

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 10 No. 2

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

February 2004

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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 to the Vestry, Box 167

Newsletter

Ric Sorrell, e-mail: ric@sorrell-family.net, Box 140

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

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Web: www.forministry.com/usmiecusasdecs

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: stjohsepiscopalchurch201@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 Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

February is known as the “Love” month. Beginning right after Christmas, red hearts and lace begin appearing on store shelves. The colors of the season are red, white and pink; the designs are hearts, simpering angels and cupids complete with poised arrow. Valentine’s Day is the supreme day of love and romance.

The Bible is a story of love. It begins with God’s love for us in creating a perfect world just for our enjoyment. Eden was God’s gift to the human race. It was a place where all needs were met and where the human relationship with God was perfect.

Human self-centeredness and desire broke that perfect relationship but could not destroy love. Again and again God called His children to return and restore the broken relationship. Humanity chose not to listen.

Human love would have called it quits and walked away, but not so with God’s love for us. God made the ultimate sacrifice in sending His own Son to show us the way, as well as the depth of his love. Jesus died on the cross to restore the broken relationship between God and humans. The price was great - - Love was greater.

Think about the “loves” of your life. It might be a person or any number of people who have

helped shape and guide you. It might be a place or event that, in addition to molding and shaping you, directed you into the particular ministry you take such pleasure in living out.

Love is an important guiding principle in our lives. Love causes people to run back into burning houses to save a child. Love causes people to give up great wealth to be with the one person they cannot live without. Love makes the impossible possible, and gives people hope when all seems lost.

Now realize that the love God has for us is hundreds of times greater than anything we can dream or imagine. God only wants the very best for us and will grant it to us. All He asks in return is our love and worship.

This Valentine’s Day, be sure to tell the person or people close to you that you love them. Show them your love in a truly meaningful way. While you are doing this, don’t forget to tell God that you love Him. You will be glad you did.

With deepest affection,

Fr. David

Thanks for your thoughts and prayers!

Thanks to all my friends from St. David’s for their kind thoughts and prayers during my recent accident. I am grateful to you all for your kindness.

Tim Flynn

The Church Mouse heard ...

Steve and Toni Bolin have moved north to help Toni's mom continue to live in her home. For the time being Steve and Toni will commute back and forth until they sell their home and build a new place close to Toni's mom. Keep **Kerry Chapin** in your prayers as she continues to look for a job. Keep **Deb Cornell** in your prayers due to the death of her Aunt. **Larry and Wink** made it safely to Florida and are enjoying warmer weather. Keep **Don Flitton** in your prayers as he continues to progress through his cancer treatments. Keep **Sue Gabel** in your prayers as her brother had to have part of his leg amputated. **Amy Hackney** is back at Burcham Hill recovering from a pacemaker replacement. **Jerri Hoffman** is home recovering from a brief hospital stay. **Steve and Barbara Jones** are expecting a new child later this year. **Loretta Kappler** has been adding entertainment to the Senior World Luncheon and Study by playing her guitar and singing.

Joan Kriek is home from a brief stay in the hospital for heart tests. She will undergo surgery later in the spring. **Helen and Scottie Lee** are home after a month in Hawaii visiting their daughter and her family. **Mildred McNeill** worked hard at living to be 100 years old but didn't quite make it. She will be buried in upstate New York next to her husband. **Andy Mugnolo** will be joining the Coast Guard shortly and begin training. **Eileen Newhouse** was honored at the Annual Meeting for her wonderful ministry of providing flowers for the church. **Fr. David and Nancy Pike** have a new member of the family, a grey and white cat named Mindy. **John and Barb Post** are helping their daughter **Mary** following her surgery to have a hip replaced. Her second hip will be replaced later in the late spring or early summer.

Pat Purol continues to recover from her surgery and hopefully will soon be back to lay reading and helping with prayers for healing. **Meda Thrall** continues to struggle with back pain and continued prayers are requested. Until **Barb Wegener** gets back on her feet, **Lore Tuttle** is

St. David's February Birthdays

1	Loren Spitzley
4	Matthew Transeth
5	Ashley Kay Lynn Vaughn
7	Robert Bailey
6	Anna Munson
7	Barbara Wegener
7	Geri Root
8	Shirley Nostrant
10	Summer Menold
11	Bernie Knapp
12	Kristin Pfauth
12	Lawrence Byers
12	James Kent
12	Mike Carr
13	Elizabeth Byers
16	Beverly Kasper
18	Steve Hosmer
19	Tim Ross
21	Charla-Fay Smith
22	Shirley Bailey
25	Elizabeth Sherman
26	Emily Kriek
27	Devon Hill
28	Douglas Sherman

February Anniversaries

3	Matt & Tanner Munson
14	Francis & Carolyn Jacobs

helping with the prayer chain. You can call **Lore** or the office with prayer requests. **Barb and Art Van Dyke** had a great trip to Chicago to see a live production of the musical *The Lion King*. **Rory Vaughn** celebrated his first birthday with a family party at church. **Beverly Jean Ware** continues to request prayer for complete healing. In case you didn't hear, **Adam and Jamie Williams** have a new daughter, **Kennedy**. **Grandma Sue (Kohler) and Grandma and Grandpa Carol and Jerry (Williams) and brother Gage** are thrilled. Try and stay warm and don't be surprised if you see me snacking on potato chips in the pantry. It is nice and warm by the hot water heater. ☩

The Watermen

By Jim Thurston

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Feb. 3 to attend the Watermen's guest speaker night featuring one of the founders of Two Men and a Truck - it starts at 7 pm at the church. Hope you will make it.

Also mark your calendar for the Pancake Supper later in February. Many helpers will be needed so be generous with your name on the sign up sheet. The price remains the same as in the past. A great deal for a great celebration. Stay tuned for further Sunday notes.

Remember the Job Jar - it is located in the mail box area of the church.

My thanks to everyone who took time to respond to the Watermen's survey. I will publish the results in next months newsletter.

P.S. Each Sunday after the 8:00 am service a bible study is held. Everyone is welcome.

Be good and God Bless.

" Show the Lord your honor - and give thanks. "
Anonymous ☩

Healing and Renewal Conference

By John Post

A historic event will be taking place at St. David's, inasmuch as for the first time, the Renewal and Evangelism Committee and the Order of St. Luke Chapter of St. David's are teaming up to co-sponsor a Healing and Renewal Conference. In years past each of these organizations have organized their own conferences, but this will be the first time the two groups have worked together to produce such an event. This year's conference will be held on March 12 and 13--Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The conference, "The Giftings Of The Holy Spirit," is being led by The Rev. Jack Sheffield. Father Sheffield is an Episcopal priest who founded Deep River Ministries, an organization dedicated to spreading the healing gospel of Christ. Father Jack and his wife make their home in Austin, Texas.

At the conclusion of the conference, on Saturday afternoon, a Healing Service will be held, with a short homily being delivered by Fr. Sheffield. A freewill offering will be taken at the service to help supplement the honorarium being given to our conference leader.

The cost of the Conference is ten dollars a person, and it includes the price of a box lunch. Financial help is available for those who request it.

As Fr. Sheffield is an extremely popular and dynamic speaker, it is strongly recommended that members of St. David's who wish to attend this conference apply early! Conference brochures are being sent to more than 300 individuals and churches throughout Michigan, and the event could possibly be a "sell out"! The members of the R & E Committee and the Order of St. Luke Chapter urge their brothers and sisters of St. David's to attend the conference and participate in the teaching, fellowship, music, and prayers! 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 High School Spaghetti Dinner is in the planning for a new date. Look for postings at the church.

The 3rd through 8th grades Winter Retreat will be Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22, 2004. See insert for details.

We still have some 2004 Calendar's available!

Grace of Giving Report for 2003

By Jerry Williams

Last Spring after asking for volunteers to serve on the parish stewardship committee, five persons stepped forward—Dave Byers, Sue Kohler, Jim Thurston, Dianne Ulibarri and my wife, Carol. Since then, Gretchen Smith has also joined the committee. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of them—without them and their prayers, the Grace of Giving Program would not have gotten off the ground.

This year's committee worked very hard to develop a stewardship program that is based on prayer and Biblical principles. At our very first meeting, we selected one of the 99 or so passages in the Bible that speaks about money, wealth and giving to serve as our vision for this year's stewardship program. The passage is found in 2Cor. 8.7, where the Apostle Paul exhorts the Corinthian church members to excel in the grace of giving. With this as our foundation, we took another bold step and renamed ourselves the Grace of Giving Committee so as to emphasize God's grace in giving us every good and perfect gift necessary for our lives in this world and the next.

The goal of the Grace of Giving program is to help each member of St David's family journey into a richer and deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus and to have a stronger faith in the One, True God who loves us and wants us to have all we need to live a joyful and productive life.

The "Grace of Giving" program is Holy Spirit-inspired and Biblically sound. While "homegrown", it incorporates all the criteria known for making a good stewardship program. Parish ministries and goals are emphasized; proportionate giving and tithing are stressed; education will be year-round; and training, feedback and on-going evaluation are essential components. A very important strength of the program is that our church leadership is committed to it and its underlying principles, as evidenced by the stewardship statements signed by Fr. David, each member of the Vestry and each member of the Grace of Giving Committee. Each

states their beliefs and commitments concerning stewardship and offers an invitation and challenge for all members of the church family to join them. The final piece of this year's Grace of Giving Pledge Drive consisted of a personal letter from a fellow parishioner encouraging and inviting each of us to make a generous and joyful pledge of our income and time and talents to do God's work here at St. David's. As of January 11, 2004, 95 parishioners have responded with pledges totaling \$217,872. Sixty-eight percent of these pledges are either new or increased over last year. Parishioners are also continuing to give generously of their time and talents to the more than 40 ministries active at St. David's.

While the pledge drive portion of the Grace of Giving Program is over, the Committee is now developing plans for additional stewardship educational offerings. If you would like to participate, please contact any Committee member or fill out a Grace of Giving Survey form. ☒

Outreach Corner

By Charlotte Byers

As Andrea Fiitton wrote last month, we can again say WOW! The good reach of St. David's outreach continues. Recipients of your generous financial support this past year were:

- Special Olympics
- Youth for Christ
- Mother Teresa House
- Lansing City Rescue Mission
- Salvation Army
- Christian Services
- SIREN
- Hospice of Lansing
- World Vision
- Acts 29 - Youth Quake
- The Smile Train
- Advent House Ministries
- Hannah's House
- Child Evangelicalism Fellowship
- Canterbury Project (MSU)

Thank to all of you who helped in so many ways with our outreach projects in 2003. We are looking forward to continue working with you now in 2004. Thanks again! ☒

St. Davids new web page

By Ric Sorrell

Have you checked out the web site recently. St. David's web site is moving to a new address. This is due to the fact that our current web host, forministry.com, is migrating all of its web pages to version 4.0 of their software (we are still using version 2.0), which essentially means that I had to recreate an entirely new web site for us. The temporary address, which is assigned by forministry.com, is:

www.forministry.com/usmiecusasdecs

We could keep this address although we do have the option to change it and personalize it to a name more related to St. David's, such as :

www.stdavidslansing.org, www.stdavidsepiscopal.org, etc.

There is a nominal cost to 'personalize' the name and I will present that to the vestry at their next meeting.

You can click on the address above to go to the new site. You will see that it has the 'look and feel' of the current page, but with some exciting new features, including a daily bible reading (in addition to the Daily Office link), changeable colors and images that will reflect the different colors for the church year, a "What's New" type of section, interactive forms, and many more. If you haven't filled out the Grace of Giving Survey yet, that form is on-line on the new web page. Please feel free to check out the new site and let me know what you think. There is a Comments and suggestions form on the page you can use.

This new site will be developing for the next few weeks so be sure to check back often. The current web page:

www.forministry.com/48917sdec

will also be on-line, but the only section I will update will be the "This week at St. David's" information.



St. David's Episcopal Church

The friendly church on the west side of Lansing

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Grace of Giving Survey is on-line [more...](#)

Annual meeting went well [more...](#)



St. David's Episcopal Church
3rd Annual Sunday School Winter Retreat
February 21-22, 2004

Grades 3rd through 8th

The 3rd Annual Winter Retreat is for all boys and girls in grades 3rd through 8th. The weekend retreat will be held at St. David's.

Where: St. David's Episcopal Church

When: Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22, 2004

Time: 9:00 am on Saturday till 10:15 am Sunday

Cost: \$15.00 per person

What to bring: sleeping bag, pillow, clothes for outdoor fun and for church, your sled, ice skates, towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb/brush.

Activities: Impressions 5, sledding, ice-skating, Bible games, and devotional time.

We are looking for parents to help with the retreat.

Registration Form

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Yes, my child will be able to attend the weekend retreat.

_____ Yes, my child will be able to attend Saturday=s activities only. No overnight.

_____ Yes, Mom and/or Dad will be able to help Saturday only.

_____ Yes, Mom and/or Dad will be able to help Saturday and Sunday.

Cost: \$15.00 per person:

Emergency contact: _____

Parents/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell-phone: _____

Please return to Debbie Cornell, mailbox #28, by Sunday, February 15, 2004. Thank you

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Cornell at (517) 647-2089 or contact the church at 517-323-2272.

St. David's Episcopal Church
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Family Nights !!!

Don't forget about the Family Nights at St. David's the last Friday of each month. Games, fun, fellowship – we have it all! Bring your favorite games, videos (G or PG only please!), snacks, or whatever. This is a night for the whole family and friends – the more, the merrier! Any questions? – contact Gail Donovan at 321-8810.

7:00 – 11:00 p.m.