. sturdy fabric bags
6. stretchy gloves, socks and adjustable caps ("one size fits all")

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR REVERSE ADVENT BASKETS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4:30PM

All Hands on Deck!... for Room in the Inn (RITI).

There are a number of ways to participate in this meaningful ministry from preparing food (*we always need new cooks!*) to spending the night with the homeless men who are Saint David's guests. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway near Sanders Hall. Josh McGuire leads the efforts for Saint David's folks on the second Saturday of the month November-March at Saint Luke's Community Center.

SERVICE BEHIND THE SCENES... There are so *many* parishioners who quietly perform acts of kindness and service without recognition. *Here are a few:*

Lezette Thomason embroiders Irish Linen baptismal cloths for families to take away from the baby's baptism. They are beautifully embroidered ***Dick Murphy*** takes food to St. Luke's each week from our STOMP bins. ***James Donets*** replenishes the pew cards each week. ***Lynda Christiansen*** stocks and cleans the kitchen.

THANK YOU!

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR...



Dear Good People of Saint David's,

Two years ago a little female cardinal perched on a pillar in the corner of our front porch. Even though it was a tight space, she managed to fit and became a petite reddish-dun ball with a beak. We named her Charlotte. She sat there during the night and flew away in the morning. This went on for about a week or so, until one evening she did not return. We figured she had rested and went on her way.

The following year we were surprised to find her--at least we think it was Charlotte--in her same spot, a familiar soft brown ball. She stayed for a similar amount of time and then was gone. I wonder if she'll be back this year.

Then this spring we came to find a "mess" of twigs in the opposite corner. The next day it was a fully formed nest. A pair of robins had set in to lay their eggs. That entire spring we left by the back door so we wouldn't disturb them. Eventually, Mama Robin became somewhat accustomed to us so that we could sit on the front porch without her flying away.

About a month later, all four eggs hatched. Four big baby birds eventually crowded the nest so much that Mama Robin couldn't sit down. One day soon after we were entertaining some friends on the front porch when we were interrupted by the unexpected plop of one of the babies onto the porch. I tried to put it back, but another hopped out at the same time. Turns out they all fledged at the same moment.

Imagine four robin fledglings flopping around your front porch, children trying to help, a neighbor come to learn about the chaos, two cats come to assess their chances to exploit the situation and soon...the robin parents. **YOU DO NOT MESS AROUND WITH ROBIN FLEDGLINGS.** The robin parents were SO mad at us and even more incensed at the cats. Hovering at gutter height and squawking like I have heard no bird ever do, the robins shouted their displeasure. As if that was not enough, both of them flitted in unison back and forth in front of the porch as if to challenge us to a fight. We decided that the best thing for all parties involved was to go inside and leave them be. I watched the cats from inside the house, ready to intervene if they came too close.

This summer, I noticed the nest had changed. It had a roof on it now. The next day a closer look revealed two eyes and curved beak. Thanks to Eric Appelt I was able to identify that two Carolina wrens had capitalized on the Robin Family departure and set up shop for their fledgling factory. Out the back doors we went again for a few weeks.

However, I got curious. And this is where this story is headed. I found my telescoping mirror that would allow me access to look inside the nest at the eggs without getting up close. But Mama Wren was not as accepting as Mama Robin. Each time I went outside she immediately flew away and lit upon the neighbors fence where she barked at me until I left.

But she watched me look at her eggs. She saw me get a stool, exercising even more curiosity, to look at the eggs and how the roof stayed so well intact. I invaded her space rather willfully. Iris was not very happy with me and pleaded with me to not look again each time I got out that telescoping mirror.

Soon the babies hatched and now both Wren Parents were flitting around. Mama Wren's bark was fiercer than ever. So was Iris's. But I persisted. Soon, I noticed a distinct absence of the wren parents, but the babies were still in the nest. I started to worry. A few days after that, the nest was empty.

I'm not sure what exactly happened. Did the baby wrens fledge? Did they get eaten by one of the many hawks in the neighborhood? Did they fall out and fly away or did the cats get them? Or worse, a possum? I didn't have a good feeling about their survival.

I knew that I was likely responsible for ruining the Carolina Wren nesting process. I'm not sure what happened except that my curiosity ran away with my wisdom and allowed human shortsightedness run rampant. I am so sorry about that.

Thinking about this some more, I think I might be able to assign a feeling to this experience. I think the summer was such a busy time that I didn't slow down much. I paddled a little here and there, but I didn't swim much or garden or do much else outside. When I saw the nesting process of our second bird family, I think my mind saw a way to get a quick fix of being Outside. It was only for me; I wasn't thinking about the birds or the anxiety even other creatures must have felt when they heard the angry and likely scared shrieking of a little Carolina wren.

I've learned this lesson before. This lesson always seems to have the same answer: Instead of making a mess of things, slow down. I wish I had just quietly come to sit next to the porch window and watched them from the inside. I might have had the opportunity to see three baby wren make their debut.

This has been a long letter. I hope it slowed you down long enough to get to this point. Advent, like Lent, is one of those blessed Church seasons that gives an extra boost of encouragement to carve away the crazy from our lives. In this season when the Spirit of Capitalism is glorified more than the Spirit of Peace coming into the world, we are all invited to slow down instead of making a mess of things.

Our presiding bishop has done a yeoman's job of working to *activate* The Episcopal Church. I am a late comer to leading Saint David's in TEC's ["Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life."](#) However, Advent is a good time to steer us in this direction. If we are move in a direction that is more service-oriented, we begin with ourselves.

I encourage you to take up [The Way of Love's Advent calendar](#), which will be available at church and each week in the bulletin if you can't download it from the links I've provided here. Follow the daily practices. A few of them are more challenging than others and will certainly make you slow down to think about how to not make a mess of things that could certainly get messy.

If Advent tells the stories of the Kingdom of Love's emergence, about the coming of peace to all the world, then we could *be the very emergence* we anticipate. The Way of Love's practices can get us there.

In the meantime, I'll be looking for Charlotte to make her return. And I shall be staying inside, admiring and loving her from a distance.

In peace,
Carolyn+