

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 7 No. 3

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

May 2001

Father David's message	Page 2
Reverend Carol's message	Page 3
Statement from Bishop Griswold	Page 6
St. David's web page	Page 9

St. David's

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector, Church Box 103
Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Jon Jackinchuk, Organist/Choir Director

Vestry

Sue Kohler, Sr. Warden/Memorials, Box 75
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
Nan Strickler, Secretary to the Vestry, Box 134

St. John's

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

Vestry

Schad Sparks, Senior Warden
Rebecca Brown, Junior Warden
Debbie Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford, Treasurer
Nina Robinson
Thelma Gibbs
Ted Dotts
Kara Stapor
Sharon Degar
Sandy Garrison
Bill Gin
Maggie Bisel
Alma Stahl

Newsletter

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St. David's Episcopal Church

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Lansing, MI 48917
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Fax: 517-323-2830
E-mail: stdavids1519@aol.com
Web: www.forministry.com/48917SDEC

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: revcarol@aol.com

Service Schedule

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

Reflections of Father David

Unless one builds upon a firm foundation, in vain do they build.

Very shortly, we will be dedicating our new Outreach Ministry Wing. We will give thanks to God for the successful completion of a dream only made possible by the generosity of the people of St. David's.

I remember clearly an event which took place almost 20 years ago while I was still attending seminary. One afternoon, I was meeting with my senior advisor and we were talking about where I saw myself in 15 years and what would my ministry look like. I knew Nancy, and I would be in the Diocese of Western Michigan, and I was sure I would be ministering in a very small, very traditional, parish somewhere on the western side of the state. Well, God certainly had other plans for me. I began my ministry in a most traditional, large, downtown parish in Muskegon. Yes, from there I went to a wonderful small parish in Albion. Now, I minister and continue to grow in a large, delightful, energized parish in the state capital. Quite a change from where I saw myself 20 years ago!

Another thing I never imagined, in my wildest dreams, was that I would participate with my brothers and sisters in a building project. I expected restoration and maintenance projects, but never a complete from-the-ground-up, building project. This has been a totally new learning experience. It has also been a wonderful experience. Beginning with the great generosity of each of you, which has allowed this dream of the parish to unfold, to working with Moe Stein, the architect, to daily watching and talking to the laborers whose art and skill we now enjoy, this has been a constant source of new insights.

I understand more clearly the strain put upon marriages when a couple build a home together. I understand more clearly the process people go

through when a community struggles together to form a vision, execute that vision, then embrace what the vision demands. In truth, I can honestly say I am glad the construction is over and look forward to the time when the parking lot is finished and the yard is lush and green.

I also have a deeper experience of faith. First, there was the act of faith that we should go forward. Then, there was the faith of gathering your gifts and offerings. Huge amounts of prayer went into each step of this project. There are at least two final steps of faith before us. For me, one is much easier than the other.

The easier is to know what God wants us to do with our space. Through prayer and careful listening, this will be made known to us. Already the new space has been used in wonderful ways bringing joy to many. The youth are happy to have a place to play ping pong and be rowdy. Cursillo had a wonderful weekend using all the rooms, especially giving the kitchen a full workout. Everyone seems pleased with the changes in the Great Hall and kitchen space. On behalf of the office staff, I can assure you we love our new larger quarters!

The second, and harder, challenge for me involves money. There were some unexpected costs in the building project. The foundation had to be dug deeper, which cost more. Bad soil was found right in the middle of where the new parking lot was placed, and that cost extra. The Vestry decided to really do the Great Hall right -- insulate the walls, replace the old drafty windows, and add air conditioning rather than just slap on a fresh coat of paint and replace the carpet.

Please see **FOUNDATIONS, Page 9**

Words from Reverend Carol

The Easter People

What does it mean to be the Easter People? First, let me tell you that you are one of the Easter People -- anyone who believes on the name of Jesus and is baptized into his house is one of those called the Easter People. Jesus gave us our name, he instituted us when he was sacrificed and died on the cross for our sins. He gave us our reason for existence, he gave us our life, both here on earth and in the place that he went to prepare especially for us. We are not a people that look any different from anyone else, we don't usually act differently, though we should, and we don't have any more or less responsibilities than does any one else... but that would be nice if we did. For being the Easter people, we are baptized into His holy church, and we are given His body and blood to nurture us and give us strength when there doesn't seem to be any coming from anywhere else. Jesus wants us to be His people, His hands and feet, to spread the word of God to all people anywhere we may be.

Jesus rose from the dead on this day we call Easter...now that is a mystery in itself, and it is an event that none of us have been able to explain from the moment it happened. I do want you to know that something very obvious about this event...we are not supposed to be able to explain it. For if we could, it would not be a mystery, it

would not be something of God, it would be our event and our explanation, and Easter isn't about us, it is about God and His Son who did indeed rise from the dead so that we might live forever. Sometimes we tend to forget that we are not the end all and be all of the universe, God is. And that being so, we are not supposed to be able to give what we would call full and complete explanations of the events of this world. If we could, we would be God and this would be a whole different world... if it was at all. God does not owe us anything; we did not create him, he created us. And now we are asked to take the events of this, the most Holy of all Holy Days, and let them rest in our hearts and believe upon them though faith.

The Easter people are ones who believe in their hearts that the resurrection is and always will be the lasting event showing God's eternal love for us, now and forever. If we choose not to accept it, then we miss out on God's gift; if we accept it, we are made the recipients of God's greatest gift to us from the beginning to the end of time.

We are now a week from the day of resurrection, as I write this. Exactly what changes have taken place in our lives since Easter? Are we different? If not, why? Ask God, and you will receive the answer.

Rev. Carol

GARAGE SALE AT THE SPANGENBERG'S

MAY 5TH 9am – 3pm

BENEFIT THE SAINT'S ENGLAND TRIP -- PLEASE VISIT THE SALE AND SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!!

If you have something to contribute please call Rev. Carol 517-321-0512

The Church Mouse heard ...

Well, things have been lively around here. Have you seen all the Teddy Bears that have been coming in? If this were the beginning of winter, I would think they were hibernating here!!! There are some really cute ones and the amount before the Altar last Sunday was incredible.

Dick and Lorayne Otto had a wonderful 50th Wedding Anniversary Party on the Saturday before Easter and a beautiful Renewal of Wedding Vows the next day. **Kristin and Bobby Pfauth** have been enjoying a cruise in the Caribbean. **Mike and Pat Johnson** are back in town after spending the winter in Florida. **Scotty and Helen Lee** lost a 19 year old granddaughter named Diana in a car accident. Please keep them in your prayers. **Ray McNab** is doing very well after having both knees replaced. **Allyson Dee Byers** married **Michael Alan Shadowens** in a wonderful ceremony on April 28th. **Paddy Donovan** and **Jennifer Pike** spent a week in Costa Rica with their Spanish Class. **Dan Paff** spent the same week in Florida enjoying the sun. **Gail Donovan** also spent a week in Florida at the same time. During the Cursillo weekend held here at St. David's, **Nancy Pike, Elaine Tolsma, and Dawn Iverson** worked on the weekend and **Pat Vine** and **Hortencia Raymond** attended. Many members of St. David's helped set the building up and cleaned up afterwards. **Jim and Kathy Ryan** have a new grandchild. Ask and they will show you photographs.

At the Deanery Confirmation on April 29th, **Andrew Leigh, Carolyn Carr, and Jackie Grinnell** were confirmed. **Steve Grinnell, and Tom and Nancy George** were received. **Carole Leigh** did a wonderful job on the reception afterwards.

The bricks are in the courtyard now and look great. Don't forget about the dedication on May 4th. See you then.

May Birthdays

1	Mark McNeil
1	Jessica Leigh
1	Colleen Hill
1	Madison Coté
2	Edwin Freas
3	Jason Chapin
5	Judith Grant
6	Lore Tuttle
6	John Strickler
6	Janie Byers
6	Katie Doll
7	Brendan Kennedy
9	Anna-Marie Lipka
11	Rod Snyder
11	Jennifer Pike
11	Kathleen Miller
12	Jim Tolsma
12	Rhonda Sorrell
13	Louise Henley
14	Jamie Kohler
20	Denise Wils
23	David McGinnis
23	Barbara Galvin
23	Carole Tyszkiewicz
23	Steven Leigh
24	Jim Swift
24	Pat Purol
26	Kristin Damico
26	Sarah Sorrell
28	Eric Bastian
28	Nancy Pike
29	Daniel Buzzie
30	Ron Schavey
31	Eleanor Robinson
31	Delores Cannady
31	Jim Combs

May Anniversaries

1	Dick & Norma Hammond
4	Robert & Karen Oleson
10	Glynn & Marie Warren
12	Leo & Meda Thrall
16	Jim & Rhoda Swift
17	Tim & Ellen Ross
21	Faris & Carlene Howrani
22	David & Heather McGinnis
27	Fr. David & Nancy Pike

Notes from St. John's Corner

Report on the Saint's England Trip: We leave on June 29th and most will return on July 9th. With a little more effort, we will have the funds needed. Remember the Garage Sale on May 5th. This will be important in this endeavor.

MOTHER / DAUGHTER BANQUET

MAY 15th 6:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

CALL REV. CAROL FOR RESERVATIONS AT 517-321-0512

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

COST: \$10 A FAMILY (NO MATTER THE SIZE)

We need help with our Tuesday dinners. If you can help by taking responsibility for one, please call Rev. Carol (517-321-0512) or Thelma Gibb (517-543-3712). We need to know A.S.A.P.

Rev. Carol will be on vacation from June 29th through July 28th.

St. John's Adult Choir is looking for new members.
If you would like to worship through song,
please call Rev. Carol at 517-321-0512.

MANY MANY THANKS to our Sunday and Wednesday Christian Education Teachers!!!! Our children are better for your efforts. God Bless each of YOU!

The Altar Guild is looking for new members. If you would like to be a part of this important guild, please contact Rev. Carol at 517-321-0512

St. David's garage sale

St. David's garage sale is scheduled for May 10th and 11th. This year will also feature a Bake Sale, since we were unable to have the Cookie Walk last December. This is the ECW's principal fund-raiser for the year, so be setting aside articles you wish to donate for the sale.

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up and work at the sale. If you would like to help, please let us know. This is truly a fun job with lots of good fellowship, and no experience is needed. If you work days but would like to help, we will gladly arrange evening hours for you. More information will be given as time draws near to the sale date.

For those who can't help with the garage sale, this is an opportunity to whip up some goodies for the bake sale. If you wish, it can be made ahead and stored in the freezer until the sale.

If you have questions, please contact Eileen Newhouse at 372-4766 or Rose McNab at 321-6586. We always welcome donations of items from your friends, neighbors, or relatives, and we will give them a receipt for an income tax deduction, if requested. ☒

Pancakes 'R' Us

St. David's new kitchen and remodeled Great Hall were reopened on Shrove Tuesday for our annual pancake supper. And what a grand reopening it was!

135 people helped down over 2 gallons of syrup, 40 pounds of pancake mix, 24 pounds of sausage, 12 1/2 quarts of applesauce, 3 gallons of milk, and 2 pounds of coffee. Thanks to everyone who came out!

Bob Muncie also ran up some mileage as he had to run out for more food **twice** before the eating frenzy was over! We also extend a big

thanks to the 29 volunteers who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean up.

The supper netted \$254.63, which will be used for outreach activities. ☒

Garden for daily living

Submitted by Dick Hammond

Plant three rows of peas:

- Peace of mind
- Peace of heart
- Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

- Squash gossip
- Squash indifference
- Squash grumbling
- Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- Lettuce be faithful
- Lettuce be kind
- Lettuce be patient
- Lettuce really love one another

Be sure to have turnips:

- Turnip for meetings
- Turnip for service
- Turnip to help one another

Always have thyme:

- Thyme for each other
- Thyme for family
- Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow. ☒

St. David's UTO Ingathering
May 6th

Blue envelopes are in the back of the pews
and on the console in the narthex

A statement on the execution of Timothy McVeigh

April 19, 2001

**The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**

I am appalled by the events developing around the execution of Timothy McVeigh. Reports of people wanting to sell T-shirts and buttons conjure up images of executions in the Middle Ages and Roman times when these events were public entertainment. Such an atmosphere demeans our judicial system as it promotes frenzy and revenge. A public ritual of death can only coarsen our spirits and deaden our sensibilities, placing us in danger of becoming persons of death, rather than life. Though undoubtedly Timothy McVeigh committed one of the most heinous crimes in the history of our country, I fear that execution as spectacle can only poison the soul of our nation.

We can't fully know the pain of those so tragically affected by the Oklahoma City bombing, most particularly their families. I am concerned, however, that the provisions being made for them to witness the execution may only deepen the trauma they have already experienced, rather than help them recover from it.

Nothing is served by revenge. And here I note that the Episcopal Church, along with many other faith communities, is on record as being opposed to capital punishment.

I pray for Timothy McVeigh as he prepares to encounter the God, who made him, even as I pray for his victims and their families. I invite all persons of faith to join me in these prayers as we seek with God's help to become instruments of God's peace and make our own the prayer of St. Francis: "Where there is hatred let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy..." ✠

Survey reveals that a third of Americans have no opinion of Episcopalians

by James Solheim

Americans hold a generally positive opinion of religious groups, although more than a third said they weren't able to rate Episcopalians.

At 90 percent, Methodists had the highest "favorable" rating in the recent survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, followed by Presbyterians, Jews, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Catholics. Evangelical Christians drew a 76 percent favorable rating, followed by American Muslims at 65 percent and American Buddhists at 60 percent.

Atheists drew only a 34 percent favorable rating and 66 percent unfavorable.

The percentages among those who said that they were not able to rate the religious groups put Episcopalians at the top of the mainline churches with 37 percent, followed by the Lutherans (25 percent), Presbyterians (24 percent) and Methodists (19 percent).

"Mainline Protestants, and perhaps Episcopalians in particular, have been reluctant to wear their religion on their sleeve," said Melissa Rogers, the forum's executive director, in an interview with Religion News Service. "And part of that is because of a fear that they might be seen as coercive if they were advertising their religion prominently."

Atheists at the bottom

Non-believers are particularly unpopular among the less educated, more conservative and older segments of society, according to the Pew survey. Nearly three-quarters of those who did not finish high school expressed negative attitudes, compared with 37 percent of those with college degrees.

The survey also revealed a diversity of opinion about non-Christian religions. Once again the attitudes seem to be influenced by age, education, party and ideology--and religion itself. Young people are more likely to express favorable opinions of both Muslims and Buddhists, as compared with older Americans. For example, 66 percent of those under the age of 30 hold a favorable view of Buddhists while only 46 percent of those 65 and older feel the same way. And college graduates express more favorable views of these two religious groups than those who never attended college.

Republicans are less likely than Democrats or independents to express favorable views of Muslims or Buddhists with only 47 percent of conservative Republicans viewing Muslims in a favorable light as compared with 77 percent of liberal Democrats. Among the Protestants, only white evangelicals give Muslims an unfavorable rating. ✕

--James Solheim is director of the Office of News and Information for the Episcopal Church

News from the CAC

Did you see the ads in the Lansing State Journal before Palm Sunday and Easter? This is the work of the Capital Area Council of Episcopal Churches (CAC). By grouping us all together for one large ad, we get a greater exposure.

This year's pulpit exchange among the CAC will be May 20th. The loose change offering for that day is suggested to go to EMMSU (Episcopal Ministry at Michigan State University). The offerings will be sent to CAC and then forwarded to EMMSU as one donation from the CAC. Please keep this in mind for that Sunday and bring a little extra cash! The EMMSU uses this money for their international outreach in helping foreign students establish a home while here in the United States. Something to keep on your calendars: September 16th will be the Alzheimer's Walk in Lansing.

For further information about the CAC, please contact Carol Abbott. ✕

Noteworthy News from Christian Ed

The majority of March and April were spent learning about our Lenten Project, Heifer International. The children were very interested and surprised to find out just how little some families HAVE to get by on and do without. Life without TV is hard to imagine.

The next two weeks will be spent counting the money we were able to collect during our project and then deciding just what to buy for Heifer Project International. We'll keep you posted.

Vacation Bible School has been set for June 24 through June 28. Our setting this year is the Old West, in a town called Son Junction. The information we have is jam-packed with ideas for games, crafts, Bible Stories, food, and much more. It promises to be a rip-roaring good time. Sure hope you'll try to join us.

We are having an organizational meeting at St. David's on May 8th at 7:00 p.m. We welcome all volunteers. Mark your calendars for May 20th if you haven't already done so! This is the all parish picnic and we have lots of really fun stuff to share with everyone. See you there.

Nan Strickler, church mailbox 134 ✕

REVEREND FUN WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM



YOUR FATHER HAS AGREED TO STAY AWAKE IN CHURCH TODAY SINCE IT IS MOTHER'S DAY ... IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU WOULD DO THE OPPOSITE FOR ONCE

St. David's web

The new St. David's web page is now up and running! Forministry.com provides the web space to host our page. The pages are a bit restrictive as forministry.com provides web pages in the form of fill-in templates, which allows for minimal customization. However, forministry.com provides the web space for free, so we will work within their specifications.

The church's web address, www.forministry.com/48917SDEC, is also assigned by forministry.com according to a strict formula. The '48917' part is our zip code and 'SDEC' is the acronym for **S**t. **D**avid's **E**piscopal **C**hurch.

The web page links to the current and recent issues of *The Good News Letter*, as well as a *This week at St. David's* section, to keep you updated with goings-on at the church.

The tab labeled Ministry lists the various groups and organizations here at St. David's. We could really use some additional information to describe who these groups are and what they do. Even a one-sentence summary would be helpful. If you belong to or participate in one of these groups or activities, please drop us a line with the information.

As with the newsletter, any comments or suggestions about the web site will be appreciated. Comments may be sent by e-mail to eric@sorrell-family.net or put in church mailbox #140. ☩

Foundations: Fr. David's message

Continued **From 2**

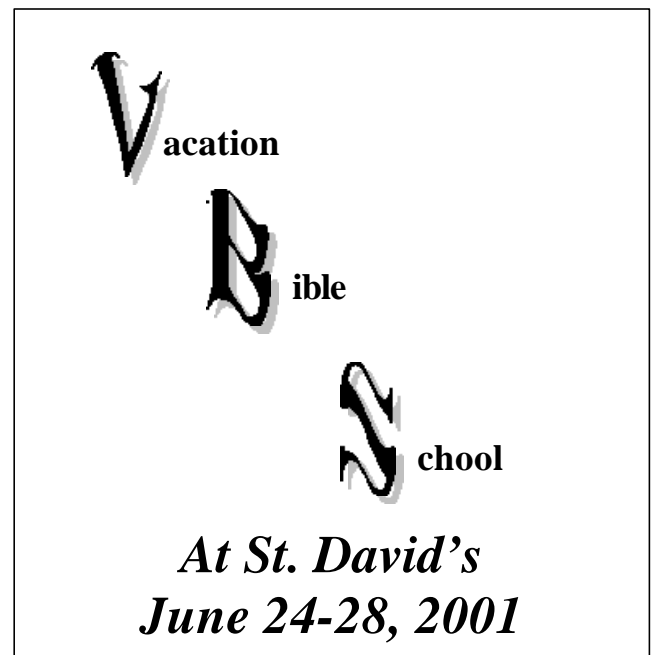
As a result, the building was not built debt free as I had hoped. We now have a 20 year, \$200,000 mortgage on top of the remaining \$100,000

mortgage from the Education Wing expansion. Rather than make one \$300,000 mortgage, we kept the older mortgage with the Bishop Whittamore Foundation and took out a second mortgage with Bank One. For five years, until the Whittamore Foundation mortgage is paid off, we will have two payments. We will have to budget carefully and have faith that people will keep current on their pledges, both to the operation of the parish and to the building fund.

If you have not made a building pledge, or if you gave a one time gift, or if your circumstances have changed and you have a new job which pays much better, please consider adding to the building fund. All gifts are welcomed -- just let me or the Sr. Warden, Sue Kohler or the Jr. Warden, Mike Wils, know and we will see that you get the materials you need.

I know God has great plans for this wonderful space and the ministry we do. Together with God we can do anything and be a blessing to many.

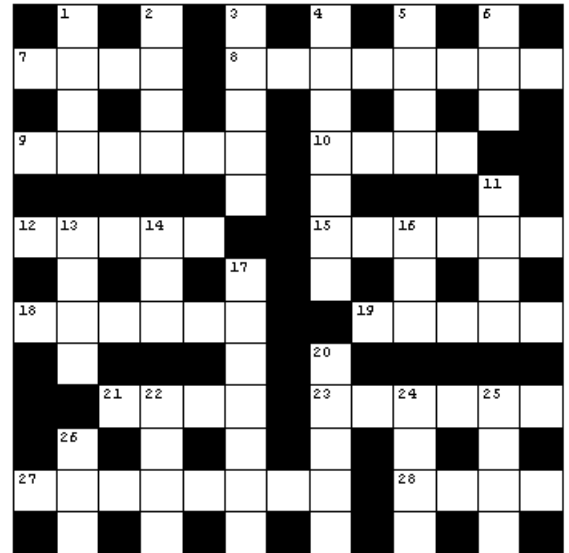
May God keep you now and always.



Bible Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 7 "He who has _____, let him hear." (Mt. 11:15)
 8 Stories told by Jesus to teach a lesson
 9 Prophet that helped Naaman (2Ki. 5:8)
 10 Caleb's son (1Chr. 4:15)
 12 David had him killed to cover up his sin (2Sam. 12:9)
 15 He doubted Jesus had risen from the dead (Jn. 20:27)
 18 Word of God is this (Heb. 4:12)
 19 Snake crawls on this (Gen. 3:14)
 21 Jesus' grandfather (Lk. 3:23)
 23 Word of God is this (Heb. 4:12)
 27 Joseph was sold to this Egyptian (Gen. 37:36)
 28 Words that we will have to give an account for at Judgment (Mt. 12:36 KJV)



Down

- 1 Love will never _____ (1Cor. 13:8)
 2 Egyptian goddess of fertility
 3 Ten omers makes one of these (Ex. 16:36)
 4 Name for the Godhead meaning 'three in one'
 5 Aramaic for 'Father' (Mk. 14:36)
 6 Color of Esau's hair (Gen. 25:25)
 11 Canaanite god (Num. 22:41)
 13 Aramaic term of contempt (Mt. 5:22)
 14 Black bird
 16 How many baptisms are there? Eph. 4:5
 17 Its walls fell down flat (Josh. 6:20)
 20 "For all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God." (Rom. 3:23)
 22 "The love of money is the root of all _____" (1Ti. 6:10)
 24 Torn in two from top to bottom when Christ died (Mt. 27:51 KJV)
 25 River of Egypt (Ex. 2:3)
 26 Rivers changed to blood when Aaron stretched this out over them (Ex. 7:17)

Church of the Covered Dish

(c) 1998 by Thom Tapp





Mother's Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 12, 2001

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

at

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road

Lansing, MI 48917

Please join us at this special time to celebrate with laughter, love, memories, appreciation, and the fulfillment of being a mother, a daughter, and a grandmother.

A buffet luncheon will be served at 11:30 a.m. with entertainment and two very special speakers. Prizes will be given away during this special Mother's Day Luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is \$8.00 per person.

There will be a professional photographer to take a special photo of mothers, daughters, and grandmothers. You will receive one 5x7 photograph at \$8.00 each. The photo session will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Order forms will be available at the time of the photo session.

RSVP to

Debbie Davis, Church mailbox #28

or mail to

Mother's Day Luncheon

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road

Lansing, MI 48917



Please print names clearly. Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Number of person(s) _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____ (Luncheon)

Please make checks payable to: St. David's Episcopal Church.

Deadline to make reservations is May 6, 2001
Limited seating



St. David's
Bake Sale !!



Garage Sale !!

May 10th and 11th

Don't throw things away while doing you're spring cleaning – save them for our annual Garage Sale !!

See page 6 for details.

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

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