

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 7 No. 9

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

Dec 2001

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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

Sue Kohler, Sr. Warden/Memorials, Box 75
Mike Wils, Jr. Warden/Youth, Box 55
Dave Byers, Treasurer/R&E, Box 15
Bill Fleener, Christian Ed, Box 37
Ron Schavey, Worship, Box 44
Scott Foster, Building and Grounds, Box 121
John Strickler, Communications, Box 134
John Runcie, Lay Ministry, Box 50
Craig Leinbach, Stewardship, Box 27
Nan Strickler, Secretary to the Vestry, Box 134

St. John's

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

Vestry

Schad Sparks, Senior Warden
Thelma Gibbs, Junior Warden
Debbie Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford, Treasurer
Nina Robinson
Ted Dotts
Cara Stapor
Sharon Degar
Sandy Garrison
Bill Gin
Maggie Bisel
Alma Stahl

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: stdavids1519@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.rural-net.com/stjohnschurch

Service Schedule

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

Reflections of Father David

I have always loved the quiet sacredness of Advent -- the soft light of the star shining in the Sanctuary, the slowly increasing glow of candlelight from the Advent Wreath, a growing feeling of quiet refuge from the increasing noise and chaos of Christmas preparations. Each year, life gets busier, there is more to do and more demands on our time. As a result, each of us experiences a greater need for entering into the quietness of Advent.

Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of the Christ Child. It is a time for us to listen a little more carefully to the Word of God and prepare ourselves spiritually to receive Jesus into our hearts. How we do this will be as individual as are the varied gifts that enrich the life of this congregation.

For some, it will be the simple act of each evening lighting candles on the home Advent wreath, spending some time reading the Scriptures, and offering prayers to God. Some families find it best to gather this way immediately following dinner. Others choose to gather at bedtime to sing, read, and pray together.

This is an excellent time to began a program of joining in reciting the daily office. Each evening on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, Evening Prayer is said in the Chapel at St. David's. There is a committed group of members who see that the doors are open, the lights on, candles lighted, and readings and prayers ready to be offered for the benefit of the people of St. David's and to the Glory of God. The entire service lasts less than 30 minutes and is the perfect time for giving thanks to God for the day now ended, asking God's blessings for evening activities, offering to God whatever is heavy on our hearts.

It seems odd to know that when we add this sacred time of preparation to our already overly packed schedules, instead of having less time we

will have more. By taking time for refreshment, we discover what is truly important in our Christmas preparations and have renewed strength to carry out our desires.

Use this Advent as a way of preparing for Christmas in a way which has nothing to do with getting the house ready, or baking cookies, or shopping. We will get those tasks done. Let us be sure that our spiritual homes are in order and that we are ready to welcome the Christ child when we gather to celebrate his birth.

May God deeply and richly bless you in all ways.

With deepest affection,

Fr. David



Reverend Carol's message

Christmas, its memories

Christmas is a time when we have mental pictures that take us home. I know I remember the tree in our dining room, in the corner next to the window, and you could see those big lights and the ones that looked like candles through the window when you walked home in the evening. I remember mom putting the cookies in the oven, after she let me scrape the bowl clean with my fingers. And that smell that covered the inside of our home like a warm blanket! I remember when dad would put the wreath on the front door and the lights around the porch. These are just some of the pictures I have in my mind of this time of the year.

But the greatest and most powerful picture I have is the look and smell of our church as we walked in on Christmas Eve. I cannot forget the glow of the candles, the smell of the evergreens, the red poinsettias on the altar and the wonderful sound of the organ as Mrs. Grulick played the hymns before the service started. This was the most precious time of the year to me -- the family arriving at church, the nave filling with my friends and their parents, the sound of extra chairs being set up in the back of the church.

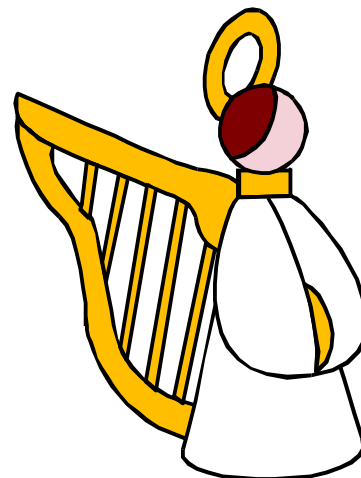
Then came the best part of all, the procession with the crucifier holding the cross and the flags and choirs, and the banners, the torches and Rev. Jatho as he passed the pews. He always had a smile for us, he always touched our hands or shoulders as he passed the pews. Then Rev. Jatho would start the service and we would all join in with the phrases we had said so many hundreds of times, but each time it always seemed like the first, especially on this night. The choir would sing, the sermon would be preached and we would walk up the center aisle to receive communion. And everything seems like you are walking into the most beautiful scene one could ever ask for, as we experience the most sacred feeling that said, yes, Jesus was present, and it is his birthday, and his birth would and does make a difference, one we can feel, hear, and celebrate.

Christmas is a time when we all want these feelings, smells, and sounds to be alive. And you know, they can and are. Oh, maybe not exactly, but they are there, we only need to draw them up from our being as Jesus fills us with these precious memories. His birthday is ours as well, his love is ours as well, and his love is as strong and as complete as it was on the night of his birth. We only need to ask and it shall be given unto you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the memories come with a rush of the wind, as we open the door of our hearts for him. We are living as if we are discovering them again for the first time.

Let Christmas be this for you. Let it be special in a very unique way, the way your precious memories and traditions give you that sense of home. Let his birth be the beginning of newness that brings you peace and joy. Remember to say Happy Birthday to Jesus as you come to his altar this holy season.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Rev. Carol



The Church Mouse heard ...

Winter is coming and my fur is getting thicker. I just wish it would snow some and look like Christmas!!

Have you seen the new board Fr. David put up in the Narthex? It helps keep track of who is in the nursing home, hospitals, and home bound. If you know someone who should be on the list, please tell Fr. David, Sue, or Edith.

Now for the update as I best know it. **Pat Vine** is home recovering from a knee replacement. **Bob Bishop** has had minor surgery and is doing better. **Carol Williams** had neck surgery and is back to doing the things that she loves to do. **Dee Cannady** is in Sparrow recovering from surgery. **Lore Tuttle** is home recovering and getting stronger. Lore enjoyed having son Jim and his family, son David, and Kay and her family home for Thanksgiving. **Francis** and **Carolyn Jacob's** grandson, Hunter Jones, has completely recovered from his accident and an overnight stay at Sparrow. **Brian Paff** is still in England and regularly sends reports which are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. **Harold** and **Betty Payne** spent Thanksgiving in New York with Chris and Beth. **Dick** and **Norma Hammond** have arrived in their winter quarters in Florida and are enjoying the sun and warmer temperatures. **Scottie** and **Helen Lee**, along with their daughter, Lorraine, and her husband, Joe Osypczuk, left for Hawaii on December 2nd. They will spend six weeks there visiting their daughter, Gail, and her husband, John Tobin. Also going to Hawaii for Christmas and New Years are **Ric** and **Rhonda Sorrell**, **Sarah**, and **Michael**. What's up with Hawaii this year!

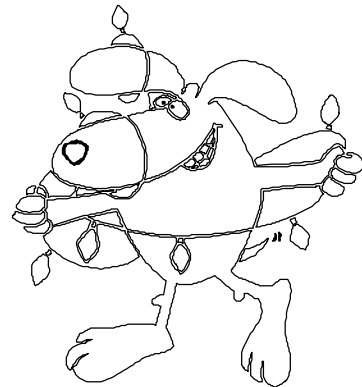
On a sad note, **John Runcie** lost his daughter in a car accident, **John Strickler's** father died quietly at Burcham Hills, and **Mike Vaughn's** brother, Rory, died in a car accident. **Barb Kowalski**, after a long battle with poor health, died. Please keep these people in your prayers.

St. David's December Birthdays

1	Sue Kohler
2	Loretta Kappler
2	Michael Sorrell
4	Jennifer Galvin
4	John Sistanich
6	Dana Wess
7	Betty Jean Frost
7	Anna Strickler
8	Jim Thurston
11	Bill Paff
12	Shelly Albert
12	Laura Sistanich
13	Gordon Smith
13	Sara McNeil
13	Megan Coté
14	Carolyn Jacobs
14	Dana McNeil
18	Steve Freeman
20	Carlene Howrani
23	Genevieve Ward
25	Bill Hawes
25	Carole Leigh

December Anniversaries

10	Clarence & Lucille Burgess
24	Philip & Margaret Smithka
30	Don & Andrea Flitton



Be sure to check out the Jesse Tree in the Narthex. I think it is really neat! Have a wonderful Christmas and if you travel, be careful!

Notes from St. John's Corner

There will be no Christian Education for the two weeks over the Christmas break as the Charlotte Schools do not have classes. We will begin again on Wednesday, January 9th.

There will no services on New Year's Eve.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday of January. If anyone would like to be a delegate to the Diocese Convention or a vestry member, please see Rev. Carol. The Annual Meeting will be immediately following the 10:30 service.

There will be a Sexual Abuse class on the 26th of January at St. David's. If anyone is teaching Sunday School or on the vestry, or going on the vestry, and has not taken this class, please sign up with Rev. Carol. This training is required by the Canons of the church. The class will begin at 10 a.m. and end around 5:30 p.m.

All of us at St. John's would like to thank Mike Stahl, Alma Stahl, and Gayl Dotts for all the work they put in on our annual St. Nickolas Day. Many, many thanks to all of you!!

You might notice that we are using a different form for the Prayers of the People (Form 1) and the Eucharist Prayer (Form B). It was suggested that we might use these for a while, and we will be using them during Advent. The Prayer Book has these options and it would be good to use them during the church year.

Please -- if you have not turned in your pledge card as yet, we ask that you do, as we need to put together our budget for next year and have it ready for the annual meeting. Please pray about your giving and let God lead you in this decision. Thank you very much.

**Services on the
Sunday before Christmas
are at the normal times of
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

**The Christmas Eve
Family Service with the
Children's Choir and the
Children's Pageant is at
4:00 p.m.**

**The Christmas Eve
Service will start at
11:00 p.m.**

**The Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service with
music sung by various
parish members is at
10:30 p.m.**



News from St. David's Christian Ed

By Nan Strickler

A great time was had at Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. Johns during our fall family outing. Thanks to Deb Davis for taking care of this in my absence!

Late in October, we began our campaign for Operation Christmas Child and the wrapping of numerous shoe boxes. On Nov. 18th, we delivered 83 filled shoe boxes to the drop-off site in Holt. Many thanks to all of you at St. David's who accepted the challenge to see how much you could pack into one shoe box!

We are getting ready for Advent in our classes by making blue and purple ornaments to hang on our Jesse Tree. We hope you will take the time to check out our tree each week as we add ornaments that reflect what we have learned about the story of redemption.

A Christmas Pageant will be presented for all to enjoy at the family service on Christmas Eve. Be sure to answer your phone the next few weeks; we may be calling you for help.

St. David's Senior High students are planning a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser on Jan. 13th. See our ad in this issue of The Good News Letter.

Epiphany will be celebrated Jan 6th, 2002 with a birthday party for Jesus, including games, birthday cake and a gift exchange. Each child attending is asked to bring a gift suitable for either a boy or girl and not to exceed a cost of \$10.00. More information will be forthcoming through Sunday school classes.

Wishing you a thoughtful Advent, blessed Christmas, and Joyous New Year.

St. David's Church School Staff

ECW Cookie Walk

By Glennis Muncie

The ECW will have their annual "Cookie Walk" on Sunday, December 16 after the 10:30 service. Decorated coffee cans will be sold to be filled with a wonderful assortment of homemade cookies. We will need lots of small cookies for this event. We are asking for donation. Please bring 5-6 dozen of your favorites to church before the 10:30 service on the 16th. Also, we need small & medium size coffee cans. We will be decorating these cans on Monday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us and bring scissors and Christmas wrapping paper.

*Due to the upcoming holiday season, the
January issue of*

The Good News Letter

*will be mailed the
second week of January.*

St. David's new music director

Dr. Timothy S. Flynn has agreed to become the Director of Music at St. David's, beginning right after the New Year. Dr. Flynn received his Bachelor's of Music degree at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He received his Master of Music, Music History and Literature degree from Northwestern University in Evanston IL. Likewise, he received his Doctor of Philosophy in Music History and Literature from Northwestern.

Before becoming the Music Consultant for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing, a position he will continue to hold while being Director of Music at St. David's, Dr. Flynn worked as Director of Music at St. John's in Fenton MI, Immaculate Conception in Highland Park IL, St. John's Episcopal Church in Chicago IL, and was Choral Vicar at Washington National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Dr. Flynn also currently teaches various courses in music and the humanities at Lansing Community College, including Western Art and Music History, Music Theory and Aural Skills, and Class Piano for Music Majors. He is also the Conductor of the Concert Choir and Director of the Opera Scenes Course.

His musical publications include *Jubilate Deo* (organ and choir), *Seven Hymn Preludes* (organ), *Three Short Communion Anthems* (organ and choir) and *O for a Closer Walk with God* (organ and choir).

Be sure to warmly welcome Dr. Flynn after he returns from visiting family in the Washington DC area over the Christmas break. Please seriously consider joining the choir. Voices are needed for each section and the New Year is an excellent time to offer your gift of singing to the Lord.

Holiday Ball for the youth

All youth, 10th grade and up, young adults, and older adults still young at heart, are invited to the Holiday Ball on Saturday, December 29, 2001, at The Cathedral of Christ the King in Kalamazoo. Holy Eucharist is at 7:30 p.m. and the dance follows and lasts until midnight. The cost is \$8.00 if you register in advance by Dec. 21st or \$10.00 at the door. Make checks payable the Diocese of Western Michigan noting "Holiday Ball". Proceeds go to the ERD.

Senior World Christmas potluck

Senior World Bible Study is Thursday, December 13th, starting at 11:15 a.m. in the multi-purpose room at St. David's. A potluck luncheon will begin promptly at 11:30. If you have favorite memories of Christmas food, whether salad, dessert, or casseroles, feel free to bring them and share those memories. Our program begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Rev. Carol Spangenberg, Rector at Charlotte, will be a special guest. She will speak about the meaning and uses of Advent. Please contact Barb Post or Jean Bechtel if you have any questions or to let us know you are coming.



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 21:1-16)

12-20-2000

'JESUS, WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE' IS A BIT LONG FOR THIS FORM ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO JUST USE 'JESUS'

Read the Bible in a year

December's reading

1	Ga 5.1-15	Lm 5	Ps 147
2	Ga 5.16-26	Ez 1	Ps 148
3	Ga 6	Ez 2-3	Ps 149
4	Eph 1	Ez 4-5	Ps 150
5	Eph 2	Ez 6-7	Is 40
6	Eph 3	Ez 8-9	Is 41
7	Eph 4.1-16	Ez 10-11	Is 42
8	Eph 4.17-32	Ez 12-13	Is 43
9	Eph 5.1-20	Ez 14-15	Is 44
10	Eph 5.21-33	Ez 16	Is 45
11	Eph 6	Ez 17	Is 46
12	Phil 1.1-11	Ez 18	Is 47
13	Phil 1.12-30	Ez 19	Is 48
14	Phil 2.1-11	Ez 20	Is 49
15	Phil 2.12-30	Ez 21-22	Is 50
16	Phil 3	Ez 23	Is 51
17	Phil 4	Ez 24	Is 52
18	Col 1.1-23	Ez 25-26	Is 53
19	Col 1.24-2.19	Ez 27-28	Is 54
20	Col 2.20-3.17	Ez 29-30	Is 55
21	Col 3.18-4.18	Ez 31-32	Is 56
22	Lk 1.1-25	Ez 33	Is 57
23	Lk 1.26-56	Ez 34	Is 58
24	Lk 1.57-80	Ez 35-36	Is 59
25	Lk 2.1-20	Ez 37	Is 60
26	Lk 2.21-52	Ez 38-39	Is 61
27	Lk 3.1-20	Ez 40-41	Is 62
28	Lk 3.21-38	Ez 42-43	Is 63
29	Lk 4.1-30	Ez 44-45	Is 64
30	Lk 4.31-44	Ez 46-47	Is 65
31	Lk 5.1-26	Ez 48	Is 66

Abbreviations for December's reading

New testament

Phil	Philippians
Eph	Ephesians
Col	Colossians
Lk	Luke
Ga	Galatians

Old testament

Is	Isaiah
Ps	Psalms



*Wishing everyone a blessed
and Merry Christmas!!*

Try a Taste of Italy



Spaghetti Dinner at St. David's Sunday, January 13th

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Adults \$5.00
Children \$3.50**



*Proceeds to benefit local
charities and the St. David's
youth multi-purpose room*

*Hosted and Cooked by St.
David's Senior High Students*

The Jesse Tree

We invite you to take a moment to check out Christian Ed's Jesse Tree in the Narthex!

The Jesse Tree (named after King David's father) has its scriptural reference in Isaiah 11:1 "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots."

This is a very visual way for us to sequentially connect the Messianic line of Jesus through the Old and New Testaments. The story of God's grace, of human failure and renewed hope in God will begin to make more sense as the children add more ornaments each week to symbolize that particular part of the Advent story they have learned about.

Through all our trials and tribulations, both past and present, the Love of God, His patience and Grace are ever present. All we have to do is put our faith in Him.



Speaking of trees ...



Don't forget to visit the children's tree at St. David's. This tree has the names of children in the Lansing area who live in very difficult circumstances. Many of them have never known the joy of receiving a Christmas gift, something that most of us take for granted.

Please visit the tree and take the names of some children. The gift tags have some suggested gifts that are really some basic necessities for these kids. Open your hearts to these kids and help bring a smile to their faces on Christmas morning!!!

Characteristics of God's People

M L Z Y T I L I M U H Q N I O D G P
N E B P M K H C O N T E N T F R W E
Y O B Y P K M X S U O L A E Z L C A
P T E L B A T I P S O H U J U U D C
Y N Y G E N E R O U S Y O L K F N E
L E S S E L E M A L B I L D Q I I A
D I I R Q N N Y V I K S E O O C K B
O T V S C E M Q Y C S T D L E R L L
G A U F U K Q Y L O H E Y Q B E Q E
N P S K H O D R M S G A I R Q M V O
C K T Z B E E Q V A W D D F C I U D
A K P N O C L T Z M P F R A P V W H
Y W E S E X N T R S Z A M I G G Z W
G N G L Z I K R E U C S E T N B Z P
M X X T O M D A B R O T E H I S R M
E R E C N I S E T X U C K F V X Y G
V U E Y X M T Q B V T P B U O S Y R
P D G N I R A C N O N O C L L M R L

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Word List

Blameless Caring Content Courteous Faithful Generous Godly Holy Hospitable

Humble Humility Kind Loving Meek Merciful Obedient Patient Peaceable Pure

Sincere Steadfast Zealous



Holiday concert at St. David's

Sunday, 9 December at 2:00 p.m.

The Waverly Community Schools Chorale present

Peace, Peace

a holiday concert to support breast cancer treatment, sponsored by St. Lawrence Auxiliary. Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$5 each and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 377-0596.

Refreshments will be served. Proceeds go to the Sparrow Health Systems Cancer Center.

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

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