

# ST. DAVID'S

## GOOD NEWS LETTER

August 2005

Volume 11, Issue 8

### S a c r e d      S p a c e s

*Submitted by Father David*

One of the activities Nancy and I enjoy together is browsing bookstores. Several weeks ago while exploring Frankfurt we found and naturally wandered into the local bookstore. It was bright, airy, and had a wonderful collection of tempting books.

Nancy immediately went off to find a book for which she had been looking. As I have any number of books yet to read (and so little time!) I simply wandered aimlessly looking at the tempting displays near the front window.

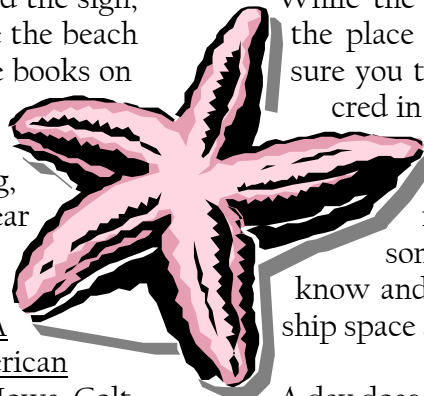
One such display was presented in a beachy, cottage-like way complete with sand pail and beach towel and the sign, "Summer Reading." As I love the beach I spent time looking at all the books on the table that the developer of the display believed worthy of lazy summer reading, perhaps from a beach chair near the water.

The book, The Big House, A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home by George Howe Colt, caught my eye.

Upon picking it up and exploring further I discovered it is the true story of a large summer home on Buzzards Bay on Cape Cod. Having ancestors from that area, having lived near there for three years during graduate school, and having spent a weekend in a summer home

on Buzzards Bay, I decided here was a perfect book for my summer reading. I have not been disappointed.

As the author and his family are faced with selling the century-old family home, he reminisces about past family members and the more than forty summers he spent in this great monstrosity of a house. Watching, through his eyes, his daughter delight in returning to the only summer home she knows, reminded me of Jennifer and Andrew as each year they delighted in reacquainting themselves with the only cottage they have known.



While the author never names the place as sacred, and I assure you the cottage is not sacred in a religious way, that feeling exists none-the-less. It reminded me of something I inherently know and feel about the worship space at St. David's.

A day does not pass that I don't, several times, enter the worship space. Sometimes it is to take something to or pick something up from the sacristy. It might be to pick up something from my prei-du, or simply to go into the church and pray for any number of things and people all associated with the congregation. It is a place I delight in being.

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Good News Letter  
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SACRED, continued from front page

For me the worship space is a place of strength, peace, warmth, joy, and a place where I know I can always meet my Lord. It is the best of what sacred space is all about and why it is a very different place than my office, the Great Hall, or the Narthex. Certainly in all those and a hundred and one other places in the church complex, prayers have been said and people have encountered God. As God is everywhere and will be present any time we call upon Him, all space has the potential to be sacred. Yet without a doubt, some places are more sacred than others. Throughout the centuries people have understood this reality and naturally gravitated to those places and built places of worship there.

This summer many of us will travel across this land and indeed perhaps around the world. Some of the

places we will travel to will be sacred only to us as individuals. Others will be great centers of pilgrimage and worship visited by thousands.

Take time to be aware of sacred spaces in your lives. Be sure to attend worship services wherever you are as you travel. In doing so you will discover new brothers and sisters in Christ and you will feed your spirit in very important ways. When you return to St. David's and step into the worship space, you will know that you are home.

Travel safely with God. With deepest affection,

Father David

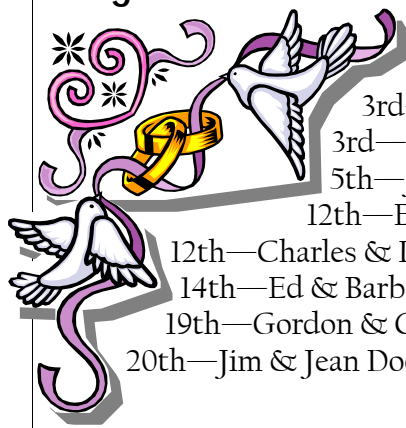


## August Birthdays

1st—Art Van Dyke  
2nd—Jean Dooley  
5th—Jim Hosmer  
7th—David Transeth  
8th—Elaine Tolsma  
10th—Hope Dixon  
10th—Dan Vanneste  
12th—Madison Albert  
13th—Korey Knap  
14th—Steven Jones  
14th—Pat Thurston  
15th—Norma Hammond  
17th—Andrea Flitton  
17th—Pat Johnson

17th—Samantha Stephens  
18th—Kelsey Lovejoy  
18th—Peg Spitler  
19th—Mary Stine  
21st—Leo Thrall  
22nd—Clarence Burgess  
23rd—Mara Searles (Benoit)  
23rd—Barb Underhill  
25th—Nancy Howard  
27th—Norma Bunday  
28th—Paddy Donovan  
30th—Brano Kasper

## August Anniversaries



1st—Dan & Sarah Ostrom  
3rd—Tom & Mary Taylor  
3rd—Eric & Geri Root  
5th—Jim & Pat Thurston  
12th—Eric & Jessica Menold  
12th—Charles & Louise Henley  
14th—Ed & Barb Galvin  
19th—Gordon & Charla-Fay Smith  
20th—Jim & Jean Dooley

20th—Kevin & Debbie Cornell  
22nd—Mike & Debra Benoit  
23rd—Eric & Carrie Severson  
28th—Mark & Laura McNeil  
28th—Michael & Jane Stephens  
29th—Jim & Julie Combs  
30th—Ken & Edith Cole  
30th—Ross & Jane Hill  
31st—Jim & Diane Kent



## Senior World to celebrate 10th year at St. David's

*Submitted by Barb Post*

This year, on Thursday, September 8, 2005, Senior World will begin their 10th year of the St. David's Senior World Program.

Each meeting begins with a filling lunch, followed with a brief program. This year our Senior World theme is "Come, Follow Me" - the words of Jesus said to Simon and Andrew as He began gathering his disciples.

Following the program at each meeting we spend some time singing some of our favorite hymns and contemporary Christian songs. Finally, we join hands and form a circle (the circle has become larger and larger as we are beginning to average nearly 50 persons in attendance) and conclude the meeting with prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

We urge everyone to try to arrive by 11:15 a.m. for the 11:30 a.m. lunch, and we aim to end around



Picture courtesy of John & Barb Post  
Photo taken at Senior World Luncheon held in April 2005

1:30 p.m.

We at St. David's provide a framework in which our Lord can pour out His love upon those who attend the Senior World Program.

It is truly uplifting to see all of these happy faces as they leave for

their various residences. This gathering is our mission to our neighbors!

Jesus has told us to love our neighbors. Come and see Him work.

For more information on the Senior World program, please contact Barb Post.

## Meijer Rewards can pay off for St. David's

*Submitted by Father David*

Shopping at Meijer may not only be good for your pocketbook, but it's good for St. David's as well!

Since the inception of the Meijer's Rewards program more than \$1000.00 has been raised for the parish, including \$165.00 just last month.

Meijer Rewards is a free program in which Meijer agrees to contribute a percentage of your shopping bill to the parish. It costs you nothing, but it can greatly benefit the parish.

Half of the funds received go to our Outreach pro-

grams. You may sign up at any Meijer store, or call the church office for information on our parish code number.

You will receive a small key tab to scan before you check out and the total you spend will be credited to our account.

It is simple, painless, and it truly helps St. David's. If you have any questions, please see Larry Ewing.





## A visit to Mitford—meeting of a lifetime

Submitted by Carolyn and Francis Jacobs

The weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> we traveled to Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, North Carolina to attend “A Mitford Homecoming.” This conference was about Christian people who read the Mitford series by Jan Karon and participate on the website ([www.mitfordbooks.com](http://www.mitfordbooks.com).) During this weekend we were able to put “usernames” with faces that we had chatted with on the website. We ate “moonpies,” “livermush” and drank “cheerwine,” and let’s not forget “orange marmalade cake.” (You must read “At Home in Mitford” to understand these delicacies.)

The main event of the conference, which took place Saturday afternoon, was called “A Primrose Tea” which featured Mitford’s author, Jan Karon. We had Primrose Tea with Mitford Lemon Bars and talked with Jan Karon. Every person who had signed up for the conference was allowed a few minutes conversation with Jan.

Francis quickly let Jan know his arm was twisted to join the Episcopal Church. Jan quickly responded, “Somebody has to be one.” On the website, Francis is known as the “Slowest Reader in Mitford.” Because of that title, Jan let Francis know “I know who you are! I love you Buddy.” It is known that Jan visits the website often. Carolyn had some questions for Jan about “some quotes” in the series. Well that’s between Carolyn and Jan.

After the individual greetings, Jan gave a presentation about herself. She read excerpts from “At Home in Mitford” and sections from the new book coming out in the fall “Light from Heaven. Jan let us know “Light from Heaven” will be the last book of the “Mitford Series.” She is struggling with the last four chapters in “Light from Heaven” to tie everything together for her deadline. She asked for our prayers in accomplishing this. A new series called “The Father Tim Series” will follow the “Mitford” series. There will be three books in this

series. The first book is called “Home to Holly Springs.” Father Tim leaves Mitford for Holly Springs, Mississippi. The second book, entitled “A Party of Four” takes place in Ireland as Father Tim researches his family tree. The third, and final book in the series, “A Family Face” takes place in England as Father Tim researches his wife’s family tree.

Jan Karon help answered a lot questions for fans.



Photo courtesy of Carolyn and Francis Jacobs.

Father Tim will not die. Jan quotes “killing Father Tim would be like killing the goose that laid the golden egg.” Readers would be totally devastated if that happened.

“No, I am not Cynthia Copper-smith” Jan said. Cynthia was a lot more interesting and had better legs. (A character in the Mitford series.)

Jan does a lot of research into a character event before she writes about it. Example: Fa-

ther Tim’s diabetes. Jan thought she was acquiring diabetes. She found she wasn’t but gave it to Father Tim because of all of the research she had done on it. She didn’t want to let the information go to waste. When Father Tim and Cynthia were lost in cave, Jan spent half a day in a cave and was as terrified as they were. And finally, when Father Tim got sick going deep-sea fishing, she spent a full day deep-sea fishing and got sick herself.

Jan Karon finally shared her personal relationship with Jesus. It is essential for her life and the series. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” This scripture can found throughout the series.

The “Mitford Homecoming” group presented Jan Karon with a quilt. In the picture below, a bit of Mitford humor was used. Photographers were saying “cheese;” others say “Mitford.” I looked at Jan and said, “maybe they should have said “dump.” After that, she got the serious case of giggles.



## Joshua, the church mouse overheard...

I hope you are having a good summer. My family and I have moved into the pantry where it is much cooler than the church. It is so quiet around the church right now. I will be glad when Vacation Bible School starts and there are people around the church and snacks left by the children. **Robert and Shirley Bailey** continue to travel this summer and visit friends and family. **Lee and Pearl Brooks** have been spending time up north at the "camp." **Kathy Brown** is home from a brief stay at the hospital. **Norma Bunday** is back after a couple weeks up north as well. **Clarence and Lucille Burgess** have a new home in the Delta Retirement Center on West Mall Drive. **Nancy Burns** and her crew continue to do a great job of taking care of the church flower gardens. **Jim and Mary Jane Buzzie** have been visiting with family in Detroit. **Dave and Janie Byers** spent two weeks in Florida with Frank and Sharon Pansino. **Larry Carey** has been battling moles in his yard and will share his wisdom with you if you have moles. Keep in your prayers, the **Kriek-Chapin** family as they live with the untimely death of **Kaye Kriek Todd**. (I have really missed **Kerry** as she has been gone several weeks now and has not been around the building cleaning.) Keep **John and Sarah Chapman** in your prayers as they still try and sell their house in Pinckney so they can move back to Lansing. **Debbie and Kevin Cornell** took the St. David's Youth Group to Michigan Adventure for a weekend of fun. **John and Barb Post** and **Larry and Wilma Ewing** have all celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this past month. **Tom and Nancy George** continue to work on their new house in Montague. **Bill Hawes** is home from a stay in the hospital to work on reducing the pain of his headaches. **Jerri Hoffman** continues to struggle with pain and spent a brief time in the hospital for tests. **Patrick Jacobs** is home from three weeks in Germany. **Carolyn and Francis** are home from attending the Mitford Gathering in North Carolina. **Diane Kent** continues to battle cancer and needs our prayers. **Helen Lee** continues to battle back pain and has to stay home. **Shirley Matthews** also has

back pain and needs our prayers. **Bob and Glennis Muncie** are at the cottage enjoying the summer with family. **Dick and Lorayne Otto** have moved into their new home in DeWitt. **Dick** also has back pain and needs prayers for healing. **Harold Payne** has been out east to see Chris and Beth, and south to see Bill and his family. **Fr. David** has a cute new car that gets better gas mileage. Keep **Eleanor Robinson** in your prayers as she lost her daughter in a swimming accident in Florida. Thankfully **John Rolf** was not at work in the Michigan Works! building when the roof fell in. **Carol and Dick Schmidt** have been traveling lots this summer. **Eric and Carrie Severson** have moved back to Florida. **Doug Sherman** is doing fine after his cancer surgery and keeping busy this summer. **Fr. Jerry** is still having health problems and appreciates your prayers, cards, notes and calls. He hopes to be back to church soon. The **Spitzley** family spent a week in Leland at the same cottage Fr. David and his family use. **Jim and Rhoda Swift** both have broken left feet and are healing. **Leo and Meda Thrall** are about finished moving up north to be closer to family. **Vicki Tisdale** is busy moving into her new office as Principal of Windermere Elementary School. **Art and Barb Van Dyke** are proud grandparents of a new granddaughter. **Pat Vine** is home and recovering from having her pacemaker replaced. The **Williams** clan is back from a family reunion in Pennsylvania. **Sarah Taber** just returned from a trip down to Dayton, Ohio where she visited the Wright Brothers' home and bicycle shop along with the United States Air Force museum. The Church Mouse would also like to thank the following people who helped to prepare the July Newsletter for mailing: **Jerry Williams, Eleanor Robinson, Barbara Underhill, John and Barb Post, Larry Ewing, and Larry Carey**. Your hard work is appreciated!



### Check it out!



Just to let you know the we site [www.notaboutmeministries.org](http://www.notaboutmeministries.org) is much faster now. Take a test drive and let us know what you think. Please pass this website along, and also share your comments with Jim Thurston. Thank you!

God Bless,  
Jim Thurston and Company



## New Pastoral Assistant at St. David's

*Submitted by Father David*

As it is taking much longer and is far more difficult to find a Youth Minister and Pastoral Assistant we are taking on a temporary Pastoral Assistant beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Reverend William (Bill) Ericson has agreed to work part time helping Father David with pastoral needs at St. David's.

Father Bill was born in Glenwood Spring Colorado on September 28<sup>th</sup> and grew up in Colorado. After high school he joined the Navy and in time was stationed in Florida. While at a dance at the Episcopal Canterbury Club in Deland he met Millie Powe. They were married on June 12, 1964.

After his stint in the Navy, Bill and Millie returned to Colorado where he received a Bachelor of Art in Social Studies. In time they returned to Florida and had their first two sons, Robert and

Karl. In the mid-1970's Bill, Millie and the boys moved to Chicago where Bill began seminary studies at Seabury Western Episcopal Seminary. During this time son number three, Hans was born.

Father Bill was ordained a Deacon in 1977 and Priest in 1978. He served as Curate at All Saint's, Winter Park, Florida; Assistant at St. Andrew's, Mentor, Ohio; Rector of St. Matthew's, Saginaw, MI; Assistant at St. Paul's, Lansing, MI; Interim Priest at Christ Church, Owasso, MI; Vicar of St. Anne's DeWitt, MI; and Long Term Supply at St. Augustine, Mason, MI. Currently Fr. Bill is retired and does Sunday supply work for the Diocese of Michigan.

He and Millie have two grandsons, a granddaughter, and are expecting a fourth grandchild shortly. They live in Verndale

and have two dogs and two cats.

Father Bill will be working 10 – 15 hours a week visiting in the hospital, nursing homes, and shut-ins. He will help Father David with the weekday services and other occasional duties as agreed upon. He can be reached by leaving messages at the parish office, calling his home at 517-321-4771, or via E-mail at [billericson@yahoo.com](mailto:billericson@yahoo.com). Be sure to welcome Father Ericson to the St. David's staff and invite him out for coffee and introduce yourselves to him if you have not met him.

(In the fall, it is our plan to bring onto the staff a Youth Ministry Intern from the Great Lakes Christian College on Willow Highway. As soon as this person is found and details are in place we will let everyone know.)

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## ECW – A few thoughts and reminders

*Submitted by Andi Flitton*

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) had a brief meeting after the 9:30 a.m. service on Father's Day, June 19, 2005.

Several new business items were discussed: starting a group to help assist those who are ill in the parish, especially to relieve the caregivers; also a group to help families going through illness and or death with food; our Make and Take will be back, in conjunction with the workshops for the bazaar, and a pajama party for us!

Old business: garage sale, we grossed about \$2500 after expenses, thank you again to all who helped,

we couldn't have done it without you!

The next scrap-booking day is scheduled for September 17, 2005.

Our next meeting will be held on, August 10, 2005, Wednesday evening, after the evening service. We are trying to see if this will be a better day for all of us! If Wednesdays don't work, we will go back to Monday!

If anyone has a suggestion for us, a project that you think we should take on, or a fun gathering, please let either Jan Volk or Andi Flitton know, or bring it up at the meeting on the 10th.



## Important Contact Information

### Saint David's:

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

### Vestry:

Bill Paff, Senior Warden Box 118  
Steve Leiby, Junior Warden Box 70  
Carol Abbott Box 126  
John Runcie Box 50  
Nancy Howard Box 59  
David Byers Box 15  
Debbie Cornell Box 28  
Jeff Spitzley Box 52  
Dick Otto Box 82  
Jerri Hoffman Box 107  
Gail Donovan Box 17  
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### Service & Schedule:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m.

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### Saint John's:

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Barbara Stephon, Music Director

### Vestry:

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Lisa Ward, Junior Warden  
Ted Dotts  
Bill Gin  
Mike Paul  
Jeff Shaud  
Alma Stahl  
Ruby Stofflet  
Linda Wheeler

### Office Staff:

Karen Gin, Secretary  
Dave Spangenberg, Treasurer

### Service & Schedule:

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

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**Corrections:** Please note that as of May 1, 2005—the E-mail address for The Good News Letter has been changed to sarah.a.taber@gmail.com. Thank you.

The St. David's Good News Letter strives to provide accurate and fair reporting. It is our policy to correct errors of fact. If you think we may have published incorrect information, please call or e-mail Sarah Taber, Good News Letter Editor.

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**Lace up those walking shoes!**



**Don't forget to mark your calendars for this year's Crop Walk.**

**This year's walk is**