

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 10 No. 3

Serving St. David's & St. John's Episcopal Churches

March 2004

Reflections of Father David	Page 2
Sabbatical update	Page 7
Goodbye from your old editor	Page 8
... and hello to your new editors!	Page 9

St. David's

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector, Church Box 103
Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director, Box 147

Vestry

Tom George, Sr. Warden, Box 119
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115
Steve Leiby, Box 70
John Runcie, Box 50
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
David Byers, Box 15
Debbie Cornell, Box 28
Charlie Parker, Box 92
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers, Box 71
Bill Paff, Box 118
Jerri Hoffman, Box 24
Amber Matthews, Clerk, Box 167

St. John's

Rev. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector
Karen Gin, Secretary
Chris Stapor, Treasurer

Vestry

Ted Dotts, Senior Warden
Will Walker, Junior Warden
Deborah Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford
Charles Andres
Cara Stapor
Sandra Garrison
Stephen Stofflet
Alma Stahl
Brett McRae
Karen Steiner

Newsletter

Amber Matthews, Box 167
Sarah Taber, Box 162, email: msujrnls@aol.com

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road
Lansing, MI 48917
Telephone: 517-323-2272
Fax: 517-323-2830
E-mail: stdavids1962@aol.com
Web: www.stdavidslansing.org

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Friday 7:00 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

201 W. Shepherd Street
Charlotte, MI 48813
Telephone: 517-543-4430
Fax: 517-543-2315 (Church)
517-327-1839 (Rev. Carol)
E-mail: stjohnepiscopalchurch201@yahoo.com
Web: www.e-deanery.com/stjohns

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Reflections of Father David

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. *Isaiah 35:1-2*

In many ways the months of February and March are my least favorite months of the year. These are the months in which my childhood changed most. If I am to experience a sense of family loss, it will occur at this time. These two months are cold and often nasty, going from snow to ice to rain, to brief hints of spring to cold grey again. I cannot work in the gardens, winter has lost its delight, and it seems that true spring will never arrive. February and March are when I firmly believe that my “southern” genes kick in and I begin feeling restless and unsettled. Something deep inside of me says that the earth is beginning to burst forth in early blossom, yet when I look out my windows, all I see are dirty grey mounds of snow. If anything is growing, it is happening far underground and I cannot see it. Each February and March I discover that “you can take the boy (me) out of the south, but you can never truly take the south out of the boy.” I want spring and I want it now!

Thankfully, to help me get through this difficult period, there is Lent. Here is a time to be quiet and introspective. The Ash Wednesday service calls each of us to “the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.” (Book of Common Prayer page 265) Before me is a time to look inward and not out at the grey and dreary world. In Lent it is permissible to pull the blankets over one’s head and scrunch up one’s shoulders, and experience revitalizing inward spiritual growth.

This does not mean we can ignore the world we live in. We must always be aware of our surroundings and the ways we affect those whose lives come into contact with us. This means we can and indeed need to dedicate an extra portion of our time on personal spiritual issues. Too often we are always reaching out, helping others, teaching, guiding, directing outwardly; we neglect our inner selves. Lent is to be a time of spiritual renewal and nurture.

How do you plan to spend the next 40 days of Lent? Are you going to follow the suggestions in the Book of Common Prayer, and carefully and honestly look inward and take stock of what you find there? Are you willing to ask God’s forgiveness for what you find there that grieves the heart of God, and cast aside what needs to be cast aside? Are you going to spend more time in prayer, truly talking to God in an intimate personal way? This Lent, are you going to give up something you delight in, and give the money, time or energy to something that benefits others? Are you going to take on a project that touches others in a truly meaningful way? Or are you going to simply roll along the same way you have been for the past weeks, months, perhaps years, and let Lent pass you by?

The answers to the above questions by their very nature are personal and very individual. I urge you to consider them seriously and respond accordingly. Lent will pass very quickly and soon it will be time to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Deep in my heart I know spring will be here. It will arrive just as God has ordained it. I will appreciate spring more as a result of these days of February and March. As a community of Christ, we will appreciate Easter more as a result of these days of Lent.

Isaiah tells of a time when the desert will blossom and the dry place will become a place of springs. Let Lent be this time of transformation and watch for the beauty God has planted.

May God bless and keep you this holy Lent and always.

With deepest affection,

Fr. David

Reverend Carol's message

Lent -- what does it mean?

Lent is the time of year when some people think they have to do something...like give up a favorite food, or stop doing something for the next 40 days, or may be one might think that this is the time to do something for someone, or give more of something some where. Well, all of this might be true to some extent, but what this time is really for is finding our own path that takes us closer to God. If getting closer to God is doing thing than do it. If it is leaving something behind for this time period do that too. But the main thing purpose of this time is for all of us to be doing that which makes Christ more alive in our hearts and minds.

When I was a child Lent meant that we were going to go to the Lenten dinners at church. This was a special time because I could see my friends that went to other schools, and we had a movie to watch or some kind of lesson which gave us an opportunity to do something together. We also had time to just roam around the church and have to good time when our parents were in an "adult talk." I remember the church being so quiet and

the service of Evening Prayer being so special because we had different prayers and hymns we didn't use on Sundays. I remember the sun coming though the stain glass windows and the colors bouncing around the nave. It was a time when a I could see God in the other kids my age and in the adults around me.

And this is what Lent is all about. Finding a time and a space where God becomes special in your life, when God is the center of your attention for just a few minutes each day. Lent isn't a time for feeling like you are being punished, it is a time when we grow to know our Lord in a different and in a more sacred way. Maybe, just maybe, this is the Lent when each of us can find that special moment with our Heavenly Father, when we can crawl into his loving arms and just rest. Let these next 40 days be that for you.

In God's love and grace,

Rev. Carol

Notes for Carol's Corner

On Ash Wednesday we are having services at 7:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. at the church. There will be music at the 6:30 service.

Our Lenten Program this year will be the Questions of the Episcopal Church and will cover the whys and wherefores of our tradition and liturgy. We will meet each Wednesday at 6:30 for the service and then for soup and bread, and then the lesson time. We should be out by 8:15.

We need someone to talk over the responsibility of the nursery. Would you be willing to schedule and help take care of our little ones?

The Church Mouse heard ...

Dave and **Janie Byers** have just returned from time spent in sunny, warm California. While out there they visited with Janie's brother and his family. Thanks to **Scott Cathey** for the times he cleaned the church walks off so people could get in and out of the building safely. **Edith Cole** just returned from a week of visiting Chris and Beth in New York. She was helping Beth with the children while Chris was out west working on a tv commercial. Thanks to **Deb Cornell** and all her helpers for putting on another great Winter Retreat for the 3rd grade through 8th grade youth of St. David's. Everyone had a great time.

Don and **Andrea Flitton** returned home safely from Georgia and **Don** is doing very well with his cancer treatment. **Amy Graves** married **Gary Mugnolo** on February 13, 2004. I saw the wedding which was beautiful and everyone had a great time. They partied all weekend! Did you know that **Loretta Kappler** has been playing the guitar and singing for the Senior World Luncheons. It is really nice having special music each month. **Joan Kriek** is home from a brief stay at Ingham Medical Center. She will be having heart surgery later in the month. **Kristin** and **Bobby Pfauth** spent a week in Florida and **Bobby** actually flew the plane down there. **Jennifer Pike** is having a great time studying in Spain and even took a long weekend trip to Rome. **John** and **Barb Post** are home from time spent out east with their daughter Mary. Mary had a hip replaced and is doing very well. The other hip will be replaced after she is fully recovered.

Please keep **Pat Purol** in your prayers as she still is recovering from her surgery. **Dick** and **Carol Schmidt** spent a week without a furnace in their home during the coldest part of the winter. Thankfully they had a gas fireplace and electric heaters to keep the house somewhat warm. **Fr. Jerry Smith** continues to recover from pneumonia and appreciates your continued prayers. **Bill Stanton** continues to recover from his kidney transplant. (Mike his good friend and donor is also doing well). **Neil VanEpps** is home from a brief

St. David's March Birthdays

1	Bob Muncie
1	Victoria Holbert
5	Jay Bastian
5	Barb VanDyke
7	Kailyn Kressler
7	Hunter Jones
9	Pat Meier
12	Carol Abbott
12	Susan Lipka
15	Daniel Ostrom
16	Don Volk
18	Russell Vine
19	Trevor Spitzley
20	Glennis Muncie
23	Karen Oleson
24	Sandra Bechtel
25	Larry Ewing
25	Ed Meier
27	Seth Jones
29	Sarah Harris
30	Don Lawrence
30	Nicole Spitzley
30	Cash Holbert

March Anniversaries

16	Bill & Kay Paff
18	Harry & Judith Grant
20	John & Nan Strickler
23	Bob & Glennis Muncie
25	Dick & Lorraine Otto

stay at Ingham Medical. Please keep **Curt** and **Kelly (Kohler) Zaske** in your prayers. They are hoping to move back to Lansing and are looking for jobs in town. I will be gone for the month of March, south where it is warmer. If you have anything you want me to report on, give the information to Sue or Edith in the church office or to Fr. David. They will see that I get it when I come back. ✕

The Watermen

By Jim Thurston

All are welcome to attend bible study Sunday at 9:15 A.M. in the multi-purpose room.

Once again, with your help and support, the Pancake Supper was a wonderful success. **Thank You.**

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who attended the Brig Sorber, Two Men and a Truck presentation in February. It was great.

And last but not least:

The Watermen's Survey - Summary.

When asked to describe the type of speaking events that peak your interest, your summarized responses were:

- Areas dealing with Christian aspects of family, money management, parenting, and being a better Christian.

When asked to select a day and time that would encourage attendance, the most often choice was:

- Monday through Thursday, after 7:00 P.M. Other times were Monday and Friday at 8:00 A.M. Last but not least, an early evening selection around 6:15 P.M. while serving of a light meal.

Based upon the responses I believe timely topics that encompass the above areas are mandated with start times normally around 7:00 P.M.

Thanks for your input and support, and I hope, your faces; at our next speaking engagement.

Be good and God Bless.

“Raise the Lord - Praise the Lord - in all you do.”
Anonymous ☩

Healing and Renewal Conference

By John Post

Last summer Jerry & Carol Williams, Barb Post, Lorayne Otto and myself had the opportunity to hear Father Jack Sheffield speak at a conference we were attending. We were so impressed with his inspirational message, his dynamic speaking style, and his humor that we wished there was a way we could share him with all of the members of St. David's.

That wish is becoming a reality through the efforts of the Renewal & Evangelism Committee and the Order of St. Luke Chapter who are bringing Father Jack to St. David's on March 12th and 13th. Every member of our church will now have the opportunity to experience his teaching as part of their Christian growth and development. Father Sheffield, of Deep River Ministries in Austin, TX, is very popular speaker who has led conferences, workshops, and seminars through the United States, Canada, and other countries. The title of the conference is “Giftings of the Holy Spirit,” and the topics Fr. Jack will be covering are: “Joy In The Holy Spirit,” “The Gift of Reconciliation,” “God's Gift of Restoration,” “The Gift of Prophetic Intercession,” and “The Spirit's Voice in Prayer.” You won't want to miss this opportunity to participate in the teaching, fellowship, music, and prayers of this conference!

Conference brochures were placed in parishioners' mail boxes several weeks ago. If you didn't get one or if you've misplaced yours, contact John Post. Also, a registration table with brochures will be located in the Parish Hall following the Sunday services prior to the time of the conference. Or you can register online at St. David's web site <http://www.stdavidslansing.org>. The cost of the conference, which includes lunch, is \$10 per person. To register, contact Jerry or Carol Williams (882-4142). For more information and/or a conference brochure, see John Post. ☩

Youth Christian Education

By Debbie Cornell

The 3rd through 8th grades boys and girls "Winter Retreat," was a huge success. 17 boys and girls registered, and seven chaperones, they were Jeff and Nicole Spitzley, Stephanie Cote', Natasha Root, Mitch Cornell and my husband Kevin. Thank you, for all the hard work you had done to help make this a smooth going retreat, couldn't have done it without you!!! I still can't believe the kids were soooooo quiet from 11:00 p.m. on.

The High School students are working on the Spaghetti Supper that will be held Sunday, March 7th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and will be sold at the door. Half of the proceeds will be donated to Siren.

Also, the High School students are planning an overnight Retreat at the church this month, "March!!!" The main item they want to do is to see the new Mel Gibson movie "The Passion." We are working on other activities as well. ☩

Grace Of Giving Corner

By Carol Williams

At our last meeting of the Grace of Giving Committee, we decided to bring to your attention some of the ministries you support here at St. David's with your gifts of time, talent and money

Three ministries I am active in all focus on prayer. One is the prayer chain. This ministry consists of 15 members who pray for whatever need or thanksgiving for which prayers might be requested. Your prayer requests may be given through the Prayer Request form, located by the Prayer box in the Narthex, through the church office, or by phoning or e-mailing the members of the Prayer chain. No concern is too small or too large for prayers. All requests are kept confidential.

The second area concerns the Prayer Ministers. You will find these members available

to pray with you after the 8am & 10:30am services. Your prayer requests can be concerning your self or for others. These requests are kept confidential.

The third ministry is the St. David's Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician. One of the Chapter's commitments to the family of St. David's is to pray for individuals during the monthly Healing/Eucharist Services. These prayer requests are also kept confidential.

Being a participant in these three ministries is very rewarding. The thanksgivings for answered prayers are so genuine and heartfelt that the honor to have been a part of the process makes God more and more real and oh so merciful and powerful! In case you want to know what happens when prayers are not answered the way we had hoped, I can only speak for myself. I do not understand why some have victory over circumstances and some do not. I always try to keep focused on Jesus, no matter what. He is my answer, I trust in Him. I always believe that God wills for us to be sound and whole – spirit, soul and body. His desire for me, for all of us, is His very best!

I truly hope you will take advantage of these ministries. ☩

ECW rummage sale coming!

By Sarah Taber

We would like to make an announcement to all the members of St. David's to start rummaging through their closets, garages and basements to start putting aside items for the Annual St. David's Garage Sale. Items can be dropped off to St. David's the week of April 18th, 2004.

Please contact myself or Eileen Newhouse if you need more information. ☩

Sabbatical Update

By Kay Paff

The Sabbatical Committee is pleased to announce that a supply priest has been chosen to lead us in worship while Fr. David is on his sabbatical. Benjamin Baldus is a licensed minister in the Episcopal Church, who graduated from MSU (go Green!) and received his theological education in California. Fr. Ben was ordained in 1973 as a minister in the Lutheran church (ELCA). After serving a congregation for a number of years, he felt called to serve the elderly through governmental service in the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. Fr. Ben's current position is Director of the Office of Public Policy and Advocacy at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Ben is also a composer and organist, who enjoys singing. (Too bad he can't lead the service and sing in the choir at the same time! 😊) Next month, Fr. Ben will write an article for the Good News, telling us more about himself.

We have decided that Fr. Ben will serve approximately 3 Sundays a month. He will start the beginning of May and finish the last Sunday in August. Fr. Jerry will lead worship on the Sundays that Ben needs off. We will also have Wednesday Eucharist once a month, with the lay readers leading Evening Prayer on the other Wednesdays. Fr. Ben will be available for counseling by appointment.

Now that a supply priest has been chosen, the Sabbatical Committee will focus on organizing the multitude of laypersons needed to carry on the ministries of the Church while Fr. David is gone. As an example, the Order of St. Luke will take on an increased responsibility in assuring that sick members are visited and prayed for. The Lay Eucharist ministers will step up their involvement in taking Communion to the shut-ins. Lay readers will be responsible for Wednesday services. All of us have the opportunity to be actively involved in serving God in His Church during the sabbatical. How will *you* help out? ✠

Church Etiquette from the Church Lady

During the church service, please keep the following in mind.

1. It is improper for adults to bring "snacks" in church while the church service is going on. This included sandwiches, coffee, pop, and fruit rollups, among other things. If you need a snack, please have it before church or go out and have it in the Great Hall.
2. Conversations between people should be kept to a minimum. It is very hard for some of us to hear Fr. David's excellent sermons when you keep talking to your neighbor. Coffee hour is a great time to talk to the people you don't see very often.
3. Some of us like to pray before and after services. It is very hard to quietly pray with lots of talking going on. Please try and be quiet in Church, and talk in the Narthex.
4. Fr. David says the peace is a time to "Pass the peace to those right around you." It is not a time to carry on conversations, make dinner dates, or wander around the church. Do be sure you speak to the visitors who might be standing close by.
5. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers during the service. I like hearing "When the Saints Go Marching In" played on the organ, not a cell phone.

Listen to the choir when they sing their anthem. Dr. Tim and the choir work hard each week, and we should be polite enough to listen to them. Talking is distracting to the choir and to those trying to listen. ✠

Goodbye newsletter ... hello web page!

By Ric Sorrell

This issue marks my third anniversary as your newsletter editor. It is also my last issue as your newsletter editor. I will be spending most of my time working on the new St. David's web site, which is now at www.stdavidslansing.org.

As my predecessors did, each editor takes over and adds their own persona to the newsletter. After three years, I feel it is time to let others who are willing do the same. Amber Matthews and Sarah Taber will be the editors starting with the April issue (see their introduction letter on the next page). I have every confidence that Amber and Sarah will bring you the same high-quality publication you have come to expect, along with many exciting new features.

I have been fortunate to have many people who faithfully submitted articles regularly and made my job much easier. Thank you! We also added many new and exciting features over these past three years, from a standardized front page that lists all of St. David's most relevant contact information, to monthly puzzles and games, to the 'Read the Bible in a year' series.

I will continue to be involved with the newsletter by becoming a regular contributor, mostly with updates and information about the web page. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your editor and help me wish Amber and Sarah the best of luck on their new adventure. ✠

Lay Eucharistic Minister II Training

Anyone interested in becoming an LEM II and taking Communion to the shut-ins, please let Fr. David know. He is going to lead a class and set up a schedule so the shut-ins can receive Communion each week. This is a wonderful way to minister to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Adult Inquirers Class

The next Adult Inquirers Class will begin on Sunday February 28, 2004 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This class is for anyone who wants to know more about the church, what we do and why we do it. It is also an excellent refresher course for those who were confirmed as a young child and may not remember what was taught way back then. If you have any questions, see or call Fr. David.

Lenten Potlucks and Programs

This year the Lenten Potluck and Programs will begin on Wednesday March 3, 2004 and last for five weeks. Each week we will begin at 6:00 pm with a Eucharist service in the church. Please note the time change. A soup, bread, cheese, fruit potluck will begin at 6:45 pm. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex. Bring your soup, fruit, bread, or cheese to pass, your place settings and come enjoy the fellowship. At 7:30 we will begin the Lenten program, which will end at 8:30 pm. This year there will be a Biblically- based program on what Jesus says about giving of one's self, led by Jerry Williams and Gretchen Smith. There will also be a program on Jesus in his day and how what he said and did relates to today. This program will be led by Fr. David. Come be part of this great time. Any questions about the programs, ask Fr. David, Jerry Williams, or Gretchen Smith.

Introducing your new editors!

By Amber Matthews and Sarah Taber

The time will come for everything to change. Some of us are very receptive to positive change and then again some of us are afraid of change. Most people say that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Well, I agree with this statement but sometimes things are just ready for a fresh start. 2004 is going to bring some exciting changes for the monthly newsletter. The newsletter needs a “POP”!

I would like to introduce myself as your new layout and design person of the Good News Letter. My name is Amber Matthews and I have been serving as your clerk to the vestry for a year now. Although I will still be continuing my ministry serving as vestry clerk, I feel God has given me direction into new avenues and new challenges. I have decided to take over for Ric Sorrell as the new layout person for the newsletter. I would like to thank Ric Sorrell for all his years of wonderful service and dedication with the newsletter ministry and wish him luck in his work with our St. David’s website. I have been working for Michigan Recreation and Park Association as graphic and layout designer and I think that this is a great opportunity for me to serve God by utilizing my graphic skills and training.

As I take on this challenge, I’m asking you... as my church family, for your help and guidance while I get my feet wet. Please break me in slowly and let me know if you have any suggestions to improve our newsletter. I will be having wonderful assistance from Sarah Taber, as she will be collecting all of the articles for the newsletter and editing them for me to do the layout. Sarah and I have decided to have any article submissions e-mailed to her at msujrnlsm@aol.com We have also decided to changes some other important information. Please view the items below.

- Deadline for article submission is the **15th of the month** preceding publication. **Example:** if you would like an article published in the May newsletter, we will need the article by April 15th. (Failure to submit an article by the 15th may result in that article being deferred until a future issue or go unpublished).
- All articles should be submitted on disk or attached to an e-mail message in a Word or text only format. All articles will be copy edited by the newsletter staff, subject to author’s approval of all edits, and stored in a master articles file. Please e-mail all articles to Sarah Taber at msujrnlsm@aol.com
- All copy should be stored in Times New Roman font in a 10-point pitch.
- All hard copy submissions should be doubled spaced.
- There should be no indentations at paragraphs. This will be automated at time of layout construction.
- Final copy of the newsletter will be delivered to church office staff by the 26th of the month for processing.

The only major difference is **we will be enforcing the 15th of the month deadline starting for April**. This is needed to assist us with our busy schedules so we can ensure a positive newsletter for the church family.

We look forward to starting this project for the church and we are always open to your suggestions and article submissions. I will conclude with a letter from Sarah Taber:

Hello, Church Family,

I look forward to starting on this new project as I feel that it was a sign and blessing from God when I contacted Ric. As some of you know, I have a strong passion for writing and a creative spark that drives me to succeed in any endeavor that I take upon myself.

For those of you who don’t know me as well, let me tell you a little about myself. I graduated in December 2001 from Michigan State University (Go Spartans!) with my bachelor’s degree in Journalism with a special focus in Humanities and Art History. I currently work as an HR Administrator with HRU, Inc. – Technical Resources in Lansing, Michigan. I also volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan, where I help out with the daily functions of the house. When I am not in church, working, or volunteering, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and I also take photographs and write in my spare time.

St. David's Episcopal Church
1519 Elmwood Drive
Lansing, MI 48917

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 625



Happening March 26-28, 2004 St. David's Episcopal Church Lansing, MI

HAPPENING -- a Christian Experience, is a time for teens to consider what is real, lasting, and important in their lives. It is rapping with their peers about decisions they are making in their lives. It is meeting other teens who have put **HAPPENING** together in their lives. **HAPPENING** is basically put on by teens. The adults who will be there will be cooks, "Moms" and "Dads", or perhaps one or two will be there as Happeners just like you. Priests will be there to provide spiritual guidance and a listening ear if you should need one.

Additional information and a registration form are in the narthex. **Registration forms and \$40 fee must be returned to Gary Mugnolo by Friday, March 5, 2004.** You can contact Gary by telephone at 517-321-4093, by fax at 517-321-6567, or by e-mail at mugman026@aol.com.