

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 7 No. 2

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

April 2001

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St. David's

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Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
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Dave Byers, Treasurer, Box 15
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John Strickler, Box 134
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St. John's

Rev. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector
Karen Gin, Secretary

Vestry

Schad Sparks, Senior Warden
Rebecca Brown, Junior Warden
Debbie Walker, Secretary
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Service Schedule

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

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Service Schedule

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

Reflections of Father David

*“Humanity is fickle.
They may dress for a morning
coronation and never feel the need
to change clothes to attend an
execution in the afternoon.*

*So Triumphal Sundays
and Good Fridays always fit comfortably
into the same April week.”*

The Singer by Calvin Miller

The above quote is from one of my favorite books. The Singer, written by Calvin Miller, a Baptist pastor, is a wonderful, poetic retelling of the Gospel story. Very quickly, the reader understands that the Singer is Jesus, the World Hater is Satan, the Friendship Seller is Mary Magdalene, the Crowd is all humanity, Terra is the Earth, and the Canyon of the Damned is Hell. Organized religion does not fare well in the Singer. The Keepers of the Ancient Ways, those who serve at the Shrine of Older Life, do not act kindly to those who try to sing a different song.

As the Singer enters the great, walled city, the people cry out, “Halana to the Troubadour, Son of Earthmaker.” All too soon, they are crying out, “LIAR! He must die upon the wall. Let him suffer for his lies. Hang him on the great machine of death.”

Every year, as we approach Holy Week, I think of the above quote. We too, in a very short period of time, go from crying “Hosanna to the Son of David” to “Crucify Him!” We go from waving palm branches in joy, to shaking our fist in anger. And just as the Singer was unjustly condemned to die on the great, walled machine of death, so Jesus was unjustly condemned to die on the cross.

Holy Week is an incredibly holy and sacred time in our lives. Because of what happens during Holy Week,

we are able to experience the true depth of God’s love for each and every one of us.

From the very beginning, God always wanted the best for us. He gave us the Garden of Eden with very few restrictions. We willingly disobeyed God's commands and had to flee the Garden. Countless places in Scripture show us that, “Again and again, God called us to return. Through prophets and sages, God revealed His righteous Law and, in the fullness of time, He sent his only Son to open for us the way of freedom and peace.” (BCP 370).

It is only after we stand at the foot of the cross and witness the death of Jesus do we realize how deeply God must love us. It would have been much less painful for God to simply wipe the earth clean and start over. He could have said they get what they deserve and let it go at that. Instead, God allowed the death of his Son to be given in exchange for our lives. This represents a huge sacrifice for God and an enormous bargain for us.

The Singer allows me to experience the Gospel from a fresh perspective. Take some time during this Holy Week and look at what is going on from a different angle. Take some time to hear, see, and feel what is really happening. Don't rush through Holy Week. Take it one step at a time and deeply focus on the events as they are recounted in the Gospels. Pray the scriptures and bask in God's love.

May God richly bless you now and always.

Words from Reverend Carol

The lesson of the jar

A lesson: A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in from of him. When class began, he wordlessly picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks, about one inch in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. Then the professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open area between the rocks. He asked the students again if the jar was full? They laughed and agreed it was. The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. "Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things: your family, your wife or husband, your children, your health, anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed. The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car, your pet, whatever else is very important to you. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks."

The same goes for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children and grandchildren. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out, and expose the children and grandchildren to the things that are important, like honesty they see in you, like being trustworthy when they see you keep a promise, like living the faith when they see you pray and receive the body and blood of our Lord. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party, and fix the disposal. Take care and of the rocks first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities, and the rest is just sand.

This story reminds me of the readings we have today. The one theme that is running through the readings for the third Sunday in Lent is repentance. This is the one thing in our spiritual life that we should know as well as we know our own name. And yet, we really do not use this gift of our Lord as much as we should or can. I call this a gift because it is freedom.

Freedom from all that stuff we carry around in and upon our hearts, it is freedom because repentance gives us the opportunity to talk about our sin and our negative attitudes and to find a release from them and become a fresh and clean person. Like the smell of a sheet that has been blowing in the spring breeze with the warm sunshine shining on it all day.

The mayonnaise jar is our lives, and it is filled with many things, some of which are important and some of which are ugly and harmful. The sand that covers the rocks from view is the same thing as our negative and sinful attitude and actions covering our hearts and the compassionate side of our being. The pebbles that come between the rocks rub us and cause us pain and irritation that gets us in a horrible mood and encourages us to say the harmful remarks against the other person, or irritates one who thinks they are right and everyone else has to agree or pay the consequences. To clearly see our rocks, it is up to us to go to confession and allow God to wash away the pebbles and the sand. For He is the only one who can, because no one else has the key to our hearts and our souls.

The call to repentance and conversion is at the very center of the teaching of both Jesus and the early church. "The time has come," said Jesus, "when the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News." Jesus said that the purpose of his coming was to call us into repentance. Repentance is the only faithful response to Jesus' announcement of the kingdom. In Luke's account of the Great Commission, Jesus commands his disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin. (Luke 24: 47)

A Biblical repentance and conversion involves a radical transformation of our relationships both with God and our neighbor, and certainly a genuine sorrow for sin against God. Those who truly repent enjoy a new forgiveness and reconciled relationship with the Holy One. And when we are one with God, our whole being is at peace and in harmony with every other part of our being.

Please see **Lesson, Page 5**

The Church Mouse heard ...

Well it has finally gotten quiet around here now that the construction is done. Have you taken the time to walk through the new building yet? Just this week the iron gate was installed in the garth, or Fr. David's Alley, as most people seem to be calling it. With the new entrance on the back of the building open on Sunday mornings, we need greeters there also. Anyone willing to volunteer? During office hours, the doors on the back of the building right off the parking lot are opened, as is the door right next to Fr. David's office on the south side of the new building. I am told that handrails at both doors will be in place soon! By the way, have you seen the beautiful purple crocuses along the walkway? Spring must be right around the corner. I am still looking for my lost papers. If you find them or a beige box of keys, just give them to Fr. David, Sue, or Edith and they will get them to me. We know they are somewhere in the building.

Since I last wrote, **Sue Gabel's** mother died most unexpectedly. **David** and **Janie Byers** have a new granddaughter, Ashley Kay Lynn Vaughn, 7 lb., 8 oz., born on February 5 to Cassandra and Mike Vaughn. Congratulations to **Dan Paff** who qualified for the state, high school wrestling tournament. We convey our sympathies to **Francis Jacobs** and his family on the passing away of his mother. For those that don't know, St. David's has a southern mission in St. Augustine, Fla. **Dick** and **Norma Hammond**, **Harold** and **Betty Payne**, **Mike** and **Pat Johnson**, and **Wink** and **Larry Ewing** have been enjoying the winter on the Atlantic Ocean. We are missing **John** and **Jamie Stiles** and are hoping they return next year. **Frank** and **Sharon Pansino** and **Dave** and **Janie Byers** drove over from Orlando to check out the World Golf Village. While in the area, St. David's snowbirds took them to the Outback Crab Shack for lunch and Saltwater Cowboy's for dinner, before returning to Orlando. On March 24th, **Wink** and **Larry** treated us all to a pasty party ... and a good time was had by all.

Ray McNab had a knee replaced. **Jean Bechtel** was in and out of Sparrow and is doing better. **Charles** and **Louise Henley** have returned from their winter stay in south Texas. **Jessica (Leigh) Menold** is back on her feet after surgery and therapy. The last Youth Happening went very well. Workers from St. David's included **Rachel Stanton**, **Dan Paff**, **Jennifer Pike**, **Paddy Donovan**, **Krista Stanton**, **Gary Mugnolo**, and **Gail Donovan**. **Nick Strong**, **Jennifer** and

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 Byers
22	Jay Leiby
23	Joan Kriek
24	Carol Schmidt
25	Pam Hamilton
28	Michael Benoit

April Anniversaries

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

Andrew Pike's cousin from Washington, D.C., earned his own money this past summer just so he could fly himself out here for the training session and for the actual Happening Weekend. **Andrew Pike** attended, and will be working at, the upcoming Fall Happening, which may take place right here at St. David's.

Speaking of upcoming events, the Women's Cursillo Weekend will take place here April 19-22. **Dawn Iverson**, **Nancy Pike**, and **Elaine Tolsma** are on the team and I am sure many members of the church will help out during the weekend. If you would like to attend this great weekend, see one of these three ladies and they will get you signed up. ☘

Notes from St. John's Corner

There will be a **Tea given by the ECW of St. John's** on the first Monday night in May. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming. Every woman in the parish is invited...EVERYONE!!!

Our **vestry** will meet every third Monday of the month at 7p.m. If you have anything you would like to have the vestry discuss, please bring it to any member of the vestry or our Rector.

Our **Tuesday night** dinners need help. We need people who are willing to take responsibility for a dinner. We will give you assistance that's needed to do this. If you are interested, please contact the Rector or Thelma Gibbs. Please help, or we will have to cancel these money-making dinners and the budget will be short \$4000.

Our England Students have **cookbooks** to sell -- could you please help sell them? If you could take a few and sell them at the organizations that you belong to, it would be a big help. It would be very appreciated if you could see your way to help sell these.

We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** on Easter Morning. Please bring your plastic Easter Eggs filled with goodies to church so we can use them on Easter Morning.

Our young people will be having their annual **Easter Egg Basket** Auction on Palm Sunday. If you can donate a basket for this event it would be very appreciated. Just bring them on any Sunday in April. Many thanks for your support. ☒

Lesson of the jar

Continued **FROM 3**

Looking at our jar once more, we have elements that are to be in existence with one another. We all have these parts and concerns in our lives. There is little in this life that we all don't meet with each others pain at one time or another. And when we recognize this, we can live in unity with one another, because there is no other way to do it. And if we try to ignore this reality of all having the same pain in life, then we fail in our relationships and in our ability to love and be loved.

This day we are given the invitation to honest confession and true repentance. For the true meaning of repentance is going in the opposite direction, to turn around, to turning from the ways of Satan to faith in and submission to Christ. For the Christian does not so much confess in order to be forgiven; rather, we confess because we are forgiven! We are not honest

about our sin in order that God will love us; rather, knowing in Christ that God loves us, we can be honest. We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Our honesty arises, not out of who we are, but out of who God in Christ is. It takes a secure person to be honest and, in Christ, we have seen the amazing security of God's love for us. There is great freedom in this honesty we call confession. We no longer have to wear a mask, or be a fake, or tell someone we are fine when we are not. We are now set free to set our priorities and let the little stuff shake off of us like the sand off the rock. We are free to let God shake us up into his joy and peace. Are you going to let God shake you up?

God Bless!

Rev. Carol

The celebration of Dewi Sant

The celebration we had for St. David's Day (Dewi Sant) was a great success. The lesson for the children was wonderful, thank you Father David. We hope to continue and expand the celebration next year. If you have any suggestions, or have any recipes that we can add to our meal, please share them with Nan Strickler or Andi Flitton. Remember the recipes have to be based on traditional Welsh foods.

We have many requests for the recipes we used for coffee hour. Our recipe for the Welsh Cakes came from Jill Wye of St. David's, Wales. She is the owner of one of the restaurants you can find on the Internet from St. David's, Wales.

She wrote:

"hi in haste - I've just returned from annual holidays - how about Welsh Cakes - not exactly a desert - more a cake - cooked on a griddle - or in a dryish heavy pan - they are just about the most traditional of any Welsh Food - 8oz Self Rising Flour, 4 oz Margarine or butter - heat with half & half - rub fat to flour till fine bread crumbs - add 1tsp mixed spice, and 3oz mixed dried fruit, & 2oz fine sugar - stir together with 1 egg and perhaps a little milk till quite moist - a bit wetter than pastry - pat out on a floured board and cut with a biscuit or some cutter. Cook on a hot griddle or pan, turning over when slightly risen, and brown on one side. When cooked should be sprinkled with sugar, and served warm with butter - they should be slightly moist - not dry i.e. cook quickly, not slowly. Hope this helps - they're ideal for children to make too. I find 1 lb flour makes about 2 doz - depending in the size of the cutter - cheers - have fun - Jill"

When I first tested this recipe, I used just butter - I don't recommend it. When we made them at church, we used just margarine, and they were much better.

Andi Flitton ✕

Inter-Faith Day

On Tuesday, February 27th, nine people from St. David's attended the 31st annual Inter-Faith Day at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing. The host site is rotated each year, but only a few local worship

places are now large enough to accommodate this group.

In 1967, at an Inter-Religion Conference on Prejudice held at M.S.U. and sponsored by several religious organizations, religious prejudice was noted as being stronger than any other prejudice. The suggestion to establish dialogue groups to combat misinformation about the three faiths represented was taken seriously by three Lansing women (Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish) who met in their homes to discuss their beliefs.

Three years later, in 1970, these women launched the first Inter-Faith Day in the Lansing area. The group had expanded and included the Greek Orthodox faith. This year a fifth faith was added to the program - Sikh (derived from Hinduism and Islam).

The theme for the 31st Inter-Faith Day was "Thresholds of Life" - how each faith observes birth/baptism and death/burial. The five speakers were:

- Father Mark Sietsema - Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- Rev. Alan Wakefield - Pastor St. James Catholic Church, Mason
- Dr. Singh, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. of Sikh Studies, University of Michigan
- Rev. Penny Barnett - Plymouth Congregational Church
- Rabbi Freedman - Director of Detroit Jewish Hospice

The program included a good song break, and a delicious kosher luncheon (the recipe for the Blintz/Crepe Soufflé was mailed to those who requested it). Dorothy Silk of the Sisterhood of Shaarey Zedek was recognized and honored for being a founding member of Inter-Faith Day, one of the three women with the devotion, dedication and foresight to bring people from four to five major faiths to plan and work together in love and fellowship.

After the program, some of us stayed for a very interesting explanation of the synagogue worship space by an ex-president of the congregation. It was a great day! We would encourage you to think of attending next year - Feb. 26, 2002. ✕

St. David's Web Page
www.forministry.com/48917SDEC

Episcopalians participate in sweeping study of religion in America

by James Solheim

Episcopalians participated in a massive study of religious life in America and, like the other groups included in the study, learned a few things that might help plans for the future. The results were released at a news conference in New York City March 13.

Faith Communities Today (FACT): A Report on Religion in the United States Today was conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, based at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, and was funded by the Lilly Endowment and the cooperating religious bodies.

It is the most broadly based survey of religious institutions--churches, synagogues and mosques--ever conducted in this country, involving 14,301 congregations in 41 different faith groups.

The basic questionnaire used in the study was mailed last spring to 1,100 Episcopal churches drawn from the 1998 Parochial Report database. A total of 726 were returned with an effective response rate of 67.8 percent.

The 200 core questions covered six broad areas--worship and identity, location and facilities, internal and mission-oriented programs, leadership and organizational dynamics, and finances. Prof. Carl Dudley and Prof. David Roozen of the Hartford Institute estimate that the survey data "applies to about 90 percent of the worshippers in the United States," even though it did not include several large groups.

The study revealed, among other things, that half of the congregations participating report that they are growing, most report that they welcome change, and, to no one's surprise, that changes in worship often prompt serious congregational conflict.

"These congregations feel good about themselves," said Dudley at the news conference. When compared with the past, "these congregations are larger and financially stronger than the past. Despite the challenges of changing community populations and the natural process of institutional aging," he added, "the

vast number of congregations feel that they have been able to renew their strength and to sustain themselves."

Leadership still an issue

In the section on leadership, the study concluded that "religious leadership should be recognized for its significant contribution to the vitality and growth of congregations. Leaders should be applauded for guiding a remarkably complex array of worship, educational, fellowship and outreach activities." Yet the report also noted that "some report that they have lost energy that comes with clear vision," with age cited as one factor that "places a drag on a congregation's sense of energy and purpose."

The study suggests that "clergy with a seminary education are no more likely, and in many cases less likely, to report that their congregations are well-organized, vital and alive, growing in participants, openly dealing with conflict and scoring high on a clear sense of purpose." While urging some caution in interpretation, Dudley said that those responsible for theological education might "consider ways to help religious leaders deal with conflict constructively within denominational polities, and specifically with areas known to induce tension, such as developing contemporary expressions that are appropriate in various worship traditions."

On the all-important concept of change, the study revealed that "change does not come without the emotional cost of conflict," pointing out the relationship between growth, change and conflict. "Congregations see themselves as growing by cultural heritage, by intentional and focused sense of mission, and by affirming standards of personal morality and social justice," the study concluded. "They see themselves as willing to change, especially where they can imagine the alternatives."

Analysis of the Episcopal Church data reveals that:

- about a third of the responding churches are growing, another third have plateaued and a third are declining;
- the largest proportion of churches report locations nearly equally divided between cities with a population between 10,000 and 50,000 and towns with a population under 10,000;

- the largest church responding had 6,094 members with a median membership of all reporting churches of 246;
- the median Sunday morning worship attendance was 110 and the median sanctuary seating capacity was 200;
- almost half the churches responding have two weekend worship services, often with slightly different formats;
- over half (52 percent) reported that "a sense of God's presence" characterizes their worship "very well";
- about 91 percent report that they "always" read creeds or statements of faith during worship, and 89 percent always pass the peace, but less than 1 percent include dance or drama.

In reporting on congregational finances, the median total income among churches responding to the survey was \$158,000. Almost 60 percent of the churches indicate that their financial situation today is excellent or good. The median for the budget includes 50 percent of income for staff salaries, 20 percent on congregational operations, 10 percent on denominational mission work, and 5 percent on program support and materials.

"Without the texture of these faith communities woven into the life of virtually every corner of our society, the culture of the United States would be far less than our best," the report said in a postscript.

Good timing

"The study comes at the right time for us," commented the Rev. Charles Fulton of the Episcopal Church Building Fund, who helped coordinate the church's participation as a missionary for Congregational Ministries. "We are particularly interested in the characteristics of growing congregations--and this gives us some concrete data."

The Episcopal Church's determination to build membership through special evangelism efforts can draw on the data, according to the Rev. Winston Ching, director of Congregational Ministries, who represented the church at the news conference. "As we seek to build our capacity for ministry, we will now have a better idea of what people are looking for--we will have a better understanding of our context for ministry," he said.

The study makes it clear, Ching said, that "worship and liturgy are strong points for Episcopalians. And yet the power of symbols is changing and we must look for new symbols with meaning for a different generation. The study gives us a useful map for the future, helping us draw on our strengths and uniqueness while remaining open to the future," he said. (Click here for the report)

--James Solheim is director of the Episcopal Church's Office of News and Information. ✉

Teddy Bear Sunday, April 29

The ECW at St. David's decided at their January meeting to start collecting teddy bears for the Eaton County Sheriffs Department. The bears can be any huggable size, except the really large ones. These are given to children involved in all sorts of critical incidents as a source of comfort. This is a children and adults project. So, feel free to bring as many as you want (not used), and help some child to have a bear to hug when they are feeling sad about a bad event in their life. If you have any questions, please contact Meda Thrall at 323-2548. ✉

Invitation from St. David's ECW

The ladies of St. David's are a busy group of women. As you may know, all women in the Episcopal Church are members of the ECW whether they attend the meetings and events, or not. Not all women in the parishes have a so called "Episcopal Church Women" group. Some call themselves by different names, such as, St. Martha's Group, Women of Today, and other creative names. They want to get away from the idea that ECW is a group of old ladies who do things to raise money.

Here at St. David's, many things are happening. So far this year, we have had our Secret Pal Party, a Winter Retreat, and, on Monday night, March 12th, we had Sister Pat Newhouse as our guest speaker. Sister Pat told a group of ladies about her dream trip to the Netherlands and showed us pictures of her visit. Sister Pat is a most gracious lady, as all of those attending the meeting discovered. She was entertaining and humorous. The pictures she showed gave us a glimpse

of some of the cities in Holland and the beauty of their parks and colorful, flower gardens. We also saw pictures of the house where Ann Frank was hidden, some of the market places, heard that most of the people live in apartments, and there are no elevators. Furniture is lifted up by a "hook" up and through windows to upper floors .

At the meeting, the members voted approval for Pat Vine to check out the cost of installing two much-needed wall ovens for our kitchen. ECW will donate \$1,000 for this project. If you wish, you may pay \$5 for membership and this money, along with money raised by the Cookie Walk and the Garage Sale, will go for outreach in the community. We have given money for the Easter Baskets, to Christmas Families, St. Vincent's, provided Christmas gifts for four children, the Lansing City Rescue Mission, Ele's Place, and many others. Once a month we have a luncheon and bible study for the Seniors at the retirement homes in the vicinity. We have a Make and Take party in November, a "get-to-gather" dinner at the Old Country Buffet in September, and often have a guest speaker at our meetings.

Our ECW is growing and we have some new ladies coming to the meetings. We are extending a most cordial and warm welcome to all ladies to attend the meetings and events. We will have a meeting in April and the main topic will be plans for the Garage Sale, which will be May 10th and 11th. There are no meetings during the summer months. If you have not been coming to ECW, why not start now and join in the fun and fellowship. ☩

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The mission of the UTO Committee is to raise the consciousness of the whole Church, and to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God, with outward and visible signs of those prayers that will benefit others. In addition, the Committee receives and distributes these offerings.

Last year, UTO awarded 121 grants for a total of \$3,102,682.99, as approved by the delegates to the Triennial Meeting of Episcopal Church women. Of this amount, a grant of \$15,000 was awarded to St. Johns of Sturgis.

In addition to UTO offerings, there is a Memorial Trust Fund, a permanent endowment fund created by memorial gifts to honor and celebrate people and events. Earnings from investment of the UTO Memorial and Gift Trust Fund assure income to support the independent, elected volunteer committee. It also provides interpretive materials for the extensive diocesan and parish volunteer networks.

St. David's UTO Ingathering will be held during the Sunday Eucharist on April 29th and May 6th. This offering will be presented to the UTO Committee at the Episcopal Church Women's Annual Meeting in Muskegon. St. David's parish is invited to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God and continued and visible signs of these prayers which will benefit others by dropping a coin in the Blue Box. Thanks be to God.

For more information about the ECW or UTO, please contact Rose McNab, church mailbox 55. ☩

A survival kit for everyday living

ITEMS NEEDED:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1) Toothpick | 6) Chewing gum |
| 2) Rubber band | 7) Mint |
| 3) Band aid | 8) Candy kiss |
| 4) Pencil | 9) Tea bag |
| 5) Eraser | |

Why?

- 1) Toothpick - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others. (Matt 7:1)
- 2) Rubber band - to remind you to be flexible; things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out. (Romans 8:28)
- 3) Band aid - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's. (Col 3:12-14)
- 4) Pencil - to remind you to list your blessings everyday. (Eph1:3)
- 5) Eraser - To remind you that everyone makes mistakes and that's OK. (Gen 50:15-21)
- 6) Chewing gum - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything. (Phil 4:13)
- 7) Mint - to remind you that you are worth a mint. (John 3:16-17)
- 8) Candy kiss - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or hug everyday. (John 4:7)

- 9) Tea bag - to remind you to relax daily and reflect on all the positive things in your life. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. (Thess 5:18)

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, share a word of praise and they always open their hearts to us. Show your friends how much you care. Send this to everyone you consider a FRIEND, even if it means sending it back to the person who sent it to you. Thanks to Andi Flitton for passing this along. ✕

St. David's February Vestry News

- Building usage policy should be in effect in May, 2001
- Underground wires leading to St. David's sign have completely deteriorated -- they will be repaired as soon as ground is workable in the Spring
- Vestry unanimously decided that the staff offices and Sacristy would be keyed differently than other master keys to the church

Noteworthy news from Christian Ed

Our St. David's Day Celebration was a great success. It was really fun and we all learned a lot. Our teachers did a great job finding information about this rather obscure individual – even going so far as corresponding with people in Wales via the Internet.

We are trying a new Lenten project this year. It is an outreach program working with Heifer Project International, an organization that educates and helps those in need by supplying those families with livestock. The families use the livestock to make money and, in turn, pass the livestock offspring to other relatives or friends who are in need. All Christian Education students have been given an empty, plastic egg. The eggs are to be filled with coins and returned to St. David's on Easter Sunday. The filled eggs will be put in an Easter basket placed near the altar. This is a project that doesn't skip generations – kids of ALL ages are encouraged to take an egg home. So-o-o-o, have fun! Just be sure the eggs are taped shut when they are returned.

The week after Easter Sunday, all Sunday School students will meet together to count their "egg money"

Holy week at St. David's

Sunday, April 8th Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of Palms, Holy Eucharist, and Sermon
10:30 a.m. Liturgy of Palms, Festival Procession, Choral Eucharist, and Sermon

Tuesday, April 10th

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Chapel

Wednesday, April 11th

6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 12th

6:00 p.m. Seder Supper begins, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, and Vigil before the Altar of Repose

Good Friday, April 13th

Vigil before the Altar of Repose continues
12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy: Passion Gospel, Solemn Collects, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 14th

7:00 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter: Lighting of The New Fire and Paschal Candle, Vigil Readings, Baptism, and The First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 15th

8:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist and Sermon
10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist and Sermon

and decide what animals we should purchase. The enthusiasm is running high!

Mark your calendars for our Sunday School Awards picnic on May 20th at Grand Woods Park. We have lots of fun things planned and hope all Sunday School students will be able to join in the festivities.

Watch next month's newsletter for a complete listing of year-end dates to remember, as well as lots of information about Vacation Bible School.

Nan Strickler, Church mailbox 134 ✕



Mother's Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 12, 2001

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road

Lansing, MI 48917

Please join us at this special time to celebrate with laughter, love, memories, appreciation, and the fulfillment of being a mother, a daughter, and a grandmother.

A buffet luncheon will be served at 11:30 a.m. with entertainment and two very special speakers. Prizes will be given away during this special Mother's Day Luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is \$8.00 per person.

There will be a professional photographer to take a special photo of mothers, daughters, and grandmothers. You will receive one 5x7 photograph at \$8.00 each. The photo session will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Order forms will be available at the time of the photo session.

RSVP to

Debbie Davis, Church mailbox #28

or mail to

Mother's Day Luncheon

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road

Lansing, MI 48917



Please print names clearly. Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Number of person(s) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____ (Luncheon)

Please make checks payable to: St. David's Episcopal Church.

Deadline to make reservations is May 6, 2001
Limited seating



Episcopal Summer Camp 2001

Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center Dowling, MI

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Camps</u>	<u>Grades (as of fall 2001)</u>
July 8-14	Senior High	10-12, and 2001 graduates
July 15-21	Munchkin	3-6
July 22-28	Junior High	7-9

Camp begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday with check-in and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday with check-out.

Registration deadline is May 1, 2001.

A \$100 deposit is required to reserve a space at camp.

Balance of \$230 registration fee must be paid in full two weeks prior to the camp session.

See the Summer Camp flyer in the narthex for more information.

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

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CONNECTIONS

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CHURCH TO YOU

LENT I

THE REV. JOSEPH C. NEIMAN, EDITOR



Jubilee 2000-2001

Healing Conference in Lansing

A healing conference featuring the Rev. Richard Singleton, regional warden of the Order of St. Luke the Physician, will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2001 (10-4pm) at St. David's Church in Lansing. The cost of \$10 includes lunch. For more information, contact John Post at 517-323-1825 or jap6630@aol.com.

Good Friday Collection

The Church highly recommends that the Good Friday collection go to support the Anglican Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This is especially urgent this year with the suffering of many people there, and with the Anglican hospital and other relief programs. Good Friday Offering materials are available from the National Church Center (1-800-334-7626) or at www.ecusa.anglican.org/agr/friday.html. For details about the situation in Jerusalem for Anglicans, check at www.episcopalchurch.org/jerusalem2000.

Donations can be sent directly to Good Friday Offering, The Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave, New York, NY 10017-4594.

Baptism and Confirmation Celebrations

The Deanery (regional) Easter celebrations of Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation will take place on the following Sundays and locations:

April 22	Grand Valley Deanery, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
April 29	Eastern Deanery, St. David's, Lansing
May 6	St. Joseph Deanery, the Cathedral, Portage
May 20	Traverse Deanery, St. Philip's, Beulah
May 24	Lakeshore Deanery, St. John's, Grand Haven

Anyone interested is welcome to join the services.

ECW Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church Women's Annual Meeting will be held at St. Paul's in Muskegon on April 27-28, 2001. Registration forms and details are in the parish office, or contact Pam Chapman at 616-281-8889 or at queenpamela50@hotmail.com.

DOK Provincial Assembly in DWMI

The Daughters of the King, a religious order for women, will hold their Annual Assembly and Retreat April 27-29, 2001 at the MSU Kellogg Biological Station in Hickory Corners (near Richland, MI). This is for all DOK members in the fifteen dioceses of the Province of the Midwest (Province V). The theme is "Fruit of the Spirit." Cost: \$130. Mrs Joan Dalrymple from the DOK National Council will be the speaker. For more information, contact Susan O'Brien at 708-535-3156. Reservations are due by April 1st with a \$65 non-refundable fee paid to the Daughters of the King and sent to Susan O'Brien at 6309 Victoria, Oak Forest, IL 60452. For scholarship information, call Cheryl Wiltgen at 630-932-4607.

Looking Towards Summer

CPC Sunday May 6th

The Church Periodical Club of the Episcopal Church, promoted by the Episcopal Church Women, has designated Sunday, May 6th as CPC Sunday. Donations are asked to support their ministry of providing books and written materials to seminaries, parishes, and church organizations throughout the country and the world. For additional information, contact Mary Jane Allen at 616-243-9345.

Bishop's Golf Outing for Youth Ministries

Ivan Egnatuk and Robert Haefele from Trinity, Marshall; and the Rev. Ken Taber and Reed Fairburn from St. Matthew's, Sparta invite you to the First Annual Western Michigan Bishop's Open Golf Outing. This will be at Clearbrook Golf Country Club in Saugatuck, Michigan on Saturday, June 23, 2001. It is a four person scramble format with the shotgun start at 11am. Price: \$60 per person, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, and food following the outing. The team **must be mixed** male and female members. A traveling trophy will be awarded to the parish with the winning team. Limited to the first 36 teams. Register by May 15, 2001.

This event is being sponsored to raise funds for youth ministries in the Diocese. All net proceeds will be given to the 125th Anniversary Fund for Youth Ministry. For more information, call Ivan at 616-781-3348

CAMP Applications

The summer Camp dates are as follows:

July 8 to July 14: Senior High Camp (entering 10-12th and new grads)

July 15 to 21: Munchkin Camp (entering grades 3-6th)

July 22 to July 28: Junior High Camp (entering grades 7-9th)

There is also the Leadership in Christian Community program, which prepares youth for leadership, such as being Camp counselors and Rally leaders. That will be June 23rd to July 1st. Persons interested in more information can contact Amy Geurink, Youth Ministries Director, at 616-381-2710 (email: Amybgrrr@aol.com). Registration forms with detailed information are in the Parish Office.

Planning for Vacation Bible School

Time to start planning for the summer Vacation Bible School, and the Internet can be very helpful. To see a variety of programs from different publishers, go to www.christiansupply.net/vbs.htm. Other programs offered by publishers are also described at www.ChristianEdWarehouse.com. There is a Methodist site with many good suggestions and ideas: gbgm-umc.org/marshltn.vbsmain.html. For fun, games and puzzles, try www.familyfun.com, www.webfanatix.com/craft_activities.htm; or this really long website address but well worth seeing: www.childparenting.about.com/parenting/childparenting/library/weekly/aa062500a.htm.

Need plans and descriptions for volunteers? Check out www.trinityroselle.com/youth_events/vbs_00_info.htm. There is also a VBS handbook available from this site: www.sschoo.com/vbs/vbs.htm. Finally good information from the education department at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio: www.cedarville.edu/dept/chrmin/planvbs.htm.