

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 8 No. 1

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

Jan 2002

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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
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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
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Newsletter

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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

Please take a moment and think of the answer you would give to the question, "How do people know what is important in your life?" Do you go around always talking about what is important to you? Do you wear what is important to you on your suit lapel? Can people discover what is important to you by reading your bumper stickers? Do you fly a symbol of what is important to you from the flag pole in front of your house? Are the walls of your office covered with pictures of what is important to you?

I would suspect that most people let others know what is important in many ways. It might be how we decorate our personal space. It certainly would include the conversations we have and what we are willing to share with others about our personal lives. It certainly is possible to discover what is personally important by examining where we put our time, talent, and treasures. A wise person once said, "If you truly want to know what is important to a person, look at their checkbook."

The season of Epiphany is a reminder to us that we are called to make Christ known to the world. Do you remember the final words of St. Matthew's Gospel? Jesus said: "Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

If being a Christian is important to us (and it

should be), then we should at all times be ready and willing to share our journey with Christ. Our faith should be so central to our lives and so energizing that the only response we can give is to share it with others.

Those who already believe and understand what we are talking about will delight in sharing with us. Those who have not yet committed themselves to Christ may be convinced based simply on our witness. We may be the person God uses to get His message across or we may use words that, for the first time, the other person understands and hears.

People can tell when someone truly believes what they are saying and is excited about what is going on in their lives. Likewise, most of us can spot a fake and immediately begin discounting what they are saying. It is hard to accept a person's message when it is obvious that they don't believe a word of what they are saying.

What message about Christ are you putting out to the world at large? Do others know how central to your life Christ is? Are your words and actions reflecting your hope of life eternal with God? How are you making Christ known to the world? Remember your life - actions and words - may be the only Bible a person reads.

May God bless and keep you now and always.

With deepest affection.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. David". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a small flourish at the end of the name.

Reverend Carol's message

A New Year with a new Perspective

A new time and a different world. It is a new year, yet for some strange reason it does not feel new to me. I haven't finished with the old one yet. I'm not sure why I feel that way, but I do. I'm sure 9/11 has something to do with this feeling but I'm not sure how it all fits together. It is really difficult to put into words the sense of something inside of you saying it is never going to be the same again. Our world has been shattered, and it will not be the same, no matter how much we wish it would. It is a time when we are being asked to live when people are doing such things that are so out of line with our common sense, that it is impossible to think that way, or even conceive of what might come next, like a bomb in the sole of a shoe. As wild as the twin towers was, the idea of a bomb in ones shoe seems even more remote and out of line with the way we think.

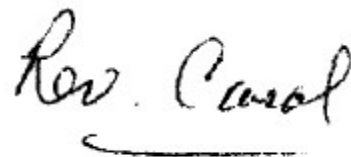
It is this uncertainty that we are in that causes us to wonder what could possibly be next. And while none of this is normal behavior, it is not normal that we turn ourselves into this terror mind-set and start to think the way they have been and will continue to be thinking. It is our job to be the trusting people God is asking us to be, and not question ourselves to the point where we can no longer be the people we were before 9/11. We are not going to second guess terrorists, but we can lean upon our Lord to give us the strength and the insights needed to be His people and to be His hands and feet on this soil. Our Lord never said it was going to be easy. He didn't say we would not suffer, nor have to adjust to a different world during our lifetimes. We must adjust and we must be willing to trust Him and one another more than ever before. We might even get back to the time when one didn't have to lock their front doors, and could send the children outside to play and not worry about them disappearing. It would be nice to have this type of security and peace.

I remember a time when this was true, as I was born during WWII. It was hard and difficult, and there were ration books and limited everything. But there was also a sense of belonging and a sense of togetherness of neighbor and family. Maybe we can, this next year, find a way that in our own areas of life we might try to bring back some of this loyalty and trust for one another. We can't change the world but we can change ourselves!! Let's ask our Lord to help us do just that. And we will be taking a huge step toward finding that trust and having a sense of being secure in our own place that God has given us.

Have a great new year, and begin by being a little more giving and trusting of each other and of oneself, and, more importantly, of our God. If we can trust Him and our neighbors, we will come a long way in becoming the peaceful land we once had and the helping place where no one is ever turned away because they are different. Different is good -- being rude, mean, and full of hate is not.

Let's be Good!!!

God bless each of you, and have a blessed 2002!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Carol". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

The Church Mouse heard ...

I hope everyone had a super Christmas. Thank you to everyone who worked to make it look so beautiful on Christmas Eve. I especially liked the flowers in the corners behind the Altar. It was a great place to hide and watch the service. The branches in the Christmas tree just above the manger were another great place to hide. The children did a grand job of putting on a pageant again this year. Debbie Davis, Nan Strickler, and the rest of the teachers should be very proud of their production. The room looks so bare now that everything is back to normal order.

Fr. David has been very busy visiting people in the hospital. Dee Cannady is continuing to recover from her surgery and hopes to be home before long. Lore Tuttle has been in and out of the hospital while the doctors try and figure out what is wrong with her. Louise Henley is home recovering from surgery to her elbow. Anita Frohnafel is home recovering from a bout of pneumonia. Betty Jean Frost had surgery on her leg and is recovering very well. Soon she will have surgery on the other leg. Pat Vine's sister, Carol, is in the hospital recovering from a heart attack. Sue Gabel is home recovering from her back surgery. I saw Patricia Purol the other day and she is recovering from her leg surgery. Did you hear the new organist, Tim Flynn? He sounded great and so did the choir.

Mary Atwell's funeral was such a celebration of her life! She so loved life, especially singing and dancing. Please keep in your prayers Tim Flynn, whose aunt died and he had to make a fast trip to Cleveland.

Gretchen Smith is looking for someone to do some house cleaning for her every other week. Must be able to work around pets. Please call Gretchen at 321-4955 and leave a message.

See you at the pancake supper next month!

St. David's January Birthdays

2	John Runcie
5	Robert Bishop
6	Alex Lynaugh
7	Jim Ellis
10	Brian Paff
13	Gloria Bastian
13	Jeff Albert
14	Pearl Brooks
14	Nathan Martzke
14	Andrew Leigh
17	Mary Buzzie
18	Mickey Jarous
19	Barb Post
20	Nan Strickler
21	Bill Dods
21	Edith Cole
21	Amanda Wills
23	Faris Howrani
24	Charles Henley
25	Patrick Jacobs
27	Pauline Solomon
28	Glynn Warren
28	KaCey Chapin

January Anniversaries

5	Mike & Pat Johnson
19	John Winters & Carol Abbott



Snowbird Alert !!!

If you are going to a warmer climate for the winter, you can still read each month's issue of *The Good News Letter* on St. David's web page at www.forministry.com/48917sdec.

Notes from St. John's Corner

Eagle Scout Project at St. John's

We have great news!!! Andrew Watson has chosen as his project for his eagle scout award to take charge of our new sign which is being planned for sometime next Spring. He is going to work with the city, with the vestry, and others in order that this can be completed. We are very proud of him and wish to thank him for accepting this responsibility. God bless you, Andrew.

We also have some more news from the Scouting Corner: We now have a tiger cub troop meeting at St. John's every other Monday at 6:30 p.m. This is great news and we are so happy we could support them in this way. Welcome.

A thank you for the Christmas services

We would like to thank Nina, Thelma and Sandi for putting up the Christmas decorations this year, and making the church look nice for our worship of our Lord Jesus on his birthday. And many thanks to all the young people who made our Christmas Eve service so special. It was an honor to have all of you play, help with the felt board, sing, read or play the chimes, or be an acolyte. It was you who made our celebration of our Lord's birth so terrific. And to all the teachers and ones who helped with the music and the set up of our Christmas Celebration, we give you thanks from the bottom of our hearts. And we extend a special thanks to the Altar Guild for decorating our church and for doing all the services. Thanks again for a job well done!

Please read Christian Education Participates

Our Christian Education Programs will continue after the Christmas break. They will begin the first Wednesday after the children return to school. And please remember, even if the Charlotte schools do not have classes on a Wednesday, we do have Christian Education.

Annual Meeting Information

Our Annual Meeting is the last Sunday in January. Please mark your calendars. It will be a pot luck, with the meat and drinks provided. We will elect our new vestry members, and will take care of the business of our parish. Don't forget to turn in your pledges as soon as possible, We need to have them in so we can set our budget. So far, 15 people that pledged last year have not pledged this year. **Please, this is so important to our church and its programs. Thanks so much.**

There has been some discussion about the election of members to the vestry. I would like to explain why I favor the method we have used for the past five years. I would rather have only the number of people running for the number of spaces available on the vestry at that particular time. I do not want to set up anyone for failure and hurt. I believe that if someone consents to run, that they are sincere and that they should not be put in a position to be denied that opportunity or be hurt. No matter what anyone says outwardly, when we are turned down by people we like and respect it hurts. And I don't think this should happen in a church. I also believe that this is an opportunity for a democratic vote, and if there are nominations from the floor then a vote will have to be taken, other than an unanimous one, and someone will be left out. This has been the norm we have followed, if anyone has any questions please direct them to me and I will be happy to discuss this with anyone anytime. Many Thanks.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2002

By Barbara Van Dyke

For with you is the fountain of life
Psalm 36:9

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an eight-day period beginning with the feast of St. Peter on January 18 and ending with the feast of St. Paul on January 25. This is a world-wide, once a year reminder of our responsibility as Christians to pray for all Christians in the sincere hope that we may be unified in our goal of promoting the teachings and life of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 36:9 marks the theme for this eight-day time of prayer. From Genesis to Revelation, we read about the symbolic and theological richness of water that is life-giving and cleansing. Faith, prayer and common action can make water spring from the desert rock of bitterness and cleanse the sting of division in modern Christendom.

The prayer for each of the eight days will be included in the worship at St. David's. We will celebrate the closure of the eight days with a prayer service at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 27. All are invited to participate in this worship.

We are encouraged to pray for Christians through out the world during this eight-day time of prayer designated to remind us of our common life with all Christians. ☩

Jesus and Moses go golfing

Retold by Ric Sorrell

Jesus and Moses came up to the beautiful par 3 hole at the Paradise Gold Course. In front of the green was a pond with a gazillion lily pads and giant orchids. Jesus asked Moses to hand him His 7-iron, but Moses hesitated.

"Pardon me, Lord, but you'll never make it over the water with a 7-iron; try Your 5-iron."

"NO," thundered Jesus, "I've seen Jack Nicklaus play this hole and he uses a 7-iron. So that's what I'm going to use."

Not being one to argue too much with the Son of God, Moses shrugged and handed Jesus His 7-iron. Jesus hit a beautiful shot that sailed through the light breeze and landed – SPLASH – right in the pond.

Moses tried to control himself as he called out to Jesus, "Nice shot, Jack!"

"Very funny," Jesus said. "Just go down to the pond, part the waters, and get my ball."

Moses snickered as he walked down, parted the water, and got Jesus' ball. When he returned to the tee, he handed Jesus the ball and His 5-iron.

Jesus took the ball, but glared icily at Moses as He asked again for His 7-iron.

Moses knew from that look that it was pointless to try to persuade Jesus, so he handed Him the 7-iron, then rolled his eyes as he turned away from the Lord. This time Jesus really hit the ball well, but – SPLASH.

"I'm sorry, Lord," Moses said as he bellowed with uncontrolled laughter, "but I tried to tell you."

Jesus just turned away, walked down to the pond, then started walking over the water to get His ball.

As Jesus was walking on the water, the next foursome walked up to the tee. Seeing a person walking on the water, one of the golfers asked Moses, "Hey, who does that guy think he is – Jesus Christ?"

"No," Moses replied, "He **IS** Jesus Christ. But He **THINKS** that He's Jack Nicklaus!!"

Evening Prayer – a worship experience

By Barbara Van Dyke

Evening Prayer as one of the Daily Offices is influenced by the traditions of the monasteries where the Offices developed and thrived for centuries. The Offices are assumed to be a part of the fabric of daily Christian living.

Evening Prayer is a dignified Office with confession, scripture, canticles, and prayers. This is a time of connection with the saints of the past, the present and the future who pray this Office at the same time.

We are blessed at St. David's to have this time of worship. This is a time to bring our day to closure and move into evening activities by asking for pardon, peace, and protection for the coming night; we also are praying for eternal salvation and unity with Christ in the communion of saints.

The days and times of Evening Prayer are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to worship with the Office of Evening Prayer and to continue the tradition of the saints of the past.

We offer the opportunity to participate in this worship as an officiant – no experience necessary. The training is easy and you will not be left alone until you are comfortable with the Office. The officiant wears a cassock and surplice or cotta and if you do not have one we will search the closet for one that fits. Please contact me at 699-2366 if you feel called to this ministry.

There is an Evening Prayer lay reader's meeting on Saturday, February 2 at 9:30 A.M. All current readers are expected to attend and new folks who are considering this ministry. Bring your Prayer Books, calendars, and come and see.

The *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*, by Marion J Hatchett and *Praying Shapes Believing* by Leonel L. Mitchell were used as sources for this article. ✠

EFM – A Learning Experience

By Barbara Van Dyke

EFM, also known as Education for Ministry, came to me while a seminarian at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. It was an “add-on,” an “Oh, by the way, you have to do this before you can graduate.” With a groan and mourning the loss of a weekend of studying and fun, I signed up for the obligatory time of fast-track learning. Going in, I did not know the EFM vocabulary and please don't ask me about theological reflections. I came out of the weekend certified to be a mentor, whatever that is. I learned the vocabulary and had a nodding acquaintance with theological reflection, whatever that is.

I mentioned to Father David that I am a certified EFM mentor. That statement went further than I anticipated and the next thing I knew I had an energetic group of six EFM participants. It was time to learn more about what being an EFM mentor entailed.

Begin we did, and the learning for all seven of us has been something to behold. First year members study the Old Testament. However, EFM is not about Bible study; it is about learning what the Bible says and what this means to us as a group and as individuals, and how do we take this learning into our lives and share it with others.

In addition to Scripture, we have lessons to read, learn, and inwardly digest. We spend very little time discussing the lessons before moving on to the theological reflection. For you see, theological reflection is the mainstay of the EFM program. We have found our way from humble beginnings of not finishing a reflection in the given time to that great ah-ha moment when we all learned how this applies to our lives and is more than just another painful exercise.

Enough about me, you will hear from the group members in each of the next few newsletters. We plan to have an open seminar to share our life as an EFM group with others and you will have an opportunity to participate in a theological reflection. In true Episcopal fashion, we will do this in conjunction with a potluck. ✠

Read the Bible in a year

January's reading

1	Lk 5.27-39	Gn 1-2	Ps 1
2	Lk 6.1-26	Gn 3-5	Ps 2
3	Lk 6.27-49	Gn 6-7	Ps 3
4	Lk 7.1-17	Gn 8-10	Ps 4
5	Lk 7.18-50	Gn 11	Ps 5
6	Lk 8.1-25	Gn 12	Ps 6
7	Lk 8.26-56	Gn 13-14	Ps 7
8	Lk 9.1-27	Gn 15	Ps 8
9	Lk 9.28-62	Gn 16	Ps 9
10	Lk 10.1-20	Gn 17	Ps 10
11	Lk 10.21-42	Gn 18	Ps 11
12	Lk 11.1-28	Gn 19	Ps 12
13	Lk 11.29-54	Gn 20	Ps 13
14	Lk 12.1-31	Gn 21	Ps 14
15	Lk 12.32-59	Gn 22	Ps 15
16	Lk 13.1-17	Gn 23	Ps 16
17	Lk 13.18-35	Gn 24	Ps 17
18	Lk 14.1-24	Gn 25	Ps 18
19	Lk 14.25-35	Gn 26	Ps 19
20	Lk 15	Gn 27.1-45	Ps 20
21	Lk 16	Gn 27.46-28.22	Ps 21
22	Lk 17	Gn 29.1-30.43	Ps 22
23	Lk 18.1-17	Gn 29.31-30.43	Ps 23
24	Lk 18.18-43	Gn 31	Ps 24
25	Lk 19.1-27	Gn 32-33	Ps 25
26	Lk 19.28-48	Gn 34	Ps 26
27	Lk 20.1-26	Gn 35-36	Ps 27
28	Lk 20.27-47	Gn 37	Ps 28
29	Lk 21	Gn 38	Ps 29
30	Lk 22.1-38	Gn 39	Ps 30
31	Lk 22.39-71	Gn 40	Ps 31

Abbreviations for January's reading

New Testament

Lk Luke

Old Testament

Gn Genesis
Ps Psalms

Important !!! Everyone at St. David's and St. John's

If you haven't already done so, please submit your pledges for this year to your respective church office as soon as possible.

We need these to prepare the annual budget!

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*

Plants of the Bible

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

Created by: www.bible-trivia.com

Word List

Anise Bramble Brier Broom Calamus Camphire Cummin Fitch Garlic Gourd
Grass Hyssop Juniper Lily Mallows Mandrakes Mint Mustard Myrtle Rose Rue
Saffron Spikenard Thorn VineofSodom Wormwood

One day in the Garden

Submitted by Rhonda Sorrell

One day in the Garden of Eden, Eve calls out to God. "Lord, I have a problem!"

"What's the problem Eve?"

"Lord, I know you created me and provided this beautiful garden and all of these wonderful animals and that hilarious comedic snake, but I'm just not happy."

"Why is that, Eve?" came the reply from above.

"Lord, I am lonely, and I'm sick to death of apples."

"Well, Eve, in that case, I have a solution. I shall create a man for you."

"What's a man, Lord?"

"This man will be a flawed creature, with many bad traits. He'll lie, cheat, and be vain -- all in all, he'll give you a hard time. But he'll be bigger, faster, and will like to hunt and kill things. He will look silly when he's aroused, but since you've been complaining, I'll create him in such a way that he will satisfy your physical needs. He will be witless and revel in childish things, like fighting and kicking a ball about. He won't be too smart, so he'll also need your advice to think properly."

"Sounds great," says Eve, with an ironically raised eyebrow. "What's the catch, Lord?"

"Well ... you can have him on one condition."

"What's that, Lord?"

"As I said, he'll be proud, arrogant, and self-admitting... so you'll have to let him believe that I made him first. Just remember, it's our little secret ... you know, woman to woman!"



Thanks to Rachel

01-07-2002

**MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES TO ANYONE WHO GOT
INJURED LAST WEEK WHEN WE SCHEDULED THE
BAKE SALE AND WEIGHT WATCHERS FOR THE
SAME EVENING**



Annual Meetings

*St. David's
Sunday, 20 January 2002*

*St. John's
Sunday, 27 January 2002*

Potluck immediately after the 10:30 service followed by the meeting

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

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