

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 10

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

November 2003

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## St. David's

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

## Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134  
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115  
Steve Leiby, Box 70  
Ron Schavey, Box 44  
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138  
Gail Donovan, Box 17  
Debbie Cornell, Box 28  
Tom George, Box 119  
John Post, Box 87  
Charlotte Byers, Box 71  
Bill Paff, Box 118  
Jerri Hoffman, Box 24  
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry, Box 167

## Newsletter

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

## 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

## St. David's Episcopal Church

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## Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.  
Friday 7:00 a.m.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

201 W. Shepherd Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
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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

All Hallows Eve + All Saints Day + All Souls Day

Each year people do more and more with Halloween. You can now find houses with as many Halloween decorations throughout the house and yard as many houses have at Christmas time. Seasonal graveyards, orange pumpkin lights, black cats, bats, scarecrows, witches, monsters, and much more crop up earlier and earlier each year. Costumes become more elaborate (and costly) as everyone tries to outdo everyone else in having just the perfect costume.

For most people, Halloween is all about having fun. Having the funniest, or scadest costume, best party, greatest collection of trick or treat candy is what people hope for. Most people don't for a moment remember that Halloween is rightfully called All Hallows Eve and is the night before All Hallows Day better known as All Saints Day.

The early church didn't do anything special on All Hallows Eve. On the other hand All Saints Day was a day of great celebration. The first known celebration of All Saints occurred in the late 300's on the first Sunday after Pentecost. There are records of All Saints Celebrations in Rome in the Sixth Century.

By 609 All Saints Day was celebrated in the city of Edessa on May 13th and remained on this date for the next 100 years. During the time of Gregory III, who died in 741, the date was changed to November 1't . This was as a result of his dedication of a chapel to All the Saints' in the basilica of St. Peter. It has remained on this date ever since.

All Saints Day is when we remember all the saints, living and dead, who have shaped and continue to shape our lives. These are the ones who influence our lives and help us become all that God intends for us. We learn from their lives, teachings and example. It is important for us to honor them with a special day.

All Soul's Day is when we remember the faithful departed. This day acts as an extension to All Saints Day. Whereas All Saints remembers the "saints" everyone knows, All Souls remembers those not know to the wider Christian fellowship. It is a day of special remembrance of family members and persona friends who have died. This is the reason we place sheets out for people to list the names of their loved ones whom we then remember in prayers on All Souls Day.

In very different ways, all three days are about celebrations. All Hallows Eve, the celebration of fun with children, All Saints with the celebration of the saints who impact our lives, and All Souls with the celebration of our loved ones and fdends. Be sure this year to enjoy all three for what they are intended to be.

May God always bless and keep you, and those you love.

With deepest affection,  
Fr. David

To everyone in our St. David's family

Your prayers, love and support for Frederick was overwhelming to our family. Words cannot describe our deep appreciation for all your expressions of sympathy, the beautiful Celebration of Life service, delicious luncheon, kind words, cards and donations. It all helps to ease the pain of losing someone so special to us. May God bless all of you.

In appreciation and love,  
Norma, John, Ellen, Rob, Julie, Katie and  
Lindsey Bunday

## The Church Mouse heard ...

**Jay Bastian** is home recovering from back surgery. For the first time in months he an sleep through the night without pain. **Lee Brooks** is in Sparrow with an infection to his hand which he picked up from a splinter from his wheelbarrow.

**Daniel Buzzie** is once again selling wonderful Apple Pies for the Waverly High School Band. Be sure to order several for the holidays and save time by just having to bake fresh frozen pies.

**Dave Byers** and **Janie Byers** are up north recovering from the last Cursillo Weekend. Dave was the Rector and Janie was on the team. Many people from St. David's were on the team. They include **Kay** and **Bill Paff**, **Elaine** and **Jim Tolsma**, **Tami Varricchio**, **Nancy** and **Fr. David Pike**, **Patricia Purol**, **Mike** and **Denise Wils**, **Tom** and **Nancy George**. **David Wils** attended the weekend as a candidate and all had a great time. Many thanks as well to the many others from St. David's who helped throughout the weekend and especially those who helped put the church building back in order afterwards.

Continue to keep **Kerry Chapin** in your prayers until she finds a new job. **Edith** and **Ken Cole** just spent time in New York with Chris and Beth and the grandchildren. **Amy Graves** has a new pug puppy who is sooo cute! Please keep **Dick** and **Fran Homer** in your prayers as their daughter-in-law has been experiencing health problems. **Carolyn Jacobs** and **Barb Post** are home recovering from minor outpatient surgeries. **Larry Ewing** is home recovering from a hip replacement. **Meda** and **Leo Thrall** have made several trips up north to the cottage now that Meda is well enough to travel. **Sue Kohler** hosted an 80th birthday dinner for her dad in the Great Hall. Keep **Scottie** and **Helen Lee** in your prayers as Scottie continues to experience health problems. **Rob** and **Karen (Hammond) Oleson** are in their new home now and very pleased.

## St. David's November Birthdays

3	Eric Root
3	Connie Fisher
7	Jeanne Fraas
8	Abby Leinbach
9	Kelly Zaske
10	Laura McNeil
10	Alexa Brewer
11	Robert Nostrant
12	Jarred Brabon
12	Walter Reynolds
14	Gary Mugnolo
15	Blake Stamper
16	Char Sherman
19	Kari Hartwick
19	Sarah Ostrom
19	Krista Stanton
23	Lorayne Otto
23	Rob Oleson
24	Kara Langenberg
26	Shirley-Anne Smith
26	Conner Brewer
29	Nicholas Reynolds

## November Anniversaries

9	Jim & Elaine Tolsma
16	Robert & Shirley Nostrant
21	Kent & Marjorie Allemeier

Our housekeeper **Betty Quesada** is a new grandmother after her daughter's difficult pregnancy. **Krista Stanton** continues to improve health wise. Pray for **Rita Stanton's** father who is in bad health and for **Bill Stanton** and his health. **Lisa Ward** is selling fruit and Christmas greens again this year with the proceeds going to help Sirens Shelter for Abused Women. **Barb Wegner** is recovering from her surgery and back in charge of the St. David's Prayer Chain. ☩

## Anglicans Meet in Dallas

By Nancy Pike

As many of you are aware from the news, a group of people who are members of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America (ECUSA) recently held a gathering in Dallas, Texas to discuss their opposition to the recent actions of the General Convention. The gathering was planned and organized by the American Anglican Council (AAC).

The AAC is a “network of biblically orthodox, mainstream Anglicans in the Episcopal Church.” Over 2700 Episcopalians participated, including 46 Bishops, 48 Deacons, 807 Priests, 105 Seminarians and 1426 Lay Persons. The title of the gathering was “A Place To Stand: Declaring. Preparing.” I was one of the 1426 Lay Persons who signed the document called “A Call to Action,” which was sent to the Primates to support traditional belief in the Bible and express our opposition to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

It was a wonderfully uplifting experience to be among other Episcopalians who, while dissenting on ECUSA’s departure from the overwhelming majority of our Brothers and Sisters within our international Anglican Communion, wish to remain Episcopalians. We had an opportunity for praise and worship together, and left with a sense of encouragement and real hope for the “vision of an inclusive church that is fixed on the Lordship of the one and only Savior Jesus Christ—an inclusive church welcoming all who are sinners, who are broken, and who will repent and ask for transformation.”

If anyone would like more information, please check [www.americananglican.org](http://www.americananglican.org) or feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,  
Nancy Pike ✠

## Renewal and Healing Conference

By John Post

On the evening of Friday, March 12, 2004 and during the day on Saturday, March 13, we will have a combined Renewal and Healing Conference at our church, sponsored by the St. David’s Renewal and Evangelism Committee and by the St. David’s/Capital Area Chapter of The Order of St. Luke. The leader of the conference will be The Rev. Dr. Jack Sheffield of Deep River Ministries in Austin, TX. Several people from St. David’s heard Fr. Jack speak at the North American O.S.L. conference this spring, and found him to be a very engaging and thought provoking speaker.

This program will be a continuation of the long list of renewal activities which have been held at St. David’s through the years, including three Faith Alive Weekends, The Sondancer Clown Ministry, several Acts 29 programs, a Fisherfolk Concert, a concert by Martin Bell, two “Healing of Memories Workshops”, and a “Called to be More” program. We have had as speakers The Rev. Terry Fullam, The Rev. Forrest Mobley, The Rev. Carl Buffington, The Rev. Charles Fulton, The Rev. Fred Goodwin, and -- just last year -- The Rev. Rob Taylor, who presented Act 29’s “The Empowered Christian” program. The St. David’s Order of St. Luke Chapter has also sponsored programs at our church, bringing here The Rev. Al Durance in 1995 and The Rev. Richard Singleton in 2001.

This Renewal and Healing Conference will be the first time these two sponsoring groups have come together to produce a program for the people of St. David’s and the larger community. It should have something for everyone who attends. Look for more information in future editions of the Good News Letter. Mark you calendar now for March 12 and 13, 2004! ✠

## **Sabbatical planning**

*By Gail Donovan*

The Sabbatical Planning Committee continues to meet monthly. The Sabbatical plan we are developing has four primary parts:

1. Father David's itinerary – what he plans to do and hopes to achieve during the sabbatical leave
2. A comprehensive budget
3. Operations Manual – a who does what list
4. Information Network

The committee recognizes the Information Network as a critical part of the Sabbatical Plan. The Newsletter will continue to have monthly updates on the sabbatical which will culminate with an article by Fr. David upon his return. Drop a note in a committee members mailbox with your questions and concerns. We are attempting to address questions as fully as possible at this time. An informational letter to the entire congregation will be sent prior to the annual meeting and time will be allocated during the annual meeting to address questions.

Finally, when you receive your Grace of Giving pledge card, please prayerfully consider your talents and where your name might fit in the Operations Manual. This sabbatical offers each of us opportunities to grow our individual ministries.

## **UNITED THANK OFFERING**

*By Gail Donovan*

Thank you for your gifts to UTO. The pennies and dollars we dropped in our blue boxes, offered with prayers of thanksgiving for all the great and small blessings God has bestowed on us, will be joined with others to meet the needs of those less fortunate and to fund church expansion in this country and around the world. Your coins combined into a \$526.98 check Father David was able to present to UTO at this years diocesan convention. ☩

## **!!New this year!! ECW – Make & Donate**

*By Gail Donovan*

On Monday, November 10, from 7- 9:00 p.m., the ECW is sponsoring its annual pre-Christmas social evening and craft night. This year instead of a Christmas "Make & Take" project, we will be making Christmas ornaments, decorations, cards, and other similar items to donate to the St. David's Bazaar. Proceeds from the St. David's craft table go toward the kitchen oven hood. You can bring a Christmas craft project from home to make that evening or just come and choose from the ideas and supplies that will be provided. Please bring scissors, glue, glue guns, ribbons, pins, beads, or any other craft items you may have on hand. Questions, contact Eileen Newhouse.

!!!Don't miss it!!! Refreshments provided by Carey Draeger and Andrea Flitton. YUM, YUM!!!

## **From the Watermen**

*By Jim Thurston*

Please review our survey in this months newsletter - we would like your input.

In November the Watermen will assist in hosting another Veterans Day celebration - stay tuned for details.

Please support the Fund Raising program that will enhance our kitchen and your church. I encourage all of you to buy as many \$5.00 Younkers certificates as possible. Not only does the church keep the full price of the ticket, you benefit by receiving \$5.00 off your purchase at Younkers on November 22nd. This is truly a WIN/WIN proposition.

And remember the "Job Jar " ☩

## What Does God Have in Store for You?

by Jerry Williams

During the past few weeks, we have tried to say some important things about the “Grace of Giving, A Journey in Faith” program. We have said that the program’s purpose is to deepen our faith, that everything we have is a gift from God, that keeping Sabbath is very important to God, and that wherever St. David’s offers its ministry, whether in our parish, our city, our community, our nation or our world, you are there, too, ministering through your gifts.

Now we come to consider the pragmatic question: how can I be responsible to God, to our ministry here at St. David’s, and to myself in my giving?

The answer lies in the principle called *Proportionate Giving*. Simply stated, it works like this:

Take what you have, i.e., your income, and make a prayerful and conscientious return to God out of that income. Commit yourself to share a worthy portion of your income with Him through St. David’s.

The purpose of proportionate giving is not to raise money for the church. While it does do that, its fundamental purpose is to provide each of us with a conscious and spiritually centered avenue by which our commitment to Jesus Christ grows and deepens. As we give more of ourselves to God, we naturally come to rely and trust Him more. Slowly, but surely, our foundational faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior enlarges and we come to see Him also as our Provider and Protector in everyday matters. One person, who gives 10% of his income to the church, put it succinctly when he said, “God and I can do more with the remaining 90% of my income than I can do with 100% on my own.”

As I mentioned in my talk in church a few weeks ago, my family and I have been coming to St. David’s for 30+ years. We have always pledged, but, in the beginning, our pledge was

quite small. The size of our pledge had nothing to do with our income; it had to do with my relationship with God and my attitude about giving. In a word, both stank. That was Carol’s description, not mine. She told me that we should be giving at least 10% of our income to the church. After Carol scraped me off the ceiling, I calmed down long enough to listen to what she was telling me. Then, two things began to happen. First she led me to certain Scriptures--Scriptures that convicted me of my stingy heart (and that revelation really hurt), Scriptures that speak of giving to God out of love for Him and to thank Him for my blessings, and, finally, Scriptures that speak of giving to God generously and joyously. Secondly, Carol and I compromised on what our pledge should be. I agreed to 10% and she agreed that we could work toward that goal over a period of time.

Well, a funny thing happened along my journey with God on this issue of giving. My attitude about giving began to change. I had always looked upon our pledge as paying “our dues” for belonging to the church. After all, we have to pay our priest, the mortgage, the utilities, etc. That attitude has been replaced, over time, with a great desire to give and to give generously and joyfully. As God tells us to do in the Book of the prophet Malachi, I tested God and He has been true to His Word. He has opened up the floodgates of Heaven and filled my life with blessings too numerous to count. Now, I am not wealthy, but I am rich beyond measure. I have my God who saves me, I have my soul-mate, Carol, I have my family and I have you my brothers and sisters in Christ.

The result of all this was that we ended up tithing in four years—not the 10 I had thought it would take and we are now working on the next 10%.

What God has done for me, He is doing with others here at St. David’s and wherever Christians gather. And He wants to do this same thing for each of us! God knows our hearts and He knows that where our treasure is, so there will our hearts be also. Make no mistake about it, God wants our

hearts. He knows to get them He has to get us to unlock the chains we place on our money and time.

That's why He calls us to excel in the grace of giving—so that we can:

- Be faithful to God with all that He has given us.
- Do the work He has called us to do here.
- Take a step forward in our individual journeys of faith.

May God continue to bless us so we here at St. David's may continue to bless others, In Jesus' Name, Amen! ☩

## Healing through music

*By Rev. Patricia Harlow*

*Submitted by Carolyn Jacobs*

One of my compositions is entitled "If There were No Music - How Would You Sing a Song?" What would our lives be like if there were no music? Think about this question and you could realize that music strikes a deep chord within our souls.

Music offers an enormous amount of enhancement. It can entertain, uplift, soothe, bring a smile, impress and bring pleasure - physically, mentally, and emotionally. The latest area of study relates music with healing. Many programs are offering examples of music's power to heal, to ease chronic pain, dissolve anxiety, lift depression and speed the healing process.

An increasing number of physicians and other health professionals are recommending music and sound therapy for physical problems - such as chronic pain. Emotional problems, such as depression and anxiety can be helped by music. There is a growing trend toward holistic health - the blending of traditional health care with alternative therapies. Reike (hands on healing), with music in the background, is a good example. Reike is similar to our method used in prayer ministry. There are no words used in Reike.

Michigan State University offers courses in music therapy. This was started in 1944. Licensed music therapists help patients get better by listening to music, moving to its rhythm, or performing. There is an American Music Therapy

Association which was organized in 1998. Now many therapists have private practices.

The vibration of sound waves can promote health. Music has important characteristics like pitch, rhythm, volume, and timbre. In hospitals the use of ultrasonics to destroy kidney stones works with the principle of resonance, which is the basis of sound healing. Disabilities, such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and dementia, which involve physical or mental deterioration, can benefit by the application of music.

It has been shown that the structure of diseased cells, as in cancer, can be destroyed by sound vibrations. The human voice carries something in its vibrated frequencies which can destroy diseased cells. Patients undergoing surgery can benefit by listening to music - both before and during surgery. Meditation and music have an effect on the human body - similar to prayer. Immune enhancing effects can be helped via music therapy sessions. Music changes a person's emotions and mood states. Music totally engages the brain, allowing us to think more clearly. Singing, chanting, and other human sounds allow more oxygen into the cells.

Would you believe that listening to Mozart can be an aid in helping emotional difficulties? There are those who believe that music is the medicine of the future. Classical music offers more in the healing area than does rock music. Our church music, with its religious base, helps in healing.

Music has an amazing power to heal. It distracts people and relieves their anxiety. When pain is involved, music can change a person's perception of pain and their tolerance for it.

Hospice patients can benefit from the sounds of harp music, or soft melodies played on the piano, or soothing music sung by the human voice.

I would like to see combining music with our prayer ministry service. My reward in creating ,music is to touch others with a part of my soul. With thanks to a little booklet, "The Healing Sounds of Music" by Janice Arenofsky - 2002 copyright. ☩

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## Happening #27 December 5-7, 2003 St. John's Episcopal Church Grand Haven, MI

**HAPPENING** -- a Christian Experience, is a time for teens to consider what is real, lasting, and important in their lives. It is rapping with their peers about decisions they are making in their lives. It is meeting other teens who have put **HAPPENING** together in their lives. **HAPPENING** is basically put on by teens. The adults who will be there will be cooks, "Moms" and "Dads", or perhaps one or two will be there as Happeners just like you. Priests will be there to provide spiritual guidance and a listening ear if you should need one.

Additional information and a registration form are in the narthex. **Registration forms and \$40 fee must be returned to Gary Mugnolo by Thursday, November 20, 2003.** You can contact Gary by telephone at 517-321-4093 or by e-mail to [mugman026@aol.com](mailto:mugman026@aol.com).