

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 2

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

February 2003

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St. David's

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector, Church Box 103
Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director

Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134
Bill Fleener, Jr., Jr. Warden, Box 37
Dave Byers, Treasurer, Box 15
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Scott Foster, Box 121
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Davis, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Jerry Williams, Box 115
Craig Leinbach, Box 27
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry

St. John's

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

Vestry

Ted Dotts, Senior Warden
William Gin, Junior Warden
Deborah Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford
Nina Robinson
Cara Stapor
Sandra Garrison
Stephen Stofflet
Alma Stahl
Brett McRae
Karen Steiner

Newsletter

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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

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Charlotte, MI 48813
Telephone: 517-543-4430
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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

Candlemas Day

Everyone knows that February 2nd is Groundhog's Day. In some parts of the country, it has become quite a festival. Millions of TV viewers watch carefully to see if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow to determine how many more weeks of winter are left. You can even go to www.groundhog.org and find a complete website, listing the history of Groundhog's Day, the 2003 schedule of events, and an official souvenir shop. While we are discussing groundhogs, rumor has it there is a parishioner here at St. David's who can cook a mean "groundhog stew."

February 2nd is also known as The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. Forty days had passed since the birth of Jesus, and his parents brought him to the Temple to present their first born to be dedicated to God as required in Exodus 13:2, 22:29. This was done in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt at the time when the first born males of Egypt died and the first born males of Israel were spared. At the presentation, Simeon was nearby; his response is recorded in Luke 2:25-35. This celebration serves as a reminder to each of us that Christ is the Light of the World and that we live in that glorious light.

In some churches, this day is also known as Candlemas. According to Celtic tradition, Bridget was the goddess of fire, the hearth, the smithy, the fields and poetry. She also was believed to give her blessings to women who were about to marry. To honor her, such women were given the name "bride" on that special day. On Bridget's day, at sundown candles were placed in every window of the house and allowed to burn until dawn the following day. When the Christian church came into contact with these beliefs, they were altered. It became the day when all candles to be used by the church in the following year were blessed.

People began to call the celebration a festival of light. Again, this worked well with the teachings of Jesus being the light of the world.

In this time of cold temperatures, short days and not nearly enough sunlight, it is necessary to have something positive to celebrate. Punxsutawney Phil meets that need for some. Gathering for a liturgical worship is necessary for others. For all Christians, it is important to remember that Christ is the true Light of the World. Darkness cannot overcome it. In John 8:12 Jesus says "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

For me, having Jesus as my Savior, being promised eternal life, and not stumbling around in the darkness trumps Punxsutawney Phil and any concerns I might have on how long winter will last. On February 2nd I will be honoring the Presentation and will light a candle in the church as I say my prayers of thanksgiving. What will you be doing?

With deepest affections and blessings,

Fr. David

Reverend Carol's message

The Bible How much do we know about it?

Sunday, February 1, was Bible Sunday. It is a day set aside for the purpose of calling attention to Scripture and all it brings us and teaches us. The Bible is made up of 66 books, each one having a story to tell and messages to bring. It is a book that is inspired by God, so that we may know him and be nearer to what He wishes us to know and live by.

The Bible is divided into two sections -- the Old Testament or the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books in it, ranging from history to poetry. It has the life story of God's chosen people, from the faith of one man, Abraham, to the prophesy of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These 39 books contain the coming of age of God's desire for his people to worship Him and to be His servants. God chose Noah to build the ark so that the species of the world would not be lost. God asked Abraham to leave his home and begin a whole new life, without explanation. And the history of God continues to grow and become clearer in purpose, as the twelve tribes of Israel grow and become the source of tradition and a people who would be the ancestors of our Lord Jesus. The Old Testament is a source of strength and of hardship, of sacrifice and comfort, a light in the darkness, and a book full of heroes and villains. Yet, through all of this, the Old Testament is full of stories of God's people striving to serve and worship their God in a way that was meaningful and one that followed God's instructions.

The New Testament has 27 books that tell the story of Jesus' life and what impact his life had on the lives of the ones called Christian. The New Testament opens with the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books contain

the story of Jesus' life from birth to death. It is a series of books that contain the teachings of Jesus and how this new belief system was to take the place of the old one, the one that had kept the people of Israel together for hundreds of years. Some of the books contained in this part of the Bible are called epistles. These are letters that were written by more than one person to encourage, instruct, and give positive or negative feedback about their community and its actions and attitudes. The New Testament gives us hope and a knowledge of God in a whole new way, for Jesus taught to love and accept, to give and not expect return, and to forgive and not look back. None of this is easy and none is expected to be simple, but it is a new life in God and ourselves.

There is an easy way to remember the number of books in the Bible. Just remember 39(you know, that age that adults not suppose to pass, the one Jack Benny would not allow himself to get any older) and then multiply $3 \times 9 = 27$ and there you have it, $39 \text{ plus } 27 = 66$. I know, some say the solution is more work then the question, but I guarantee you won't forget it. I've remembered this trick for 50 years, so it must work.

Take this time and look at your Holy Bible and read it, read about it, and read for understanding and inspiration. For you see, it opens our hearts up to hear God's voice.

God Bless You All,

Rev. Carol

The Church mouse heard ...

Things are back to normal at the church. After a lot of begging, Fr. David finally found homes for all the Christmas poinsettias. The church does look kind of bare without all the decorations!

Mary Jane Buzzie's mother, Mary Hill, is spending the winter living with Jim and Mary Jane. She has attended a couple of Senior World Luncheons and is busy making friends on Sunday morning. Mike and Sandy Vaughn have a new son. His name is Rory Michael Vaughn and along with his sister Ashley are keeping Mike and Sandy busy. Needless to say Grandpa and Grandma (Dave and Janie) are thrilled as is Great-Grandpa Larry Byers and Great-Great Grandma Elizabeth Byers.

There are now five, five-generation families in the parish. They are the Benoit family, the Byer family, the Chapin family, the Leigh family, and the Robins family. Edith Cole was really surprised at the party given in honor of her 25 years as secretary of St. David's. She didn't know a thing about the special reception or that Chris, Beth, and their children were coming for the special event. Edith will really enjoy the airline ticket to New York when she goes in March to help Eric celebrate his Confirmation.

Be sure to look at the new artwork in the Narthex. Five students in the Worship Center drew pictures of what Christmas meant to them. The artists are Danielle Summers, David Transeth, Trevor Spitzley, Emily Summers, and Maddi Cote. Sixteen people from St. David's went skating at Edru Rink. Thanks to Nan Strickler and Deb Davis for setting this up. Dottie Holmes called last week and talked to people in the office. She is moving to Georgia to be closer to her son. Steve Leigh's dad, Kenneth, died this past week after a several year fight with cancer. The prayers of the church have been greatly appreciated. Rose McNab wants to be sure to let everyone know how much she appreciates the prayers, cards, love, and concern shown these past weeks.

Andrew Tisdale just finished acting in the Waverly High School production of Anything Goes. It was a great production. Gary Mugnolo, Jennifer Pike, Michael Carr, and Margaret Leiby worked on a Faith Alive in Lancaster, Ohio. Brian Paff received an early Christmas present when he received his acceptance

St. David's February Birthdays

1	Loren Spitzley
4	Matthew Transeth
5	Ashley Kay Lynn Vaughn
7	Robert Bailey
7	Barbara Wegener
7	Geri Root
8	Shirley Nostrant
8	Margaret Smithka
11	Bernie Knapp
12	Kristin Pfauth
12	Lawrence Byers
12	James Kent
12	Mike Carr
13	Elizabeth Byers
18	Steve Hosmer
19	Tim Ross
21	Charla-Fay Smith
22	Shirley Bailey
22	Cristin Bosom
25	Elizabeth Sherman
26	Emily Kriek
27	Devon Hill
28	Alice Vandermoere
28	Elaine Love
28	Douglas Sherman

February Anniversaries

13	Bill & Yvonne Fleener
14	Francis & Carolyn Jacobs

notice to be a member of the Class of 2007 at Michigan State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, his first choice. Brian will graduate from Grand Valley State University as a presidential Scholar in April and will move back in with mom and dad, Kay and Bill Paff. Nancy and Frank Howard's grandson, Joshua Blanchard, is now a starter for the Grand Ledge High School JV Basketball team in the position of Point Guard. Grand Ledge is having an excellent year in basketball. Lore Tuttle is recovering from eye surgery. Susan Froeligh is home recovering from outpatient surgery. Many of the snowbirds have been in touch. All are well and enjoying warmer weather.

News from Carol's Corner

Lots of **thanks to all** who have been so giving and for all your prayers these past few weeks.

If any one is interested in **Inquirer's Class or Confirmation** please let me know so a date can be set.

If any young person is interested in being the play "**God Spell**" please let Steve Stofflet know or the rector.

If any would like to be involved in a **Lenten Program** please let the rector know so that one can be planned.

The choir would like more persons **to sing**; if you would like to take a place in the choir please let Vickie, our organist, know.

St. David's Annual Meeting Report

Over 70 people attended the 40th Annual Meeting of St. David's. Due to the 50's Hop and Bob Dinner in the Great Hall, the Annual Meeting was held in the Multi-purpose Room. Elected to the Vestry were Charlotte Byers, Deb Davis, Steve Leiby, and Margaret Smithka. The Sr. Warden is John Strickler, the Junior Warden is Jerry Williams, the Clerk of the Vestry is Amber Matthews, the Treasurer is Craig Leinbach, and the Assistant Treasurer is Dave Byers. Vestry Meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of each month and parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Delegates to Convention are Deb Davis, Sue Kohler, and Mike Wils. Alternates to Convention are Barb VanDyke and Denise Wils. Thanks to our outgoing Vestry members Dave Byers, Bill Fleener, and Craig Leinbach. Thanks to the Boy Scouts for setting up the Multi-purpose Room for our meeting and the many volunteers who helped put the Annual Report together. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Narthex.

Thanks to my St. David's family

I thought being a parish secretary I was aware of most everything going on at St. David's. Well! Fr. David and Sue proved me wrong. I was unaware of their planning the nice party on Sunday. Thank you so much for the party and the airline ticket. I'm going to go to New York on the 30th of March when our grandson is confirmed.

Edith Cole

Secret Pal Party

By Carolyn Jacobs

The ECW will be sponsoring the St. David's Secret Pal party to be held Sunday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m. at St. David's. This party is always held the closest Sunday to Valentine's Day with the exchange of the final gift of the year being a Valentine gift. A new Secret Pal will be drawn and our prior year Pal will be revealed. Refreshments will also be served. If you would like to bring a refreshment, please feel free to do so. Let us know if you will be doing this.

This party is open to all women of St. David's who would like to be a part of a fun and rewarding experience of getting to know all of the ladies who have been a part of this event for years, as well as newcomers who are new to the Secret Pal experience. There will be slips to be filled out for the next party the first part of February on the table outside of the Great Hall. Please note: There will be no pre-drawing before the party to avoid confusion. If you cannot attend the party, please let us know, and a name will be drawn for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn Jacobs at 622-1983 or Rose McNab at 321-6586. ☒

The Outreach Corner

By Andi Flitton

MARK FEBRUARY 25TH ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Your Outreach Committee is sponsoring an Outreach Evening on February 25th. We have invited three speakers to join us and tell us more about their organizations. Joining us will be Rev. Hicks from the Lansing City Rescue Mission, who will tell us more about their children's program. Jim from Mother Theresa House will explain their purpose and their program. And Marianne from Christian Services will be here to talk about their projects.

Many of you are aware that we participate in many ways with Christian Services. For instance, our Food Basket families must go through Christian Services, as well as the Clothe A Child and Coat Drives, and we help the Rescue Mission by serving meals once a month. There are many other programs that each of them have. We hope that you will be able to join us for the evening to learn more about them. Mother Theresa House is a new project for us, one that we hope to expand.

We will be meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room at 7:15 p.m. Please join us for the evening. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, or suggestions for other speakers at future gatherings, please contact Andi Flitton at 517-321-2219 or Pat Vine at 517-484-6519. We look forward to gathering together to learn more ways to help our community. ☒

St. David's Christian Ed notes

By Debbie Davis

The "1950's Hop N Bop" was a great success. It was great to see those who had dressed in the 1950's poodle skirts, rolled up blue jeans with T-shirt sleeves rolled up, including the 50's music! I think the next time, there should be dancing, wouldn't that be fun!! Thank you everyone for coming and helping in making this event a great time.

We had our first "Roller Skating" event on January 23rd. I have to say, the adults had just as much fun as the kids!!! By popular demand by all, we will continue with roller skating once a month. The next roller skating event will be **Thursday, February 27th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** at Edru Roller Rink in Holt. The cost is \$5.00 per person. So mark your calendar, don't miss out on the fun! **All ages** are welcome.

Youth Sunday is February 16th. All **students**, please remember you're signed up for **coffee hour**. Please bring a plate of your favorite dessert.

The “2nd Annual Winter Retreat,” will be held February 22 and 23, 2003. Boys and girls in grades 3rd through 8th are invited. A flyer and registration form were sent home with the students. If you need another form, please see Debbie Davis or Nancy Howard.

Watermen calendar of events for February through August 2003
Cut this out and attach it to your refrigerator.

- The Watermen would like to thank Thomas George for his fine talk on the Shriners organization, and the fine work it does with Shriners Hospitals for children. Thanks Tom.
- **March 4**, your one and only Watermen will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. More to follow - so stay plugged in.
- **April 1**, my favorite day of the year. A fun night is planned. Come and enjoy the games. 7-9pm
- **May 10**, a special event is planned – stay tuned.
- **May 11**, a rose will be distributed to every woman attending either service on Mothers Day. This is a fine event that we love doing for the lovely ladies of our fair church.
- **June 1, after the 9:30 service** – about 11 am or so, a men and boys corporate breakfast is planned. Those participating will proceed to the Old Country Buffet for breakfast, fellowship, and laughter. A sign up sheet will be available a few weeks before the event but I want you to mark your calendar now so you will be part of the fun.
- **August 2**, will be a planned day for fun, food, and canoeing down the Chippewa River in Mount Pleasant. Mark your calendars now. Okay – put this paper down and go get your calendar and mark it down right now, other wise you will forget just like I do. The famous Sign Up sheets for this wonderful event will be in July.
- **Remember the Job Jar – we’re here to help.**

Be good and God Bless.
Jim Thurston

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*St. David's
2nd Annual
Youth Winter Retreat!!
February 22-23, 2003*

3rd through 8th grade students and chaperones

At St. David's from 9:00 a.m. on Saturday until 10:15 a.m. on Sunday
Sledding, toboggan run, cross-country skiing, bible games, and much more!

Registration deadline is Sunday, February 16.

Look for registration forms and other information in the narthex or call Debbie Davis at
886-5210 or Nan Strickler at 349-2837