

# The Cornerstone

**St. David's  
Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 334  
Laurinburg, NC 28353  
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**January 2026**

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## **Words from the Senior Warden**

It is the time of the year to think about beginnings. It's "new" time. But, maybe we should be thinking about the value of old things at the same time. Our liturgy is old, but the prayers and the changing of the seasons keep us in contact with other Episcopalians. We are looking forward to our new organ, and new roofs on our buildings. We will use our organ to find new tuneful ways to worship and praise God. We will appreciate the sturdy roofs that will prevent leaks into our buildings.

We are aging and noticing things we cannot do as well as before. Are we also noticing the new things that God is doing for us? As we reflect on God's bounty and promises to us, we are inspired to try new things for God. We try new ways of praying, new books to enlarge our knowledge of God and God's love. We try new ways to greet our neighbors and show concern for them. We search for the new ways that God is showing us how He wants us to grow and learn to follow Him more closely.

We build on the old to discover the new things God has for us.

A successful new year is based on our old knowledge, but with a willingness to adapt.

Carolyn Beranek  
Senior Warden

# Thank You

David Adams for coordinating the wreath and poinsettia sale

Paul Adams and David Adams for driving to the NC mountains to bring back the wreaths

All who contributed, set up, purchased, or attended Market Day

Bonnie Glenn, Clerk, for serving her three-year Vestry term

David Adams, Junior Warden, for serving his three-year Vestry term

Varnell Green and David Adams for setting up our outdoor manger scene



### **Contributions for The Cornerstone**

The Cornerstone deadline is the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month. All articles are invited.

Please email articles to [bonnieglenn@gmail.com](mailto:bonnieglenn@gmail.com). The Cornerstone editor is Bonnie Glenn.

## January Birthdays

January 5 Miranda Campbell, Morgan Campbell  
January 7 Barbara Cook  
January 15 Sarah Jane Harmon, Miguel Sanchez  
January 16 Jeanne Fedak, Natilee Smithson  
January 19 Lee Harris  
January 21 David Patrick Hoffman  
January 24 Melissa Williamson  
January 26 Martha Gibson, Willow Love  
January 29 Semaj Tomlin

## January Anniversaries

January 17 Page and Addie Pratt  
January 31 Weston and Barbara Cook



## Inventory Completed

After decades in the making, our church inventory is complete. Thanks to the diligence of Joshua Lewis and David Adams, all our items in the Church, parish hall, and office buildings are counted and accounted. Each were presented with a manual counter for their efforts!

Carolyn Beranek

## Annual Meeting Update

We discussed the past year, the proposed budget, and plans for 2026.

Carolyn Beranek

## Looking for Christmas Cards

If you are looking to get rid of your cards, bring them to the box in the narthex. I will be sending them to St. Jude's Ranch in Nevada. The kids rework the cards for pocket money. Tear off the greeting and leave the front cover in the box. Thanks.

Carolyn Beranek

## Time to recycle those Ash Wednesday/Lenten Crosses

Bring those crosses into the church or the office and they will be burned for ashes for this Ash Wednesday. It is one great outward and visible sign of the passing of the seasons of the church year.

Carolyn Beranek

## Chinese Auction needs a location

We traditionally have our Chinese Auction in January (to avoid getting into Lent). It is a time to "repurpose" those gifts that do not match your taste or home. All gifts should be wrapped and will be auctioned off at the event. The auction goes like this:

The auctioneer makes up a description from looking at your package.

The bidding begins, each time one bids, one throws the bit into the basket.

After a random timed interval, the bell rings and the last bid wins the package.

The group decides to which non-profit the proceeds will go. We eat our potluck dinner. It is a fun, unusual evening. Start saving those coins to bid often. Does anyone wish to have it at their house?

Carolyn Beranek

## 2026 Pledge Update

So far, we have received 12 pledges totaling \$44,820. We have a deficit of \$5,149 to balance our budget for next year. Last year we had 15 pledges totaling \$45,400. Please consider turning in your pledge if you have not already done so. THANK YOU to all those who have.

John Beranek, Treasurer

### Disclaimer:

The views expressed in these newsletter articles are those of the author only.

## Application for Grants Successful

We are extremely fortunate to receive two grants from the NC Episcopal Diocese for our Roof Replacement Project (all three buildings). The first one is from the Phase 3 Diocesan House sale Proceeds for \$20000. The second one is from the NC Episcopal Church Fund for \$10000. With the other money that has been donated we now have enough to fully fund this project.

John Beranek, Treasurer

## Rebranding

The Diocese of NC is doing a rebranding. Their purpose is to be reflective of the place we are in now and yet honor the past. We have a new logo, a new website, and a new online community. All of these are to enhance our image and reflect where we are now and encourage growth. If you have not seen these three updates from the Diocese, I encourage you to go to The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina [episdionc.org](http://episdionc.org) and see the planning and research that went into these changes. Our old logo was 111 years old and the new logo is much more attractive and eye catching. It was fascinating to see how the new logo was developed from the feedback given. Looking for what is God is calling us to do, while honoring where God has brought us is a good thing to do.

Carolyn Beranek



## Why go Caroling or Receive Carolers?

Caroling is an old tradition. It can be as simple as singing to a household and then moving on or singing and receiving cookies and hot chocolate. For the carolers, they enjoy moving in the dark and singing carols to those from the congregation that we do not see often. The recipients get real people singing the Christmas carols we have heard for two months already. They receive the gift from the carolers of presence and acknowledgement. Both sides receive the warmth of human interaction, and it is a bonus when the recipients sing along with the carolers.

Consider caroling next year.

Carolyn Beranek

## In the Darkness of Winter

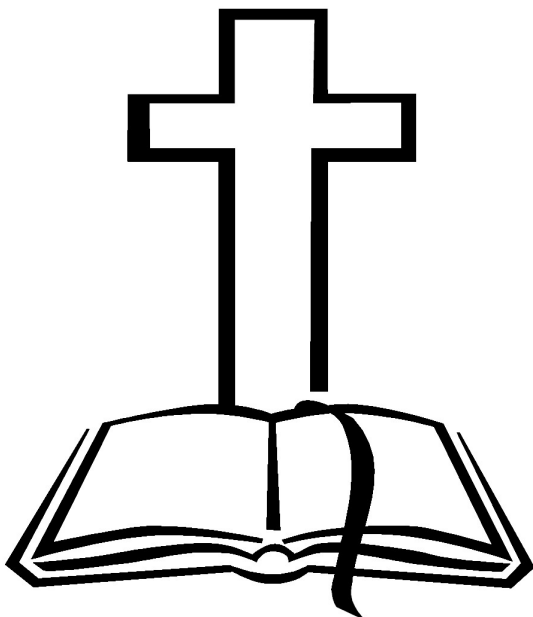
January always seems barren after the brightness of Christmas. Here is a Collect to pray to bring light during the dark winter days.

*"Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen."*

- Book of Common Prayer

May it remind you of God's love and warm your heart.

Bonnie Glenn



# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 Full Wolf Moon
4 Christian Formation, 10am  Holy Eucharist, 11am	5	6 Epiphany	7 Compline via Zoom, 7pm	8	9	10 Parish Work Day to undecorate the church
11 Christian Formation, 10am  Holy Eucharist, 11am	12	13	14 Parish Potluck, "New Food or Spice" 6pm  Compline, 7pm	15	16	17
18 Christian Formation, 10am  Holy Eucharist, 11am	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  Church Newsletter Deadline	20	21 Compline via Zoom, 7pm	22	23	24
25 Bishop Sam Rodman's Visitation  Christian Formation, 10am  Holy Eucharist, 11am  Parish Potluck, 12noon	26	27	28 Compline via Zoom, 7pm	29	30	31



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