



# The Good News Letter

August 2004 ♦ Volume 10 Number 8

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## Hello from China!

*Submitted by Patricia Purol*

Several of us from St. David's are teaching, traveling and learning a lot about this culturally rich country. When I began recruiting people, I looked for a variety of talents, people who were interested in and open to another culture, flexibility and NICE people.

Naturally I started looking for these nice folks at St. David's. St David's people include Pearl Brooks, Pat Thurston, and Pat Purol. Recruits didn't have to be teachers professionally just flexible and receptive to the daily changes that occur here.

We've visited ancient cities, temples, climbed through caves, shopped where prices are shockingly low and eaten food we never imagined. The food itself would take a book to discuss, so ask us when we return. A group of eight at dinner with six to eight courses all shared at a common table costs from 60-120 Yuan or around \$1.20-\$1.50 per person.

We share and split using our chopsticks. Some of us actually had trouble managing forks the other day when our host thought we would need Western utensils. Anyone can become a chopsticks pro in about two days and the food is prepared to be eaten so, but a spoon and fork can be requested.

We live in a university district where they're about 15 new colleges or universities outside the city. They are building new dorms and buildings round the clock. What we call 'the city' about 25 minutes away is ONLY 3 million and we often hear apologies for it being so small. Regardless, Zhejiang is an attractive SMALL city with a beautiful lake in the middle with temples, gardens, walkways, teahouses and boats to rent and has a delightful history of tales.

We can get our hair washed and massage for about \$1.00, as people don't often wash their hair at home. A one-hour massage- hands, arms, neck, shoulders, legs, back and feet costs around \$5.00. The focus is the feet which starts with them soaking in a hot bath of herbs as the masseuses begin stretching, flexing and massaging fingers and hands, arms, etc which is then followed by the foot massage with pressure points and quite accurate 'diagnosis' of health concerns or problems from the pressure points on our feet. Instead of going out at night, people often do this on their way home from work and we definitely find it a treat after a long hot day.

The Chinese people here are very kind and curious about us. We are the only Americans in the college area and its noticed. In town especially, it's not unusual to have our picture taken with families we don't know and we find ourselves conversing with those attempting to practice English. The children run up and say "hello" and giggle and run away. Many Chinese have learned to read English but don't necessarily speak it or understand it when spoken to them. It's still a wonderful country rich in culture, positive values and developing everywhere.

For now Pearl Brooks is doing her miracles in the children's camp having them do hands-on learning activities with crafts while they use language such as colors, numbers shapes and much more. Pat Thurston is dialoguing with teachers on daily topics such as food, nutrition, home, furniture, and safety to name a few. Pat Purol is working specifically on targeted pronunciation problems for Chinese speakers learning English with all of us focusing on spoken skills.

Pat P. and Pat T. will also begin teaching at a hospital next week providing more English practice for the nurses and doctors in an international hospital. There so much more to tell, but for now, hello to our parish family and families at home. We are having a wonderful experience in China.

See you when we return!

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## Reflections from Father Ben

### *Thursday Afternoon Musings about Lutherans and Episcopalians*

An Episcopal priest friend once quipped to me that there were only two differences between Episcopalians and Lutherans—guilt and sherry. While this is an admittedly glib over-simplification, there is some truth to my friend's words. True, Martin Luther was a prodigious consumer of beer and, if the English novelist Anthony Trollope is to be believed, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Anglicans were awash in sherry and port. On the matter of guilt, Lutherans are fast losing it and our habits have become more ecumenical in this respect.

Our respective denominations derive from largely parallel yet different expressions of the Reformation. Here the exercise of political power became entangled with matters of faith and practice. You had Henry VIII and his lack of a male heir not only creating a Constitutional crisis but also a political one for the Church. Then we had Martin Luther's struggles with his faith and the reality of salvation, on the one hand, and his questions about church fund-raising practices on the other. The German Princes were interested in Luther's challenge because Papal demands for ever-greater support impacted their economic interests. These struggles between King and Pontiff in England and an Augustinian monk turned university professor gave opportunity for a garden variety of biblical scholars and theologians to literally reinvent the church.

Out of this dynamic process came our similar but distinct reformation traditions. In some ways Lutherans are much closer to Roman Catholic liturgical use and practice, while Puritan Calvinists and John Wesley's Methodist movement more heavily influenced Anglicans. Lutherans and Episcopalians both, however, appreciate the creative tension between Word and Sacrament. It is often the case that Protestant groups err on the side of Word versus the Eucharist, and until Vatican II, Roman Catholics tended to weigh-in on the side of the Sacrament, with homilies of little substance or of marginal relevance to the Lectionary.

From my perspective, while our commonalities are huge, it's mainly in our finely honed Eucharistic table manners that we need to learn more from (and better appreciate) one another's traditions and follies. I've seen some incredible practices in both church bodies, so we need to accept one another in "Ubi caritas" in charity, love and truth.

**Faithfully,  
Ben +**





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## Important Announcements

### **Be sure to mark your calendars for December 11: A Day to Remember, Luncheon and Style Show.**

The committee is requesting your help by saving your pop cans and bottles to help our fundraiser for seat cushions in the sanctuary. Cans and bottles can be left in the kitchen pantry in the blue container, or you can donate your deposit slips to any of our committee members. Please see Jerri Hoffman, Pearl Brooks or Sarah Taber for more information. Thank you!

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**Senior World** is in need of small, empty baby food jars. Please put them in the box in the mailroom marked 'Baby Food Jars.' Thank you!

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**Mark your calendars for August 15<sup>th</sup>** when the next Eastern Deanery Ultreya will be held at Trinity in Grand Ledge. This will be an important Ultreya because Tami Varricchio's convener term will be over, and we will be seeking someone new to take over. This is a three-year term. Please pray and consider this wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord and let Tami know – remember – Christ is counting on you!

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**Sparrow Health System** wants you to feel good this summer. We have over 41 ways to feel good about yourself and your community. Join the Sparrow family and volunteer. We have many positions working with patients and visitors at both the Sparrow and St. Lawrence campuses. Call them at 517-364-3606 or 517-364-7177 for more information, or log on to [www.sparrow.org/volunteerservices](http://www.sparrow.org/volunteerservices).

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## Watermen Activities

The Watermen canoe trip - is August 14, 2004 on the beautiful Chippewa River in Mount Pleasant. We meet at the canoe livery at 9:30 am for a 10:00 a.m. lift off. A sign-up sheet and map will appear soon. It is also a dish to pass potluck at our up north home. Everyone and their friends are welcome. You do not have to canoe to be at the potluck.

The Job Jar got missed a few weeks ago and some requests were inside - my apologies for the oversight.

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## Your Help is Needed – Habitat for Humanity – Grand REO Build

*Submitted by Ronald L. Shavey, St. David's Habitat for Humanity Representative*

We are almost completed the construction of this home for a deserving, working poor family in Lansing. Many thanks go out to those of you how have worked on construction of this home. We are now in need of funding to pay for the construction of this home.

The goal for our church, St. David's, is to assist in paying for the cost of the home by raising \$7,000 within the next few weeks. Your help and donations to this ministry will be greatly appreciated.

You may contribute simply by making a check out to St. David's with a notation in the memo area stating that this contribution is for Habitat for Humanity and place it in the Sunday offering plate or dropping it off at the church office. Your help in giving to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please ask me at church, or phone me at 517-505-2085.



## Fabulous Fall Feast

*Submitted by Barb Van Dyke*

The Fabulous Fall Feast that benefits Canterbury MSU will be Friday, October 1, at All Saints Episcopal Church - 800 Abbott Road, East Lansing.

Executive Chef David Baker and his fine crew will be preparing delectable, delicious fare for the pleasure of your palate. Fabulous fall decor and sweet musical sounds will provide a soothing seasonal atmosphere. A superb silent auction will tempt you with an array of delights.

More information will be available as the summer progresses toward the annual Fabulous Fall Feast time.

Talk to your friends and plan now to attend. Tickets are available from Barb Van Dyke.

## Education for Ministry

*Submitted by Barbara Van Dyke*

Education for Ministry (EfM) is preparation for the ministry to which we are called. It is the vocation for which we pray at the end of the Eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. A two-rail fence can illustrate the process. One rail is the Christian tradition. The other is the collective experience of the group members. Fence posts representing the seminar sessions where life and study meet link the rails. The fence is grounded in the soil of regular worship, which is vital to the life of the group.

Join us Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. beginning September 13 at St. David's in classroom 9.

This course is open to those through study and theological reflection are open to learning a new way of responding to challenges in our lives by using Scripture, tradition and experience.

The cost is for this course is \$340 and must be paid in full on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Help with the course fee may be available from the diocesan ECW or other educational training. Please call Barbara Van Dyke for more information at 517-699-2366.



## Christian Education News

*Submitted by Debbie Cornell*

### August 2004

Vacation Bible School was a success and everyone had a grand time! A special thank you to the following for all your help in making it successful: Stephanie Cote', Gary Mugnolo, Tom George, Kevin Cornell, Clare Turner, Nancy Pike, Kristin Pfauth, Charla-Fay Smith, Katy Rose Smith, Carol Abbott, Jane Stephens and Tami Varricchio. God has blessed each of you in so many ways.

August 8<sup>th</sup> is St. David's Annual Church Service/Picnic at the Grand Woods Park. Church service starts at 9:30 a.m. followed with a picnic, games, prizes and fellowship. Hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, lemonade and condiments will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass, your own tableware and lawn chairs. Fun for all!!

September 12<sup>th</sup> is our first day back to Sunday School, followed with a potluck to welcome Father David back. Lots of new and exciting things this coming year.

We are looking for two Sunday School teachers for this fall for grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. Students are looking for teachers who are outgoing, able to relate to them, understanding the peer pressures and guiding them in a Godly way. Help with fundraisers, able to provide transportation on class outings, weekend retreats and other special events. Is God calling out to you to help with His children? Please reply by letter and put in Debbie Cornell's mailbox #28. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie at (517) 647-2089 evenings or after the 9:30 a.m. church service on Sundays.

## St. David's Labyrinth receives grant

*Submitted by Tami Varricchio*

St. David's Labyrinth project received a \$200 Arbor Day Mini Grant for 2004! The grant was from The Michigan Arbor Day Alliance and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban & Community Forestry Program to provide money for planting trees in accordance with Arbor Day. There were 130 applications and only 50 grants. Grant recipients were chosen randomly - or should we say God willing! Special thanks to God (for picking St. David's) and to Jerry Purol for planting our new crab apple trees.



## Advanced Care Planning Series Coming This Fall

*Submitted by Gretchen Smith*

Advance Care Planning should be part of everyone's life plan, from age 21 onward. Advance Care Planning is more than signing an Advance Care Directive and a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare. An Advance Care Directive defines your wishes for healthcare if you are not able to speak for yourself. A Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare designates your advocate to carry out your health care wishes if you are not able to speak for yourself.

### **Here are some reasons Advance Care Planning is so important:**

- ◆ You're 35 and were in an auto accident. You are in a coma and are on artificial life support. The prognosis for your recovery is uncertain. At what point, might you feel your quality of life is being compromised?
- ◆ You're 75 and have highly compromised lung function. You are on oxygen and breathing through a ventilator. You've been told that this is likely your health status for the rest of your life. Does this make for a satisfactory quality of life for you?
- ◆ You're 40 and learn you have second stage breast cancer. You are a working single mother and have two children, under age 14. How does Advance Care Planning affect decisions regarding your own health, and possible guardianship for your children?

Many think Advance Care Planning is to be thought of only after age 65. Without an Advance Care Plan and a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, your next of kin (usually a spouse) will make decisions about your health if you are unable to speak for yourself. Have you talked with your family about your wishes for a quality life? In the midst of a health crisis, who could calmly carry out your wishes for health care? Would it be your spouse?

Register now for Advance Care Planning. This series will begin September 30<sup>th</sup> and run October 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. St. David's is holding this four-week series on Advance Care Planning from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays, in the Great Hall. There is no cost to attend, and dessert and beverage will be provided at each session.

Participating in this dialogue will be trained Advance Care Planning Facilitators Gretchen Smith and Fr. Clayton Thomason, J.D., M.Div. (All Saints Episcopal Church), and John Runcie, J.D., (who will discuss wills, estate planning, and the legalities of drawing up documents like a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and an Advance Directive.)

Pre-registration is requested by September 22, so we can plan for handout materials. Call the church office at 334-2292 or e-mail [gretchen.smith@irmc.org](mailto:gretchen.smith@irmc.org) to register. This series is being held under the auspices of the "Grace of Giving" Stewardship Committee.

## Clothe a Child

*Submitted by Sharon Froeligh Phipps*

Where did the summer go? August is here already and children will be heading back to school in a few short weeks.

Once again the St. David's Outreach Committee will be accepting donations for our yearly "Clothe A Child" program. A box for donations will be set up from August 1<sup>st</sup> thru to the end of the month. We need clothing ranging in size from a Children's 4x to an Adult XXL - school clothes only, such as jeans, shirts, sweatshirts, etc.

If you cannot donate a clothing item and prefer to make a monetary donation, we will gladly accept those also. Monetary donations will be used to purchase socks and underwear. So, when you are out shopping this month, and see those back to school clothing sales, please keep the "Clothe A Child" program in mind. We greatly appreciate your donations, and the children receiving the clothing will also. Many thanks in advance!

**-The St. David's Outreach Committee**





# Wish a Happy Birthday...

## August

1	Art VanDyke	12	Madison Albert	18	Peg Spittler
2	Jean Dooley	13	Korey Knapp	21	Leo Thrall
3	Sandra Kinney	14	Steven Jones	22	Clarence Burgess
3	David Wils	14	Pat Thurston	23	Mara Searles
5	Jim Hosmer	15	Norma Hammond	23	Barb Underhill
7	David Transeth	16	Jamie Stiles	25	Nancy Howard
8	Elaine Tolsma	17	Andrea Flitton	27	Norma Bunday
9	Mildred McNeil	17	Pat Johnson	28	Paddy Donovan
10	Dan VanNeste	18	Kelsey Lovejoy	30	Brano Kasper

# Happy Anniversary!

## August

1	Dan & Sarah Ostrom	20	Jim & Jean Dooley
2	Tom & Mary Taylor	20	Kevin & Debbie Cornell
3	Eric & Geri Root	22	Mike & Debra Benoit
5	Jim & Pat Thurston	23	Steven & Carole Leigh
7	Larry & Delores Lindstrom	28	Mark & Laura McNeil
12	Eric & Jessica Menold	29	Jim & Julie Combs
12	Charles & Louise Henley	30	Ken & Edith Cole
14	Barb & Ed Galvin	30	Ross & Jane Hill
19	Gordon & Charla-Fay Smith	31	Jim & Diane Kent



## Call for "Any More Good Souls"

*By Jerry Williams*

It's that time of the year again—summer is here and fall is coming, oh so fast—and it's time for some of us to start thinking about our fall Grace of Giving Program.

Well it's like this. Fr. David has asked me to be the Vestry person in charge of stewardship again this year. As I mentioned last year, in addition to the traditional Pledge drive each fall, the stewardship ministry is responsible for, among other things, "...evaluating the state of stewardship in the parish and implementing a year round stewardship education program."

The good news is that, with the Lord's help, we now have a very able and active Grace of Giving Committee to assist in fulfilling these duties. The Committee members are: Dave Byers, Sue Kohler, Sharon Phipps, Gretchen Smith, Jim Thurston, Dianne Ulibarri, and, my wife, Carol.

So the purpose of this article is to seek and invite any more good souls in the church family who feel called to serve on this committee or to help the committee in doing its work. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

If you feel called to this ministry, please contact me or any of the committee members. I can be reached at 882-4142 or [jerrywill42@att.net](mailto:jerrywill42@att.net).





## 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

### Office Staff

Edith Cole Box 26  
Sue Gabel

### Publications

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

Saint David's Episcopal Church  
1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing, MI 48917  
Phone: (517) 323-2272  
Fax: (517) 323-2830  
E-mail: stdavids1962@aol.com  
www.stdavidslansing.org

### 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

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
201 W. Shepherd Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Phone: (517) 543-2315 (Church)  
(517) 327-1839 (Rev. Carol)  
www.stjohnsinfo.org

**Saint David's Episcopal Church**

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**“We may never pass this way again, make it count.”**

*~ Anonymous*

