



# St. David's Good News Letter

October 2004

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## Father David's Journey...

*Submitted by Father David Pike*

As Dave Byers wrote an excellent article of the two weeks we spent together in England and Scotland, I thought I would use my space this month to give you a glimpse of my first month of Sabbatical. Next month I will wrap up with a report on my last two weeks in England and Wales.

I left St. David's under beautiful weather and began my journey to the desert southwest. I drove through the heartland of the nation past well-tended farms and through beautiful cities.

Two things stand out from my drive, both from day three. I was having lunch in a rest area at a picnic table, reading, when an elderly man came up and asked if he could join me for lunch. He had a tin can of stew and a piece of fruit. There were numerous empty picnic tables around the rest area, but he obviously wanted company, so I said sure. I introduced myself and said I was from Lansing, Michigan. He said his name was Stanley Peal of Paducah, Kentucky. We talked and passed a pleasant lunch together before continuing our separate journeys, me toward Tucson and Stanley toward Sedona. There was something very holy about this simple man who visited me in a grove of oaks somewhere in Texas.

The second thing that stands out is a visit later that afternoon to the "Largest Cross in the Western Hemisphere". Along the interstate I saw signs proclaiming this landmark at exit 112. Upon arriving, I found myself looking at a cross 190 feet tall. The cross, the set of life-sized bronze stations around them, the replica of the tomb Jesus lay in, and a stunning fountain with Jesus "walking" on the water were something to behold. All of this was built by a single man as a witness to those driving along the expressway. It was a special day in many ways.

My time spent at the Holy Trinity Monastery in St. David's, Arizona, was incredible. The monks and lay people welcomed me warmly. I had a wonderful room in a guesthouse all to myself. The chapel, while not like anything I am accustomed to worshipping in with its Hispanic/southwest décor, was a truly spirit-filled place of quietness and light. The grounds were a mixture of desert growth and lush green growth around artesian springs and ponds. I spent wonderful time in prayer, worship, reflection, reading, and walking. I hope someday to return for a longer period of time.

The rest of my time was spent traveling across to Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and eventually home.

Please see *Journey*, page 2

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## Journey Continued...

This was the part of my journey when I went to the churches where I was baptized, confirmed, and went to Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. The worship spaces in these places were as I remembered them. The rest of the spaces have changed greatly, as these churches have grown and each has a school now. Two churches have day schools for grades K – 8<sup>th</sup> and the third has a day care. In all places I was warmly welcomed and enjoyed attending the Eucharist services offered.

I saw many of the homes of my childhood, visited the graves of my family, found out more and answered questions about the death of my father and saw where he is buried, something I had never seen.

I experienced once again the healing power of water and especially the Gulf of Mexico. I enjoyed the sunlight dancing on the waves, and experienced some stunning thunderstorms. On the way north, I spent a lovely couple of days with Lou Williams and her family.

What did I learn? I learned that I am very much a child of the south - being back fit like an old comfortable pair of jeans. I also learned that the north is truly my home. I could never live again in Louisiana or the south for that matter. The southwest is too dry and I need green around me. In Texas and Louisiana, the heat and humidity, even in May, was oppressive. I discovered anew, I don't like worrying about snakes all the time!



I learned more about my parents and the kind of people they were. I opened doors to rooms that, as an act of survival, I closed tightly in the early 60's. That was a good, and at times, painful thing. It was a journey I always knew I would someday take and it was a good thing I did.

Perhaps the greatest learning was in regards to my spirituality. I needed the time for deep soaking prayer, reading, waiting on God. I needed the time to rest and not attempt to balance a dozen things at the same time. I needed someone else to worry about worship and who was there and who wasn't and why they were not coming. I needed not to worry about Sunday attendance and pledges. I needed not to work 70 – 80 hours a week. I needed once again to simply be David, a child of God. I needed in the words of Christian singer Twila Paris "to go home, drop my sword, cry for just a while, and look up for a smile." (*The Warrior is a Child* – music and words by Twila Paris).

Thank you for letting that be a possibility and for ministering to me in this wonderfully special way. I journeyed to the south, to my past, to those places that shaped me. Now I understand myself better and know better my relationship with God. Again, thank you.

May God always bless and keep you and those you love.

With deepest affection,

Fr. David

## The History of the Episcopal Shield

The red cross on a white field is the St. George Cross, an indicator of our link to the Church of England, the mother church of the Anglican Communion. The miniature crosses in the blue quadrant symbolize the nine original American dioceses that met in Philadelphia in 1789 to adopt the constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

The outline of the miniature crosses is in the form of St. Andrew's Cross in tribute to the Scottish church's role

in ordaining the first American bishop, Samuel Seabury, in 1784. The colors red, white and blue symbolize, respectfully, the sacrifice of Christ and Christian martyrs, the purity of the Christian faith, and the humanity of Christ received from the Virgin Mary. In duplicating the colors of the American flag, they also represent the Episcopal Church's standing as the U.S. branch of the Anglican Communion.

Check out: [www.episcopalian.org](http://www.episcopalian.org)





## Christian Education Kicks off it's 2004-2005 Sunday School Year

*Submitted by Debbie Cornell*

Welcome back students! Sunday School started September 19, 2004. Classes have set some of their goals for the upcoming 2004-2005-year. Boy, is it going to be busy!!



### Christian Education Teachers for 2004-2005:

Jaime Williams – Nursery  
 Claire Turner – Pre-School through Pre-K  
 Carol Abbott – Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 Stephanie Cote – 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Kevin Cornell – 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
 Debbie Cornell – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### September 26th through October 31st—Nursery “Wishing Tree”

The nursery is in need of many items. A “Wishing Tree” will be put up in the Great Hall. If you are able to help our nursery and our little ones, please take a leaf off the Wishing Tree and on the back of each leaf is an item for which the nursery is wishing. We will have a box set-up next to the “Wishing Tree” to put the items in. Your help is greatly appreciated.

### October 3<sup>rd</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 – Operation Christmas Child

Shoebboxes will be available October 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information will follow.

### October 17<sup>th</sup> – Youth Sunday

Pre-School through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be a part of the Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. A letter will be sent to all parents of their child's role with the service. A postcard will be mailed to you one week prior to Youth Sunday as a reminder.

### October 24<sup>th</sup> – Celebrating Hallelujah Day

A trip to the pumpkin patch. Posters and flyers will be posted the first week of October.



### High School Students – Fall Canoe Trip

Date to be determined! Students plan a canoe trip on the Grand River in Portland followed with a cookout.

### December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Pageant

We will be having two Christmas programs this year. Nursery through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will conduct a Christmas program. The middle school and high school students are also having a program. Everyone is excited about the two presentations.

\*No Sunday School, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

\*Classes resume on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

### February 2005 – Winter Retreats

Middle School Retreat—Date and time to be determined

High School Retreat—Date and time to be determined

The high school students are planning their 2005 summer trip—whitewater rafting! They are planning fundraisers to help cover part of their cost and donating half of their earnings to charity. They have new and great ideas for fundraising this upcoming year.



# Healing Oils of the Bible

*Submitted by Cheryl Makhoul*

*Herbalist and Owner of Signature Herbs in Lansing*

Essential oils were used daily by the peoples of the Bible - not just by Israelites and the early Christians. They were used extensively by all the cultures around them. Their perfumes, medicines, anointing oils, and incenses all derived their scents, potencies, and healing capabilities from essential oils. There are nearly 300 biblical references to various forms of anointment with oil. Essential oils are considered to be the first medicines of mankind and were an important part of the prescriptions of Hippocrates.

Because God created the plants for us (Genesis 1:11-12, 28), their oils can serve many of the same purposes for us as they do in plants. Therefore, they can support and balance our endocrine, circulatory, digestive, nervous, and reproductive systems. They can clear our sinuses and lungs to help us breathe better. They can help us metabolize our nutrients, minerals, and vitamins.

They can also boost the natural defenses of our immune systems so we can fight off disease by our own abilities. And while they are friendly to us, they can be hostile to bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi. In this way they can attack invading offenders directly.

Essential oils are not only just as effective in their antiseptic powers; they are non-toxic, harmless to human tissue and promote healing. Because they are direct creations of God's word when properly applied in a prayerful way they possess the divine intelligence to know how to do what is beneficial and to avoid doing that which may bring harm.

There are 14 principle oils of the Bible: Myrrh, Frankincense, Cedarwood, Cinnamon, Cassia,

Calamus, Galbanum, Onycha, Spikenard (nard), Hyssop, Sandalwood, Myrtle, Cypress and Rose of Sharon (Cistus/Rock Rose). I would like to focus on Hyssop.

Hyssop is mentioned 12 times directly in the Bible. Read Exodus 12:22. Ancient Hebrews believed that the scent of hyssop would repel evil spirits. Read Psalm 51:1-4, 7, hyssop was considered to be spiritually purifying and an aid in cleansing oneself from sin or immorality.



Read John 19:29 - just before this verse Jesus realized that his trial on the cross was nearly accomplished. He said to those standing by, "I thirst."

Their response was to dip a sponge into some vinegar or sour wine and extend it to Jesus' mouth on a branch of hyssop. Death by crucifixion is death by slow suffocation as the victim gradually tires they can no longer lift themselves to breathe. As their lungs slowly fill up with fluid they die an agonizing death. Hyssop was known for its ability to bring respiratory relief. It's believed that hyssop was brought by the Jerusalem Ladies of Mercy as an aromatic to help the crucified breathe a little easier.

Hyssop is in the mint family of plants. It is a strong oil and can be irritating to some peoples' skin, but is safe in the palms and safe to inhale for everyone. It can be diluted with a carrier oil such as olive oil and rubbed on the chest for colds and bronchitis. It is important when buying any essential oils that they are not chemically made and are extracted directly from the plant.

*Cheryl Makhoul is a member of The Order Of St. Luke at Saint David's. She does workshops on Healing Oils of the Bible.*

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"Knock and the door shall be opened. If you fail to cross the threshold, why knock?" - Anonymous



## The Waterman's Corner

Submitted by Jim Thurston



The summer has flown by and we press on to fall and then winter. As we approach autumn remember this: "It is never too late to say yes."

This October we plan to have a program speaker discuss genealogy and how to begin the process of tracing your ancestry. Sounds like a relatively good time so stay tuned for details.

In November, we will have some of our own St. Davidian's share with us pictures and stories of their summer of 2004 trip to China. Be sure to stay local and prepare to book your journey to the Orient.

I ask the men of St. David's to attend a once a month meeting and expand your time and talent ministry with the Watermen. We have a good time together and wish to be just a small part of your church life.

## True Story of God's Work

Submitted by Jim Thurston

It was about 5:00 p.m. on a Sunday when I began to cough and choke. I then turned red then blue, and finally, I slumped over because I passed out. This happened to me after I swallowed the last teaspoon of red pop at the bottom of the bottle. In essence, I drowned.

When I revived, I discovered a grasping, screaming, and crying spouse who did all the right things. For you see, the above happened to me/us, in our car, on the way home from up north, while I was behind the steering wheel, traveling 55 miles per hour. For ¼ of a mile or more, I was out cold, and dreaming, while Pat was living a nightmare.

Both of us know God was saying – "It is not your time yet, there's more to do". I thank God for placing Pat with me, so that we may continue the journey that God has placed before us.

Thanks Pat, I Love You. - Jim

### October Birthdays:

5th—Barbara Jones  
 5th—Heather McGinnis  
 5th—Nancy George  
 6th—William Stanton  
 6th—Matt Hosmer  
 8th—Michael Transeth  
 8th—Betty Payne  
 8th—John Summers  
 11th—Sharon Phipps  
 12th—Paula Hawes  
 13th—Gerry Purol  
 15th—Dawn Sonnenberg  
 15th—Lucille Burgess  
 16th—Genevieve Strang  
 19th—Frank Howard  
 19th—Tyron Davis II



### October Birthdays Continued:

20th—Lee Brooks  
 20th—Stephanie Cote  
 20th—Gail Donovan  
 21st—Maria Leiby  
 22nd—Aaron Phipps  
 23rd—Jim Buzzie  
 30th—Kathy Brown

### October Anniversaries:

5th—Rod & Candace Snyder  
 7th—Bob & Pauline Solomon  
 9th—Patrick & Rhonda Lawrence  
 10th—Michael & Cassandra Vaughn  
 11th—Craig & Abby Leinbach  
 11th—Mark & Vickie Tisdale

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark." - Chinese proverb



# Grace of Giving: The Journey Continues

Submitted by Jerry Williams

As you may recall, last year's stewardship program focused on St. Paul's call, "...to excel in the grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7) In fact the program was called "Grace of Giving, A Journey in Faith." The vision was that we would build on St. David's strong history of helping others by striving to excel in the grace of giving.

In the coming weeks, you will be seeing and hearing a lot about the "Grace of Giving, The Journey Continues." Our prayer is that by entering into and embracing St. Paul's call each one of us at St. David's will continue our journeys into a richer and deeper relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus. The journey continues with our understanding and acceptance of four biblical truths:

All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.

The joyful giving back to God of a generous portion of our time, abilities, energy, and money to accomplish His work is our loving response to Him who gives us everything.

The relationship between a person and his or her time and money is fundamentally a spiritual matter, not a secular one. Giving God back a share of our income and time from what He has given us is an important spiritual practice. It helps establish a healthy regard for time and money. It also helps us live the life God hopes we will have

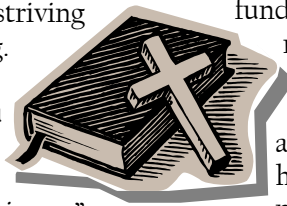
Through our generous and joyful giving, not only is God's work accomplished, but He also is then able to sanctify and bless the remainder of our time and money in ways that are truly amazing. Jesus tells us that He came that we might

abundantly.

The end result of this journey is 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.

In summary the "Grace of Giving, The Journey Continues" is Holy Spirit-inspired and biblically sound. Based on your feedback to last year's program, we have kept the essential elements, added some new ones and shortened the time frame.

While "homegrown," it continues to incorporate all the criteria known for making a good stewardship program. Church leadership is actively engaged; parish goals and ministries are emphasized; proportionate giving is stressed; education is year-round; and feedback and on-going evaluation are essential components.



# St. Nicholas Bazaar Returns

Calling all crafters!!! Our second annual St. Nicholas Bazaar will be held on December 3rd and 4th, 2004.

We will be hosting many of the same crafters that joined us last year, and we are also looking for a few more.

Since the luncheon is being held on another date, we will be using all of the classrooms and the Great Hall this year.

Carey Draeger plans to be back in Michigan and will be serving her delicious food in the St. Nicholas Bistro again. The St. David's booth will be in the Narthex, as it was last year.

We need donations of crafts and baked goods again (no used items, please.) This year the money that we bring

in will be used by the ECW for the purchase of items needed in the kitchen, especially new table linens for the round tables, and some other essential kitchen tools.

Jan and I will need your help decorating the halls the weekend before, or one of the evenings during the week, and also in setting up tables and chairs.

We are hoping for a great church family turnout this year, this isn't just our project; it is for the entire church. There will soon be a schedule of craft nights posted for anyone who would like to join us make a few things for the booth as a group.

For more information, contact Andrea Flitton at 517-321-2219 or Jan Volk at 517 626-6236.





## Important Contact 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  
Jerri Hoffman Box 24

### Office Staff:

Edith Cole Box 26  
Sue Gabel

### Good News Letter:

Sarah Taber Box 162  
sdgoodnewsletter@hotmail.com

### Service & Schedule:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.  
Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Saint David's Episcopal Church  
1519 Elmwood Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
Phone: (517) 323-2272  
Fax: (517) 323-2830  
E-mail: stdavids1962@aol.com  
Web: www.stdavidslansing.org

### Saint John's:

Rev. Dr. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector  
Barbara Stephen, Music Director

### Vestry:

Will Walker, Senior Warden  
John Kozitzki, Junior Warden  
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:

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

Saint John's Episcopal Church  
201 West Shepherd Street  
Charlotte, Michigan 48813  
Phone: (517) 543-4430  
Rev. Carol: (517) 321-0512

Web: www.stjohnsinfo.org

## A Special Note of Thanks from Father Ben

Dear Family & Friends:

I am writing to thank you for the many expressions of kindness during my time at St David's Church. Our four months together sped by more swiftly than I thought possible. It was a great experience serving as your interim priest. My blessings to you all!

