

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 8 No. 8

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

September 2002

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St. David's

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

Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134
Bill Fleener, Jr., Jr. Warden, Box 37
Dave Byers, Treasurer, Box 15
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Scott Foster, Box 121
Dawn Iverson, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Davis, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Jerry Williams, Box 115
Craig Leinbach, Box 27
Nan Strickler, Secretary to the Vestry, Box 134

St. John's

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

Vestry

Ted Dotts, Senior Warden
William Gin, Junior Warden
Deborah Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford
Nina Robinson
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

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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.
Evening Prayer: M, T, Th, F 6:30 p.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: stjohnepiscopalchurch201@yahoo.com
Web: www.rural-net.com/stjohnschurch

Service Schedule

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

Centering Prayer

By Barbara Van Dyke

Something new for St. David's will begin with the new Church School year – *Centering Prayer*. We will meet on the second and fourth Sundays in the Chapel from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

As an introductory time, we will meet in the chapel on Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 a.m. for a video presentation of Centering Prayer followed by discussion. Reading materials will also be handed out at this time. Our first time to try our souls at Centering Prayer will be September 22nd.

All are welcome to come. The only prerequisite will be to see the video before you come the first time. If you have experience with Centering Prayer, let me know.

We will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. with a brief discussion of how to get started, and once we are in the prayer, the door will remain closed until 10:15.

September dates:

15th Introduction to Centering Prayer 9:15 a.m.
22nd First time for Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.

October dates:

13th Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.
27th Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.

November dates:

10th Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.
24th Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.

December dates:

8th Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.
22nd Centering Prayer 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Mark your calendars. If you have any questions, call Barbara Van Dyke at 699-2366.

St. David's September Birthdays

1	Meda Thrall
2	Ellen Ross
2	Grace Waligorski
4	Patrick Lawrence
4	Peg Dods
6	Matthew Thurston
10	Philip Smithka
11	Debra Benoit
11	Joshua Sherman
13	Mary Benoit
15	Rosemay Tait
15	Adam Martzke
16	Sally Lawrence
16	Adam Williams
17	Edwin Vandermoere
17	Scott Kriek
17	Andrew Mugnolo
18	Eileen Newhouse
18	Patrick Lynaugh
19	Rhoda Swift
19	Gretchen Smith
19	Jordan Spitzley
20	Rita Startton
20	Craig Leinbach
21	Jane Hill
21	Larry Lindstrom
21	Dick Hammond
23	Fay Gilman
24	Cassandra Vaughn
24	Bridgerte Oleson
25	Robert Solomon
25	Shawn Root
28	Mike Damico
28	Marjorie Allemeier
30	Kevin Root

September Anniversaries

5	Don & Sally Lawrence
5	Jerry & Carol Williams
5	Fred & Christy Lovejoy
8	Harold & Betty Payne
9	Matt & Melissa Waligorski
10	John & Jamie Stiles
14	Art & Barb VanDyke
15	Bill & Peg Dods
15	Doug & Char Sherman
23	Dave & Janie Byers
28	Jim & Mary Jane Buzzie
29	Russ & Pat Vine
29	Frank & Nancy Howard

The Healing Corner

By Carol Williams

Many years ago when I was diagnosed with a chronic illness, I decided to look into God's Word and find out what He had to say about sickness and disease. I was encouraged to do this because I had heard a minister say that he believed that it was God's will that everyone be healed. He also said that a group of Episcopal priests had studied the healing ministry of Jesus and came to that conclusion. Well my reaction was one of disbelief and yet I knew that I had to find out more about that specific study.

My search led me to The Order of St. Luke the Physician. I believe the minister may have been referring to the section of the Order's handbook entitled "GOD WILLS HEALTH." This is what it says. "All humanity is the creation of a loving God Who wills for everyone wholeness, health of the total person, body, soul and spirit, When we pray for healing, we are to pray, "Thy will be done" not "If it be Thy will." All sickness and all brokenness is contrary to the will of God. At no time is sickness a part of His purpose or plan for any part of His creation. Our primary purpose in the Healing Ministry is to see God's will fulfilled in the restoration of wholeness." Nowhere have I read such a strong statement concerning God's will about healing, except in His Word.

I pray that as people share their experiences about their healing we will have a deeper understanding about one of my favorite verses in His Word. It is in Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." After reading this scripture I had to ask myself, "Is it the enemy who is putting this illness on me or is it God trying to teach me something or punishing me for my sins?" There was and still is so much going on in my life that keeps me searching and studying for God's truth. I do thank God for healing me, it makes me believe that God indeed wants us to be sound and whole spirit, soul and body. ✕

Cloth(e) a Child coat drive at St. David's in September

By Andrea Flitton

Thank you for your August donations to *Cloth(e) a Child*. Your donations will help many youngsters start school with 'new' clothes.

Every year hundreds of children (some of the same children we helped get new clothes) in the Lansing area head into the winter wondering if they will have warm coats for the fall and winter. If you have any gently used children or adult coats that will fit children from sizes 4T to 16, please bring them to church and place them in the box that will be located in the Narthex, on September 22nd and 29th, 2002. Please be sure that they are clean, and not damaged in any way.

These coats will be taken to Judson Memorial Baptist Church which will distribute them through Christian Services to needy children in the area.

Thank you for your support in all of our Outreach Projects. The recipients of all your donations through the Outreach Committee are genuinely thankful for your help, and so are we.

Andrea
Outreach Committee ✕

Watermen's Corner

By Jim Thurston

Greetings: I trust everyone had a wonderful and safe summer.

The first Watermen meeting will be a Fun Night held on Tuesday, September 10 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Great Hall or Multipurpose room. Bring a goodie to pass along with some card games, video, or any other board game you wish. We will be planning for Fall and Spring activities. So far, we have potentially two or three great speaker events.

Don't forget the "Job Jar". And remember, the Watermen is open to any man of St. David's extended community family. ✕

St. David's Sunday School starting

By Debbie Davis

Sunday School Registration is September 8th and 15th.

Sunday School starts on September 15th with a "Kick Off" after the 10:30 a.m. church service. We will be having a hot dog roast, lots of food, games, and a dunk tank. Guess who the "dunkee" is??? You guessed right -- Fr. David!!! Look for the "Kick Off" form in this newsletter.

We are so excited for the new Sunday School year to begin. There are lots of new and exciting things happening this coming year -- Youth Sundays, class retreats, fund raisers, and celebrations, just to name a few. See everyone on September 15th.

VBS was successful, we had 34 students, each night was loads of fun and excitement. Thank you everyone for all your help with everything. We are looking forward to next year.

Deb Davis and Nan Strickler ✉

Education for Ministry starting in September at St. David's

By Barbara Van Dyke

Education for Ministry is a program of theological education-at-a-distance of the School of Theology of the University of the South. EFM covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of a trained mentor. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work.

EFM will begin in September at St. David's. First year students study the Old Testament, second year students the New Testament, third year students church history, and fourth year students liturgy and theology. Students receive a book of lessons specific for their year of

study and a book with the lessons common to all four years.

Each seminar includes a discussion based on what we have read, how we are stretched, what do we like, what we do not understand about the readings, and what may be in conflict with our previous learning. The focus of each seminar is theological reflection, and it is through this process that we gain insight into how scripture and other readings assist us in responding to events of our daily lives. Each week a student presents a theological reflection for discussion.

The cost for each year is \$325.00, payable by check or credit card (Visa and MasterCard only) to the University of the South. Registration forms and fees must be returned to Barbara Van Dyke by September 10. It takes two weeks to receive the material once the University of the South receives the order. The first seminar will be Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in classroom 9. This will be an introductory time to begin telling our stories and to discuss future meeting dates for the year.

Contact Barbara Van Dyke at 699-2366 for more information. Registration forms and other materials are available in the office. Registration forms and payment arrangements must be returned to Barb by September 10. See the companion article by Carol Williams in this newsletter.

Evening Prayer at St. David's

By Barbara Van Dyke

With the beginning of the Church School year and the regular schedule of worship service, Evening Prayer will resume worship times on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Last year was a time to introduce the Office of Evening Prayer to the family of St. David's. We are encouraging our members and others to come and experience this time of prayer that takes us from the busyness of the workday into our evening of time with family. Our days and times of Evening Prayer will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. In the words of the disciples when introducing Jesus to new folks, "Come and see."

Senior world at St. David's not just for seniors

By Barb Post

You don't have to be a "senior citizen" to participate in the St. David's Senior World Bible Study/Fellowship Potlucks -- all ages are welcome to attend.

The phrase "Senior World" applies to the residents of the Senior World housing complex, located south of St. David's on Mall Drive. They are invite as our guests to attend these meetings This program was initiated by Peg Spitler several years ago in order to help meet the social and spiritual needs of these residents. This fall we have invited nearly 100 residents to attend the first meeting on September 12. However, in order to provide the food and fellowship for the folks who come, we need a good turnout of St. David's parishioners! If you have questions and/or wish to make a reservation, call either Barb Post (323-1825), Lore Tuttle (321-2469), or the church office (323-2272). Those attending should bring a dish to pass and arrive at church by 11:15. The meetings include dining, singing, a teaching and discussion based on Scripture, and closing prayers. Other Senior World Bible Study/Fellowship Potlucks will be held on the second Thursdays of the month through April.

EFM

By Carol Williams

You may have heard some people talking about EFM. You may have read the articles in our newsletter to allow you to have some understanding of what EFM is all about. In case you may have forgotten, EFM stands for Education for Ministry. You maybe thinking *Well I don't intend to become a deacon or a priest, so why would I need to even think about EFM?*

In our Catechism in the section called "The Ministry" on page 855, the question is asked "Who are the ministers of the Church?" Do you know who is named first? Lay persons are mentioned first. That means you and me! If you are in a stage in your life where you would be willing to take time to read God's Word and to dig into your own past, present, and future, you just might find the discernment to know and understand the ministry to which God has called you and has equipped you to accomplish.

I'll be honest, the one thing that kept me going was the class time. The people that God put together to take this class and our mentor, Barbara Van Dyke, really made all the time and effort spent on studying the materials worth it.

If God has put it on your heart to be adventuresome and take some risks in your life right now, why don't you pray and ask God if EFM might be the answer.

Your Sister in Christ,
Carol ☩

St. David's Christian Education Calendar

Sept. 8th Sunday School Registration

Sept. 15th Sunday School Registration
and first day of class
Hot dog roast "Kick Off"
following the 10:30 service.

Oct 20th Youth Sunday, all Sunday
School students will do
"Coffee Hour." Please bring
a fruit, cookies, brownies, or
cake of your choice

Oct. 27th Hallelujah Party following
the 10:30 service. Students
can wear their Halloween
costumes to church; lots of
games and more.

St. David's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
July 16, 2002

Vestry in attendance: Craig Lainbach, Gail Donovan, Scott Foster, John Post, Jerry Williams, Ron Schavey, Tom George, John Strickler, Bill Fleener, Dawn Iverson, Deb Davis, Father Pike.

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with evening worship.

Secretary's Report:

Moved by Jerry Williams, seconded by Ron Schavey to accept the minutes as presented. Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Moved by Bill Fleener, seconded by Scott Foster to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Approved.

Rector's Report:

Father David reported that there would be no evening prayer services in July or August. The average attendance at services is up. Moved by Ron Schavey, seconded by Jerry Williams to accept the report as presented following correction of the typographical error, changing the title of the report from April to June. Approved.

Areas of Ministry:

Buildings and Grounds – Scott Foster is working on parking lot islands. The vestry is to decide whether we should purchase a canvas awning or a permanent extension of the portico over the driveway on the south side of the church. John Strickler suggested we find out prices involved, as well as an estimate of how long a canvas awning would last.

Stewardship – A committee will begin looking at ideas for the upcoming pledge drive. Craig is accepting volunteers to work on the committee.

Communication – Tom George stated he has received positive comments about the St. David's ad being run in the Lansing State Journal.

Renewal and Evangelism – Planning is continuing for Robert Taylor's visit near the end of September.

Outreach – Jerry Williams has approached Pat Vine regarding Food for the Poor. She felt our outreach program is more focused locally and is opposed to becoming involved in this program at the current time. The next date for serving dinner at City Rescue Mission is July 31st. Speaking on behalf of the Outreach Committee Jerry Williams moved to donate the following funds: \$500 to St. Vincent's Home for Children, and \$250 each to Youth For Christ and Child Evangelism Fellowship. Seconded by Ron Schavey. The money is to be used for ongoing capital building concerns. Approved.

New Person Ministry – John Post shared information he has compiled tracking new persons. He also informed vestry members of the items that are placed in the new person portfolios as well as the cost involved compiling the portfolio.

Fellowship – Gail Donovan has spoken with some parishioners about a Harvest Dance. The idea was well received. She will form a committee to work on the event. The July 3rd picnic was a huge success with more than 300 people attending.

Youth – Church camp is going on presently. St. David's has about 12 campers taking part and another 12 youth on the camp staff.

Christian Education – Deb Davis reported that VBS was extremely well attended. Youth have a suite of tickets to the Lugnut game August 18th, thanks to the generosity of Clark Construction. Sunday School registration for Fall will be held September 8th and September 15th.

Worship – On the first Sunday of the month there will be a 5 p.m. service in addition to the traditional morning services.

Vestry members agreed to hold a meeting in August and to meet following the 9:30 a.m. service Sunday, August 18th.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nan Strickler, Clerk

The Empowered Christian

By Dave Byers

How do you hear God's voice in the silence and the storm? How do your spiritual gifts fit into your "gift mix?" How can you discover the awesome power of the Holy Spirit ?

St. David's is very proud to welcome back, September 27-29, the Rev. Robert Taylor of ACTS 29 Ministry. His program, **The Empowered Christian**, is designed to equip and empower you for Triumphant Living and Ministry.

Rev. Taylor was "learning the ropes" while assisting the Rev. Canon Charles Fulton, when he visited St David's two years ago to speak about the Power of the Holy Spirit. Today, Rev. Taylor travels the country teaching and preaching at events within Episcopal parishes and beyond.

Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Rev. Taylor has more than 20 years of experience in various ministries.

On Friday evening, after Worship, Rev. Taylor will speak on *The Authority of Christ* and *The Basics*. On Saturday morning, after Worship, he will speak about *Vision* and *Prayer*. On Saturday afternoon, after lunch, he will conclude by speaking on *Discipling* and the *Awesome Holy Spirit*.

If you cannot attend the entire conference, please attend that which you can. Much can be learned from any teaching session.

This conference is open to any who wish to learn more about their role in living and ministry. It is presented, free of charge, by the families of St David's Episcopal Church. A nursery will be provided for young children.

In order to plan for materials for this conference, we strongly recommend that you pre-register your attendance by calling the St David's office at 323-2272, M-F from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, before Sept 27.

Please join us in a celebration of understanding our role as an "Empowered Christian"

If you have any questions, please call the St David's office at 517-323-2272. ☩

Notes from St. David's library

Summer is over -- sad words for some, but the arrival of a darkening time of reading, reflection, and prayer. It is darker in the morning when I read. Today -- two quite different books.

Manual of Christian Doctrine - Louis Berkhof (1933) - so very specific and scripturally supported. Words: predestination, elect, supralapsarian & infralapsarian, covenant, regeneration, justification, sanctification, millennialism, *Limbus Patrum*... Does anyone read these things? If so we have shelves of doctrinal books. It seems our Episcopalian doctrine is duly and regularly expressed in our worship - ,, "I believe..." If anyone wants more, our library is replete with books for deeper doctrinal study.

Another quite different, deep, devotional classic is The Golden Sequence by Evelyn Underhill (1933 also). I had an occasion this summer to participate in a holiness class through a Free Methodist University which used as its text a compilation from the devotional classics: the desert fathers & mothers, St Augustine, Julian of Norwich, Thomas a Kempis and scores more up through Evelyn Underhill, Merton, Bonhoeffer, Kierkegaard and Dallas Willard. I wish I could convey the depth of meaning and increased Godly devotion these writers advanced. Evelyn Underhill's Golden Sequence is squarely of this ilk. Suffice it to say, prayer will deepen, God will draw closer and the eternal will infuse the temporal in these "old-fashioned" writings. Two quotes: "The life of prayer, in its widest and deepest sense, is our total life towards and in God: and therefore the most searching of all the purifying influences at work in us."

Veni, Sancti Spiritus.

"Come, thou Holy: pour out in our dim lives the steadfast radiance of the Living Perfect.

Acknowledgement of our human incompleteness, is the beginning of the sequence through which the soul's transformation is accomplished."

The Phantom Librarian



Meet the Bishop!

The Rt. Rev. Robert Gepert, our new Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, visits St. David's on Saturday and Sunday, September 7th and 8th.

Please plan to attend to let our Bishop know "We are the friendly church on the west side."

Saturday: Potluck at 6:30

Sunday: Special reception after the 10:30 service
(please bring hors d'oeuvres or finger desserts)

St. David's Episcopal Church
1519 Elmwood Drive
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