

Thank You

Submitted by Fr. David

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make Christmas so wonderful. The music was beautiful, thank you choir; the Altar was stunning, thank you Altar Guild; and everyone who helped in the Greening of the Church. Thank you to the ushers, greeters, lay readers, acolytes, everyone who gave of their time and talents to welcome the Christ Child.

Epiphany

Submitted by Rev. David Pike



When the wise men saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2: 10 – 11

By the time you receive this edition of the GoodNews, Christmas will be past and the New Year upon us. We will have opened our presents, given our gifts, returned our homes to their normal order and continued with life. Some of our gifts will have been returned for something else, or a different size. Some, perhaps not so well made, will have been broken and thrown away. Some will be put aside for another day, perhaps to be enjoyed with a special someone. Thank you notes will have been written and across the United States, countless people will give a huge sigh of relief that another Christmas has been successfully navigated.

There are a few people, though, who will not have opened their gifts as you read this article. They will wait until January 6th, the Day of Epiphany, the day that the wise men arrived at the birthplace of the Christ Child. It is their way of honoring the arrival of the wise men with their gifts for Jesus.

Each of the gifts the wise men presented were unique - not gifts normally given to a small child. The gift of gold was certainly unusual. Only the very, very wealthy had gold. Kings had gold. The powerful had gold. People paid attention to those who had gold. A child born in a stable would not have gold. For Jesus the gold would signify the power he was to hold in this world. Jesus had the power to reach out and change people's hearts,

redirect their lives, give them hope.

The second gift was frankincense. Frankincense was burned before the altar in the temple. It represented the prayers of the people as they drifted up to Yahweh. Frankincense was reserved for the gods. For Jesus, it was a symbol of his divinity. Here was the Son of God, come to earth to show people the way.

The final gift was that of myrrh. Myrrh was a spice used to lovingly anoint the body of those who had died. At his birth, Jesus was given a gift indicative of death. Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of all people.

Wealth, Jesus never had. He was spit upon, vilified, mocked, and never treated as divine. He would die so that others might live. No one could have foretold the importance of these three strange gifts.

God has given us so many gifts. Some we see and understand immediately. We can use them and are truly thrilled to receive them. Others puzzle us. We wonder what to do with them. We wonder why on earth we were chosen for such a gift. Sometimes, if we are lucky, we find the answer to that why. We discover we need exactly that gift at that time and nothing else will do.

Epiphany is a time for us to continue our journey, just at the wise men did after they left their gifts in Bethlehem. We are to tell others of this remarkable child Jesus and the man he would become. The gift that has been freely given to us, life everlasting, we must pass on to others. That was the ministry of the shepherds and the wise men, to pass on the news of the birth of Jesus. It is the same ministry we are called to share in.

To Jesus we must offer our material goods and our power. This is the gold standard of our world. It is what people pay attention to and respond to. We must worship the true God of all creation and not a god made by human hands. It didn't work for the people of Moses' time and it won't work any better in our time. We must be willing to die to the false promises of this world, and receive the promises that God desires for us. Then we will discover the joy that the wise men knew.

(continued on next page)

May this Epiphany continue to be a journey, drawing you ever closer to the throne of God.

With deepest affection.

Fr. David

Annual Meeting Drawing Close

Please have reports turned in to the office no later than Jan. 18th so they can be included in the booklet for distribution on the 27th.

Have you considered being on the Vestry? Have you considered a nominee? Get nominees turned in early enough so they can be contacted.

The 45th Annual Meeting of St. David's Episcopal Church will take place on Sunday January 27, 2008 in the Great Hall. It will take place following the 10:30 am service. We will start with a potluck and then attend to our business. There will be reports to receive, a budget to receive, Vestry members to elect, Delegates to Diocesan Convention to elect. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the potluck. Please bring your table setting and a dish to pass. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending this important part of our parish life.

ECW News January 2008

Submitted by Andi Flitton

Thank you to all who helped with the Bazaar this year. It wasn't the whopping success we would have preferred, but it was still a fun time for all. The crafters who came back this year didn't do as well as they have in the past, hopefully, they will come back next year and have a bonus year. I am sure that the date change had a bit of effect, as well as the economy. We had a lot of lookers. Next year the date is the first weekend in December.

Glennis has again made sure that our Cookie Walk was a success, even though Mother Nature tried to intervene! Several of us gathered to wrap the tins on the Wednesday prior to the actual day. Thank you to Glennis and her team for a yummy time!

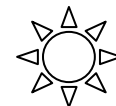
This year-wow-2008 already!-we will have some fun days for socializing and some work times to help raise funds for our projects. The first two events are fun days.

On January 19, 2008, we will be making holiday memory books. We will have the basic supplies on hand; you just need to bring pictures and any embellishments you want to add. You will also need to bring shears, acid free tape(a tape runner-which you can purchase at Pages In Time, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Meijer's, or from a person that sells scrapbook or stamping supplies), and if you have punches or cutters bring those, too. There will be a \$5.00 charge to help pay for the paper we have purchased. Bring a lunch or we can all order out. Coffee, tea, and M&M's will be available! Guests are welcome!

Our Secret Pal party will be in February; Carolyn Jacobs will have more information on that event as the date nears.

Our Annual Garage Sale is the first week in May, and we will try opening on Friday and Saturday this year. We cannot begin working on the sale until Wednesday of that week, as there is an election scheduled for Tuesday. That will give some of you that work and have not been able to help in the past an opportunity to be part of the team this year, we will be sorting all day Wednesday and Thursday, from 10:00 till 8:00. We will open Friday morning at 9:00 am, and again on Saturday. Mark your calendars; join us for the fun (?) of sorting and pricing. It is a great way to get to know your fellow church members and also a great way to treasure hunt!

ECW is not an organization just for the older generation of the church. We would like to begin having regular meetings again, the meetings don't have to last a long time-about an hour. Since many of you work, and have children that are very busy, Jan and I would like to hear from all of you which day would work best for you. If it is a Sunday after church that is fine, or we could hold the meetings after service on a Wednesday evening.




Please be sure to see the bulletin board across from the coat rack for new **Flower Chart for 2008**, our Missionaries' updates from the Dominican Republic, schedules, vestry agendas and notes, and other community news.

January Happenings to note:

- 3** -Financial Peace Orientation
- 4** –Great Hall in use 7-10pm
- 5** –Great Hall in use 9a-6pm
- 9** –Healing Conf. mtg. 7pm
- 10** -Senior World Luncheon 11:15am
- 15** –Presidential Primary Election
- 17**- MOPS 9-11:30am
-NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 18** –Family Fun Night 6-8pm
 - annual meeting reports deadline
- 19** –ECW Memory Book making: 9a-5pm
- 20** –Eastern Deanery **Ultreya** at Resurrection, BC
- 25** –Great Hall in use 7-10pm
- 26** –Great Hall in use 9a-6pm
- 27-ANNUAL MEETING** following 10:30 service
- 29** –Financial Peace course begins
- 31** –Adult Inquirers Class 7pm

Be sure to check your St. David's directory for monthly birthdays and anniversaries.

 Mark your calendars now for the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. It will take place on Tuesday **February 5, 2008 from 5 to 8 pm**. People are needed to set up, cook, serve, and clean up. More information will be available as we draw closer to the date.



Curate's Corner

Do you know how hard it is to write about January, about Epiphany, and about the secular New Year that has begun when you are still in the midst of Advent? When Christmas is over a week away [yes, Kerry, I'm hurrying to get this in!] and we are still anticipating and preparing? And if I were to write about the present, how strange it would be for the reader, living in a sense of completion after the

holiday season, to be jarred back into Advent? What a dilemma!

I notice, however, in this lectionary (Year A), how much the early part of Advent was spent on John the Baptist. I know that we're passed that, but bear with me for a moment, however, because we rumble over John in our anticipation of Christmas. We take it too literally that gospel verse that Matthew attributes to Jesus: "yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." "Yeah," we say; "John's only human; he's not God." We think that he's nothing compared with the incarnate God. In fact, we shudder at some of his proclamations and at his fiery Messianic prophecy. In all, we prop him up next to Jesus and he doesn't measure up.

But if we look at the Gospel of the evangelist we know as Mark, we see this exchange (8:27-30):

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

His disciples (except Peter) believed that Jesus was a prophet. That he might, in fact, be the famed John the Baptist. They were more than willing to follow this man they believed to be John the Baptist (or Elijah or one of the prophets). Not only was this sufficient, but this was high praise.

For those of us that have chosen to follow Jesus, to call him Rabbi, and believe that he is God, his ministry occasionally blinds us from the supporting cast; but even the Academy recognizes achievements in a supporting role in their annual awards. We see in the character of John a dirty, disturbing, and irritating example that has one thing on Jesus: he is entirely human. He is an earthy figure, who "wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey." He is the stranger from the wilderness that walks through our doors, up the center aisle, and sits in your favorite pew. He is the *(continues on next page)*

long-time member that proclaims our lost way. He is the bright, young couple that is church shopping. These are our modern prophets; and it is against this example that we must recognize our part.

As we walk through our short season of Epiphany, we can take time to see all of the different ways we participate in this story. We are Peter, telling Jesus "You are the Messiah" because we know the secret about Him. We are those other disciples, recognizing in Jesus, a moniker most available to us: perhaps it is prophet, but it is many other titles of some small meaning to us individually: teacher, savior, redeemer, and yes, even God can have small meaning. We are also the prophets referenced: we can be Elijah returning or John the Baptist, preparing the way for something new, revolutionary, and (gasp!) *different!* In what way will you be John this season?

The Rev. Drew Downs

The Rt. Rev. Robert Gepert and his wife Ann Lebat Gepert braved the winter weather and bad roads to visit at St. David's on December 16, 2007. Bishop Bob celebrated and preached to those hardy souls who made it to church that morning. After church Bishop Bob talked with people in the Great Hall, purchased a tin of cookies from the Cookie Walk, and then answered questions during his forum. Bishop Bob finished off his visit at St. David's by meeting with the Vestry and talking about ministry, outreach projects the Diocese is undertaking, and goals St. David's might have.

Joshua the Church Mouse

Keep in your prayers **Marj Allemeier** as **Kent** was buried this prior to Christmas after suffering a stroke. Continue to pray for **Lucille Burgess** over her recent loss of **Clarence**. Keep in your prayers **Karen Burt** and her family. **Karen's** father was hospitalized with a stroke but is now in a nursing home recovering. **Jim Buzzie** has been promoted to quality manager/project manager for Douglas Steel. **Dave and Janie Byers** are home after traveling up north to visit family and friends. Pray for **Ted and Ann Cannell's** daughter who is recovering from shoulder surgery. **Janet Cartwright** continues to slowly

recover and truly appreciates all the cards and prayers. **Tobie Chapman** continues to need our prayers as she fights serious cancer. **Edith Cole** traveled out east to be with Chris, Beth and the children for Christmas. Please continue your prayers for **Gail Donovan** and her father. He continues to be in and out of the hospital with health issues and **Gail** is on the road to Port Huron lots right now. Pray for **Jean Dooley** who has a really nasty cold. In case you have not noticed, **Deacon and Drew and Rose** are expecting their first child in mid April. It will be exciting to have a baby in the Vicarage again! **Carey Draeger** is back in town after spending the fall in Virginia. It is good to see her again. **Ginnie Dublanc** fell again, but is recovering from her bruises. **Elida Gamboa** continues to be with her daughter in Arizona. Pray for **Fran and Dick Homer** who suddenly lost a grandson in mid December. Pray for **Theresa Housler** as she continues to recover. Also pray for her daughters as they have serious medical issues and this is hard on **Theresa**. Isn't it exciting that **Jon Jackinchuk and Sarah Kolb** are engaged and have planned an August wedding. Did you hear the sermon given by **Charles and Louise Henley's** granddaughter, **Samatha Jewel** on Youth Sunday? She did a fine job and it was great seeing all our youth taking part in the service. **Shirley Matthews** continues to delight in being a Grandma. Be sure to ask to see the great pictures of her grandchild. **Glennis Muncie** is recovering from her eye surgery and does not need glasses for long distance. It is so weird to see **Glennis** without glasses! **Bobby and Kristin Pfauth** have a new addition to their family, a gray and white kitten named **Jasper**. Just what the church needed another cat for me to worry about! It has been great seeing **Bonnie Shulburg** on Sunday morning. Her schedule has changed and she can now attend church again! **Gordie and Charla-Fay Smith** are very thankful that their daughter **Katy Rose** was not seriously injured when a driver crossed the middle of the road and hit her head on, totaling her car. **Katy Rose** was bruised and sore but no major injuries. Grandpa **Bob Nostrant** and Great Grandma **Fay Gilman** are thankful as well. **Krista Stanton** has been accepted to Des Moines University Medical School with a full scholarship and to MSU as well. Soon we will have two medical doctors from the parish family. **Tom and Mary Taylor** are working on getting settled in Florida. It will be easier when the house in Lansing sells. It was great seeing **Leo and Meda Thrall** just before Christmas. **Jim and Pat Thurston** love being downtown and are busy trying out churches closer to *(continues on next page)*

their new home. They have promised to stay in touch. Pray for **Dianne Ulibarri's** nephew who was injured in Iraq. He is back stateside where his medical needs are being taken care of. **Barbara and Art VanDyke** report that they will be grandparents three times this spring! **Russ Vine** continues to appreciate all the prayers and support for him regarding the loss of Pat. Please keep **Don and Jan Volk**, and their family in your prayers. **Don's** mother Maxine died rather suddenly in early December. Have a really great New Year!!



Youth Corner

Submitted by Rev. Drew Downs

Last month, I mentioned a study from the Barna Group and challenged the parish to recognize its role in ministry with youth. I would like to extend this idea in full awareness that is time for New Year's Resolutions! The following are some pre-made resolutions that you should feel free to adopt; you can even take credit for it (I won't tell)! See what you think: I resolve that this year, my primary focus for ministry will be on and with our youth. This does not mean that I will not participate in other events, but I will give ministry with youth my primary focus.

I resolve to pray weekly for all of our youth. As I pray, I will focus on the following things: for direction, for Spirit-led ministry, for outreach, for spiritual growth, and for healthy development.

I resolve to spend at least one hour each week either working directly with you or dreaming of ways that I can do so in the coming year.

I resolve to participate in the discernment process; to be a warm and constructive presence that is always mindful of the needs of the youth above my own.

I resolve to look for unique ways in which my gifts may contribute to the spiritual growth of the youth of St. David's, including hobbies and careers that may be interesting.

I resolve to share stories, incorporating my own story as well as others, into the united fabric of St. David's.

I resolve to encourage others to participate in discernment of our future Ministries with Youth program by recognizing skills and talents in one another.

One or more of the above would be appropriate for everyone in the congregation!

Finally, our next **Family Fun Night will be Friday, January 18th, from 6:00 to 8:00.** It will be **pot-luck, with soup, chili, and salad.** I encourage anyone to attend. Bring a game or video that you would like to share!

Fr. David will be starting an **Adult Inquirers Class on Thursday evenings beginning on January 31, 2008 at 7 pm.** This is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. It is for those new to the church or for those who have been members for years, and just need to brush up. This is a relaxed informative time. Talk to Fr. David if you are interested in attending.

Have you ever thought of going on a Mission trip? The Diocese is planning two mission trips this next year. One will be to New Orleans and the second will be to Long Beach Mississippi. The New Orleans trip will take place on Friday, May 9 through Sunday, May 18, 2008. The Long Beach trip will take place Friday, September 19 through Sunday, September 28, 2008. In New Orleans participants will be gutting houses, preparing meals, helping those displaced by Katrina, listening to folks who just need to talk serving in the medical and mental health fields. In Long Beach participants will be rebuilding houses. There is a job for everyone on these trips. Whatever your skill level is you will be used. Each parish is being asked to contribute \$500 to cover the cost of these mission trips to the Gulf Coast.

Locally, St. David's needs someone who is willing to be our Episcopal Relief and Development Contact person. *The Diocese has such a person, Mr. Terry Dorcy in Kalamazoo. His phone number is 269-349-3625.* Each parish is asked to have one as well so that coordination and passage of information can occur easily. **If you are interested please let Fr. David know so he can pass your name on to Terry and the Diocese.**

Vestry News

Financial Report - November 2007

November Income	17,449.12
November Expense	<u>18,087.82</u>
Net/ <u>Loss</u>	-638.70

Year to Date – January – November 2007

Income	231,719.75
Expense	<u>217,234.75</u>
<u>Net/Loss</u>	14,485.00

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Notes from the Nov / Dec Vestry Meetings

Received and discussed reports from Fr David and Deacon Drew.

Received and discussed the treasurer's report.

The Memorial Garden is complete and the lights are all working.

Direct Deposit of Sunday pledges is being looked into.

Looked at where we are in the Stewardship campaign. To date we are 22 and \$38,000 short of last year. **If you have not returned your pledge card please do so as soon as possible. If you need another card, call the Parish Office and Edie will put one in the mail immediately for you to sign.**

A complete presentation of all Vestry Minutes, Fr. David's Reports, and the Treasurer Reports can always be found on the bulletin board by the coat rack and are available in the Parish Office.

Have you used your Meijer Community Rewards card recently? Do you have a card?

Submitted by Tracy Feazel

Consider giving the best gift of all...your time!

Become a Sparrow Volunteer.

Volunteers are needed on the Sparrow and St. Lawrence Campuses in the following areas:

Family Lounges, Emergency Departments, Gift Shops, Sewing & Crafts, Information Desks, Escorts

For more information, log onto our web site at www.sparrow.org, or call us at (517) 364-3606.

OSL CHAPTER BEGINS NEW BOOK STUDY

Submitted by John Post

At its first meeting of 2008, Wednesday, January 23-- the St. David's/Capital Area Chapter of the Order of St. Luke the Physician(OSL) will begin studying the inspiring and challenging book *Finding Hope & Healing Through the Bible* by the Rev. Roy Lawrence. In this book the author shares his conviction that the Bible is primarily concerned with healing. He shows how the study of scripture can and does channel God's healing power into our lives today. The discussion of the chapters of the book will be held at the beginning of each OSL meeting in order that those persons might leave who do not wish to participate in the other aspects of the meeting. Following the book study at each meeting, a time is set aside for those who wish to receive individual prayers for themselves. This, in turn, is followed by a business meeting.

*OSL meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month in classroom 2/5, beginning at 7 p.m. *The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 26th, in order to avoid St. David's Wednesday evening Lenten Program. And, the *November meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month in order to avoid the eve of Thanksgiving Day. No meeting will be held in December.

Please join us for our book study. Our meetings are open to persons of all denominations who are interested in learning more about Christian Healing. For more information about the Order of St. Luke and/or about the St. David's Chapter, see John Post.

Healing Conference

Submitted by Jerry Williams

This March, Fr. Jack and Anna Marie Sheffield will be returning to St. David's for a healing conference sponsored by the Order of St. Luke. In preparation for this event, the planning committee invites all interested parishioners to a meeting on January 9, 2008 at 7:30 in Room 9 of the church. The purpose of the meeting will be to develop the conference's theme and to plan the various aspects of the conference. We want this to be the best conference yet and we truly seek your ideas and participation.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The beautiful poinsettias adorning the church are given to the Glory of God by the following families:

Gretchen Smith

In memory of Joan & Bob Claude, Elma & Wayne Valentine

Robert Nostrant and Fay Gilman

In memory of Shirley, Chuck, Little Gordy, Parents and Grandparents

Dick and Carol Schmidt

In thanksgiving for our children and their families

John and Sarah Chapman

In memory of John & Elizabeth Chapman and Harold & Catherine Colwell

Eileen Newhouse

In thanksgiving for our family's blessings

Russ Vine

In memory of Pat

David and Dawn Sonnenberg

In memory of Jack Delos Iverson

Karen Burt

In memory of Pat Vine

Bill and Paula Hawes

In memory of Matthew Koenke, Jack and Lola Hawes, Paul and Gertrude Carlson

Loretta Kappler

In memory of James Graham and Russell Kappler

Faris and Carlene Howrani

In memory of their parents:

Adeeb and Catherine Howrani, Jacqueline McCullough

Dolores Lindstrom and family

In memory of Larry Lindstrom

Ken and Edith Cole

In memory of loved ones

Fr. David and Nancy Pike

In memory of Elena Roy Paton, Billie Paton, Charles, Bunny and Charlie Pike

Lar Carey

In memory of Laurence and Nina Carey, Peter Welsch, Lindsay Ciancolo, Max Marsh, Ken Dorn

Lucille Burgess and family

In memory of Clarence Burgess

Patricia and Gail Donovan

In memory of beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles and Helen Orchiston

Dick & Lorayne Otto

In memory of loved ones

Dan Durbin

Bill & Kay Paff

In thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus and for our many other blessings

Norma Bunday

In loving memory of Frederick Bunday and our parents

Jim & Mary Jane Buzzie

In memory of Henry Hill and Robert Buzzie

Jay Bastian

In memory of loved ones

Ed & Mary Lou Vandermoere

In memory of loved ones

Military News

If you have news to report about someone in the military or nonmilitary working within the war, please submit it to the editor before the deadline date each month.

Directory Changes:

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Important Contact Information

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David Sonnenberg, Junior Warden box 138

David Byers, Treasurer box 15

Craig Leinbach, Asst. Treasurer box 27

Carolyn Jacobs, Clerk box 4

Carol Abbott box 126

Tim Cote' box 90

Nancy Howard box 59

Sue Kohler box 75

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Other informational addresses:

Episcopal Church online- episcopalchurch.org

The Living Church- livingchurch.org

Diocese of West Michigan- edwm.org

Winter Service Schedule:

Sunday: 8am, 10:30am (with choir)

Wednesday: 6:30pm
(watch bulletin for any changes)

Friday: 9am

**Newsletter deadline
for February Edition
is January 17.**

