

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 10 No. 1

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

January 2004

Father David	Insert
Reverend Carol's message	Page 2
Grace of Giving December update	Page 3
St. Nicholas Bazaar and Bistro	Page 5

St. David's

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Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director

Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115
Steve Leiby, Box 70
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Cornell, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers, Box 71
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Jerri Hoffman, Box 24
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry, Box 167

Newsletter

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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
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Alma Stahl
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St. David's Episcopal Church

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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

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Service Schedule

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

Reverend Carol's message

The New Year

What is this year to bring? A question we cannot answer nor do some of us want to know...even if we could. The not knowing is not a comfortable place to be in, but it is the place that God puts us in so that we can learn to trust and believe that He is in control and not us. It is like the answer that Mary gave to God when she was asked to be the mother of Jesus. She had no idea what she was answering too, nor did she have any idea that she would be the mother who stood at the foot of the cross, or had her sons body laid over her knees. She answered because she trusted in God and what she had been taught about him all of her life. And we are being asked to do the same thing. We have been given a whole new year to look forward too, we have been given 365 days in which we can fill with the love of God or choose to fill them with something else, whatever that something else might be.

None of us wants to have bad things happen, but they will, none of us want to be hurt but that will enter our lives as well. Once someone told me that each minute is a moment in time, and to give

to ourselves that moment is a life giving event. Each of us needs to have a moment in time frequently, and the only way we can have that is to let God give it to us. We can control a little of what we do, we can control alot of what we think, and we can control all of what we pray and ask God for. Rarely do people ask God for trouble and hurt, but they do ask for comfort and strength. We do ask for forgiveness and peace, and this is what God is able to give. He is there to be all these things and more and each time we enter his presence we have that moment in time, where we are in a place so sacred and so holy that we feel totally whole and full of love.

Lets go to this place more often this year, and we will be able to fill more days with love and grace, and we will be able to be more of a servant rather than being one being served. Isn't this what we are asked by Jesus to do, and isn't this what Mary did? Can each of us do the same in 2004?

God bless,
Rev. Carol

Notes from Carol's Corner

Annual Meeting the fourth Sunday in January....the 25th following the 10:30 service.

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas programs...they were great..special thanks to Bonnie Bos and Barb Stephon for the wonderful play and music.

Special thanks to Christine Strukel and Lisa Ward for the silent auction with the Christmas Baskets, they were great.

Christian Education on Wednesday afternoon will continue with the same schedule..can any of you help either get the children or teach?

Our piano's are both gone...and I mean gone..they cannot be repaired. We are looking for a means to raise money so we can purchase a piano, do any of you have any ideas?

Grace Of Giving—December Update

By Jerry Williams

Our Pledge Chairperson, Jackie Easton, reports that, as of December 15, the church has received 87 pledges totaling \$201,436. So far, 60 pledges are new or have increased, which represents 69% of all pledges—praise the Lord.

A **BIG** “Thank You” to those who have already responded to St. Paul’s call to strive to excel in the grace of giving. For those who have simply forgotten, please take time to fill out your pledge card and return it to the church. If you have mislaid your pledge card, call the church office and a new one will be sent to you. If you are still unsure or have questions about pledging, please feel free to contact Fr. David or me. My number is 882-4142 or email is jerrywill42@att.net.

Remember, the ultimate goal of the Grace of Giving program is not about raising money for the church—it is to deepen our relationships with God and to know that whatever we give of ourselves, goes to help others.

P.S. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, there is a survey form to evaluate the recent Grace of Giving Pledge Drive and to gather information about the need for future stewardship events. Please take a minute to fill it out—your opinions and comments are very important to the Grace of Giving Committee. ☒

Christian Education

By Debbie Cornell

The Christmas Pageant was held Christmas Eve at the 7:00 pm service and was a big success. The children were so excited about the program “Away from the Manger.” We hope you enjoyed it, too.

We have lots of the 2004 calendars for sale yet. Please help the children with their fund raiser, they make great gifts and stocking stuffer. The calendars are \$6.00 each.

St. David’s January Birthdays

2	John Runcie
6	Alex Lynaugh
7	Diane Brabon
10	Brian Paff
10	Alexander Stephens
13	Gloria Bastian
13	Jeff Albert
14	Pearl Brooks
14	Andrew Leigh
17	Mary Buzzie
18	Mickey Jarous
19	Barb Post
20	Nan Strickler
21	Bill Dods
21	Edith Cole
21	Amanda Wils
21	Janet Volk
23	Faris Howrani
24	Charles Henley
25	Patrick Jacobs
27	Pauline Solomon
28	Glynn Warren
28	KaCey Chapin

January Anniversaries

5	Make & Pat Johnson
19	John Winters & Carol Abbott

Sunday Christian Education classes resume on January 4th, 2004!!!

The high school students are having a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, January 18th following the Annual Meeting. Tickets will be on sale soon.

The Winter Retreat 2004, is scheduled for February 20-22, 2004 at St. David’s. The retreat will be for boys and girls in 3rd through 8th grade. We are inviting other area churches to join us. ☒

The Watermen

By Jim Thurston

Greetings and a most joyous holiday season past to everyone.

We had a busy and quiet year. I wish to thank everyone for their support and well wishes. I am hopeful that more men of the church will step forward and attend a Watermen meeting occasionally. We have good times and great fellowship and would like to spread this joy and support with you. Feel free to come the first Tuesday of each month. We won't bite.

Our next meeting will be January 6 starting at 7:00 PM at the church. There will be a brief business meeting and then the fun will begin. Hope to see you there.

The Watermen invites all of the members of St. David's and their friends to a special program with Brig Sorber, Licensing Director and member of the Board of Two Men and a Truck International, Inc., on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. Brig is one of the original "two-men," along with his brother Jon. He started the business with his brother while they were still in high school as a means to earn money. With a 1976 pickup truck as their sole resource, the two brothers placed an advertisement in a local shopping guide that read "Two Men and a Truck to move your belongings," along with a stick figure designed by their mother, Mary Ellen Sheets. That design is now the corporate logo of the organization. Brig is a graduate of Okemos High School and Northern Michigan University. He makes his home in Okemos, with his wife Francine and their three children.

Join the Watermen on February 3 to hear how one of Lansing's best known businesses became such a success, and how God changed the life of one of it's principles.

Be good and God Bless. ☩

EFM – A New Beginning

By Barbara Van Dyke

EFM, also known as Education for Ministry will have a new beginning on Sunday, January 11, 2004 at 1:00 P.M. in Classroom 9 at St. David's. The fee for this year is \$340.00 and payment in full is due at the first meeting. One of our activities will be to set up a meeting schedule and make decisions about when we will be meeting during the summer months. Meeting dates have not been predetermined; the group will make the decisions about meeting dates, times and location of meetings.

The EFM program is a group activity and all members will be asked to make a commitment to attend unless there is an emergency. The learning process is determined by the relationship of the members within the group. Since not all class members are studying the same lesson discussions revolve around the readings from all the study areas. Some areas challenge previously learned knowledge, but everyone learns from the group process, discussion and theological reflection.

If you have any questions or need an application form call Barbara Van Dyke (517-699-2366), mentor and member of St. David's; Francis Jacobs (517- 622-1983), class member from St. David's; Brad Bos (517-541-0572), class member from St. Johns, Charlotte; and Bill Peloquin (517-647-4768), class member from Trinity Episcopal, Grand Ledge.

EFM is a good place to be for some exercise of the mind with validation of our faith and knowledge of Scripture, history and theology. Come and join, you will be surprised at how much you learn when you thought you knew everything already. Even the mentor learns a LOT from EFM and no, I did not know it all in the beginning nor do I now. ☩

St. Nicholas Bazaar and Bistro Big Success!

By Carey L. Draeger

Thanks to the efforts of many St. David's volunteers and a wonderful array of vendors and local TV personalities, the first St. Nicholas Bazaar and Bistro netted over \$2,300 for the kitchen renovation project! The bazaar featured 30 different crafters, the luncheon/fashion show hosted 108 participants and garnered some coverage on the 6:00 and 11:00 news shows at WLNS-TV 6, thanks to Emily Wagner serving as the host.

The silent auction, run by Tami Varriccho, brought in well over the \$1,000 goal Tami set. Local businesses and St. David's parishioners generously donated a variety of items and services that were enthusiastically bid on by bazaar visitors and participants alike.

The St. Nicholas Bistro served many cups of coffee, bowls of white chicken chili, and Sloppy Joe sandwiches! The vendors appreciated the fact that they had a place to go to for food and drink as well.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the St. David's Watermen and the Psi Upsilon Fraternity, the luncheon on December 5 went off without a hitch. Over 108 people were served by the men in under 20 minutes. The fashion models, all of them St. David's folk, demonstrated their talents and good looks dressed in beautiful clothes provided by Younker's.

The feedback from all the bazaar and bistro participants was quite positive--every single vendor indicated he or she was willing to come back next year.

Many thanks to everyone who participated--thanks to you, this debut event was a big hit and a profitable one, too! ☩

The Healing Corner

By Carol Williams

I have a very dear friend, who's been a Christian since the age of seven, who does not believe that the atonement of Jesus includes His healing today as He provided when He walked upon this earth. We have come to the conclusion that we agree to disagree and to love one another, perhaps with an even deeper love from God.

Here are two Christian women, sisters in the Lord, who have been classmates and friends since second grade. There is so much we do agree about in the interpretation of God's word and yet, as with so many Christians, we differ in our beliefs about the healing that is available to us through Jesus.

I have written before the statement contained in the information from the Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL). This is what it states, "All humanity is the creation of a loving God who wills for everyone wholeness, health of the total person, spirit, soul and body. When we pray for healing, we are to pray, 'Thy will be done', not 'If it be thy will'. All sickness and brokenness is contrary to the will of God. At no time is sickness a part of His purpose or plan for any part of His Creation. Our primary purpose in the Healing Ministry is to see God's will fulfilled in the restoration of wholeness."

If you do not believe in the above statement I would encourage you to ask yourself "Why Not?!" If you do believe the statement is true "Why Yes?!" Sometimes it is very necessary to check out what we believe and why. When we talk about God's healing we find that experience has a great deal to do with what we believe. Over the years I have come to believe the OSL statement above as the truth about God and His will for us.

I believe that Jesus substituted Himself for me---not only for my sins but for every wound, sickness and disease. He paid the price, in full, so that I would not have to. I have learned that I may take authority over sickness and disease because of what Jesus has done and is doing right now. In Acts chapter 10 verse 38, which is one of my favorite verses, it states "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;

who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." I know for me this verse changed my life. Before I would keep pleading with God to heal me or others. Now, believing that it is God's will for His Creation (that's us) to be in wholeness, spirit, soul and body, my prayers are very different. I don't plead for God to do something. I ask God once for healing and then give Him thanks and praise for the healing He is bringing about in me and others. I also act on the authority I have as a believer. I use the Name of Jesus to take authority over the devil---knowing that Jesus' Name and Blood are greater than anything the devil tries to put on me.

I do want to say that I believe that God uses doctors, medicine, surgeries, etc. to bring us healing. How gracious He is in giving His Godly wisdom and knowledge for all of His Creation to be healed.

So let us give praise, honor and glory to God, who does want us all to be sound and whole, spirit, soul and body. Hallelujah! ☩

Outreach Corner

By Andrea Flitton

WOW! We have once again been able to help many families that needed to have Food Baskets and Christmas gifts, because you care. We helped 23 families, and also 2 shelter homes(SIREN-Eaton Shelter and EVE's House-formerly CADA). Your financial support of our efforts has been wonderful this year. And the volunteers---what can we say about the awesome volunteers we had that not only purchased gifts for the children, and made gift bags for the adults, but helped set up the tables and took them down, and those of you busy people who took time out of your schedules to come and pack the Food Baskets, and to help us load them into the families vehicles, or to deliver them to their homes. You all should be very proud of yourselves for the effort to make sure that needy families are helped this time of year. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Remember that the new year brings us new dates to work at the City Rescue Mission serving

dinner once a month. If you want to serve, please call Jerry Williams for more information, 882-4142. The January date is January 27th, we only need 8 people to serve. It is important that you notify us that you can serve, please don't just show up, it is confusing if we have too many hands to help. If you call Jerry to let him know you are interested in helping, he will add you to the schedule. If you are someone who wants to serve every month, be sure to let him know that, too. The date for February is the 17th, please check your calendars and let Jerry know that you plan to help.

Once again, THANK YOU to all of you for your help with all of our Outreach Projects for 2003. We are looking forward to working with you again next year. ☩

Meijer Club card

By Larry Ewing

Here's an opportunity to financially support the outreach missions of St David's while you shop. This became possible with St David's participation in a new program offered by Meijer. We are now enrolled in Meijer Community Rewards.

To help in the program, members and friends of St David's need to sign up. It's very simple and FREE. Signup can be done on line at Meijer.com/rewards or by mailing a completed, preaddressed application. The applications are available at the Church or at any Meijer store. When applying, please remember that the Code number for St David's is 589922.

In about 3 weeks, applicants will receive 1 wallet size and 2 key chain Meijer Guest Cards. Use is very easy. After shopping, simply swipe the Guest Card through the card reader, and a portion of your expenditure will be credited to St David's and paid on a monthly basis.

The sooner you apply, the sooner St David's starts benefiting from the program. So sign up now! ☩

Grace of Giving Survey

The Grace of Giving Committee needs your help evaluating the recent Pledge Drive and your thoughts and ideas on future stewardship education. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. When completed, please put it in Mailbox #115 (Jerry and Carol Williams) or mail it to the church, attention Grace of Giving Chair. Thank you in advance for doing this.

A. What You Liked (and Didn't Like) about the Pledge Drive:

Circle the Number that Best Describes Your Evaluation (1=Strike-Out; 2= Fly-Ball; 3= Hit; 4= Home-Run)

1. The Sunday Bulletin Inserts	1	2	3	4
2. The Newsletter Articles	1	2	3	4
3. The Lay Talks on Giving	1	2	3	4
4. The Lay Talks on St. David's Ministries	1	2	3	4
5. Fr. David's Sermon on Giving	1	2	3	4
6. The Personal Letter from a Parishioner	1	2	3	4
7. The Pledge Drive's Duration	1	2	3	4

B. What Effect (if Any) Did the Pledge Drive Have on You?

C. What Would You Like to See Changed in Future Pledge Drives?

D. What Do You Think of the Following Ideas for Future Stewardship Education?

1. Additional Sermons by Fr. David (2-3 during the Year)	1	2	3	4		
2. Additional Bulletin Inserts	1	2	3	4		
3. Additional Newsletter Articles	1	2	3	4		
4. Financial Planning Seminar			1	2	3	4
5. Planned Giving, Wills and Estate Planning Seminar			1	2	3	4
6. A 4-Week Adult Study on Giving	1	2	3	4		
7. Talks by Speakers from Outside Ministries	1	2	3	4		
8. Additional Stewardship Education for Young People			1	2	3	4

E. Is There Something Else You Would Like to See?

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Happy New Year !!!



January dates at St. David's

January 6th – Women's Bible study resumes at 10:00 a.m.

January 6th – Epiphany Service at 7:00 p.m.

January 8th – Senior World potluck at 11:15 a.m.

January 18th – Annual meeting and Spaghetti Dinner

Reflections of Father David

TO KNOW JESUS AND TO WORSHIP HIM

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:1-2, 10-11

In its simplest, most reduced form, Epiphany is really about two things. The first is knowing who Jesus really is. The wise men knew. They were looking for the "King of the Jews." Perhaps they knew from their study of the holy writings that he would not be found in a palace. It didn't matter to them where the baby was at any particular moment, because they had a beacon to follow. They had the star always before them, leading them to the birthplace of one they had waited long to see. They were excited to see this wondrous birth and traveled far to do so.

I suspect Herod, deep in his heart and perhaps only sub-consciously, knew who Jesus was. That was why he was fearful of this special birth and wanted to destroy the child Jesus. Jesus, even as a newborn infant, was a threat to all that was important to Herod and the world he, Herod, was creating. In this child was the opposite of everything that Herod represented and found worthwhile.

In profoundly different ways the wise men and Herod knew who Jesus was; their lives were shaped by this knowledge. Mary and Joseph certainly had an understanding of who Jesus was, and it affected them profoundly. This birth caused them to alter the course of their lives in many ways, including how and when they were married, where they live, I, how they related to their son, and what they experienced as he grew and matured.

The question for us is "Do we know who Jesus is?" Scripture tells us much about Jesus. Do we spend time truly studying the Bible and gaining a growing understanding of all that Jesus did, taught, accomplished, and meant to people? In this lifetime we can never fully know Jesus. With study and dedication we will gain an ever expanding understanding, but in the end our knowledge will always be incomplete. We can never, and must never, stop learning. Our search to know Jesus must be as dedicated as that of the wise men when they journeyed far in search of the newborn king. It must be as ruthless as Herod as he, for a very different reason, also searched for Jesus.

The second thing Epiphany requires us to do is worship the Jesus we seek to know. It is very important to note that the Gospel of Matthew tells us the wise men came and **WORSHIPED** Jesus. They fell on their knees because they knew they were in the presence of royalty. Some translations refer to the wise men as kings, and we even have an Epiphany song "We Three Kings." These kings knew this infant far surpassed them in every way and they were awed.

There is a huge difference between visiting and worshiping. You and I do a lot of visiting. We visit the doctor, friends, historical places, far distant countries, the gravesides of loved one, the list is endless. Hopefully we just visit and don't "worship" our doctor, friends, Civil War monuments, other cultures or departed ancestors.

The Ten Commandments make clear that we are to worship God and God alone. We gather in church to worship God. Epiphany calls us, each in our own way, to gather before the infant Christ and worship him.

Let us take our cue from the Wise Men and do as they did. We need to seek the birthplace of Jesus. We need to work at knowing who Jesus is. We need to bring our gifts and lay them before him. Finally, we need to tell the world, as the wise men did as they returned home, exactly what we've found.

May God richly bless and keep you and those you love, now and always.

With deepest affection,



Fr. David