

Youth Ministry News

Submitted by Rev. Drew Downs

What good fortune I have in the opportunity to welcome everyone back to the new school year at St. David's. We are all so blessed to have teachers and volunteers that are so committed to encouraging, educating, and strengthening our youngest members. Our first meeting of the year was a great opportunity to discuss the coming school year and reconnect (and in my case, connect). There is such enthusiasm here and I know that we are going to have a great time this year!

The theme for the new program year may very well be 'intergenerational formation'. Though not terribly catchy, it most clearly defines what I am most interested in fostering within the community of St. David's. This means that there will be both separate programming opportunities and integrated ones. This should strike a good mix of options for everyone to take advantage of the offerings at St. David's!

Our Sunday School will, for the most part, look a lot like it did last year. We have great leadership returning and I look forward to being a support for them. There is also a great deal happening very shortly! On the Sunday after Labor Day, September 9, the second service will return to its normal time of 10:30 am. It will also serve as our Kickoff Sunday where we will celebrate the beginning of another year together with Sunday School signup. We will have treats of build-your-own sundaes and apple-dippers! Classes will begin the following Sunday, September 16th.

We also will meet with the youth group to plan priorities for the year. This will be a brainstorming session and a great time to try out things that we've wanted to do! Depending on the wishes of the youth involved this will likely transition into regular opportunities to meet, worship, and be together. Stay tuned for more information!

We will also return the semi-regular Family Fun Nights in the coming months. These will be opportunities for all types of families to gather, eat, play games, and learn from each other. This semi-regular event will be open to everyone, and may be an opportunity for both nuclear and non-traditional families to gather!

Lastly, I am in the planning stage of a book group that will begin this fall. This group will examine the nature of church and how we gather as Christians. The group's discussion will hopefully integrate the different writers' visions of the church with our own experiences to answer some of the most difficult questions we can ask about the church. The group will be open to members of any age group and may be an opportunity to bring friends with 'other religious affiliations'.

I am so excited for what St. David's will be doing this year and all of the opportunities that we will have to grow in our faith and strengthen our love of one another. May God bring peace to you this month.

The Rev. Drew Downs
Curate

Directory Changes:

Tim & Stephanie Cote
1219 Willow Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Jane Stephens: janestephens@sbcglobal.net

Carol Williams: carolwill42@comcast.net

Jerry Williams: jerrywill42@comcast.net

A Thank You

From Glennis & Bob Muncie:

We wish to thank all of you for the prayers, cards and visits during and following our surgeries. The Lord really works his healing ways through you.

God bless each and every one of you.

Yours in Christ,

Glennis and Bob

News about:

not about me ministries

By Jim Thurston

It has been two plus years since the creation of not about me ministries and the web site. It is time to move on.

To that end, not about me ministries will no longer accept donations of any kind and will also cease making charitable donations. Our non-profit status will change as we move to a viewing, non-solicitation web site.

We have had a wonderful ride and I thank each and every one of you for the support and words of encouragement.

God Bless,
Jim

Healing Life's Experience

Submitted by John Post

A Healing Conference sponsored by the Lakeshore Chapter of The Order of St. Luke the Physician of Grand Haven will be held on Friday evening Sept. 14 and all day on Saturday Sept. 15 at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Grand Haven. The conference leader will be Father Matthew Linn, S. J.

Fr. Linn has a ministry of healing that has taken him to over 50 countries and throughout the United States. He has produced many books on the topics of healing prayer, healing of memories, reconciliation, forgiveness, and many

IRS RULING

Tax Free w/drawals from IRA accounts

Submitted by John Chapman

"It has come to our attention that if you have an IRA account and have reached the age of 70 ½, the Internal Revenue Service has approved income tax free withdrawals from IRA accounts for charitable contributions (churches, 501c (3), etc.). The withdrawals must be issued by the holder of the investments, such as a broker, and payable directly to the charity. We understand that this arrangement is only valid for 2007 unless extended by Congress. Of course, we recommend that you consult with your tax advisor to verify that you qualify for these tax free withdrawals."

Fall Garden Primer

Taken from Sunday Bulletin

The Eaton County MSU Extension will be offering a Fall Gardening Primer at St. David's on September 18, 25, and October 2, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Informative flyers are available on the table in the narthex.

others. Fr. Linn has focused on integrating physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

The cost of the conference is \$15 per person or \$25 for a couple. If you would like a copy of the conference brochure, please contact John Post. For conference information, please contact Michele Smith at 616-846-9384 or michelehsmith@chartermi.net. Please register **before Sept. 10**.

Sunday Adult Bible Discussion Class

Submitted by Jerry Williams, Coordinator

For a number of years now, a group of 15-20 adults have been meeting between the services each Sunday to explore and discuss the Bible readings presented each week. The group's number and make-up may change each Sunday as new folks join and others leave. Some of the "regulars" this past year include: Shirley Bailey, Norma Bunday, Karen Burt, Maria Leiby, Patrick Lynaugh, Shirley Matthews, Bob and Glennis Muncie, Gini Orcutt, John Post, Dick and Carol Schmidt, Jim Thurston, Dianne Ulibarri, Jean Ware, Tom White and Carol and Jerry Williams. Many of them also serve as rotating discussion leaders.

The group uses the Adult Scripture Journal, published by Living the Good News as a beginning point for discussion. Each fall, winter and spring, members receive a new Journal to use as background information to the weekly readings and to record their insights from the readings and the ensuing discussion.

The class has been an easy and non-threatening way to get into the Scriptures and to get to know what God has to say on a host of very important topics including our salvation, spiritual growth, personal needs, family, relationships, and eternal future. Even though the Bible readings repeat every three years, it is amazing how they speak to us differently each time we study them. Also in 2006 we started using the Revised Standard Lectionary readings to follow those being read during the services.

If you are someone who likes to know "the rest of the story" and can spare an hour on Sunday morning, come and join us. No experience needed—just an open and inquiring mind. Coffee, Journals and lively discussion provided free of charge.

Senior World Program to be held in September

Submitted by John Post

The St. David's Senior World Program will have its first meeting of the year on Thursday, Sept. 13, and will continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month through April. The September meeting will feature a short presentation by Father David.

Each meeting is held in the Great Hall beginning with lunch at 11:30am, which is followed by a short program, singing of familiar hymns, prayers, and dismissal by 1:30pm. This year, beginning with the November meeting, Carey Draeger will be in charge of preparing the programs for each gathering. As usual, Pearl Brooks and her capable crew are preparing the main dishes for the lunches. Guests of St. David's at each Senior World meeting include, among others, residents of Lansing Manor, Serenity Place, and Sterling House of Delta. These are invited so that they might get out of their rooms and apartments in order to receive fellowship, a good meal, entertainment, and growth in their Christian faith. When needed, St. David's provides transportation to and from the meetings for our guests.

Last year our average attendance at each meeting was 60, including many parishioners from St. David's. However, more from our church are encouraged to attend Senior World in order to mix in with our guests and help them to feel welcomed and comfortable at St. David's, and to help provide the meal by bringing a dish to pass.

You don't have to be a "Senior Citizen" to attend, as all ages are welcome--both men and women.

We at St. David's provide a framework in which our Lord can pour out His love upon those who attend these meetings. It's truly uplifting to see all the happy faces as our meetings end and as our guest depart for their various homes. Jesus said we are to love our neighbors. You are urged to attend Senior World and see Him work!

For reservations and/or information please see or call Lori Tuttle or me. If you have questions about the Senior World Program, you might want to direct them to Fr. David Pike.

Crop Walk

Submitted by Maria Leiby

This year's Greater Lansing CROP WALK takes place on Sunday, October 14. The 10K walk raises money to fight hunger around the world. Twenty-five percent of funds raised stay in the Lansing area to meet local needs. Information will be available on the Sundays leading up to the walk, so you can learn more about what's involved and what kinds of projects receive support.

I am pleased to announce that Adam Williams and Chris Wenstrom are taking over the CROP WALK recruiting job. Please get them off to a good start by helping out: you can be a walker or a rocker (yes, in a rocking chair), you can support one or more walkers or you can pray for the success of CROP WALK. I appreciate the support I've had in the past and still plan to walk, so come on out and join me!

Picture time is coming!

Taken from Sunday Bulletin

This fall Olan Mills will create a new pictorial member directory for St. David's. Participating families will receive a FREE 8x10 portrait in addition to the directory. The photo session will take less than an hour. Immediate viewing of video proofs will be made available, as will specially priced portrait packages for those interested in making a purchase.

Mary Jane Buzzie will chair this project, but she will need additional volunteers to assist in the process. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand should contact Mary Jane.

It is very important that everyone participate in this project so we can have an updated pictorial directory to help Deacon Drew and Rose [Downs] learn our St. David's family by name.

Dates for photo sessions are currently being arranged. Specifics will follow at a later date.

St David's Good News Letter

September Happenings to note:

3 -Labor Day: *Parish office closed*

4 - Delta Rotary Club Raffle. See Father David, Edie Nordlund, Nancy Howard or Larry Ewing for tickets or more information.

7th/8th -WMEC Secretariat Overnighter Meeting

9th -Worship times change to 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

- ♦ Youth Sunday School kick-off following the 10:30 a.m. worship:
- ♦ Sign-up for fall classes
- ♦ Build-your-own sundaes and apple dippers.
- ♦ First day of Adult Bible Study at 9:10 a.m. in room 2/5 [double classroom]

13th -Senior World luncheon at 11:15 a.m.

15th - Newsletter Submission Deadline

16th->Youth Sunday School begins

>Choir resumes

>Ultreya at St. Timothy's in Richland, MI

20th-Mothers' of Preschoolers (MOPS) at 9:00 a.m.

23rd -UTO Fall Ingathering (1)

30th -UTO Fall Ingathering (2)

Good News Letter editor resigning, please welcome new editor

Submitted by Sarah Taber, resigned newsletter editor

It is with great sadness that I resign as the Good News Letter editor. Although, I truly enjoy being "in-the-know" as far as what is going on in the church, I feel I am ready to be a regular parishioner again. August 2007's newsletter was my last.

Please join me in welcoming Kerry Chapin as the **new Good News Letter Editor.**

Also note that any articles for the newsletter sent **email** should be sent to: st.ds.news@gmail.com Kerry's mail box is #111

The Power of Simple Prayer

Submitted by John Post with permission by Marilyn Maloney (unedited)

“Well, I guess all I can do is pray.” How many times have I said that? How many times have you said that? Usually people say that when they think there is nothing more they can do, nothing more doctors can do, nothing more someone else can do to change or improve a situation. Big mistake!

In her book, “The Power of Simple Prayer,” Joyce Meyer says that saying “All I can do is pray” is perhaps the most stupid statement a person can make. It underestimates how powerful prayer really is. If truly understand how powerful prayer is, she says, we will pray about everything “as a first response, not as a last resort. Prayer opens the door for God to work and connects us to the power of God.” There’s no better connection than that.

I was somewhat surprised to read in this book that we should go boldly to the throne of God in prayer and approach Him as our friend. Uh-huh, I thought. What right do I, a sinner, have to go boldly to God in prayer. I’ve felt that I should approach Him very humbly. But Meyer makes a convincing case for the bold approach by reminding the reader that we do not go to God in our own strength; “we go to Him in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.”

She also offers some persuasive evidence from the Bible of behalf of the bold approach. “Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16) “In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” (Ephesians 3:12) “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” (Romans 8:26)

It is the devil, Meyer states, who tries to makes us afraid to pray boldly. “He wants us to approach God in fear rather than in faith.” God, however, is waiting to greet us warmly when we pray to Him

as our friend and He is eager for us to get to know Him better through prayer.

We can also stop worrying about whether we are praying accordingly to some required set of rules. There is no one right way to do it, no set of required words, and no perfect posture. “Prayer is not about laboring or striving or trying to perform; it’s simply about talking to God,” Meyer says.

So, if prayer is going to be our “first response,” on what occasions should we make it our first response? Here is what Meyer suggests:

- When you have a problem, pray.
- When you have a need, pray.
- When somebody hurts your feelings, pray.
- When you are offended, pray.
- When you are sick, pray.
- When you feel like giving up, pray.
- When someone you love is suffering, pray.
- When you are discouraged, pray.
- When you don’t know what to do, pray.
- Whatever situation you find yourself in, pray – and pray before you do anything else.

St. David’s Construction Zones

Submitted by Edie Nordlund

Everyone is aware of the ongoing construction in the Memorial Garden . . . but did you know there are changes being made to our mailroom as well? Those of you who had mailboxes in the lower half of the slots will be thrilled to see the new “user friendly” heights made possible by Adam Williams. Bob Nordlund added trim molding around the mailboxes for a finishing touch. Jerry Williams has been very busy this week removing old stickers and re-labeling the mail slots. Parishioner box numbers are the same; only the order of the mail slots has changed. The numbers are now in vertical, rather than horizontal order. A list of numbers is posted.

Fr. Bill and Ted Cannell have repaired and assembled a table that is set up beneath the ECW [**Zones** continued on page 6]

Zones continued:

and Cursillo bulletin boards. The table is intended for Secret Pal gift exchanges.

Large bins are clearly labeled for donations to SIREN, FOOD BANK and PERSONAL NEEDS. Please deposit your gifts in the appropriate collection bin.

A small, labeled drawer unit provides a place for the Watermen's EYEGLOSS RECYCLING project, UNITED THANK OFFERING boxes, NAME TAG EXCHANGES and a LOST AND FOUND.

Deacon Drew contributed a credenza from his office. Here you'll find a rack filled with parish directories, nametag request forms and yellow message sheets.

We've tried to provide "a place for everything" . . . and hope that our St. David's family will endeavor to leave "everything in its place". Thanks to all who donated their time and energies to make this renovation possible!

And of course the Good News Letter is also under renovation. Keep watching for fine tuning and improving.

Memorial Garden Update

Submitted by Gail Donovan – Memorial Garden Committee Chairperson

It's been more than two years since planning to redesign the Memorial Garden began. As I write this today in the middle of August, the work is wrapping up. I'm out of town, but have been told the planting is done and the fence is being installed today. It was looking beautiful when I left on Sunday and I'm excited to get home this weekend and see the changes. A garden is an ever-changing work in process, but we will conclude this phase with a rededication of the Memorial Garden. The date for the service has not be set, but will probably be sometime in late September.

Editors note: New grass is growing and we still await the installation of the fence. Come see!

Kids Hope USA

Be sure to see the bulletin board in the coat hall at the church for pictures from the "Back in the Groove" program held for two weeks in August. You may see some familiar faces!

RECRUITING GREETERS FOR 2008

Submitted by: Larry Carey

Have you ever thought about becoming a greeter at St. David's for either the 8:00 AM or 10:30 AM service? It's a great way to welcome both visitors and members to the church; it only takes a few minutes every couple of months. The schedule can be adjusted for those who spend part of the year elsewhere. If anyone would like to be added to the schedule or desires additional information, please leave a note in my church mailbox: Lar Carey, #61. Alternately, interested individuals may e-mail me at hippie_indian@hotmail.com or give me a jingle (627-6137). Additional greeters for the second service are especially needed.

Important Contact Information

Rev. David R. Pike, Rector box 103

frdavid.stdavids@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Drew Downs, Deacon box 78

dndrew.stdavids@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Bill Ericson, Pastoral Assistant box 40

Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director box 147

Edie Nordlund, Admin. Assistant box 35

office.stdavids@sbcglobal.net

Kerry Chapin, M.of M. (sexton) box 111

VESTRY CONTACTS:

Gail Donovan, Senior Warden box 17

David Sonnenberg, Junior Warden box 138

David Byers, Treasurer box 15

Craig Leinbach, Asst. Treasurer box 27

Carolyn Jacobs, Clerk box 4

Carol Abbott box 126

Tim Cote' box 90

Nancy Howard box 59

Sue Kohler box 75

Patrick Lynaugh box 1

Bob Nordlund box 35

Dick Otto box 82

Jeff Spitzley box 52

Barb VanDyke box 73

Adam Williams box 143

Newsletter Editor box 111

st.ds.news@gmail.com

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Rd.

Lansing, MI 48917

Web address: www.stdavidslansing.org

Service Schedule:

Sunday: 8am, 10:30am(begin 9/9/07)

Wednesday: 6:30pm

Friday: 9am
