

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 11

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

December 2003

Father David & Reverend Carol	Inserts
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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, Box 70
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Cornell, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers, Box 71
Bill Paff, Box 118
Jerri Hoffman, Box 24
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry, Box 167

Newsletter

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

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

St. David's Episcopal Church

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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

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.

St. David's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
November 18, 2003

Members in attendance: Charlotte Byers, John Strickler, Deb Cornell, John Post, Tom George, Jerry Williams, Steve Leiby, Craig Leinbach

Not in attendance: Gail Donovan, Bill Paff, Ron Schavey, Dawn Sonnenberg, Jerri Hoffman

Meeting called to order with prayer at 7:08pm

Secretary's Report: Changes –

- 1) Page 1: Under Renewal and Evangelism – John Post indicated that there is a combined conference with the Order of St. Luke on March 12-13.
- 2) Page 2: Under Deb Cornell's motion to have fundraising tables moved to the Great Hall on Sunday mornings. Motion to approve the move of tables to the Great Hall for Sunday mornings by Deb Cornell, seconded by Dawn Sonnenberg. Approved. (The word "approved" was left off of minutes from October's meeting.)
- 3) Page 1: Under Outreach: Should read – "St. David's will be going to the mission on November 25, 2003". (instead of "Charlotte Byers will be going to the mission on November 25.")
- 4) Page 2: After lengthy discussion, the last sentence of the October minutes should be taken completely out of the minutes. Sentence that should be taken out of the October record reads " Note: Parking space for raffle at bazaar will be the space right outside the West end door and will be labeled."

Motion to accept the minutes with the amended changes by Steve Leiby, seconded by Charlotte Byers. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Craig indicated that things are looking good. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made by John Strickler, seconded by Tom George. Approved.

Rector's Report: Fr. David passed out a report sheet for October. Motion to accept the report made by John Strickler, seconded by Jerry Williams. Approved.

Senior Warden's Report: John Strickler thanked Jerry for the great stewardship campaign and program ran this season. Nothing further.

Junior Warden's Report: Jerry Williams had nothing to report.

Buildings and Grounds: Tom George reported on inspection of the rectory and the report looks good. Bathrooms renovations will be proceeding within the next few weeks.

Memorials: John Strickler had nothing to update at this time.

Stewardship: Jerry Williams reported on Grace of Giving program. He passed out an information sheet regarding pledges that have been collected. Reminder letters will be mailed out to parishioners next week that haven't pledged yet. Jerry Williams will be putting an article in the December newsletter about the pledges. Grace of Giving committee will be giving the congregation a survey to complete on their thoughts of the program and asking for their suggestions and ideas for programs in the future.

Renewal and Evangelism: John Post had nothing new to report.

Outreach: Charlotte Byers reported on the Thanksgiving baskets. They will be packed on November 22 at 9:00am. St. David's will be going to the mission on November 25. Nothing more to report.

New Person: Steve Leiby is working on some new materials and brochures to give to our new people. He is getting committee meeting together soon.

Christian Ed: Deb Cornell reported that Christmas pageant plans are underway. The new teachers are great and fundraiser will be going on through Christmas. Calendars are being sold for the fundraiser.

Old Business

Rector's Sabbatical: Nothing new at this time. Committee is meeting regularly and proceeding further. Budget should be ready by the annual church budget time.

Layton and Richardson: Audit all completed and report came back with findings okay. There are some positive suggestions for next year.

New Business

- John Post motioned to rescind the adoption of the motion to ban sales in the narthex. The motion was made in the October meeting. John's motion is to allow sales that benefit ministries related to St. David's Outreach projects. Jerry Williams seconded the motion for discussion. Discussion took place. Vestry was in favor of continuing the motion made in October meeting. Issue was called to question by John Strickler. Motion to rescind the adoption of the motion to ban sales in the narthex on Sunday mornings was defeated. October meeting motion will withstand.

Wedding Request: Tom Taylor is requesting the use of the church and to officiate over the marriage of his son on April 17, 2004. Fr. David is in favor of this but seeking thoughts from the vestry. Church is free on April 17 for the wedding and reception. John Strickler motions to proceed further with the request made by Tom Taylor to officiate over his son's marriage on April 17 and to allow the use of the hall for the reception, seconded by Steve Leiby. Approved.

High School Youth Request: The youth are requesting \$1500 to purchase games and toys for the multi-purpose room. They have \$3600 saved from their fundraisers and they would like some entertainment in the multi-purpose room. Motion to allow \$1500 released from the money saved for the youth to purchase games and toys for entertainment in the multi-purpose room was made by John Strickler, seconded by Deb Cornell. Approved.

Building Usage: St. Paul's Church contacted Fr. David and is asking for a separate worship service for approx. 40 people on Sunday afternoons. The reason for the call from this individual from St. Paul's Church was that there have been some recent problems at the church and several individuals would like to have a separate service at St. David's for the duration. Discussion took place with the vestry. Fr. David indicated that there wasn't anything firm on the group's plans – Fr. David explained that the phone call was asking if St. David's could offer this to the individuals. Fr. David indicated that he would minister to anyone and everyone that wanted to come and attend services at St. David's. Vestry was concerned with this because if an afternoon service were offered then it would have to be open to all and not just the individuals coming from St. Paul's Church. Vestry also wasn't in favor and had feelings that this would cause some breaking up of St. Paul's Church and people that attend their church. Suggestion was made to have these individuals attend regular St. David's services at 8:00am or 10:30am on Sunday mornings. Fr. David indicated that the individuals didn't want to separate from St. Paul's church but wanted to worship somewhere else until problems are resolved. St. David's vestry wanted a lot more detail before making a decision whether to add another service for the group to worship at St. David's. Vestry wanted to stay neutral at this time with the several situations going on with the Episcopal Church.

Finance Committee: Stewardship Chair should be apart of the Finance Committee.
Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Rector would be the committee.

Annual meeting date is scheduled for January 18, 2004.

Vestry party is December 19

Adjournment at 9:15pm
Respectfully submitted

Amber Matthews

Grace of Giving results – Part 1

By Jerry Williams

Our Pledge Chairperson, Jackie Easton, reports that, as of November 17, the church has received 68 pledges totaling \$174,200. So far, 47 pledges have increased, 3 have decreased and 18 stayed the same. Jackie will soon be sending gentle reminders to those who have not yet responded.

A **BIG** “Thank You” to those who have already responded to St. Paul’s call to strive to excel in the grace of giving. For those who have simply forgotten, please take time to fill out your pledge card and return it to the church. If you have mislaid your pledge card, call the church office and a new one will be sent to you. If you are still unsure or have questions about pledging, please feel free to contact Fr. David or me. My number is 882-4142 or email is jerrywill42@att.net.

Remember, the ultimate goal of the Grace of Giving program is not about raising money for the church—it is to deepen our relationships with God and to know that whatever we give of ourselves, goes to help others ☩

The Watermen

By Jim Thurston

The Watermen would like to thank everyone that participated in the Veterans Day celebration that was held November 11. It was another success and we look forward to next years presentation.

Remember to attend the gala December 6 to help raise funds for a new kitchen hood.

Be good and God Bless. ☩

The Cookie Walk

By Glennis Muncie

The annual ECW cookie walk will be Sunday December 14th after the 10:30 a.m. service. we will need lots of small homemade cookies to fill

St. David’s December Birthdays

1	Sue Kohler
2	Loretta Kappler
2	Lois Klumpp
2	Michael Sorrell
4	John Sistanich
7	Betty Jean Frost
7	Anna Strickler
7	Sheridan Leinbach
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
22	Larry Carey
23	Jerri Hoffman
23	Genevieve Ward
25	Bill Hawes
25	Carole Leigh
28	Justin Brabon
28	Lindsay Cornell
29	Tom George

December Anniversaries

10	Clarence & Lucille Burgess
27	Ed & Pat Meier
30	Don & Andrea Flitton

the decorated coffee cans. We also need lots of small and medium coffee cans. There will be a large box in the Great Hall for these cans. The procedure of the cookie walk is to buy a can then fill it with an assortment of delicious cookies. You may buy more than one.

The proceeds of the sale will go for our budget and to our outreach projects. Thank you in advance for being generous in buying cookies, bringing coffee cans, and buying on the day of the cookie walk December 14th. ☩

CROP Walk

By Maria Leiby

St. David's was well represented this year with eleven adults, 5 youth and 3 dogs! I don't know all the dogs' names, but the youth who walked were Megan and Madison Cote, Tony and Alfonso DeLaFuente-Reynaga and Margaret Leiby. They deserve a lot of credit for their effort. We were blessed with perfect weather--sunny, breezy and not too hot or too cold.

We turned in a total of \$2,455, an increase of about \$200 over the past couple of years. In 2004 we can break \$2500!

Many thanks to everyone who walked or contributed. ☩

Tribute to Rose

By Carolyn Jacobs

This past year has been a real challenge to the Secret Pal group at St. David's. I have been connected to this organization for 12 years and I can't remember having so many changes in one year. This year we have lost three very dear women and have had several other configuration changes as well. In one sense it is rather funny as every time we turn around we are faced with rearranging the Secret Pal list, and it is getting to be a standing joke.

With the loss of Rose McNab, it hit me in a very personal way. Rose and I were co-chairmen of this group. I can't remember how many times I have called her and said, "OK, Rose, will you please get out your list and let's go over it again. We would start again, one by one, trying to figure out who went with who. I have lost my anchor and my friend. I went up to the hospital 6 hours before she passed away and she was sleeping. She was so peaceful that I never considered waking her up. I didn't say goodbye. I just prayed with her and quietly left. She never knew I was there, but I did. I am so thankful for that visit. Rose always gave 150 percent no matter how she felt.

We, in the Secret Pal group, will miss her very much. She was a very special lady.

In God's Blessings
Carolyn Jacobs

Christian Education

By Debbie Cornell

WOW, is the time flying by us or what!! Christian Education has been very busy. Our three new teachers, Mrs. Stephanie Cote', Ms. Dolores Sneed and Mr. Kevin Cornell, are doing a great job with their classes.

October we had a successful field trip to the Corn Maize, 33 people joined in on the corn maize, a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch. The high school students went to Fazolli's for dinner, then on to the haunted corn maize in the dark.

November was Christmas Operation Child. Thank you everyone who helped making a brighter Christmas for the children around the world.

Mrs. Howard's class went on a shopping trip and will be decorating their classroom. Be sure to stop by and see the decorations.

Mrs. Sneed's class has been busy in their studies and is planning a trip to play Lazer Tag. They also are planning a spaghetti dinner in January and an Aloha dinner in the spring. They are busy making the Christmas Pageant props for Christmas Eve. Some students will be attending "Happening" the weekend of December 5-7, in Grand Haven.

We are working on the Christmas Pageant, and students' K-8th grades have started to rehearse their lines in class. We will be sending their parts home soon. Please help your child on their part when they bring it home. **A dress rehearsal is Monday, December 22, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.** at the church. A pizza dinner will be provided after the rehearsal, and this will be the only dress rehearsal for all the students. The high school students will

also have a special following the pageant. The Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 24, 2003 at the 7:00 p.m.

The students have started a fund raiser of selling "2004 Calendars." They are beautiful calendars, and they would make great gifts as well as one for yourself!!! The calendar's are \$6.00 each. Be sure to stop by the table located in the Great Hall after the 10:30 a.m. to take a look!

The Healing Corner-----An "Eye" Witness

By Martha Osborne

Submitted by Carolyn Jacobs

An urgent shake of my shoulder brought me out of my comfortable pew; members of the prayer team joined me and we heard that we were needed at the hospital to be with members of our church family who were concerned about the salvation of their mother, Jane. Several family members were with Jane and there was a sense of distress in the room. We greeted Jane with love and hugs; we spoke of the praise and worship, fellowship and love scene we had left at church to come and share with her. We spoke of the love of God that seemed to envelope us all as we worshiped and we just wanted to share the love of Jesus with her.

Family members came in and we were introduced. The family was greeted with the love of Jesus flowing from our hearts; we prayed together. A sense of peace seemed to flow through the room. Conversations sprang up as we shared love with Jane and all the family.

Time passed and my team and I spoke with Jane. We spoke of Jesus' love, His gift on the cross so that we would have life everlasting and how much we loved Him. As we were speaking His praises to her, she blurted out "Oh I love Jesus". Family members burst into tears and our team sang out "Hallelujah, Hallelujah!!!!

Later that evening while I visited with Jane, I encouraged her to speak with her family about her love for them. When I left several hours later Jane had spoken to each family member present and called those at home. Jane's confession and her gift of love to her family that evening were truly a gift from God.

Jane joined the Heavenly Realm the next morning.

"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Ex.33:14 ☩

Outreach Corner

By Andrea Flitton

Thank you for all of your support for the Thanksgiving Baskets. The families that received them were very grateful.

The Christmas Food and Gift Baskets will be distributed the weekend before Christmas. Once again, we will have the paper tree up with the names of the children who need gifts. Remember, some of these families won't be getting a gift from anyone else. All of the moms get a gift from us made up of the toiletries that are donated over the year(those soaps and lotions that you pick up in the hotels, etc.). Elaine Tolsma makes beautiful gift bags for us to fill. Thank you Elaine!

We hope you all enjoyed our guests on Outreach Sunday, and that you were able to speak with them to learn more about the services they provide the community. This year has been especially hard on most of them. Many of them have lost grants, or the grants have been lowered, and other contributions are also down. With the economy as it is, more people are in need of their services, and ours. They all need our help, not just monetarily, but physically and spiritually. Please keep them in your prayers, and help them if you are able.

We have our new 2004 schedule for the Rescue Mission Dinners. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING, PLEASE TALK TO ANDREA FLITTON/517-321-2219.** The dates are all Tuesdays, but the weeks vary. The dates are as follows: January 27, February 17, March 23, April 20, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 19, November 23 and December 21. We will have sign up sheets posted. We only need 8 people to work each time, not 10 or 12, so if you want to work, please contact me, and I will get you on the schedule. We do have a few people that work every time, so we only need a few extras. **MERRY CHRISTMAS** ☩

Watermens Survey

The Watermen of St. David's request your assistance in an area where we are struggling.

Over the past 2 years, we've provided a variety of speakers that have come to St. David's and shared their time and knowledge with us all on a variety of topics. We take this ministry seriously and to have speakers visit and share is a way that we give back to our church community. The programs were open to everyone but the attendance during the engagements was sparse, and herein, lays the dilemma.

Do we have speakers or do we not have speakers?

You, the congregation of St. David's is being asked for your input. We have put together a list of topics for future events. Please select the ones that may peak your *interest and attendance*. Equally, feel free to add suggestions to the list, as we know we are not the only ones with fantastic ideas.

Here is a list of suggested topics: (Please circle one **or** more that may interest you and increase your desire to participate.)

- Christian principles of money management.
- How to be a more effective parent / grandparent to our family.
- Dealing with difficult people.
- Office politics.
- Suggestions for helping family and friends to learn more about becoming a follower of Christ.
- Handling stresses and strains of every day life.
- How to be a Christian and a teenager.
- How to be an adult Christian.
- Christian parenting.
- Depression.
- Substance abuse.
- Relationship building.
- Changing jobs and career choices.
- Other suggested topics—(your turn to make suggestions)

-
- I do not care to attend speaking events.

We also ask input for the " PERFECT DAY AND TIME " to have the events. Please provide us with this input as well. (Circle the days and provide times for consideration.)

Monday Time _____

Tuesday Time _____

Wednesday Time _____

Thursday Time _____

Friday Time _____

Thank you for your time with this survey!

Please return them in the large envelope marked Survey responses in the mailbox room next to the " Job Jar ".

St. David's Episcopal Church
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*May you all have a safe holiday!
Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!!*