



ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FOUNDED IN 1715



THE OUTREACH STORY  
OF THE  
ST. DAVID'S COUNTRY FAIR'S  
FLEA MARKET



# St. David's Fair - Flea Market Job Description

by Jerry Kinkead May 2020

The Flea Market job description changes with the season (Weekly Working Sessions and Fair time) and can change within the season. Broad skills are required. Flexibility and good humor are mandatory.

## Requirements

### Weekly Working Sessions:

Dedication to a team  
Commitment to a task (many tasks)  
Discovery skills: the good, bad and ugly  
Sense of humor  
Decision making  
Flexibility under pressure  
Lifting, hauling, cleaning, mending  
Researching/consulting  
Organizing/categorizing  
Packing and labelling  
Good footwear  
Sense of humor

### Fair Set-Up/Fair Day (2 weeks)

Dedication to the big picture  
Good footwear  
Endurance for long hours/days  
Team player  
Playful spirit  
Sense of humor  
Commitment to many tasks  
Sense of purpose  
Strong muscles - lifting, hauling, climbing  
Decision making  
Display expertise/initiative  
Sense of humor

## Requirements

Undeterred by this intimidating job description, a lot of very good people have joined the Flea Market team over the years. The Flea Market has increased in popularity and morphed into quite a serious business and a substantial fundraiser to support St. David's' outreach partners. The work is demanding, seemingly unending, bad for the manicure and hard on the back, however, there is a shared sense of purpose and plenty of laughter.

"Recycling" became a popular term in the 1970s. With rising energy costs, recycling became a rallying cry, a buzzword to encourage social responsibility. For many, recycling of clothing and household goods was already a way of life, a hangover from the Depression and World War II, a habit born of thrift and necessity. Among Flea market shoppers, "repurposing" became another trendy buzzword. Making "a silk purse from a sow's ear" could include electrifying a cut-glass oil lamp or turning a nail keg into a porch planter. Searching for anything "vintage" is a challenge to many do-it-yourselfers.



By collecting year-round donations to prepare for the October Fair, the St. David's Flea Market has attracted these searchers for years. Carving out storage space and work space has not always been easy and locations and conditions have not always been comfortable, but St. David's volunteers are a sturdy bunch. In the 1980s and 1990s, there was a tall metal barn/shed in the southeast corner of the Chapel property which was shared by three committees: Auction, Books and Fleas.

Volunteers froze in winter or perspired in the windowless tin shed in summer to keep up with constant donations.

The Books group, in the center section, had to carefully stake out its territory so as not to be infringed upon by a sideboard on one side or flower pots on the other. It was a delicate balance but, with respect for each other's real estate, volunteers forged ahead.

At Fair time each year, all the goods had to be carted across the street to the Fairgrounds behind the old church. While tents were erected for most of the booths, the staging grounds for the Flea Market were the 100-year old leaky carriage stalls. This partially enclosed space was large, but the ground was uneven and rain and cold often made the outdoor Set-Up week pretty miserable. Covering and uncovering the precious goods with heavy tarps was a daily struggle.



Plans for a new indoor space were underway in 2007 and 2008. The carriage stalls were eventually removed to make way for the new structure, and construction continued through 2009. At the same time, the metal shed across the street was taken down and several booths, including the Flea Market, moved operations to the Chapel basement. It was inconvenient for everyone in every way, but "the show must go on" and the 2009 Fair, occupying the new Fair Shed, was a big success.

*"We have an excellent return policy."*

*- Jane Brink*



*Set-up day 2008 Jerry Kinkead, Jane Brink, and Ginny Purinton, photo by Cindy Roach.*

That success has continued, with the Flea Market expanding and contracting into different spaces over the years. This past year, 2019, the Fleas managed four venues at the Fair: the Shed space, a very large Tent across the gravel driveway, an indoor Art Gallery and a Holiday/Christmas booth. In 2019, there were 46 people on the year-round volunteer list and 22 more who came for Set-Up week and Fair Day.

The Flea Market has become a very big operation. The abundance of donations that arrive each week is both a blessing and a curse, and stretching the allotted space often means reorganizing and rearranging to make way for the next best thing. There's no time for idleness, the Fleas are always in perpetual motion, but laughing is a constant and the friendships go deep. To understand the hard-working Fleas who support this operation year after year, refer once again to the Job Description. And take note of the Flea Market mantra: "If you haven't moved that box three times, you haven't done your job."

# Interview with Jerry Kinkead

by Marianne Cook, July 2020

Jerry Kinkead didn't begin her volunteer work in the Flea Market of the St. David's Country Fair. She was, primarily, a stay at home mom who did volunteer work "all my life." At the time she became involved Mary Wright was considered the "Grand Dame" of Fleas. Jerry started out working at the Fair in the omelette booth with friends, but said that Fleas "seemed like the right fit for me." She wanted to work with people, liked organizing things, was interested in antiques and considered it a worthy cause.

Previously, Jerry had worked in the Development and Alumni Office of the Agnes Irwin School where she helped volunteers with events planning. There she gained computer skills that helped her take the lead with the Flea Market.

The St. David's community can be very grateful to Jerry for a job well done. The Flea Market grew under her leadership from an operation in the old horse sheds to the large production we now have in both the new shed and the large tent across the way.



# Flea Market Plea

Give us your retired, your ignored  
From crowded cupboards yearning to be cleaned,  
The ancient treasures from your cluttered drawers.  
Send these, your jewels and bric-a-brac to Fleas  
New life awaits within our double doors.

*Please, No Wretched Refuse*

Give us your expired, your scorned,  
The art, the jewels, the china you've replaced,  
The wine carafe, the clock, the powder horn.  
Send these, the odds and ends that cramp your space.  
Unloved detritus needs to be reborn.

*Please, No Wretched Refuse*

Give us your forsaken, your unprized,  
The presents you are yearning to re-gift,  
The lamp you loathe, the painting you despise.  
Send these to Fleas, and give your house a lift.  
Your unloved flotsam will be someone's prize.

*Please, No Wretched Refuse*

Give us your cast-offs, we implore;  
The huddled glasses crammed upon a shelf,  
The tablecloth, the lampshade you abhor.  
Send these, your crystal, porcelain, and Delft.  
Someone will love to have your old décor.

*Please, No Wretched Refuse.*

**Poetic parody by Flea Market volunteer, Jerry Kinhead**



The Fair is such an important part of our mission and ministry as we come together in fellowship, open our grounds to the surrounding community, and raise money to support our Outreach partners. One of the key elements of the Fair, and certainly the hardest working are “The Fleas” who work tirelessly throughout the year gathering and sorting and scheming. They have been and continue to be one of the most important and effective contributors. Thanks to all “The Fleas” for their selfless and gracious work.

*Frank*

The Rev. W. Frank Allen

Rector

St. David's (Radnor) Church

## Outreach Grant Recipients

In 2020, St. David's parishioners awarded \$120,113 in grants to the following organizations as an expression of our mission to be a community for the world and to make Christ known to others.

- Cecil & Grace Bean Soup Kitchen, Inc.
- Episcopal Legal Aid of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, Inc.
- Episcopal Community Services
- Good Samaritan Services
- Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Main Line Meals on Wheels
- Peter's Place
- St. David's After School Program
- St. David's Cuba Ministry
- St. David's Episcopal Day School
- St. David's Guatemala Ministry
- Radnor Township Civic Association
- St. James School
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church Food Cupboard
- Surrey Services for Seniors
- Uganda Trinity Children's Centre









**St. David's (Radnor) Church**  
Parish History and Archives Committee