

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 4

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

April 2003

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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

Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115
Steve Leiby
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Scott Foster, Box 121
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Davis, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers
Margaret Smithka
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry

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

Newsletter

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

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road
Lansing, MI 48917
Telephone: 517-323-2272
Fax: 517-323-2830
E-mail: stdavids1962@aol.com
Web: www.forministry.com/48917sdec

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

It Takes One Person To Change The World

From time to time I find myself awake in the middle of the night, unable to return to sleep. I know this happens to many people and for me it is usually in response to my fretting about something. When this happens, I have a routine I go through, beginning with relaxing my toes, then my ankles, next my legs, knees, etc. and hopefully before I reach my back or shoulders, I've fallen back asleep. When that does not work, I try praying for parishioners, the world, my family, myself, all kinds of things. Often that works, but sometimes after an hour or so, I find myself still wide awake and know that I might as well get up and read.

Quietly I leave the bedroom, wrap up in a cotton throw, and curl up in a chair in the living room. We keep a well-worn Bible in the living room just for such nights. I have spent many quiet hours simply reading through parts of the Bible. It is a special holy time and I always know that God is present.

On rare occasions, I will lay my Bible aside and read something else. One night, not long ago, I found myself looking at Eyewitness 150 Years of Photojournalism by Richard Lacayo and George Russell, produced by Time. There are incredible photographs of Gettysburg, Richmond and Charleston at the time of the Civil War. There are photographs of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. There are pictures of World War I, baseball, exotic places, the Hindenburg, Pearl Harbor in flames, and many other events before my time.

There are also pictures of events I remember, including President Kennedy, Kent State, Jackie Robinson, the Beatles, Marilyn Monroe, terrified children running from napalm bombs in Vietnam, and that wonderful picture of the earth taken from Apollo 8.

Then there is a picture that always stops me. It was taken in 1989 by Stuart Franklin and is the picture of a single Chinese man standing in front of a line of Chinese government tanks in Tienamen Square. I remember watching the event unfold on the evening news and then seeing the picture the next day in the Albion Evening Recorder. I remember talking about what was happening in China at the weekly Rotary meeting and with everyone else, marveling that a small

unprotected man would take on a tank.

At the time we all watched with horror, wondering if we were about to see a tank drive over this single man. Knowing past actions in China, that seemed a strong possibility. Would soldiers appear and either shoot him, or drag him off to prison and an unknown future? What would happen? How would the world respond?

What happened was that a single man stopped a government and changed the world. He stood his ground against unbelievable odds and won the battle. He must have known that he was facing possible death, yet he stood his ground. He became a hero to many and a world example of the power of one person.

This is what Easter is all about. Jesus, one single person, came and against all odds changed the world. There were not tanks for him to stand against, just Imperial Rome. To many, it would seem he lost, because he was nailed to a cross and left to die. Had there been photographers back then, perhaps the crucifixion would have been captured by an unknown artist trying to find a fresh angle to a common event.

And yet, Jesus did not just die and end the story there. After three days he rose again, showing the depth of God's love for this broken and sinful world. His teachings, healings, life, death and resurrection are all examples of how this one single man changed forever the course of human history.

Two men, Jesus and a Chinese man in Tienamen Square, worlds apart in time and culture, both serve as examples of what each of us are capable of doing if we are truly convicted in what we believe. Our convictions may force us to face pain and possible death. Will the tanks stop for us? Will we be nailed to a cross and left to die? Who knows what will happen? One thing I do know-- when we take a stand, we will forever change the world. God calls us to change the world.

May God always bless and keep you.

With deepest affection,
Fr. David

Message from St. John's

This year -- and by that I mean the next twelve months -- the stewardship committee will be presenting opportunities for all of us to gain a better view of what it means to BE GOD'S STEWARD. This is not a money campaign to underwrite the church's budget, although that is certainly a part of our individual and community stewardship. Such a campaign, as goes on each fall, is a reflection of stewardship. But stewardship is not so much the writing of a check as the space we are in, in our relationship to God, which motivates us to give. Many individuals give money to the church and other causes for reasons other than being conscious of being God's steward. Giving is good -- BEING GOD'S STEWARD is essential.

I find that money is the avenue God uses to teach me about stewardship. I guess the old adage that "hitting a person in the pocket book hurts worst" is true. God knows how to get my attention. Jesus said our nature and our treasure were connected. "Where a person's treasure is, there will their heart be also."

The concept of Christian stewardship is radical. By that I mean it is contrary to basic popular belief in America. Emphasis on the ability of the individual to shape his own destiny through hard work is ingrained in all of us. I am a product of this great American ethic as much as anyone.

What I can testify to is that God broke through my shell of self-sufficiency. He showed me that I am part of something much larger than an individual's crusade to self-betterment. I am, if I choose, a part of the family of God. I can receive from him encouragement in the midst of despair, direction in times of confusion, abundance in place of just scraping by. To receive such blessings, and know they are from God, gives reality to what is otherwise a vague and distant image of God floating out there somewhere. God is alive and knows my name, and is able to meet my needs today.

How do I know that? Because I have tried God and his promises as found in the Bible, and found them to be true. The most powerful lessons concern tithing. An honest tithe of 10% off the top, the "first fruits" of what I earn, has been for me one of the most

revealing lessons of what God can do and be in my life. It was not always so. But when I learned through the testimony of others that the practice of tithing was life giving, that it was the key to abundance in their lives, I learned that this was Biblical, and it was now.

You have heard me share my testimony on how I learned to be God's steward. I want to tell you this morning that while I can point to times of meeting God where he set me on new pathways, this journey is ongoing. I need old lessons renewed, as well as new ones taught. I need this because BEING GOD'S STEWARD is not natural to growing up in America. Specifically, in America I learn that the money I earn is mine, mine by hard work, end mine to spend. Stewards, on the other hand, handle other folks money, not their own. It is radical to think that this is God's money, end that I am called to manage it. That God can direct and multiply is like the story of the loaves and fishes. It is radical. But it is true.

I am reminded of that every time I write a tithe check. God knows I need reminding continually. I slip back into old ways of thinking so easily. The offering envelope is my reminder every week that this is God's check book, not mine. By the same token, I know he promises that my needs will be provided as well. God takes care of his stewards.

Where this Journey takes me is God's responsibility. I am now spared from playing God -- which I never did very well anyway. So you see this offering envelope is my ticket to freedom. God handles the moves that are beyond my vision. He does an amazing job of that. My job is to be his steward, to give 10% of all that comes to me to manage, and to be open to give anything else beyond that. I do that, he does the rest, like seeing that there is money to manage. Which is pretty amazing, I think.

This article was written by John Wilson in September 1993.

The Church mouse heard ...

I have really been enjoying the Lenten Potlucks and programs. There has been excellent attendance with close to 50 people each week. The soup, bread, cheese, and fruit has all tasted great. I really have enjoyed the fellowship. The classes have been good as well. The new bronze plaque hanging by the main doors into the church is a gift from **Jerri Hoffman** and is based on Psalm 46 verse 5 and Exodus 111 verse 14. The plaque was designed and created in County Cork in Ireland. Jerri gave this gift in thanksgiving for her secret angel.

If you need another parish directory, just ask Sue or Edith for one. Lots of people have returned from visiting family and warm places. **Robert** and **Shirley Bailey** have been on the road. **Eleanor Bishop** has been visiting family. **Larry Byers** took a trip to Hawaii. **Bill** and **Paula Hawes** are home after a time south. **Dick** and **Lorayne Otto** are home after wintering in the southwest. I understand more "snowbirds" are on their way back. **Edith Cole** had a wonderful trip out to New York to see Chris, Beth and the grandchildren and attended a Broadway play. **Scott** and **Gayle Foster** will soon be moving to the Mid Atlantic Coast. Scott is starting a new business and Gayle already has a job lined up. We will miss them greatly! **Sue Gabel's** husband Bill has been in the hospital lately but is home doing better. Bill's dad also has been in the hospital. **Barbara** and **Steve Jones** have a new son, Seth. Grandma **Carolyn** and Grandpa **Francis** are very pleased. **Steve** and **Carole Leigh** have purchased a new home in Portland right on the river. I hear it is really nice.

The church has 12 new round tables to replace some of the old broken tables. They were purchased in memory of **Ray McNab** and go very well with the new chairs. **Bob** and **Glennis Muncie** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with their family. They have some really nice photographs of the event. **Margaret** and **Philip Smithka** will soon be moving to the Detroit area. Philip received a nice job promotion with the IRS. **David Sonnenberg** underwent back surgery at the University of Michigan Medical Center to help with his back pain. He is now at home recovering. **Bill Stanton's** sister Judy underwent a kidney transplant at UM Medical Center and last I heard was still there. **Rita Stanton's** brother Rob was in a freak car accident when a truck axle came loose, crashed into his car, and broke his neck. He underwent

St. David's April Birthdays

1	Fr. David Pike
1	Rachel Stanton
3	Diane Underhill
4	Jana Kennedy
5	Scottie Lee
5	Lou Williams
6	John Stiles
8	Dick Schmidt
8	Laura Thurston
10	Ella Basso
10	Helen Lee
10	Mark Hosmer
12	Ric Sorrell
14	Steven Leiby
17	Rose McNab
17	Amy Graves
17	Dan Paff
18	Dottie Holmes
21	Allyson Shadowens
22	Jay Leiby
23	Joan Kriek
24	Carol Schmidt
28	Michael Benoit

April Anniversaries

2	Gerry & Pat Puro
7	Bill & Rita Stanton
13	Jeff & Shelly Albert
18	Mike & Denise Wils
23	Edwin & Jeanne Fraas
28	Michael & Allyson Shadowens
30	Jay & Gloria Bastian

emergency surgery in Grand Rapids and is expected to fully recover. **John** and **Nan Strickler** spent a week in Myrtle Beach and had a wonderful time with friends. **Rosemary Tait** continues to recover from her hip surgery. I heard that **Jon Jackinchuk** and his wife now have a baby boy, Adian Riley.

Have a blessed Easter and keep an eye out for me during the egg hunt on the front lawn of the church and rectory.

News from Carol's Corner

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: 8am and 10:30am with the reading of the Passion
No Wednesday Services but there will be Christian Education
Maundy Thursday: Lamb meal Seder and Eucharist, Tenebrae
Good Friday: Service from 12 to 1:30pm with the Stations of the Cross
Easter Sunday: Services 8am and 10:30am with Festival Eucharist.

If you wish to **be confirmed**, please speak to the Rector; you must be 16 this year.

No Christian Education in the week of Spring Break.

If you would like to attend the Bible Study, please let the Rector know.

The final part of the Mutual Ministry will be completed on April 5th. The results will be reported to the parish.

Please plan on coming to the Seder on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. It is a great time together.

The Saints will meet in the narthex the First Sunday of the month after the 10:30 service. Please plan on coming.

St. David's 40th anniversary

Dear St. David's Parishioner:

Forty years ago, a small group of Christians petitioned Bishop Charles Bennison to establish a new Episcopalian mission church on Lansing's west side. On September 9th, 1962, St. David's Episcopal Church held its first recorded service at what is now the Tiffany Funeral Home on West Saginaw Road in Delta Township. Today, a thriving parish of more than 100 families regularly worships at 1519 Elmwood Road, and shares its facilities with groups from throughout the Greater Lansing area.

Saturday, May 17th current and former parishioners of St. David's will celebrate our 40 years as a Christian community, and pay tribute to those forward-looking families who laid the foundation so many years ago. A formal invitation to this festive dinner will follow, but for now we hope you'll mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Our evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and will conclude with a brief program. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reminisce, to learn about our parish roots, or to renew acquaintances. We hope you'll join with us as we celebrate 40 years of worshipping our Lord at St. David's Episcopal Church.

John Strickler
Senior Warden

The Healing Corner

By Dianne Ulibarri

So how do we forgive? In To Forgive is Divine, Fr. DeGrandis (1981) presented the "Ten Commandments of Forgiveness". A summary of the first five of these commandments follow, with some ideas for working on those "commandments". The remaining five commandments will be presented in the final article, in this short series on forgiveness.

1. Love and Forgive One Another.

This first commandment of healing tells us to forgive and accept one another. Love and forgiveness are growth processes. As we learn to forgive and love others, we are able to forgive and love ourselves. Love your neighbor as yourself.

2. Forgive in order to be forgiven.

Unforgiveness keeps us in darkness and separated from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes only by invitation and does not force His way (Rev 3:20). It is our choice to walk in darkness separated from God, or in the light walking with God. Forgive.

3. Pray for those who hurt you.

Praying for others is a manifestation of Love, Love in action, and is an expression of our discipleship to Jesus. By praying for those who hurt us, we automatically open ourselves to forgive them. DeGrandis suggested that we imagine Jesus standing behind the person who hurt us and pray directly to God to forgive the person. He further suggested healing primary relationships first, as painful situations often can be traced to mother/father relationships. Finally, he stated that by listing the individuals you wish to forgive you can identify all the people you need to forgive. When making this list, DeGrandis suggested asking for help from the Holy Spirit. Pray.

4. Unforgiveness is a type of hate.

Hate is the opposite of love. Instead of wanting/wishing good for someone, one may want "bad" things to happen to that person. When we want someone to suffer, to "pay" for what they did, we bond ourselves to that person: they suffer, we suffer. Remember that we bond ourselves to others by love and by hate. Jesus taught us to love one another. Forgive.

5. Make a decision to forgive.

The decision to forgive releases you from the negative bondage with that person. It is the decision to forgive that frees you. Forgiveness is an act of the Will. DeGrandis stated that "to want to forgive is to forgive" (p. 18). He further stated that if we pray for a person, we have forgiven them. At first, we may still feel the emotional hurt and pain, but by willing forgiveness of the person who hurt us, the negative emotional bonds with that person are loosened and released.

We experience the difference between the will and emotions every day. Perhaps we don't really want to get into a cold car to go to a meeting in -7° weather, but we will ourselves to get into the car and go. Likewise, when the decision is made to forgive, forgiveness occurs. Free will rules over the emotions and the body. It is our choice whether to forgive, or not. Forgive.

Interesting stuff, but how do we incorporate forgiveness into our daily lives? For practice, choose something that happens frequently, like being cut off in traffic. Instead of mentally (or physically) yelling at the person who just cut you off, forgive them. You might even pray for their, and others', safe travel. Your response to the situation is positive. By this simple act, which is sometimes not simple to do, you do not feel anger and you have demonstrated forgiveness. You decided a priori, to forgive. Forgiveness is demonstrated love for each other, for humankind and for ourselves. Love and hate cannot occupy the same emotional and mental space simultaneously.

The suggestion by DeGrandis to make a list of those who have hurt you throughout your life certainly can be started. This list is a more difficult endeavor than the day to day occurrences, as the players are usually family members and perhaps (former) friends: the hurt is deeply rooted. However, no matter how complete our lists, there is a person some of us will fail to identify. This person is well known to each of us and is, arguably, the hardest to forgive. We each know who this person is, but if not, think about it. Begin your list, pray for help from the Holy Spirit and make the decision to forgive. In the final part of this series, the last five commandments of forgiveness will be covered.

St. David's Christian Ed notes

By Debbie Davis

Sunday, April 6th, no class.

Sunday, April 13th, Pre-school through 8th grade, will meet in the Great Hall.

Sunday, April 20th, no class.

Thursday, April 24th, Roller Skating at Edru Roller Rink in Holt from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26th, classes K-8th grades, rehearsal at the church from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm with a pizza lunch provided.

Sunday, April 27th, class resumes with the Easter Pageant.

Also, on Sunday, April 27th, Senior High presents "South of the Border" Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

Sunday's, May 4th and 11th, class

Sunday, May 18th, last day of Sunday school. This will be recognition Sunday

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL starts Sunday, July 20th through Thursday, July 24th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The children are so excited and have been working in their classrooms on this special program to be held on Sunday, April 27th. ☩

Church Development Conference

By John Post

I'm writing this to give you a "heads up" on a conference coming our way in May. It is the Diocese of Western Michigan Evangelism/Church Development Conference, to be held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wyoming, MI (Grand Rapids area) on Friday evening, May 16 (7:00 to 9:00) and on Saturday, May 17 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). The leader of the conference will be The Rev. Cannon Kevin Martin, director of Vital Church Ministries in Plano, TX. Cannon Martin is the former Congregational Development Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, past director of Leadership Training in Evergreen, Colorado, and prior to that, the rector of

three parishes. He has taught nationwide in the areas of preaching, leadership, and evangelism.

The only cost for participants connected with this conference is \$5 for a box lunch on Saturday. One of the reasons I'm telling you about this conference at this time is because registration will be limited to approximately 100 participants. I have a feeling that when this conference is fully publicized (in a week or so) it will fill up rapidly. Application forms will be available from the church office in the near future. However, if you want one before that time, let me know. Unfortunately, the conference will be held on the same weekend as St. David's 40th anniversary celebration, but there should be time to get from Grand Rapids to Lansing before the dinner on Saturday. ☩

Notes from St. David's library

This can be a difficult time for many of us, so I return to classic, faith-building devotionals. (We have scores more in the library.)

The Practice of the Presence of God - Brother Lawrence (1693) - A classic and absolutely one of the best - a new edition ('74) - a favorite of mine and good for anyone seeking deeper walk with God and greater peace in turmoil. It is a small tome and easily read in spite the "ancient" author. Simplicity truly is sometimes best.

The Prayer of Jabez - Bruce Wilkerson (2000)- This is a popular, slender volume which has brought to many a new and powerful experience of God. (The author also has other follow-up books not in our library. Do you hear me out there? I have no \$\$ to buy new books for the library.)

Two From Galilee - Marjorie Holmes (1972) A gentle personal story, fictionalized, of Mary and Joseph. A beautiful, inspiring and comforting read.

And lastly, a series of books by John Powell, S.J. ('69-'72) These are all good, helpful, easily-read paperbacks about finding who we truly are and loving others. With such titles as Why Am I Afraid to Love and Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am ?

May God's Peace be with you, our church and our World.

The Phantom Librarian

St. David's Episcopal Church
1519 Elmwood Drive
Lansing, MI 48917

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April 2003 Diocesan Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
April 4-5	Statewide Prison Ministry Gathering, <i>St. David's</i> , Lansing
April 18	Good Friday, Diocesan Office closed
April 24-27	Cursillo Weekend- Women's, <i>Emmanuel</i> , Hastings
April 26	Grand Valley Deanery Confirmation, <i>Grace</i> , Grand Rapids
April 26	Traverse Deanery Convocation, <i>Grace</i> , Travers City
April 28-29	Province V Synod, Oakbrook, IL- Deputies invited