

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 8 No. 2

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

Feb 2002

<b>Father David's message</b>	.....	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Spaghetti dinner a success</b>	.....	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>St. David's annual meeting</b>	.....	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Youth winter retreat</b>	.....	<b>Page 8</b>

## 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  
Bill Fleener, Jr. Warden, Box 37  
Dave Byers, Treasurer, Box 15  
Ron Schavey, Box 44  
Scott Foster, Box 121  
Dawn Iverson, Box 138  
Gail Donovan, Box 17  
Debbie Davis, Box 28  
Tom George, Box 119  
John Post, Box 87  
Jerry Williams, Box 115  
Craig Leinbach, 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

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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  
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517-327-1839 (Rev. Carol)  
E-mail: stjohnepiscopalchurch201@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 Fr. David

A couple of weeks ago I was enjoying a wonderful dinner of homemade stuffed pasta shells. It met all my dietary delights and desires - starch, tomato, cheese, and herbs. In the middle of the second shell, I felt something go crunch, and immediately realized that something was wrong with one of my rear teeth. A quick look into the mirror confirmed my worst fears: I had cracked a rear molar in half.

Suddenly, I didn't want to eat any more of my dinner. In the blink of an eye, I lost my entire desire to savor and enjoy a wonderful meal, which I had so looked forward to all day. I knew I now needed an expensive crown, would face several hours of dental work, and worst of all, shots in the mouth. It ruined my whole day.

After cleaning up the dishes, I told Nancy I was going to the mall and do my three-mile walk. I left the house in a foul mood, feeling much put out by this sudden change in my life and in my plans. My walk was the best thing I could have done under the circumstances.

As I walked around the length of the mall, I began to calm down and deal with my broken tooth. As I often do, I began to pray as I walked. I asked God to help me get through the dread of dental work, to be thankful that we have a dentist I trust and who does good work, and to realize that we had the money to do the repairs even if it meant realigning priorities.

Suddenly, I realized that I had allowed something really very minor in the overall picture of my life to take control of me and blow everything all out of proportion. Upon reflection, I realized that all in all I was most lucky and had, up until then, enjoyed a wonderful day of blessings from God. The day was sunny and above freezing. My family was healthy and safe. I have a job I love. I have many friends and can say I truly feel loved by them. I have a wonderful home, warm clothes, plenty of food

and can rest at night knowing I am reasonably safe from harm. Why was I so bent out of shape because of a stupid tooth breaking?

That evening in the mall, I realized that all too often we focus on the hurt, the pain, the "bad events" in life, rather than the blessings that so often envelope us. We are all guilty of doing this. Any number of people can tell us what a wonderful job we do of such and such, yet let one parson tell us what a rotten job we do, and that is all we hear. That is all that we focus on. At work, we can do an excellent job for years, but let us screw up once and suddenly we are a failure, a disappointment and in general worthless.

Now, don't get me wrong, we need to be honest and reasonable in our assessment of ourselves and our actions. Life isn't always bright, sun-filled days. However, we need to be a little less critical of who we are and what we have done. Far too often we are our own worst critics.

If you haven't already done so, begin spending time every day focusing on the blessings you enjoy. God truly has blessed each and every one of us in so very many ways. Far too often, we neglect to give thanks for those blessings. I am sure that each of us will soon discover we are surrounded by many tiny and often overlooked blessings. It is a choice each of us must make. We can focus only on what is wrong with our lives and decide how miserable we must be, or we can look at all the things which bless, help and support us, and find joy all around us. I really think God desires that we seek our joys and blessings rather than focusing on what is wrong.

## The Church Mouse heard ...

Things are quieting down at church. The big event that I enjoyed very much was the Youth's Spaghetti Dinner. They worked really, really hard and did a super job of feeding over 125 people. There was spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, salad, fresh baked bread, green beans, and ice cream brownies for dessert. They made nearly \$600 profit! The kids have decided to give half the money to charity and spend the remainder on something for the multi-purpose room. I hear they are already thinking about a "Mexican Night" in the fall.

**Pat Vine** continues to recover from her knee surgery. **Louise Henley** also continues to recover from her elbow surgery. **Dee Cannedy** is home now and gets around very well. **Fred Wegner** just had surgery and I don't know yet how he did. **Sue Gabel** is slowly getting better from her back surgery. Have you seen the new trees in the Great Hall? There are four of them and they were purchased with money from the Memorial Account. **Edith** is going to New York to watch her grandchildren while Beth is in Florida helping **Betty** and **Harold Payne**.

Other than this, there isn't much to report. I hope you are enjoying the warm winter. I may not need to go to Florida after all!! Let me know if something special is going on in your life. Just fill out a form from the mail room and give it to Fr. David or someone in the office. They will see that I get it.

## St. David's February Birthdays

3	Joseph Stiles
3	Matthew Transeth
7	Robert Bailey
7	Barbara Wegener
7	Geri Root
8	Shirley Nostrant
8	Margaret Smithka
9	Jack Miller
11	Bernoline Knapp
12	Kristin Pfauth
12	Lawrence Byers
12	James Kent
12	Mike Carr
13	Elizabeth Byers
18	Steve Hosmer
19	Ray McNab
19	Tim Ross
21	Charla-Fay Smith
22	Shirley Bailey
22	Cristin Bosom
25	Elizabeth Sherman
27	Devon Hill
28	Alice Vandermoere
28	Elaine Love
28	Douglas Sherman

## February Anniversaries

2	Frank & Sharon Pancino
13	Bill & Yvonne Fleener
14	Francis & Carolyn Jacobs



## *St. David's Pancake Supper*

*Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>*

*5:00-7:00 p.m.*

Please come and join us when St. David's Watermen host their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

If you would like to help, please sign-up on the sheets in the narthex.

## Spaghetti dinner a huge success

By Jenny Brewer

Last month, the St. David's High School class hosted our first annual spaghetti dinner. We weren't sure how many people would come or how much we would be able to raise. Basically we had no idea what to expect. The turnout was way beyond our wildest expectations. The support shown by the parishioners, their families, friends, and the community was amazing. We were hoping to raise about \$200. We were astounded to realize we cleared nearly \$600 in profit.

Half of this money will go to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing which we will be able to tour. The other half will be used to enhance the multi-purpose room at St. David's. We are currently comparing prices on foosball tables and other such games. Our heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to all who dined with us or graciously donated to our causes.

Jenny Brewer and the St. David's High School Class

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## Greetings from St. David's Watermen Group

By Jim Thurston

I would like to thank all the participants who attended our last two "Special Speaker" events. I believe everyone had a wonderful and informative time. The speakers were wonderful. Stay tuned for our next scheduled speaker. Remember that all "Special Speaker" events are open to everyone.

The Watermen's job jar has provided assistance to our church members over the last month or so from our bank of talented members. I believe this tool is a valuable asset to anyone seeking a bit of extra help with projects they would not normally tackle themselves. Please feel free to submit a request for assistance; it provides the men of St. David's an opportunity to give back to our community.

I would also like to thank our Job Jar Talent Bank participants. YOU'RE THE BEST!!

## News from St. David's Christian Ed

By Nan Strickler

I hope everyone enjoyed the Spaghetti Dinner our High School students cooked on January 13<sup>th</sup>! Over 120 meals were served, including many new faces. If you missed it, be sure to watch for announcements about the Mexican Night Dinner they are planning for next fall.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are getting ready for a weekend retreat to Higgins Lake and Treetops Resort in northern Michigan. This will be Friday to Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. **Pray for snow!!!**

We are all working toward a reflective and pensive Lent. Christian Ed will once again be working with Heifer International for our Lenten outreach project. So-o-o-o, keep an eye out for those empty plastic Easter eggs and start saving your extra coins. ☒

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## Church Women United Interfaith Day

This year's program is "Instrument of Peace" and will take place on February 26<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to attend, please sign up on the registration sheet on the table in the Narthex. It is necessary to get our reservations in early as space is limited and last year it was a sell-out. The meeting will be at St. James Catholic Church in Mason. Tickets for the luncheon are \$7.00. ☒

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## ECW Garage Sale coming up

By Rose McNab

St. David's ECW will have their Garage Sale on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in the Great Hall. As you come across good salable items you no longer want, please put them aside for our sale. Donations may be brought to church from Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through noon on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. If it is necessary to store any item (s) before then, please contact either Eileen Newhouse at 372-4766 or Rose McNab at 321-6586, and we will make storage space available to you. ☒

# Read the Bible in a year

## February's reading

1	Lk 23.1-25	Gn 41	Ps 32
2	Lk 23.26-56	Gn 42	Ps 33
3	Lk 24.1-12	Gn 43	Ps 34
4	Lk 24.13-53	Gn 44	Ps 35
5	He 1	Gn 45.1-46.27	Ps 36
6	He 2	Gn 46.28-47.31	Ps 37
7	He 3.1-4.13	Gn 48	Ps 38
8	He 4.14-6.12	Gn 49-50	Ps 39
9	He 6.13-20	Ex 1-2	Ps 40
10	He 7	Ex 3-4	Ps 41
11	He 8	Ex 5.1-6.27	Pr 1
12	He 9.1-22	Ex 6.28-8.32	Pr 2
13	He 9.23-10.18	Ex 9-10	Pr 3
14	He 10.19-39	Ex 11-12	Pr 4
15	He 11.1-21	Ex 13-14	Pr 5
16	He 11.22-40	Ex 15	Pr 6.1-7.5
17	He 12	Ex 16-17	Pr 7.6-27
18	He 13	Ex 18-19	Pr 8
19	Mt 1	Ex 20-21	Pr 9
20	Mt 2	Ex 22-23	Pr 10
21	Mt 3	Ex 24	Pr 11
22	Mt 4	Ex 25-27	Pr 12
23	Mt 5.1-20	Ex 28-29	Pr 13
24	Mt 5.21-48	Ex 30-32	Pr 14
25	Mt 6.1-18	Ex 33-34	Pr 15
26	Mt 6.19-34	Ex 35-36	Pr 16
27	Mt 7	Ex 37-38	Pr 17
28	Mt 8.1-13	Ex 39-40	Pr 18

## Abbreviations for February's reading

### New Testament

Lk	Luke
He	Hebrews
Mt	Matthew

### Old Testament

Gn	Genesis
Ps	Psalms
Pr	Proverbs
Ex	Exodus

## Contemplative prayer

*By Barbara Van Dyke*

This year, one of the class offerings during the Wednesday night class sessions will be about contemplative prayer. I will be the teacher/ guide for this series. The first meeting, February 20, will be a combination of instruction and discussion of the different types of contemplative prayer. A more detailed discussion with "hands on" experience of these types of Contemplative Prayer will occur in the weeks to follow. At this time I am looking for a traveling Labyrinth and will be able to plan activities

for the specific weeks when a date for the Labyrinth has been secured.

General information about Contemplative Prayer will be the topic for our first meeting. We will discuss the writings of some of the contemplatives and look at references in Scripture of time away from others while spending time with God..

Please see **PRAYER, 7**

## News from St. David's annual meeting

By Ric Sorrell

St. David's held its 2002 annual meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Following a delicious potluck, Fr. David opened the meeting with prayer at 1:15 p.m.

The minutes from the 2001 annual meeting were discussed and approved, then the open positions on the vestry were filled. Gail Donovan was elected to fill a two-year term that was created by a vacancy on the current vestry. Elected to full, three-year terms were Tom George, John Post, Dawn Iverson, and Jerry Williams. Mike Wils, Denise Wils, and Bill Fleener were selected as convention delegates, while Jean Bechtel and Ron Schavey were named as alternates. Current vestry member John Strickler was chosen by Fr. David to be the Senior Warden. Dave Byers and Craig Leinbach stay on as the treasurer and assistant

treasurer, respectively, while Bill Fleener takes over as the Junior Warden.

Annual reports from various committees and groups were then received and approved, as were the annual reports from Fr. David, Sue Kohler, the out-going Senior Warden, and Mike Wils, the departing Junior Warden. Fr. David expressed his thanks to Sue and Mike, as well as to other individuals who help keep St. David a viable, growing community.

The 2002 budget was presented, discussed, and unanimously approved. The parish then unanimously approved a change to the by-laws that redefined the term "quorum." Fr. David closed the meeting at 2:30 p.m. ✠



## Scenes from the spaghetti dinner



# John 3:16

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

*Created by: [www.bible-trivia.com](http://www.bible-trivia.com)*

## Word List

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life

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## Prayer

Continued **FROM 5**

We will discuss why this type of prayer is important and how it relates to Contemplative Spiritual Formation Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and walking the Labyrinth will be discussed in both general and specific terms with time to participate in each type

some time during the Lenten programs. No previous experience necessary, however, those with experience are welcome to participate with the class. Each week will be different and there may be some overlap between sessions. ✠



# *Youth Winter Retreat!!*

*February 22-24, 2002*

3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and chaperones

We will leave from St. David's on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and return on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. We will stay at a cottage on Higgins Lake and spend all day Saturday sledding, skiing, snow boarding, and tubing at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. All meals are included, except for Friday evening when we stop at McDonald's on the way to Higgins Lake.

**Registration deadline is Sunday, February 17.**

Look for registration forms and other information in the narthex or call Debbie Davis at 241-5919 (day) or 886-5210 (after 5:30 p.m.)

St. David's Episcopal Church  
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