

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 7 No. 4

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

June 2001

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St. David's

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Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Jon Jackinchuk, Organist/Choir Director

Vestry

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Mike Wils, Jr. Warden/Youth, Box 55
Dave Byers, Treasurer/R&E, Box 15
Kathy Ryan, Outreach, Box 63
Bill Fleener, Christian Ed, Box 37
Ron Schavey, Worship, Box 44
Scott Foster, Fellowship, Box 121
John Strickler, Communications, Box 134
Joe Miller, Building & Grounds, Box 52
Sandy Bechtel, New Person, Box 6
John Runcie, Lay Ministry, Box 50
Craig Leinbach, Stewardship, Box 27
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Karen Gin, Secretary

Vestry

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Kara Stapor
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St. David's Episcopal Church

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Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Friday 7:00 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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517-327-1839 (Rev. Carol)
E-mail: revcarol@aol.com

Service Schedule

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

Reflections of Father David

Time Passage

One afternoon I was sitting in my office working on a sermon while quietly playing music on my CD player. The CD playing was called Celtic Secrets, traditional British Isles celtic-folk melodies in the "folk-baroque" style. It is a great CD for having quiet background music, which allows me to focus better on whatever I am working on.

One of the recordings was a piece called Scarborough Fair, an old song made popular in the 60's by Simon and Garfunkel. It has long been among my favorite pieces of music. I well remember the first time I heard Scarborough Fair. It was during the winter of 1969-70. I was attending a youth group sleepover at Grace Church in Grand Rapids. I didn't know anyone there and couldn't tell you who was in charge or what we talked about. I do remember very clearly a youth sitting on the steps before the Altar, playing a 12 string guitar, singing the Simon and Garfunkel version of Scarborough Fair. To this day, whenever I hear Scarborough Fair, I remember that night. I often wonder who the young man was and what has become of him.

This newsletter arrives at the close of the Easter Season. Hopefully, each of us has celebrated with joy the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Perhaps, as with my memories of Scarborough Fair, there are new Easter moments burned upon your memories which will, in the future, again and again surface and fill you with joy and delight. Perhaps there are past Easters that you remember vividly -- perhaps involving loved family members now gone.

Time passes so quickly. We really do need to make the most of each day. Easter is a reminder of new birth and new hope. Starting fresh and beginning again should be foundation stones in all our relationships. Again and again, Ann Landers

tells people to mend their fences and reach out and reconnect. Often in her wisdom she tells people not to burn their bridges, and to take the high road in life's events and relationships.

It is hard to do that. It is much easier to carry a grudge, especially when it is "justified." We say far too often, "Well, so and so treated me badly. They got what they deserved." Easter has been a reminder that with God "we don't get what we deserve." For that, we should be most thankful.

With the Festival of Pentecost, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. With that gift we receive the power and the command to spread the Good News of Christ. Too often we feel that what we say and how we act must be earth shattering. Because we feel we cannot accomplish so lofty a goal, we do nothing. In reality, what we do, what we say, how we share, can be as gentle and ordinary as a gifted young man playing a guitar. We have no way of knowing how our witness touches others. The Holy Spirit gives us the gifts and we must use them. God will take care of the rest.

As this summer passes all too quickly, may God always continue to bless and keep you.

Words from Reverend Carol

Peace I Give to You

Jesus said these words as he was speaking to his apostles, for he was soon to return to his Father. He is telling them and us about the Counselor, the Holy Spirit who will be with us forever. Jesus finishes his words by saying, "... whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring you to remembrance of what I have said to you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you."

There is one important phrase here that I would like to emphasize to you and to myself, "... He (Holy Spirit) will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all I have said to you." 'Bring to your remembrance' is a very important phrase, it tells us in very concrete terms that we have the ability to know His peace, to recognize the Counselor, with absolutely no doubt, for our being is wired to receive the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we do for ourselves, it is inherent in our being. The Holy Spirit is the presence of Christ, and it surrounds us, it is here at this very moment. God's peace is not an earned or developed sense, it simply is a gift. However, there is an issue here that we may not realize: what Jesus defines as peace may not be the same thing as we may define it or wish it to be. The story below describes the peace that God gives to us:

It seems that one day an artist was commissioned by a wealthy man to paint something that would depict peace. After a great deal of thought, the artist painted a beautiful country scene. There were green fields with cows standing in them, birds were flying in the blue sky, and a lovely, little village lay in a distant valley. The artist gave the picture to the man, but there was a look of disappointment on the patron's face. The man said to the artist, "This isn't a picture of true peace. It isn't right. Go back and try again."

The artist went back to his studio, thought for several hours about peace, then went to his canvas and began to paint. He painted a picture of a mother holding her sleeping baby in her arms, smiling lovingly at the child. He thought, surely, this is true peace, and hurried to give the picture to the wealthy man. But again, the wealthy man refused the painting and asked the painter to try again.

The artist returned again to his studio. He was discouraged, he was tired, he was disappointed. Anger swelled inside him, he felt the rejection of this wealthy man. Again, he thought, he even prayed for inspiration to paint a picture of true peace. Then, all of a sudden an idea came. He rushed to the canvas, and began to paint as he had never painted before. When he finished, he hurried to the wealthy man.

He gave the painting to the man. The man studied it carefully for several minutes. The artist held his breath. Then the wealthy man said, "Now this is a picture of true peace." He accepted the painting and paid the artist, and everyone was happy.

And what was this picture of true peace? The picture showed a stormy sea pounding against a cliff. The artist had captured the fury of the wind as it whipped black, rain clouds that were laced with streaks of lightning. The sea was roaring in turmoil, waves churning, the dark sky filled with the power of the furious churning, the dark sky filled with the power of the furious thunderstorm. And in the middle of the picture, under a cliff, the artist had painted a small bird, safe and dry in her nest, snuggled safely in the rocks. The bird was at peace amidst the storm that raged about her.

Please see **PEACE, 5**

The Church Mouse heard ...

Karen and Rob Oleson have a new son, **Nickolas Ryan**, born 5/16/01 at 3:42 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 13 oz. and is 22 inches long. Big sister **Bridgette** is very proud of her new brother, as are the grandparents, **Dick and Norma Hammond** and **Bob and Sandy Oleson**.

Scottie and Helen Lee attended the graduation ceremony of Tara Lynne (twin sister of Diana) on May 18th in Conway, Arkansas. **Yvonne Fleener** finished her Masters at MSU this past winter. She has certainly been busy going to school, working, and taking care of her family. **Adam Martzke** graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor's in business administration. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps and now is at Basic School at the Marine Corps Headquarters in Quantico, VA. I hear after basic he will go to Pensacola, Fla. for training as a U.S. Marine Corps pilot. **Paddy Donovan** graduated from Waverly High School and in the fall will attend Grand Valley State University, as will **Dan Paff**, who graduated from Grand Ledge High School. **Sara Tisdale** and **Jennifer Pike** graduated from Waverly High School. **Jennifer** will go to the University of Michigan in the fall. **Rachel Stanton** graduated from Lansing Everett High School and is still undecided. Great job everyone!

KaCey Chapin made the Portland High School Honor Roll and Principal's List. In case you have not marked it in your home directory, the **Chapin** Estate is now located in Portland at 530 Canal St. The home phone is 517- 647-7692.

By the way I saw a new parish directory in progress in the parish office. It should be out before long. If you have a new address, phone number, or e-mail address, please get it to Sue or Edith ASAP so, for a brief period of time, our directory will be up to date! Congrats to **Patrick Jacobs** for being on the Michigan State YABA Tournament Team Class C Bowling Champs. His team name was the Hunters and they bowled at Royal Scott. **Ginny Strang's** son, The **Rev. Gary Hamp**, continues as the Interim at St. James'

June Birthdays

1	Eryn Fleener
1	Sue Doll
2	Fred Wegener
6	John Post
7	Jeff McNeil
9	Dick Otto
9	Kerry Chapin
12	Harry Grant
13	Keith Williams
14	Carol Williams
15	Andrew Pike
16	Katy Rose Smith
16	Mike Wils
18	Pat Vine
19	Ross Hill
21	Kay Paff
23	Barb Kowalski
23	Paul Kennedy
23	Heather Toslma
25	Alicia Ferraro
30	Diane Kent

June Anniversaries

17	Joe & Alicia Ferraro
20	Walter & Marci Reynolds
20	John & Sandra Bechtel
21	Scottie & Helen Lee
25	John & Barb Post
25	Ric & Rhonda Sorrell

Birmingham in the Diocese of Michigan. On a sad note, **Bill Hawes** mother Lola died this past month and, just in today, **Pearl Brooks** sister, Lois, died; **Faris Howrani's** mother, Katherine, died; and **Ken Donovan's** mother, Janet, died. Please keep all these brothers and sisters in your prayers and thoughts during this time of loss.

Tina Martzke became an associate member and **Patricia Purol** became a full member of the International Order of St. Luke at the one day healing conference held at St. David's.

Please see **MOUSE, 6**

Notes from St. John's Corner

Don't forget the monthly dinner on Tuesday, June 26th. Helpers and eaters alike are invited!

Wish our Saints a safe and pleasant trip when they leave for England on Friday, June 29th.

Peace I give to you

Continued **FROM 3**

With this story in mind, we can see how Jesus defines peace. This is the closest I have ever read to the peace that Jesus himself knew, and what we can know. The peace of nature, the peace of tenderness and gentleness, and a peace that gives us a sense of grace and comfort, in the mist of stones and conflict. God's grace is knowing peace in the midst of turmoil, a peace where we can nurture and give birth to a new approach or calm without fear, where God will spread his wings of safety over us and keep us safe.

Peace is not something that can come from the outside. It is not even the absence of fear or conflict or turmoil; peace is not an end in itself. It is a beginning of a new attitude, a new approach, a new viewpoint or a calm without fear, a new creation inside of ourselves. Like the bird in the nest, we are safe and secure and not in fear of the storm that may be surrounding us.

In Hebrew, peace, Shalom, is more than the absence of things that disturbs -- it is defined as a new concept of wholeness, of being one with God, an at-oneness with our Lord, our neighbors, and ourselves. Being at peace from God's perspective is having the causes of war, conflict, greed, hate, fear, injustice, intolerance, and prejudices eliminated, not with a temporary cure, but with having the causes of such conflict, war, turmoil etc. dissolved, eradicated forever. Remember, God does not treat symptoms, but treats the cause.

In our world, we tend to live in what one might call a negative spiritual captivity, a spiritual captivity that tempts us to cling to the past, to

complain about the present, rather than to move into the future with confidence and a new attitude.

What would it be like if, instead of complaining about things that are not perfect at home, church or work, we instead claimed the promises of God and looked to what was good and positive instead of the wrong and the negative. This kind of approach shows us that most enduring things, the most important, the highest priority activities in our lives, allows us to see through the negative, instead of plowing through it. So many people get their energy from negative and argumentative approaches to life, and as many of us know, me included, one can energize oneself on negative energy. Like the energizer bunny, there doesn't seem to be an end to this form of activity. But there is an end. It is called a heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, etc.

The peace offered us by our Lord is one that gives us that safe, secure peace in the midst of the storm. It is the peace that lasts, a peace that gives us a silent but deepening sense of ourselves that is beyond words. It is this sense of peace that allows us to be called into remembrance of Christ's peace. We only need to allow our hearts to be plugged into God's grace.

When we can see our own being and allow God's peace in our hearts, we can also be that bird, safe and sound, hidden inside the cliff, where God's hand touches ours.

Rev. Carol

Eastern Deanery meeting

By John Post

A meeting of the lay and clergy delegates to the Eastern Deanery was held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Battle Creek on Saturday, May 19th. Mother Carol Spangenburg chaired the meeting and opened it with prayer. There was a report of the actions of the last meeting and a discussion was continued concerning the use of a \$1500 grant that was provided for the Deanery by the Diocese. The funds will be used to sponsor a Deanery workshop devoted to education and music that will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall in August, either the 18th or the 25th. More information will be forthcoming.

Mother Carol announced that openings still exist for the Diocesan Summer Camp programs. There was a brief discussion of the plans and procedures to elect a new bishop for the Diocese of Western Michigan. The meeting date for the next Deanery meeting was changed to Saturday, September 15th, from 10 a.m. to noon. The location will be announced later.

There was some discussion of the role of Internet technology in the parishes in the Deanery, including e-mail and parish web sites. Mother Carol reported on the planned trip to England this summer by a group from St. Johns in Charlotte. It was also announced that an Acolyte festival will be held at the Cathedral on Saturday, September 14, 2002. ✕

Teddy Bear Sunday recap

By Meda Thrall

Teddy Bear Sunday, started by St. David's E.C.W., was a big success. We collected about 80 bears (plus a few bunnies!) on April 29th. Since then, we have received a dozen or more. So – it has been decided to make this an annual project. Feel free to bring a bear at any time. They can be left in the mail room (former office) and we will store them for next year.

To all the children and adults – thank you again for your participation in this fun project. The deputies were so pleased to get so many stuffed animals. It is a great feeling to think that we will make some child feel better in an unpleasant situation. ✕

St. David's Outreach update

By Pat Vine

Would you like to help clothe a child for school in the fall?

We are going to participate in a drive called *Clothe a Child*. We need new or gently used clothing from socks and underwear all the way out to jackets, mittens, and hats. The clothing can be for either boys or girls, in sizes 4 to 20.

There will be a box in the narthex every day during the month of July. Just place your clothing items in the box. The clothing will be blessed on the first Sunday in August and the Outreach Committee will deliver them to Judson Memorial Baptist Church. There, families assigned from Christian Services will go and choose two outfits per child.

We have been supporting this outreach project for several years with cash to buy underwear and socks. But this year we wanted to do more, as many more families needed help due to the slow economy. So please help us to help them!

For more information, please contact Pat Vine at 484-6519. ✕

Mouse

Continued **FROM 4**

Harold and Betty Payne took a quick trip to New York to see Chris, Beth and the children. **Edith Cole** will be going out there before long to also see the children and grandchildren. ✕

Gracias a todos!

By Paddy Donovan

This is Spanish for 'thank you everyone' for helping me fund my spring break trip to Costa Rica.

Thank you for the pop cans, your monetary gifts, and for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. The trip was lots of fun. We visited the rain forest, an active volcano, spent a day on a tropical island, and, of course, went shopping.

It was an interesting experience living with my host family. The last night of our trip was a Friday in Lent. I was fortunate to experience the way my host family observes the Stations of the Cross. Each house in the neighborhood set up an altar in their driveway or yard. They processed to each house, listened to the reading for the station, then heard a testimonial given by a member of the household. It was really neat to celebrate Christianity in another culture.

Muchas Gracias. ✕

Nice thoughts

Submitted by Fr. David

Take this short quiz:

- Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
- Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
- Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
- Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
- Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
- Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-

raters. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades end certificates are buried with their owners.

So, here's another quiz. See how you do on this one.

- List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
- Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
- Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
- Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
- Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
- Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? The lesson?

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones who care.

Pass this on to those people who have made a difference in your life. I just did. ✕

The story of St. David

In addition to being our Patron Saint, Saint David is also the Patron Saint of Wales. More than 50 churches in South Wales are dedicated to Saint David.

Information about his life is quite sketchy. Nothing was actually written about his life until Rhigyfarch wrote The Life of David in the eleventh century, nearly 500 years after his death.

Saint David was born on the southwest coast of Wales near the present city of Saint Dewi. He is reported to have been a very gentle person with an

extremely frugal lifestyle. Hard manual labor and constant study occupied much of his time. Water was an integral part of his life -- he is said to have consumed no other drink. Sometimes as a self-imposed penance, he would stand up to his neck in cold water, reciting Scripture.

Many events of David's life are probably more apocryphal than factual, but are very well known to Welsh school children. At the Synod of Llanddewi Brefil, it was to be decided if David would become the Archbishop of Llanddewi Brefil. The crowd at the Synod was very large and when Dewi (David) stood to speak, one of the spectators shouted "We won't be able to see or hear him." At that moment the ground rose until all in attendance could see and hear Dewi. Not surprisingly, he became the Archbishop. During his time as Archbishop, he established 12 monasteries.

Monastic life was very simple. When they were not praying, the monks were working hard on the land. No cattle were used to ease their work tilling the ground and they could only speak on the occasion of utter necessity. Late in the day, they returned to the monastery to dine on bread, vegetables, and water. Three hours of prayer followed dinner. They slept for a short time, rising when the cock crowed. They continued in prayer until daylight, when they could go out and work some more. The fruits of their labor were used to feed the poor and the needy.

Celebration of Saint David's Day dates as far back as 1120 AD. Currently, it is celebrated on March 1 of each year by the people of Wales. ✠

Noteworthy News from Christian Ed

By Nan Strickler

Thanks to one and all for your fantastic support of our Lenten Outreach project! Counting all those coins we collected was quite a job but we are finally finished and our grand total was \$840.45. WOW were we excited.

Somehow we knew we would be sending one Llama but never dreamed we'd be able to send two of them. In addition to our Llamas, we are ordering 2 goats, 1 sheep, 2 hives of bees, and 5 flocks of chicks. We hope next year will be even bigger and better.

During the course of Lent and our fund raising for Heifer International, we learned a lot about people in other parts of the world. It was very difficult for us to imagine life without a TV set!

The 2000-2001 church school year ended with a wonderful picnic at Grand Woods Park. We had Helium balloons, face-painting, bubbles, Pinatas, and different games to play. For those of you who couldn't make it to the picnic, we hope to see you there next year.

We are very busy planning for Vacation Bible School, which in case you haven't heard is being held June 24 - June 28. We are still in need of volunteers, particularly in the area of games. If you would like to help, but haven't notified anyone of your desire, just let Rita Stanton or Nan Strickler know where you'd most like to work.

If you are one of those people who really like to plan ahead, mark your calendars for Sept 9th (Sunday School Registration and Ice-Cream Social) and Sept 16th (Sunday School Classes begin).

See you at VBS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ✠





*Scenes from St.
David's annual
Eucharist ...*

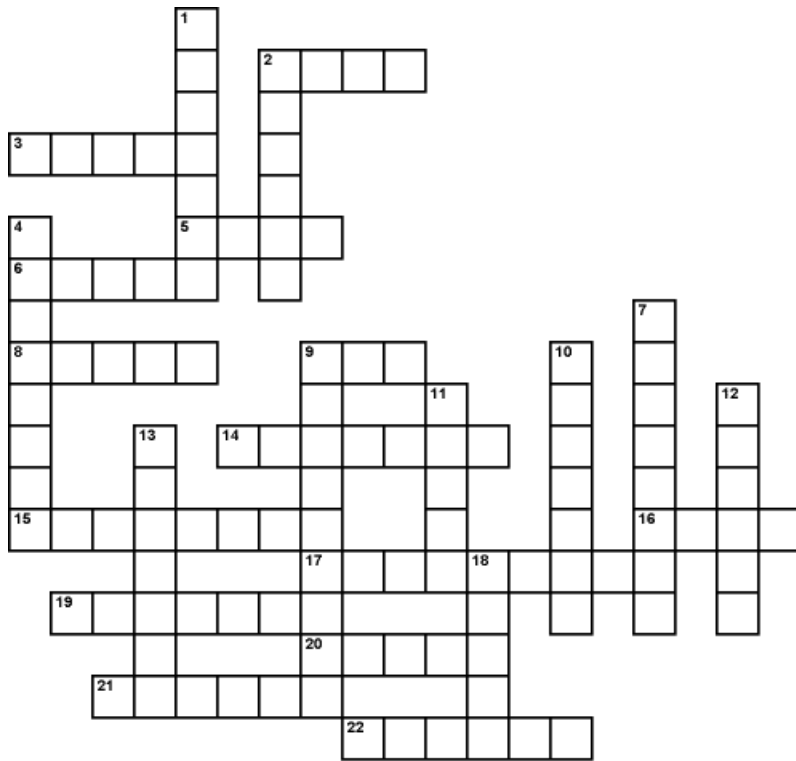
*... and parish
picnic at Grand
Woods Park*



The church picnic and Eucharist at Grand Woods Park were wonderful. The weather was perfect, the food great, and people had a grand time playing games after eating. Be sure to join us there next year!

Women of the Bible Crossword Puzzle

Used with permission of www.bible-trivia.com.



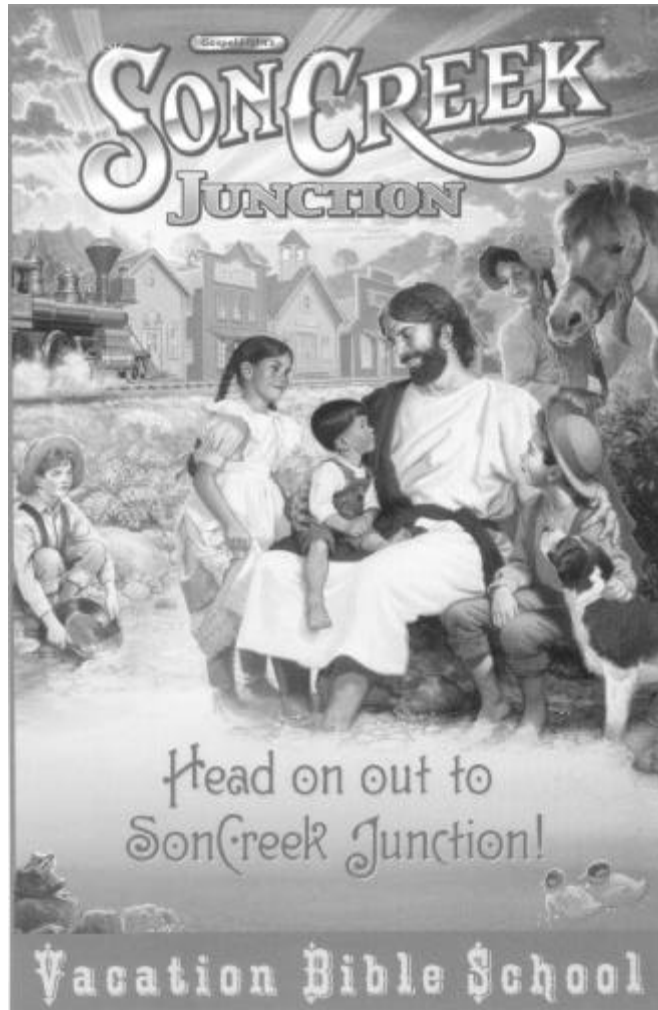
Across

2. Mother of Jesus
3. Wife of Elimelech
5. Wife of Esau
6. Sister-in-law of Ruth
8. Egyptian handmaid, given to Abraham
9. Mother of Abel
14. She was a woman of beautiful countenance and good understanding
15. Wife of Felix
16. Wife of Boaz
17. King David saw her bathing
19. Queen of the Ethiopians
20. Daughter of David
21. Only one woman of this name appears in the bible
22. Wife of Jacob

Down

1. Was paid to discover Samson's strength
2. Sister of Moses
4. Mother of Moses
7. The wife of Moses
9. Mother of John the Baptist
10. The wife of Ahab, King of Israel
11. Daughter of Jacob
12. Sister of Mary
13. Early follower of Christ, who helped support Jesus from her personal resources
18. Wife of Abraham





PLACE:

SaintDavidEpiscopal Church
1519 Elmwood
Lansing, MI.

DATES:

June 24 – 28, 2001

TIME:

6:30 p.m. – 9:00p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

323-2272 (church office)

9:00a.m. – 12 noon

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*Calling all youth in
grades 5, 6, 7, and 8*

Spring Rally June 8-9, 2001

Grace Episcopal Church, Traverse City

Cost is \$15 with pre-registration or \$20 at the door

Additional information and registration forms are in the narthex.

Please register by June 4!

If enough youth don't register by June 4th, Spring Rally **will be canceled!**

St. David's Episcopal Church
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