



From Father David

By Father David

First, I would like to thank all of you for the gift of my sabbatical. It truly is a wonderful thing you are doing for me. I thank you for granting me the time away from my normal duties at St. David's.

The first question many of you have asked is, "What I am going to do on my sabbatical?" Hopefully by now you have seen the outline and know that I will be spending time in a Roman Catholic monastery in Arizona, visiting Louisiana where I lived as a child, working in my garden, spending some time at a cottage on Lake Michigan, and traveling and studying in England and Wales.

The next question often is, "Why are you doing this?" The answer to this question is multifaceted. As with many of you, my days are busy and full. Quite often I am in the office by 9:00 or 9:30 in the morning and often don't finish work until between 10:00 and 11:00 at night, six nights a week.

I am always working on the next sermon, worrying about who has not been in church lately, worrying about the next parish event and does "so and so" really have everything under control and the list goes on and on. When I go on vacation each summer it takes at least a week or more for me to let go and begin to relax.

On Sunday morning, I am often pulled in many directions worrying about how my sermon will be received, trying to remember the names of new people who are examining St. David's and deciding if this is a place they wish to join, trying to remember announcements that people at the last minute ask me to make, and a thousand and one details which come together to make worship possible. Some days, I feel pulled in 11 different directions and have a hard time finding my spiritual feeding in the midst of something I dearly love doing.

For me, my sabbatical will be a time of pilgrimage and a time of spiritual reassessment. What does it mean to be a pilgrim on a pilgrimage? Sybil Harp defines a pilgrim as, "one who is on a quest for the sacred." I want to focus on the sacred and have my soul fed. Ester de Waal writes, "...a holy place carries power. To be on a pilgrimage is to move into a world where the dividing line between past and present, between this world and the next, between what we call sacred and what we call secular, dissolves. The outward journey is also a journey inwards. We need to be prepared to let go of the accustomed patterns and controls that we impose on our daily lives, and instead be ready to be opened to what lies beyond." Travis Du Priest, an Episcopal priest, puts into words what I hope my sabbatical/pilgrimage will be when he writes, "Pilgrimages are punctuated with times of prayer, times of group and individual silence, times of worship...giving the pilgrim a chance to 'stop and rest so that the soul can catch up.'"

This is what I hope to accomplish during my three month sabbatical. I again thank you for giving me the chance to focus on my spiritual life and journey. I will keep you informed via letters and e-mails. When I return in September, I will gladly share my experiences. There will be pictures and question-and-answer sessions. Who knows, perhaps some of you will decide as a result of my experience to make a pilgrimage of your own.

May God bless you and those you love during our time apart and always. With deepest affection, Fr. David.



Father Ben's Message

Alleluia. Christ is Risen

Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

This acclamation from the Prayer Book boldly announces the Easter message of hope, resurrection and renewal. In spite of spring's reluctant arrival, signs are everywhere of growth and change. The whole realm of creation resounds as the darkness of winter retreats into the past and daylight and warmth prevail. There is a medieval French folk tune entitled *Noël Nouvelet*, which has in our time become a much-loved Easter carol with words by John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958). In the space of four stanzas, the poet sums up our hopes as Christians for this splendid season—

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that he'd never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Refrain

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Refrain

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Refrain

It is my prayer that the triumph of Our Lord's resurrection will continue to empower us, both individually and collectively, to be faithful and effective ministers in this community and beyond.

Faithfully,
Ben †



St John's Episcopal Youth Group to Sell T-Shirts

By Chris Strukel



The Saint's are selling Polo and Oxford type shirts with the Episcopal Shield beautifully custom made. The sale is to raise money for their activities. We have many colors and sizes to choose from. Starting at \$22.00, these would make a great gift. If you would like to see a sample or order please call Chris Strukel 517-285-1383 or Lisa Ward 517-543-7903.



Kids Say Amazing Things

- ◆ Six year old Angie and her four year old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."
- ◆ A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"
- ◆ A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."



The Church Mouse Heard

On Monday, April 5th, Elaina Noel was born to Kyle and Tina Volk.
Congratulations!



Grace of Giving Survey Directs Stewardship Program

By Gretchen Smith

While we'd hoped for a greater survey response, those who completed "The Grace of Giving" survey provided valuable ideas and a direction for this year's Stewardship team. It was nearly unanimous: Tie giving to scripture. What was unanimous was parishioners liked having Fr. David talk about how we are called to give of our time, talents and treasure.

A theme the "Grace of Giving" Committee has been to follow Psalm 24:1, as well as from the Creation story in Genesis. Scripture tells us: "The world and all that is in it belongs to the Lord. The earth and all who live on the earth is His." Translated – that means our financial assets, material possessions, and our personal talents all belong to God. When we put our offering in the plate, we are giving to God.

Traditionally, our stewardship drive has been compressed into four or five weeks in late fall. What we discerned from the survey was the invitation to examine giving of our time, talents, and treasure throughout the year.

Several suggested we plan a stewardship program for children and young adults. We plan to do that. We also plan to follow up with new individuals who decide to join St. David's.

There was considerable interest in hearing from those who benefit from gifts from St. David's (that could be actual outreach with resources, the use of space within St. David's during the year, or time and talent articles in the church newsletter or Sunday bulletin.)

During Lent, Jerry Williams and Gretchen Smith looked at stewardship from a Biblical perspective. We discussed what stewardship might have meant in Jesus' time, and what it means for us today.

The Grace of Giving Committee is eager to hear your ideas for helping us joyfully embrace giving to God. Contact Jerry Williams, Chair, at 882-4142, or e-mail: jerrywill42@att.net



The Healing Corner

By John Post

I was impressed! I wonder if you'll be impressed as well. I was impressed with the recent St. David's Healing and Renewal Conference – "The Giftings of the Holy Spirit." I was impressed with the conference presenters, Father Jack Sheffield and his wife, Anna Marie, their teaching, their human, their humility, their compassion, their prayers, their enthusiasm, their insight, and their relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In fact, I was so impressed that I am willing to give a set of conference audiotapes to everyone who would like one. Simply write "tapes" on a slip of paper, along with your church mailbox number, and put it in my box (#87), I'll see that you get your tapes within one week.

As I said, I was impressed! If you didn't attend the conference, take this opportunity to see if you'll be impressed too?

Habit for Humanity Alive in Lansing

By Ron Schavey

Ron Schavey is currently St. David's representative to the Capital Area Habitat For Humanity and has recently attended meetings with representatives of Habitat and other churches in the Lansing area.

St. David's has been invited to join an interdenominational council of churches to support and build a home for a deserving low-income Lansing family. This chosen family will purchase this home and work on other Habitat homes.

I will be meeting with our vestry at their next meeting in order to gain their support and commitment for this Habitat project as they have given in past years. I invite you to join with me in fundraising, volunteer workers and building of this home.

Volunteer orientation classes are scheduled: **April 28th** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, 219 Seymour, Lansing, **May 13th** at Calvary Lutheran, 6301 West St. Joseph Highway, Lansing, and **June 8th** at St. Casmir Church, 815 Sparrow, Lansing

Come join us for these training times. God has blessed each of us in many ways and asked us to share and help those less fortunate than us.

If you have any questions concerning this outreach project, please see me after church or phone me at (517) 505-2085 any weekday after 3:00 p.m., or anytime on the weekend.



The Breakfast Club to Meet in May

By Carey Draeger

Join us on May 9, 2004, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. for the second monthly Sunday morning breakfast at the St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood, Lansing, in the Great Hall. Enjoy a hot, buffet-style breakfast and plenty of fellowship for a reasonable price: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 5-12 (kids under 5 eat free). Families of four may eat for \$15 (\$2 for each additional member). Tickets are available from Carey Draeger or at the door.

In honor of Mother's Day, a special brunch will be served and moms will receive a small token of appreciation for all they do! All proceeds go to the St. David's Outreach programs. For more information, please call Carey Draeger at 323-4003 or 599-8352. Hope to see you there!

Cursillo News

By Tami Varricchio

Grand Ultreyia is will be held on May 15th at St. Luke's in Kalamazoo.

Eastern June's Deanery Ultreyia is June 13th in Hastings.

WMEC's website is up and running (www.wmec.net). Applications to work or sponsor a candidate are now available!



Christian Education News

By Debbie Cornell

The last day of Sunday School class is Sunday, May 9th. Student recognitions will be on Sunday, May 16th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Following the 10:30 a.m. service, the high school students are presenting an Aloha dinner. There will be music, Hawaiian games; yes, for adults as well as the children, raffle tickets, and prizes to be given away. You don't want to miss out on this big event!! The high school students are looking for both donations and items that they can use for prizes. If anyone has any decorations with the Hawaiian theme, can we borrow them? Please contact Debbie Cornell.

Vacation Bible School, return to the Treasure of the Nile, will be the week of Sunday, June 20th through Thursday, June 24th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, Pre-K through 5th grade. We will be providing a snack and dinner for the children. We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- ◆ Adult storytellers (like we did last year)
- ◆ Kitchen Leaders
- ◆ Group Leaders
- ◆ Craft Leaders
- ◆ Music Leaders (Nancy and Kristen, we hope!) and anyone who can help!
- ◆ Leader for Games
- ◆ Help with new props and painting



The high school students are planning a trip to Cedar Point the weekend of July 24-25, 2004. We will be leaving early Saturday, July 24th, staying the night and return Sunday, July 25th early evening. Mark your calendars!

Mark your calendar, also, for August 8, 2004 where the 9:30 am service will be at the Grand Woods Park off Willow Road, followed with a picnic dinner, lots of games, prizes and great fellowship! Christian Education Department will be providing the hot dogs and hamburger. Please bring a dish to pass. Fun for ALL!!!

This will end our year!



Advent House Ministries

By Sue Kohler

My first exposure to Advent House Ministries was through the “West Side Garden Tour.” This annual event is one of Advent House’s major fundraisers and highlights the gardens in the west side neighborhood near Sexton High School. It’s a delightful afternoon where you can stroll from one featured garden to another and find yourself pondering, “what treasures can be found in the next backyard?” When I discovered that St. David’s supports Advent House Ministries, I was immediately drawn to learn more about their programs.

Advent House Ministries has been providing their services in the Greater Lansing community for the past 17 years. Their Mission Statement is *“Advent House Ministries brings together people of many faiths to create a community of hope for those who struggle with poverty and homelessness in the Lansing area. Through our programs, we provide respite from life’s struggles and create opportunities for children and adults to fulfill their potential.”*

Their ministries include:

- ◆ **Weekend Day Shelter** serves an average of 125-persons each Saturday and Sunday throughout the year. This program picks up where other agencies, that provide services only during the week, leave off. Last year they served over 27,000-meals to more than 1,700-people. Participants include the homeless, those at extremely high risk of becoming homeless, children and veterans.
- ◆ **Three Shelter Homes** provides a long-term programming for homeless families so they can solve the problems that led to their homelessness. This program provides transitional assistance including mentoring and helps the family locate permanent housing.
- ◆ **Children and Family Support Programs** offers tutoring for children and mentoring for teens. Currently there are 75-children and teens that participate in these programs.
- ◆ **Good Work! Employment Program** offers employment readiness training and job placement assistance for homeless adults. Last year 65 percent of the 100 people participating found employment.

As the need grows in our community, so do the needs of Advent House Ministries and they are always looking for volunteers and/or financial support. However, they assure us that our prayers “are your greatest gift to us.” Please pray for Advent House Ministries and see how the Lord uses it to His Glory.

“Flowering of the Cross”

From Father David

It dawned on me this evening, at the end of Stations of the Cross, that information regarding the “flowering of the cross” never made it to the bulletin. I reminded the people who attended Stations of our “not so very old” custom of everyone bringing cut flowers of any kind (from your garden, though the pickings at this point will be very slim or from Horrocks, etc.) to the Easter service and placing them into the wire mesh on the wooden cross we have been using during the Procession this Lenten season.

This symbolizes new life, the transformation from darkness to light, and it is always stunning how so many various flowers when melded together looks truly beautiful. I pray that Holy Week has been a time of spiritual growth for each of you and that together we can look forward to proclaiming, “Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed.”





The Watermens' Corner

By Jim Thurston

Some up and coming events are outlined below:

May - The Watermen will assist with the Mother/Daughter event. Men please feel free to assist with set up, serving and clean up.

Also, in May the Watermen will distribute a flower to each lovely lady attending church on Mothers' Day. If you can't make it to church that day we will accept a signed and notarized note saying you can't make it but would like a flower. We will make sure you receive one.

June - We are planning a Men/Boys corporate breakfast. If a young man does not have an older man to hook-up with, contact one of the Watermen and we will make sure you are paired up with someone. Stay tuned for details.

July - There will be a Promise Keepers program in Detroit - and the Watermen have established scholarships if the cost prevents you from going. See John Post if you would like to go but need assistance with the registration fee.

August - The annual canoe trip down the Chippewa River in Mount Pleasant will take place. The trip will most likely be the 3rd Saturday in August as there are some conflicts with the 1st and 2nd Saturdays. Stay tuned for future announcements.

If I have missed anything I am sure I will hear about it - so thanks for reading and keep supporting your faith.

"If you feel lonely and lost, ask for help." ~ Anonymous

Be good and God Bless.

Help Wanted

By Sarah Taber

It was relayed to me that possibly this Good News Letter may be an untapped source to get the word out if someone needs help.

In other words, if you need a Sunday school teacher or help in the St. David's library, or perhaps, you need some volunteers for an upcoming function, you could e-mail this information to me (or fill out a submission form available in the mail room and place it in my mailbox).

Please include in your submission the title of the person for which you are looking, whether this is a paid or volunteer position, what the hours the individual would need to be available, the skills they would need, and any other information that you feel would be helpful.

As always, the deadline for submitting stories/articles for the newsletter is the 15th of the month for the following month's publication.

If you have any questions, my "door" is always open. Please feel free to stop me after the 10:30 a.m. service, or drop me an email at msujrnlsm@aol.com.



Watermen's Third Annual Men and Boys Breakfast

By Jim Thurston

Once again, the Watermen are sponsoring a breakfast for the men and boys of St. David's Episcopal Church.

This year, the all-you-can-eat breakfast will be held on May 23, 2004, from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. in the Great Hall. The breakfast will be a buffet-style meal and will be furnished by Cook 'n Carey Catering.

A sign-up sheet will be available starting April 18th in the narthex. If you'd like more information, please contact Jim Thurston at 627-2486.





Three Questions Could Save a Life

Submitted by St. David's Parishioner

Life saving information that I had never heard. This might be a lifesaver if we can remember the three questions!

This was published in a monthly newsletter where a friend of mine lives and she sent it on. I had never heard this advice before and hadn't a clue. Perhaps you hadn't either and would like to file it away in the back of your head.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke asking three simple questions:

- 1 - Ask the individual to smile.
- 2 - Ask him or her to raise both arms.
- 3 - Ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February.

Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

Community Emergency Response Team Seeking Volunteers

By Sarah Taber

In the event of an emergency or disaster, would you be able to help your family and friends?

Local fire departments will train citizens with free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes to learn: fire extinguishers, basic first aid, and search and rescue.

The CERT program helps train people to be better prepared in the case of an emergency by teaching them how to give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site.

CERT members can also participate in non-emergency projects to help improve safety in the community.

There are no prerequisites for CERT or restrictions based on physical ability – anyone can do something!

Please see Sarah Taber (msujrnlsm@aol.com) for more information on upcoming CERT training. If enough people are interested, it is possible that a class could be arranged at St. David's for all parish members.

CERT Training

Loose Translation as Interpreted Through the Eyes of a Child

Submitted by a St. David's Parishioner

Timmy was a five-year-old boy who's Mom loved him very much, and being a worrier, she was concerned about him walking to school when he started kindergarten. She walked him to school the first couple of days, and at the end of the week, he came home from school and told his mother that he did not want her walking him to school everyday, he wanted to be like the "big boys" he protested loudly.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he wouldn't notice her. Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl, Marcy, set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor boy he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is." The friend said, "Well, who is she?" "That's just Shirley Goodnest" Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy." "Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cause she worries about me so much. And in the psalm, it says 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"



Wish a Happy Birthday...

May

1	Mark McNeil	11	Rod Synder	25	Gage Williams
1	Jessica Menold	11	Jennifer Pike	26	Pat Purol
1	Colleen Hill	12	Tim Cote	26	Kristin Damico
1	Madison Cote	12	Jim Tolsma	26	Sarah Sorrell
2	Edwin Fraas	12	Rhonda Sorrell	28	Eric Bastian
3	Jason Chapin	13	Louise Henley	28	Nancy Pike
5	Judith Grant	13	Tami Varricchio	29	Daniel Buzzie
6	Lore Tuttle	14	Jaime Williams	30	Ron Schavey
6	John Strickler	15	Samantha Stanton	31	Eleanor Robinson
6	Janie Byers	23	David McGinnis	31	Jim Combs
8	Amber Matthews	23	Barbara Galvin	31	Debbie Cornell
9	Anna Marie Lipka	24	Jim Swift		

Happy Anniversary!

May

1	Dick and Norma Hammond
4	Robert and Karen Oleson
12	Leo and Meda Thrall
16	Jim and Rhoda Swift
17	Tim and Ellen Ross
18	Aaron and Sharon Phipps
21	Faris and Carlene Howrani
22	David and Heather McGinnis
27	Fr. David and Nancy Pike



* If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed, then we don't have it on record! Please let the office staff know, so we can publish it in the upcoming church directory and the newsletter!



Mother/Daughter Banquet Reminder

St. David's Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet is May 8th at St. David's Episcopal Church in Lansing. We will begin to gather for fellowship at 11 a.m. and start our program at 11:30 a.m.; which will include lunch. All mothers and daughters are welcome – please invite family members and friends! We are also inviting mothers & daughters from St. John and St. Tim's Episcopal churches of Charlotte and Richland to join our Mother's Day Celebration. Cost is \$5 per person (children under the age of ten are free and welcomed!). Any questions please call Tami Varricchio at (517) 272-3085.

*****We are still collecting pop cans & bottles for the Mother/Daughter Banquet to help keep cost down so that everyone may attend. Please bring your pop cans and bottles and place them in St. David's pantry. Thank you for your support!*****





The Good News Letter is published by Saint David's Episcopal Church. Members from Saint David's and Saint John's are encouraged to submit articles, information and news releases for publication. Deadlines are the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Important Information

Saint David's

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector Box 103
 Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director Box 147

Vestry

Tom George, Senior Warden Box 119
 Jerry Williams, Junior 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, Vestry Clerk Box 167

Office Staff

Edith Cole Box 26
 Sue Gabel

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Sarah Taber msujrnlsm@aol.com
 Amber Matthews

Service Schedule for Saint David's

Sunday: 8:00am and 10:30am
Summer service schedule starting Sunday, May 30 with services being at 8:00am and 9:30am.
 Wednesday 6:30pm
 Friday 7:00am

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Saint John's

Rev. Dr. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector

Vestry

Will Walker, Senior Warden
 John Kozitzki, Junior Warden
 Deborah Walker, Secretary
 Mary Stafford
 Lindsay Bos
 Brett McRae
 Mike Paul
 Karen Steiner
 Ruby Stofflet
 Lisa Ward
 Linda Wheeler

Office Staff

Karen Gin, Secretary
 Dave Spangenberg, Treasurer

Service Schedule for Saint John's

Sunday: 8:00am and 10:30am
 Wednesday 6:30pm

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**Please note that summer service
hours change on Sunday, May 30, 2004.
Services will be held at
8:00am and 9:30am**