



# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER



July 2004 ♦ Volume 10 Number 7

## Prayer in a New Setting

*Submitted by Carolyn Jacobs*

For me, prayer has always been something I associated with being in church. As a child, prayers were said on Sunday during the church service. After I became an adult, I learned that prayers were broader than just using the Book of Common Prayer during Sunday services. As this moment, I am as far as I have ever been in my spiritual journey, but there is still a long way to go.

Spontaneous prayers seem more powerful to me being said with an individual at the altar rail during the healing service and as a prayer minister after the service. Individual prayers being said quietly and intimately touch me to the core of my being and I believe in touch the individual I am praying with in much the same way. When we ask for God's guidance on how to pray, I am aware of a lifting of my spirit and I am put on another level of prayer that I only experience in this situation.

When I decided to be a Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM), I was a bit hesitant because I was being taken out of my comfort zone of being in church. I wasn't sure how I would feel about going into a nursing home or someone's private home and praying for them. I wasn't sure I was ready. The overwhelming determination that I did have was that I was willing to do my part, whatever that part was to be, to help Father David while he was on his sabbatical and to relieve his burden and his mind that his parishioners in home and hospital care would be well taken care of.

I am one of the individuals at St. David's that fit into two categories. One of the categories that I fall into is being a Lay Eucharist Minister and the other is being a member of the Order of St. Luke (OSL). In a dual capacity, on the visitation schedule for hospital and home visits, I am able to be one or the other. As a LEM, I am able to give communion to the shut-in, and as a member of the Order of St. Luke, I am able to pray with the individual and their family. I am deeply moved in either capacity. I am completely blown away by the power to take communion to someone who cannot come to church on a regular basis and the look on their face when they are brought the sacrament and individual prayers in their one environment defies words. They are truly glad to have the company of someone who has traveled to see them and cares how they are feeling. At the same time, I am representing St. David's and the parish as a whole.

I am truly blessed to be able to carry out this ministry with my LEM and OSL brother and sisters. This is a resurrection of the LEM ministry that was in place before but had not been in use in quite some time. With Father David away for the summer, this is a very important ministry for our shut-ins. God bless each and every one of us who have taken the ministry under our wing, and are making it fly for God's glory.





## Reflections from Father Ben

July 2004 - Summertime Thoughts about Church Music

We are now in the longest season of the Church Year—the seeming endless parade of green Sundays—an ecclesiastical golf course of sorts. In the Lutheran tradition, we are allowed much more liberty in transferring weekday festivals to Sundays. In the Episcopal Church, however, the rules of precedence are much more narrowly drawn.

In this context, I want to share some thoughts about music in the church. As many of you know, there are great wars raging across the whole of Christendom about what kind of music should carry the people's worship. Writers from the likes of Lutheran Marva Dawn to United Church of Christ Pastor and theologian of a "Country Western" idiom, Tex Sample (What a Name!) are offering their opinions about the future of the church and her music.

I had the great privilege to learn from the late Massey Sheppard (Dean of All Saints Chapel at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA) and the late Norman Mealy (Professor of Liturgics at CDSP) as the preparatory work was undertaken for both the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and various iterations of "Hymnal Studies" which ultimately led to the publication of the Hymnal 1982. This was a major formative experience for me.

Music at St David's is led with skill and understanding by Timothy Flynn, our fine Organist-Choirmaster. I assume many of you know this already, but I've had the pleasure of playing some of Tim's organ pieces, which Augsburg Fortress Press had the good sense to publish. Week by week, I am impressed by the work of the St David's Choir, Dr. Tim and, frankly, the participation of you in the congregation.

St David's is fortunate in that it has only minimal amounts of carpeting and (thanks be to God!) no pew cushions. The one surefire way to kill music in the church is to carpet the place and add pew cushions, then we'll need to be amplified, and the priest and lay ministers will all need to wear wireless microphones for whatever we do. GIA, the Roman Catholic Publishing House has wonderful buttons that read "Carpet bedrooms, not churches!" So, sing with spirit and understanding in full measure.

Faithfully,  
Ben †





## Advance Care Planning Series Coming This Fall

We plan so well for life's celebrations — the birth of a child, baptism, birthdays, and anniversaries. We don't plan so well for death. In fact, we'd just as soon not think about it. Yet, isn't a Christ-centered life focused on the victory God promised to us through Christ's death and resurrection?

Advance Care Planning can help individuals and families prepare for the unanticipated and the inevitable. Advance Care Planning is an evolving process for young and old, because we do not know the number of days promised to us. Advance Care Planning helps families know what their loved one's wishes are for dying with dignity and peace.

A four-part series on Advance Care Planning is planned at St. David's on Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7 and 14. Each session begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Dessert and beverages will be provided. This series has Fr. David's and the Vestry's approval, and has the blessing of St. David's "Grace of Giving" Committee.

This outreach is ongoing to all faith communities in mid-Michigan. Leaders for the St. David's series will be trained facilitator Gretchen Smith, trainer Fr. Clayton Thomason, All Saints Episcopal Church, and St. David's member and attorney John Runcie. Look for a letter in August that outlines the four-part series.

For more information, call Gretchen Smith at (517) 321-4955.

## Solar Power for Tanzania

*Submitted by Jerri Hoffman*

Thanks to Judy Martin for introducing St. David's to the solar ovens on Sunday, June 6, 2004. Congratulations to St. David's — your donations purchased one oven at a cost of \$215.00, which will be shipped to Tanzania of East Africa.

On Tuesday, the Outreach Program agreed to buy one additional oven and was passed by the Vestry.

The two solar ovens will be used at two secondary boarding schools, one of which is run by the Anglican Diocese of Massai, to cook food, bake bread, and purify water, all with the energy of the sun.

The Edgewood United Church of Christ Solar Project will run throughout the summer. For more information on this project, please contact Judy Martin at 517-349-4531 or martin4709@comcast.net.

Donations can be mailed to: **Edgewood United Church of Christ, Solar Project, c/o Judy Martin, 4709 Woodcraft, Okemos, Michigan 48864.**



### Promise Keepers Event to be held in Detroit

A Promise Keepers stadium event will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

Anyone who would like to join others from St. David's that will be attending this program can register online at [www.promisekeepers.org](http://www.promisekeepers.org).

The St. David's Watermen have agreed to cover the cost (\$79.00) for a parishioner to attend.

If you are interested in attending, please see Jim Thurston.

For more information on this event, please see John Post or the bulletin board in the hallway.



## A Grace of Giving Outreach Report

Submitted by Jim Thurston

I met two gentlemen mid-April of this year. They and their members are able to meet weekly at our church because of **your outreach generosity**. Both of them commented about the hospitality and accommodations that have been afforded the group and how Father David tends to their needs.

Don and Dave meet with individuals that seek a higher power to assist them in recovery. The group has been meeting at St. David's for over 20 years, so in a sense, we have been assisting with their recovery process through our outreach just as long. What a wonderful testimony and witness this is to you and our community.

The group is open to individuals, couples, young, and old alike. They are a self-supporting group that makes regular payments to St. David's. While we do not charge for the use of the room, I soon learned that repayment is an important principle of recovery.

Therefore, my hat is off to the people of St. David's that give so generously of their time, talent, and treasure so that Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), can be a part of our outreach family.

## Christian Education News

By Debbie Cornell



### ◆ Cedar Point Trip Planned for High School Students

The high school students are planning a trip to Cedar Point the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving early Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> and staying the night at Cedar Point, returning Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> in the early evening. Mark your calendar!

◆ August 8<sup>th</sup> Service to be held at Grand Woods Park. Mark your calendar for August 8<sup>th</sup>, when the 9:30 a.m. service will be held at the Grand Woods Park off Willow Road. A picnic dinner with games, prizes and fellowship will follow the service with hotdogs and hamburgers to be provided by the Christian Education Department. Please bring a dish to pass. Fun for all!

## Restricted Pledge Distribution June 2004

Submitted by Dave Byers

As many will recall, a portion of the monies pledged to St David's would go to the Diocese of Western Michigan in the form of a pledge. Due to recent actions by the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA), which the Diocese was a participant in, a number of members expressed a desire to prevent that portion of their pledge to St David's that would go to the Diocese.

A desire was expressed that those funds be used to directly support organizations providing ministry in the community at large, extending our Outreach into that community.

A group of people, led by Charlotte Byers, met to distribute those funds generated in the first half of this year. Members of the Parish, members of the Vestry, members of the Outreach Committee and others suggested a list of 30 potential recipients to the committee.

The committee submitted the following list of recipients, with amounts specified, to the Vestry for their approval. The Vestry approved this list and the funds will be distributed in short order.



- Habitat for Humanity \$1,000
- Michigan seminarians (\$100 each) \$1,000 (max.)
- Discretionary fund for St David's clergy \$500
- Loaves & Fishes \$250
- Wellness Center - St. Phillips, Grand Rapids \$250
- Tanzania solar oven project (1 oven) \$215
- Advent House \$ 200
- American Anglican Council (AAC) \$200
- Bishop's Relief Fund – Sudan \$200
- Canterbury House – MSU (formerly ESMSU) \$200
- Christian Services \$200
- Forgotten Man Ministries (prison ministry) \$200
- Hannah's House \$200
- Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA) \$200
- Child Evangelism Fellowship \$150
- Acts 29 \$100
- Total \$5,065**

Funds not allocated in this distribution will be carried forward to be included with the funds to be distributed in the third quarter of the year.



## Cursillo News

*Submitted by Tami Varricchio*

The Western Michigan Episcopal Cursillo will be hosting the National Episcopal Cursillo Conference at Emmanuelle in Hastings on July 21<sup>st</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates and events, and plan on attending:

- ♦ Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>: A serenade has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. so that WMEC's 4<sup>th</sup> Day can welcome our guests with wonderfully praise music.
- ♦ Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>: A 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary will be celebrated with a Eucharist and potluck. A procession is planned that will include past rectors and weekend banners.

If anyone would like to arrange a ride to Hastings either early Wednesday or Saturday, please see Tami Varricchio or Kay Paff. We hope that many members of St. David's can attend either or both events.



## Announcements

### Summer House & Garden Party at Father Ben's

Members of the congregation are invited to my house on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 p.m. -?, at 4213 Oakcrest Drive in Lansing. Hors d'Ouerves will be served with choice of wine, coffee, iced tea and pop. My daughter Melissa and I will be doing the food, but people are certainly welcome to bring a favorite appetizer or a nice bottle of wine! Ahhh summertime....

### Remember the Job Jar

### Remember the August canoe trip — dates forthcoming

**Mark your calendar for July 3<sup>rd</sup>** when St. David's will hold their annual potluck and Fourth of July celebration. The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass, your place settings, lawn chairs and bug spray! Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided.

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

This 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 storeroom or you can donate your deposit slips to any our committee members. Please see Jerri Hoffman, Pearl Brooks or Sarah Taber for more information.

**Condolences** go out to Bob Nostrant, the Smith Family, and Fay Gilman on the loss of Shirley Nostrant, Jeanne Fraas on the loss of her mother Doris, and the Stanton Family on the loss of Rita's dad, Ron Edwards.

**Mark your calendars for August 15<sup>th</sup>** for the next Eastern Deanery Ultreya to 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 looking for someone to take over. This position is a three-year term. Please pray and consider this wonderful opportunity to server our Lord and let Tami know – remember – Christ is counting on you!



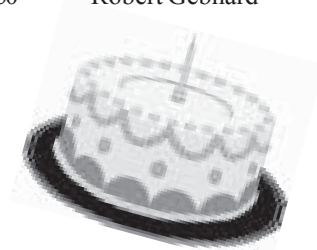
# Wish a Happy Birthday...

## July

3	Alex Sharpe	12	Eleanor Bishop	22	Tyler Lovejoy
4	Delores Lindstrom	13	Delores Hartwick	22	Tanner Munson
6	Lisa Ward	14	David Byers	23	Nancy Ristow
7	Wilma Ewing	14	Clint Chapin	26	John Bechtel
7	Mary Lipka	14	Kyle Knapp	26	Ken Klumpp
7	Margaret Leiby	14	Kent Allemeier	28	Harold Payne
8	Candace Snyder	16	Stephan J. Smith	29	Jerry Williams
9	Tom Taylor	16	Don Flitton	29	Jim Dooley
10	Frances Jacobs	18	Fred Lovejoy	29	Mike Vaughn
10	Doris Hosmer	19	Michael Johnson	30	Bonnie Shulnburg
10	Julie Combs	19	Karon Ellis	30	Robert Gebhard
10	Tony Reynaga	19	Marci Reynolds		
12	Kenneth Cole	21	Ed Galvin		

# Happy Anniversary!

<b>July</b>	7	Don and Janet Volk
	7	Bill and Paula Hawes
	9	Robert and Shirley Bailey
	11	Richard and Carol Schmidt
	14	Steven and Maria Leiby
	15	Lee and Pearl Brooks
	30	Larry and Wilma Ewing



\* If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed, then we don't have it on record! Please let the office staff know, so we can publish it in the upcoming church directory and the newsletter!

# The Healing Corner

*By Carol Williams*

When the doctor said he was going to call 9-1-1 and send me to the ER I just said I was well enough for Jerry to take me. When the nurse and the technician in the ER said I needed more blood work and they couldn't draw it, they said they would call a lab tech to do it. When the lab tech came to draw the blood and told me up front that the process was painful and my arm would hurt afterwards, Jerry and I were praying for her. When she forgot to take off my oxygen, she had to return the next day to repeat the process. She told me the same as she had the day before. I told her not to worry because it did not hurt and there was no pain in my arm afterwards. When the doctors came and said they could see no infection in my lungs and they thought I had something chronic, I just said no thank you, and I'm not receiving that. I thanked God for my healing and we believed He knew what was going on. When my request for a lung specialist was finally acted upon, the lung doctor said I had pneumonia. Everything changed for the positive, as this was something acute and more easily treated,

I am not going to tell you that everything went beautifully because it didn't. When a person has problems breathing and you have to take a lung test that you cannot do, it can be very frustrating. But there was a peace, no matter what was going on. Both Jerry and I believe that peace we experienced was the peace that only Jesus can bring. We expected to have opportunities to pray for people. What caught me by surprise were all the people who were praying for me! Jerry told me he had put me on the prayer chain at St. David's and others from our family there were praying also. People came to pray with me, some from our family at St. David's and others who were working at Sparrow hospital. We met some wonderful brothers and sisters in our Lord at the hospital. We knew that many prayers were being said because the situations that were going wrong were being corrected. Having faith in God that He does want our best, that He answers our prayers was truly apparent during this adventure.

I want to thank all of you for your prayers; they were answered in a mighty way. Because God is no respecter of persons and what He has done for one He will do for us all, I can share with you that He loves us with a love that will not quit. He keeps sending His children to bring comfort & assurances that He indeed knows how to take care of us. What an awesome God we have!!



The Good News Letter is published by Saint David's Episcopal Church. Members from Saint David's and Saint John's are encouraged to submit articles, information and news releases for publication. Deadlines are the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

## 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  
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 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

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### 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

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 www.stjohnsinfo.org

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"Acquaintances are frequent,  
Friends are plentiful but Loved Ones are priceless."

~ Anonymous

"Take the first step in faith,  
you don't have to see the whole staircase,  
just the first steps."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

