

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 5

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

May 2003

Reflections of Fr. David	Page 2
St. David's April vestry meeting	Page 3
The Healing Corner	Page 6
EFM, Watermen	Insert

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
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115
Steve Leiby
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Davis, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers, Box 71
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry, Box 167

St. John's

Rev. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector
Karen Gin, Secretary
Chris Stapor, Treasurer

Vestry

Ted Dotts, Senior Warden
Will Walker, Junior Warden
Deborah Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford
Charles Andres
Cara Stapor
Sandra Garrison
Stephen Stofflet
Alma Stahl
Brett McRae
Karen Steiner

Newsletter

Ric Sorrell, e-mail: ric@sorrell-family.net, Box 140

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Road
Lansing, MI 48917
Telephone: 517-323-2272
Fax: 517-323-2830
E-mail: stdavids1962@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: stjohsepiscopalchurch201@yahoo.com
Web: www.e-deanery.com/stjohns

Service Schedule

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

Reflections of Father David

A house becomes a home

Let me begin by making perfectly clear that what follows is not in any way, shape, or form, a prelude to my announcing that I am even remotely considering leaving St. David's. What follows is anchored in my spiritual experiences of any number of Good Friday afternoons.

Without putting a lot of energy into thinking, I can clearly remember living in 22 houses. In some of them, the time I spent living there can be recorded in months. Three houses account for 27 of 43 years of my life. Nine of the houses were places I have lived as an adult. I have never lived anywhere as long as I have lived in the St. David's Rectory.

While I can remember clearly these houses and events that happened in them, two of them hold a unique place in my memory. I remember physically moving out of only two houses and seeing the empty rooms. The first house I remember is the Grand Rapids home of my aunt and uncle. This was where I lived during high school and my first two years of college. The second house was the St. James' Rectory, "Big Red," our home in Albion where Nancy, the children and I lived prior to moving to St. David's. In both of these homes, I remember with incredible intensity the emptiness and bittersweet sorrow I felt as I left these homes for the final time.

Every Good Friday, the feeling of emptiness and bittersweet sorrow I felt upon leaving the houses in Grand Rapids and Albion keenly re-surfaces when I stand in the empty sanctuary. I experience anew an intense feeling of a vast empty space waiting for "something". I realize anew that in Lent I have left "something" behind and stand at the threshold of something new and unknown.

Praise God for Easter! Using the transforming power that only God has, this empty space is filled with new life. Through Easter, hope returns and a new beginning occurs for all willing to embrace this gift from God. Each time I experience Easter and the filling of the "empty" space, I know just how the women and the disciples felt when they met the risen

Lord.

This is the heart of Easter. We too easily let the joys and the glories of Easter fade as swiftly as the lilies do, simply because we rush to return to our daily life and grind. Most people would be hard pressed to remember that the actual season of Easter is 50 days long and ends with the Day of Pentecost. We are too ready to move on, focused on jobs, activities, Memorial Day, whatever attracts our attention.

As we experience the once "empty" room now filled with new life and joy, let us be careful not to fill that sacred space with useless clutter and things best left behind. This is a hazard each of us faces, one we must be on constant guard against.

Upon reflection, I realize that the numerous other houses were simply places I lived that never became "home" for me. Certainly, I have vivid memories of events that happened these houses, many of them "good" memories, but these houses were simply structures where I slept, ate, studied, and physically lived. They never evolved into "home" for me. Some, such as college and seminary apartments, I knew were only temporary living quarters in my lifetimes, emotions, love, happiness, joy and sorrow. Some day, many years from now, when it is time for Nancy and me to leave, we will do so experiencing an incredible feeling of intense emptiness and bittersweet sorrow.

May God bless and keep you this glorious Easter season and always.

With deepest affection.

Fr. David

St. David's Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

April 15, 2003

Vestry in Attendance: Charlotte Byers, Craig Leinbach, Jerry Williams, John Post, Tom George, Steve Leiby, Dawn Sonnenberg, Scott Foster, John Strickler.

Not in Attendance: Deb Davis, Ron Schavey, Gail Donovan

Secretary's report: Correction on last page of March 18, 2003 minutes. In the paragraph telling about portfolios made for vestry should read "revisions made in *portfolios* not by-laws. Jerry Williams motioned to approve with changes, seconded by Dawn Sonnenberg.

Treasurer's report: Craig passed out balance sheet for the past month. Review took place by vestry. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by Jerry Williams, seconded by Scott Foster. Approved.

- ◆ Steve Leiby motioned to use current money in the building fund to make an additional payment on the Bank One mortgage, Tom George seconded. Approved.
- ◆ Jerry Williams proposed to make contact with the 19 members that have not made pledges for the year. He is concerned with reasons why these people didn't turn in pledges for the year that has given pledges in previous years. Jerry indicated that there were a total of 24 members but five reported that they couldn't contribute or have moved from the area. John Strickler moved to have vestry work on this project, Steve Lieby seconded. Approved.
- ◆ John Strickler asked if vestry could write an article for the newsletter regarding the budget. John S. would like to keep the congregation informed of what is going on with the budget.

Rector's report: Fr. David reported on his handout sheet. Motion by Jerry Williams to accept, seconded by Scott Foster. Approved.

Senior Warden's Report: John Strickler reported on the 40th Anniversary dinner planning and he indicated that everything was running smoothly. John S. indicated that there are two vestry openings and needed to be filled. Scott Foster and Margaret Smithka would be resigning. Fr. David indicated that the vestry needed to decide how to fill these positions. John S. suggested asking for nominations and having vestry pray and elect new members. Fr. David indicated that he had some interested parties and would contact them and report on the nomination process. Follow up on this next vestry meeting.

Junior Warden's Report: Jerry Williams reported on Fr. David's congregation survey results. Discussions took place and vestry indicated that action items needed to take effect and be discussed. Fr. David asked if survey results should be put in the newsletter or something to let the congregation know the results. Scott Foster motioned to have vestry develop an action plan based on the results of the survey and will require input for the congregation. Seconded by Tom George. Approved. John Strickler also added to have congregation to please contact the vestry if they need any special needs addressed.

- ◆ Discussion from Jerry Williams about a Stewardship event that he is going to attend. Scott Foster motioned that St. David's pay for Jerry Williams to attend this conference on June 13-14, 2003. Seconded by John Strickler. Approved. Also, a motion to authorize up to three people (including Jerry) to attend the conference as well.
- ◆ HVAC – TH Eifert bid – John Strickler motioned to approve the service agreement for two or five years depending on payment and terms of the agreement. Clarification needed from Eifert on payment plan. Seconded by Jerry Williams. Details of agreement will needed to be reported to vestry at next meeting. Fr. David will get questions answered and sign the contract.

Memorials: Fr. David reported on bronze plaques and indicated that they have been ordered. Also, round tables have been delivered.

Communications: Nothing reported from Tom George.

See VESTRY | Page 5

The Church mouse heard ...

Didn't the church look beautiful for Easter. It seems there were lilies every where and the smell was wonderful. The baptisms were lots of fun. The babies were so cute. The children baptized were Rory Vaughn, son of Sandy and Mike Vaughn, grandson of Dave and Janie Byers, great-grandson of Larry Byers, great-great grandson of Elizabeth Byers. Also baptized was Mara Searles, daughter of Mary Benoit, grand daughter of Mike and Debbie Benoit, great-grand-daughter of Larry Byers and great-great grand-daughter of Elizabeth Byers. Also baptized was Benjamin Damico son of Mike Damico and , grandson of Patricia and Gerry Purol. All the children did very well during the Easter Vigil and it was great seeing so many people in church. As always the choir did a fabulous job and sounded like angels from God.

I really liked the trumpet player on Easter morning! The Sunday School teachers and students did a great job of the Easter Pageant. They were so cute! I was sorry there was not a mouse in it. That would have made it perfect! Keep Fred Bunday in your prayers as he adjusts to living in Nottingham Place. He needed more care than Norma could give him and it was affecting Norma's health. Clarence Burgess has been under the weather but with spring seems to be doing better. Dave and Janie Byers just returned from a trip to Williamsburg, VA with Frank and Sharon Pansino. It sounds like they had a great time down there. Jean Dooley's daughter is recovering from a liver transplant. Betty Jean Frost is home now after a brief stay in Ingham Med. With a slight diet change she will soon be fit as a fiddle and playing her trumpet again.

St. David's May Birthdays

1	Mark McNeil
1	Jessica Menold
1	Colleen Hill
1	Madison Coté
2	Edwin Fraas
3	Jason Chapin
5	Judith Grant
6	Lore Tuttle
6	John Strickler
6	Janie Byers
7	Brendan Kennedy
9	Anna-Marie Lipka
11	Rod Snyder
11	Jennifer Pike
12	Jim Tolsma
12	Rhonda Sorrell
13	Louise Henley
13	Tami Varricchio
14	Jamie Williams
15	Samantha Stanton
20	Denise Wils
23	David McGinnis
23	Barbara Galvin
23	Carole Tyszkiewicz
23	Steve Grinnell
23	Steven Leigh
24	Jim Swift
25	Gage Williams
26	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
18	Aaron & Sharon Phipps
21	Faris & Carlene Howrani
22	David & Heather McGinnis
27	Fr. David & Nancy Pike

Vestry: April minutes

Continued from page 3

Renewal and Evangelism: John Post called attention to conference on evangelism coming up. John will be attending on May 17 and report back to vestry.

Outreach: Jerry Williams reported on the Easter food baskets. 29 families received baskets. It was very successful.

New Persons: John Post reported on handouts of who's in charge on what at St. David's. A new person dinner is schedule for May 1.

Fellowship: Jerry Williams asked for ideas on how to bring young families to activities at St. David's. Jerry wanted to seek out younger members for the vestry.

Old business

- ◆ Sabbatical committee to meet after Easter.
- ◆ Area of Ministry/Portfolios - Tom George handout ministry responsibilities with lined out areas to be corrected and have changes made. Tom asked the vestry to review and bring back with suggestions and talk about it at next meeting.

New Business

- ◆ Fr. David asked for two weeks vacation starting June 12 and one week in August.
- ◆ Tom George asked if there would be yard clean up before Easter Sunday. Fr. David indicated that the yard is being cleaning up soon and will be done before Easter.

Adjournment at 10:05pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Matthews

St. David's 40th anniversary

Dear St. David's Parishioner:

Forty years ago, a small group of Christians petitioned Bishop Charles Bennison to establish a new Episcopalian mission church on Lansing's west side. On September 9th, 1962, St. David's Episcopal Church held its first recorded service at what is now the Tiffany Funeral Home on West Saginaw Road in Delta Township. Today, a thriving parish of more than 100 families regularly worships at 1519 Elmwood Road, and shares its facilities with groups from throughout the Greater Lansing area.

Saturday, May 17th current and former parishioners of St. David's will celebrate our 40 years as a Christian community, and pay tribute to those forward-looking families who laid the foundation so many years ago. A formal invitation to this festive dinner will follow, but for now we hope you'll mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Our evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 and will conclude with a brief program. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reminisce, to learn about our parish roots, or to renew acquaintances. We hope you'll join with us as we celebrate 40 years of worshipping our Lord at St. David's Episcopal Church.

John Strickler
Senior Warden

The Healing Corner

By Dianne Ulibarri

This article is the last in a short series on the healing power of forgiveness. Information on how non-forgiveness affects our physical, emotional and mental wellness was presented along with the first five commandments of forgiveness by DeGrandis (1981). The last five commandments of forgiveness are presented in this article.

6. You shall seek the healing of the emotions and the memories.

There are three levels of forgiveness to which DeGrandis (1981) speaks. The first level is to forgive because we have been forgiven. Since the Lord has forgiven each of us, we must forgive others. At the second level, we pray to God saying something like: "God, you want me and all people to be happy, good and experience goodness. If you want these things for me, I want them for this person. Please bless this person as you have blessed me." At the third level of forgiveness, we ask God to allow His Love for this person to flow through our heart to that person. God loves each of His creations. By allowing His Love to flow through our hearts, we are asking to share His love for this person. The use of visualization, or imagination, is encouraged at all three levels.

The last part of healing both the emotions and the memories of some situation is to relive the situation with Jesus present. Surround the event with Christ Light as you relive it. Hear Him say to you, "I am here. I am protecting you...let My Love flow through you..." (p.23). Feel His Spirit healing you as you relive the event and forgive that person in His presence.

Do you hold a grudge against someone? Address the grudge using each of the levels of this commandment and experience the freedom. By going through this experience once, it is easier repeat as we each address "issues" we have with others. Heal the memories and emotions associated with those memories.

7. You shall close the door to evil.

When we experience bitterness, resentment, hate or unforgiveness, we, in effect, invite the devil to become involved in our lives. Remember that love and hate can not occupy the same emotional space at the same time. Inner healing is based on the ability to open oneself up to accepting forgiveness and giving

forgiveness. By expressing forgiveness, we choose to follow God's path and "close the door" to evil. Forgive.

8. You shall forgive yourself.

Remember in the summary of the last article, you were encouraged to make a list of those you wish to forgive. Usually the person left off this list is the author of the list! It is easier for us to browbeat ourselves than to forgive ourselves. Recall some self talk. Perhaps it went something like: "What a dumb thing to do!" "Any idiot would know..." "I can't do it because..." "This is a dumb question,..." and so forth. Why not forgive ourselves for our shortcomings? A healthy self concept is important for healing. Some individuals may block their own healing because of feelings of unworthiness and non-forgiveness. The central theme of Christ's message is Love. Unless we have a healthy love for ourselves, how can we love others? How can we give something we do not have? Forgiving ourselves is one way to show a healthy self-love. Forgive yourself.

9. Remember forgiveness is a process.

As we experience life, we gain a fuller knowledge of who we are. Likewise if we allow ourselves to experience forgiveness throughout life, we get a clearer idea of the process of forgiveness and its healing properties. Moreover, the healing occurs at progressively deeper levels. We often find that we forgive individuals and then sometime later, we become aware of the need to forgive them again. Is this additional forgiveness necessary because the first try "didn't take"? No. Rather we are asked to forgive at continually deeper emotional levels. If one thinks of the many levels of an onion, we get an idea of the multiple levels at which we must forgive in order to heal. Within commandment 6 we get an idea of the multiple levels of forgiveness. So how many times must we forgive? Forgive until there is no emotional tie to that person or situation. Peel back the layers of the onion, until there is no onion left.

10. You shall love your neighbor by being channels of healing.

We all are aware that we hurt each other, unintentionally or intentionally. When we begin to forgive, we begin the healing process and become a channel of healing for others. When we forgive, we lose the emotional ties, the anger, bitterness and resentfulness toward the situation or person. These self imposed barriers to healing are lifted and we can

become a channel of healing for others, by ministering Christ's Love for one another. Be a channel of healing.

In this short series on the Healing Power of Forgiveness, we covered a number of aspects on the topic, such as: how lack of forgiveness is really a self imposed stressor, how those stressors create disease at the physical, emotional and mental levels and tangible steps that we can take to learn and practice forgiveness (DeGrandis,1981). As we practice forgiveness toward ourselves and others, we continue walking in God's path by demonstrating His Love for others, as well as ourselves. As we take this journey together, remember to forgive yourself. The journey is inward and the guide is the Trinity.

St. David's Christian Ed notes

By Debbie Davis and Nan Strickler

May 18th, no Sunday school class, **recognition for all students.**

Vacation Bible School starts Sunday, July 20th through Thursday, July 24th, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

It has been a fulfilled year with all the Sunday school students. I can hardly believe the school year is coming to an end. We are so proud of all our student's; they have all worked very hard in all that they have accomplished this year, the winter retreat, the Christmas program, Easter program, roller-skating, the "50's Hop N Sock" and the "South of the Border" dinners. Other fundraisers they worked on like candle sales, calendar sales, collecting pop cans, donating to Humane Society, Operation Christmas Child, just to name a few. They also, volunteered on different occasions for coffee hour.

I just want to say, "your all so very special." We look forward to seeing all of you at Vacation Bible School in July. Have a safe and fun summer and see you in September! God bless!

Help

By Jerry Williams

It's that time of the year again—taxes are paid, Easter is over and it's time to think about Stewardship. Say, what?! This is spring, not fall.

Well it's like this. Fr. David has recently asked me to be the Vestry person in charge of stewardship this

year. After I said "yes", I thought it might be a good idea to look at the duties of this new ministry. In addition to the traditional Pledge drive each fall, the stewardship ministry is responsible for, among other things, "...evaluating the state of stewardship in the parish and implementing a year round stewardship education program". Whew! This sounds like work.

The good news is that I'm supposed to form a Stewardship Committee to assist me in fulfilling these duties. So, the real purpose of this article is to plea for your HELP.

In addition, Bishop Geper is making stewardship one of his top priorities for all churches in the Diocese and, to this end, is sponsoring his first annual Stewardship Event in Big Rapids on June 13-14. Carol and I are planning to attend, and the Vestry has approved the payment for up to three parishioners to attend this event. It promises to provide a lot of useful information and resources for helping us develop our program for 2003 and beyond. If you volunteer for the Stewardship Committee, you could be eligible for a 2-day, all expenses paid "vacation" to sunny Big Rapids.

Seriously, I really do need your help. Please contact me at 882-4142 or jerrywill42@att.net. ☩

Financial update

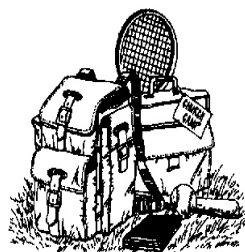
By John Stirckler

At our annual meeting in January your vestry shared concern over our financial condition. We told you pledges for 2003 were considerably lower than they were for 2002. We also reported that our budget for 2003 was based on the assumption that we would have the same amount of financial support as we had in the previous year, even though pledges in hand didn't support that assumption. We made up the difference by increasing our anticipated plate offerings from \$11,400 received last year, to \$52,000 this year. We also told you that if developments didn't meet expectations, serious financial decisions would follow.

With the first quarter of the new year now behind us, I would like to update you on where we stand. Happily I report to you that we are on-budget. Although below last year, that difference has been more than compensated by our plate collections. As a result, overall, we're about where we hoped we would be when we approved this year's budget.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 625



Episcopal Summer Camp 2003

Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center Dowling, MI

Dates

Jun 29 – Jul 5
July 6-12
July 13-19

Camps

Senior High
Munchkin
Junior High

Grades (as of fall 2002)

10-12, and 2003 graduates
3-6
7-9

Camp begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday with check-in and
ends at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday with check-out.

Registration deadline is May 4, 2003, or as soon as possible.

A \$100 deposit is required to reserve a space at camp.

Balance of \$225 registration fee must be paid in full two weeks prior to the camp session.

See the Summer Camp flyer in the narthex for more information.

Education for Ministry

By Barbara Van Dyke

The Education for Ministry program or more commonly known as EFM will begin its third year at St. David's on Sunday August 24 from 1-4 PM. This is an introductory time and the topic will be group dynamics from an EFM point of view.

There are four years in the EFM sequence: year 1 studies the Old Testament; year 2 studies the New Testament; year 3 studies Church History and year 4 studies Contemporary Christian Theology. Members enrolled in all four years can be in the same group. For each year there are Common Lessons that all members study regardless of their year of study.

The first meeting on August 24 will be a time of introductions and a very brief overview of the goals and style of the EFM class format. You do not need to have registered prior to this class but a commitment and fees are expected at that time. The course tuition has gone up from \$325.00 to \$340.00 for this year. If you are interested in participating in the EFM experience next year plan to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be provided.

For questions contact an EFM member of St. David's, Francis Jacobs, Pat Purol, Gerry Purol; or Margaret Smithka; Brad Bos of St. Johns in Charlotte or Barbara Van Dyke, mentor of St. David's. Members of other Episcopal Churches are welcome.

What - EFM

When – August 24, 1-4 PM

Where – St. David's, room to be determined

Cost to be paid on this day - \$340.00

Future Meetings – to be decided by the group

Benefits – a Better understanding of Scripture in relation to our lives as Episcopalians

Down side – a lot of reading

Up side – a lot of learning

Watermen's Corner

By Jim Thurston

This is my last official notice for a month or so (DARN :-), so enjoy the silence and remember the Job Jar.

Month of May:

Mothers Day -- Happy Mothers Day to each of you lovely ladies.

St. David's Garage Sale -- men, please feel free to assist with set up and take down as needed and as you have done so in the past. You are the best.

St. David's 40th. anniversary celebration -- Please plan to attend and lend a helping hand when called upon.

Month of June:

June 1 -- The men and boys are invited to attend a Men and Boys Corporate breakfast held at the Old Country Buffet by MC Sporting Goods a few miles from our church, immediately **after** the 9:30 worship service. Please, do not let the cost prevent you from attending -- full or partial breakfast scholarships are available -- contact me for details.

Month of July:

Summer break - nothing planned

Month of August:

Summer canoe trip - Mt. Pleasant area. Stay tuned.

Month of September:

Fun night - TBD