

# THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 8

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

September 2003

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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.

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## Service Schedule

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

# Reflections of Father David

*So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.*

Genesis 1:21-23

There are many verses in the Bible that are favorites of mine. The first chapter of Genesis is certainly high on my list. This past month I was reminded again and again of the wonder, the power, and the awesomeness of God.

Our trip to Alaska was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event and I once again thank you all for helping it come about. Nancy and I were part of the rare 20 % who were actually able to see Mt. McKinley. I thought 6,000-foot mountains were impressive. Mt. McKinley, at 20,000 feet in height, is awe inspiring. Again and again new vistas appeared, showing beauty which cameras and paint could not hope to fully capture.

If I were to pick five places / events from those two weeks most memorable to me they would be Glacier Bay and the Margaret Glacier, The Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in Sitka, the humpbacked whales, the Northern Lights, and the Butchart Gardens in Victoria.

The day we entered Glacier Bay was sunny and the water was as smooth as glass. Our ship moved quietly and gracefully close to the glacier. The sun struck the brilliant white edge, where from time to time, huge chunks of ice and snow "calved" and crashed into the water. There were incredibly deep crevasses of a blue I have never seen before. Water boiled to the surface at the base of the glacier, hinting of a power mankind could never hope to contain. The awesome power of God to create and move a mile-wide, equally high, glacier is mind boggling.

St. Michael the Archangel Russian Orthodox Cathedral was designed by Bishop Innocent Veniaminov, who arrived in Sitka in 1834. The cornerstone was laid in 1844 and Finnish carpenters and craftsmen finished the spruce log structure in 1848. The Iconostas (wall of icons), Royal Doors symbolizing the gates into the Kingdom of Heaven, gold Tabernacle, Altar ware, chapels, and Cathedra are stunning. That almost everything in the Cathedral was saved from a fire in 1966 which destroyed much of downtown Sitka speaks of the people's love for this holy place.

Watching a pod of humpback whales swim, fish, breach, and sound, launching their tails in the air, was

incredible. I now have seen that "great Leviathan which God made just for the sport of it." At the same time we also saw bald eagles, golden eagles, Orcas, sea otters, and sea lions. It was a wonderful voyage through God's wonderful creation. Just think, God made all of this and we are called to enjoy it.

I have been blessed to see the Northern Lights three times now. The first time was while on retreat at the country house of the Society of St. John the Evangelist north of Boston. The second time was during a drive up to the Wharton Center from Albion. The most recent time was late one evening from the stern of our ship. To watch the sky ripple with dancing lights is, for me, to know how insignificant I am before God. I may think I am in control of my life and world, but I have been shown clearly that Almighty God must always be in control.

The Butchart Gardens in Victoria, B. C., Canada were started by Jennie Foster Butchart in the early 1900's. The first garden was a Japanese Garden between the north of the house and Tod Inlet. To the south, in the old quarry, she began what in time would become the spectacular Sunken Garden. A total of five gardens later, the grounds are stunningly spectacular. One cannot help but marvel at God's creation when viewing the hundreds of roses, bed after bed of flowers, the carefully tended shrubs, walks, ponds and breathtaking vistas. I have never seen gardens as beautiful as these are.

As I began by saying, this was a wonderful one-of-a-kind trip. Nancy and I will talk about it for years to come and will without a doubt spend many enjoyable evenings looking at our photographs. We were able to see the majesty and grandeur of God's creation in an incredible way. We have seen the great sea beasts, the Rose of Sharon, the sky declaring God's glory, the majesty of the mountains. Look around you and see the handiwork of God. Open your eyes and see what delights He has prepared expressly for you. Autumn is a time of rich abundance, wonderful color, and the blessing of human labor. Receive the blessings God desires to give and your life will be richer indeed.

Fr. David

## **Alien invaders at St. David's**

*By Thomas George, Building and Grounds*

HELP WANTED: We are being invaded by little green aliens. Mytle's bed and other areas of the grounds are being infested with these little critters. Please stop by St. David's and take a few minutes to pull out these weeds and put an end to their propagation. This little project can benefit you by providing soul food because you can meditate while pulling the weeds.

I have been assigned Buildings and Grounds and I don't have a problem with the building but I tend to have a long standing aversion to working on grounds. If anyone has any concerns about the Building and Grounds please let me know. I am developing a list of items that need attention and will be contacting those individuals who have expressed an interest in helping out. God Bless all of you and thank you for your help. ☩

## **St. David's adult Bible study**

Did you know that the Bible contains 37,000 promises made to you by God -- promises for your salvation, spiritual growth, personal needs, family, relationships, and eternal future? Are you interested in knowing more about these God-guaranteed promises and about what God has to say on a lot of other topics? Then come to the Adult Sunday Bible Discussion class. It meets each Sunday morning in the Youth Room at 9:00 a.m., beginning September 7, 2003. Discussion focuses on the Bible readings for each Sunday. Coffee, discussion materials and lively discussion are provided free of charge. ☩

### ***Nursery help needed***

St. David's nursery help is needed for the fall. Schedules are being made up shortly. If you are interested, please call Jaime Williams at 272-1996.

## ***Quilt Raffle Tickets***

*Proceeds to:  
St. David's Labyrinth Project*

*Prizes: Three Twin-Sized Quilts*

*Ticket Cost': \$5 each or 5 for \$20*

*Ticket sales from August 4 –  
October 12, 2003*

*Raffle Drawing: October 12, 2003*

*Need not be present to win*

*Ticket Sellers  
Tom and Nancy George  
Charlie Parker  
Tami Varricchio  
Office Staff*

*"We need volunteers to sell tickets to  
the community!  
Please see Tom George or call him at  
627-7226.*

*Thank you for your support!*

License No. X53986

## The Church Mouse heard ...

Word slowly reached my mouse hole that **Dick** and **Carol Schmidt's** son Steve's Junior College Basketball team won the National Basketball Championship. Great job Steve! Word reached me that **Fr. Bruce Irwin's** brother died earlier in the summer. If you would like to send a note to Fr. Irwin I am sure the office has his address. **Gary Mugnolo** has a new job. He now works for KSS Enterprises as a Sales Consultant. I'm sorry I missed getting this in, but **Megan Cote** of Beagle Middle School participated in the "Get the Lead Out" Literacy Contest and was one of three Grand Prize Winners in the Sixth Grade for her poem, "Maddi and Me." Way to go Megan! This year's grads were **Andrew Leigh** who will be going to LCC, **Krista Stanton** who will be going to Hope College in Holland, **Shirley Anne Smith** who will be going to LCC. **Brian Paff** graduated from Grand Valley State University and will begin his medical degree from MSU, and **Anna Strickler** graduated from MSU and is now working in Detroit. Have you met **Matt** and **Tanner Munson** who with their daughter just moved up from Alabama? Matt is a student at Cooley and they are living in the Canal 2 Apartments on Canal Rd. **Fr. David** and **Nancy** just returned from a trip to Alaska. From the looks of their pictures they had a great time. **Sarah** and **John Chapman** were with them. Keep in your prayers **Betty Jean Ware** who has been in Sparrow Hospital following more surgery. **Meda Thrall** is slowly getting better from her back problems. It has been a long summer with Meda in the house most of it. Have you met the Pike's new kittens Rose and MacGyver. Rose is a calico and Mac is a gray and white tabby with a "M" on his forehead. As far as cats go they are ok and I trust they will leave me alone and realize that I've been around much longer than they have. ☘

SAVE THE DATE! The Lansing area CROP WALK will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup>. St. David's is looking for new walkers. Find a buddy and join us!

Maria Leiby, CROP WALK Chair

## St. David's September Birthdays

1	Meda Thrall
2	Ellen Ross
4	Patrick Lawrence
4	Peg Dods
6	Matthew Thurston
9	Jordan Spitzley
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
20	Rita Stanton
20	Craig Leinbach
21	Jane Hill
21	Larry Lindstrom
21	Dick Hammond
23	Fay Gilman
24	Cassandra Vaughn
24	Bridgette 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
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 Sabbatical, Part 2

Why is it a good thing for the congregation?

*By Kay Paff*

Last month, we introduced you to the sabbatical committee and defined what a sabbatical is (it is NOT a long vacation!). This month we will look at why it is a good thing for the congregation to have their pastor take a sabbatical.

Those of us on the committee (Chair Gail Donovan, John Strickler, Larry Carey, Kay Paff, and Fr. David) felt the foreword to the book that we are using to guide our planning did a great job of describing the benefits to the congregation of supporting the concept of clergy sabbatical. Roy M Oswald wrote the foreword.

[Reprinted with permission from Clergy Renewal: The Alban Guide to Sabbatical Planning, by Richard A. Bullock and Richard J. Bruesehoff, copyright © 2000, The Alban Institute, 7315 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 1250W, Bethesda, MD 20814.]

Why should congregational lay leaders want their pastor to experience regular renewal leave? Consider these six strong motivations:

1. The very nature of being an effective pastor involves continual spiritual growth. Spiritual depth does not happen by accident; it takes hard, intentional work. Basically, it is a lifelong process involving big chunks of time set aside for reading, prayer, solitude, and reflection. Clergy will likely need to be in relationship with a spiritual director who can reflect with them on where they are on their spiritual journey, and what issues loom large on the horizon if they are to continue to grow in grace and faith. For some it may involve traveling to a spiritually significant place to gain perspective on their ministry. Trying to do this while working between forty-five and fifty-five hours each week is nearly impossible. If clergy are to deliver deep and challenging sermons regularly, congregations will need to provide opportunities

for their pastors to get away for extended periods of time dedicated to spiritual development.

2. Parish ministry today is changing rapidly. Congregations will experience neither numerical growth nor growth in spiritual depth and service when they refuse to move with changing times and develop fresh ways to reach new and younger congregants. Meeting this challenge means clergy must periodically retreat from the congregation to retool or refocus their ministry approaches. Visiting other congregations that are successfully reaching out to new members allows clergy to garner new insights they can bring back to their own congregations. Clergy renewal leave can help ensure that congregations will benefit from the best practices of other congregations.

3. Without such renewal leave, there is a stronger chance that clergy will, over time, demonstrate the key characteristics of burnout—namely, exhaustion, cynicism, disillusionment, and self-deprecation. It has been documented that people in the helping professions tend to burn-out the fastest, in part because the constant intimate involvement with the emotional freight of other people's lives can be draining. Burned-out clergy are much more likely to leave parish ministry, or seek another call, in order to get out of a place that is wringing them dry. Should that happen, the congregation will, in turn, likely experience a twelve- to eighteen-month search process for another pastor. If the search committee makes the wrong choice, the congregation will end up with a pastor who is unable to bring new life to the congregation. In fact, it may cost them several years of decline—not to mention a severance package! Even if the search committee makes the right choice, the new pastor will need two to three years to get to know the congregation and develop a significant program. Every pastoral turnover costs a congregation years of progress. Sabbatical leave helps avoid such situations.

4. Another lethal effect of burnout is that it makes a pastor dull, hollow, and uninteresting. Such people are not the best vehicle to bring good news to people! Clergy vitality is the greatest asset

in building up a congregation. When congregants feel their pastor is exciting and spiritually alive, they can't wait to bring their friends to church. When the pastor is burned out, congregants may be somewhat embarrassed to introduce their pastor to friends—there is no excitement left to which strangers feel drawn. The paradox of congregational ministry for clergy is that they are constantly invited to overextend (there is always someone they should have called or to whom they should have given attention) but doing so can torpedo the vitality that drives their ministry. Renewal leave can be a powerful antidote to this kind of debilitating burnout.

5. The pastoral role generally involves long, hard hours without weekends off, or even the occasional long weekend. Pastors are rarely afforded the luxury of having two consecutive days off every week that most laypeople enjoy. Every weekend involves a major output of energy on Sunday. Friday and Saturday are often consumed by sermon preparation, wedding rehearsals and weddings, and so forth. Congregations too often assume that clergy can remain vital and healthy and maintain a sound family life with only one day off per week. This is a crazy norm. We don't know where it comes from, but it permeates every denomination on this continent. When you add up the time off clergy miss that most lay people take for granted, it becomes clear that a three-month renewal leave every four years is a reasonable proposal that helps make up for that loss.

6. We need also to examine the ways in which congregations become overly dependent upon their clergy. For some congregations it is almost unthinkable to have their pastor away for three months. There is something quite unhealthy about an attitude that says, "We simply couldn't manage without him/her." How can a congregation develop skills in self-sufficiency if their pastor is never off the scene? Or learn how to manage their own life together effectively without him or her? Clergy renewal leaves can help congregations develop self-sufficiency skills that will be invaluable.

As we move into the fall, the committee will be meeting to further define Fr. David's dreams for this time of renewal. We will also look at how to take care of all the many tasks that Fr. David performs. We will continue to inform you of our progress as we move closer to the date of Fr. David's departure. ☩

## **ST. DAVID'S/SENIOR WORLD LUNCHEON PROGRAM**

*By Barb Post*

The St. David's/Senior World Luncheon Program is a joint ministry between St. David's and our neighbors at the Senior World Housing Complex, located south of our church on Mall Drive. This year marks the beginning of our eighth year of this ministry. It was started by Peg Spittle in 1996 when she invited residents of the Senior World Complex to join with the ladies of St. David's to study the Word of God together in a simple, refreshing manner. Since the beginning, this ministry has grown considerably in numbers. This year, in addition to nearly 100 invitations being sent to Senior World residents, we sent general invitations to other churches and other housing complexes, including Elmwood Park. We are indeed reaching out to our neighbors!

Each meeting of the St. David's/Senior World Luncheon Program begins with the enjoyment of a meal together. Our programs are simple, but always include "food for the soul" in the form of teaching from scripture, Christian videos, guest teachers, singing (often "the old hymns"), and beginning and ending prayer.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month from September through April. Our first meeting this year will be held on September 11. All are invited to attend--you don't have to be a senior citizen in order to attend the Senior World Program. Those attending should arrive at 11:15, bring a dish to pass, and be ready to enjoy this wonderful fellowship with our neighbors! The meetings end around 1:30. For more information and reservations, call Lore Tuttle (321-2469) or Barb Post (323-1825). ☩

## Grace of Giving Program for St. David's

by Jerry Williams

In last month's article, I described how current stewardship ministry at St. David's is focusing on "excelling in the grace of giving". This focus is based on the belief that all we have—our lives (time), our abilities (talents) and our money and wealth (treasure)—comes to us as gifts from our loving God. Our giving back to God, therefore, should be in loving response to Him who first gives us everything.

At the July Vestry meeting, Fr. David and the Vestry unanimously confirmed this new direction. Their corporate and individual decisions are reflected in the **Stewardship Statement of the Rector and Vestry**, which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. The **Stewardship Statement** tells us what St David's leaders believe concerning giving back to God and what each of them personally commits to in this regard. It then closes by challenging and inviting each member of the congregation to join them in embracing God's call to excel in the grace of giving.

The Grace of Giving Committee members—Dave Byers, Sue Kohler, Jim Thurston, Dianne Ulibarri and Carol and I—recently signed an identical statement. Together, these commitments of St. David's leadership provide a sure foundation for the Grace of Giving Program now being developed by the committee for this fall's pledge drive. Future newsletter articles will focus on God's principles of giving and the year-round aspects of the Grace of Giving Program. ☩

## St. David's Christian Ed notes

By Debbie Davis

Vacation Bible School was a great success. The children as well as the teachers and helpers were impressed by our Story Tellers! We wished everyone could have joined us each night. On the last evening of VBS, we had a pizza party and gave lots of goodies away. Everyone had such a great time. See you all next year!!

I want to thank each and every one of you who helped by being a teacher, a leader in crafts, games, the food court, all the wall props, the Story Tellers and yes, the MUSIC. Without your help and endless hours you have given made this all possible. I truly appreciate and am so thankful for each of you. Thank you again.

Sunday School starts Sunday, September 14, 2003, with a kick off after the 10:30 a.m. service. The High School class is planning on an "Aloha" dinner as part of our kick off. More information will be forthcoming. So, be sure to get your grass skirt out, your flower shirts and join us.

We need to fill **two positions** in our **Sunday School classes**. We need a teacher for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, and a teacher for the High School class, starting Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Davis at 517-647-2089 evenings, 241-5919 days, or contact the church at 323-2273. Thank you. ☩

## From the Watermen

By Jim Thurston

Greetings:

Some thank you's are in order for some very special individuals that assisted new parishioners, Tanner and Matt Munson, move into their apartment last month. Thanks Faris and Alex Howrani, Scott Cathy and his friend Amanda and her son Austin, Stephanie and Tim Coté and family, and Ron Schavey. A special thanks to God who gave us a cooling rain shower during the move. Thanks to all of you - great job.

The canoe trip was held August 2, and 10 people tripped the life fantastic down the Chippewa River and later went to the Thurston's for a cook out. A good time was had by all and I look forward to doing it again next year. So keep the first Saturday in August open in 2004.

The next Watermen meeting will be **Tuesday, Sept. 2** from 7 pm - 9 pm. This will be a fun night. Bring games, cards, smiles, snack, and a friend. Be Good and God Bless ☩

## **HAPPENING – A Christian Experience for Teens**

*What is it? How did it evolve? Who is it for?*

By Gary Mugnolo, Acting Diocesan Coordinator of *Happening*

I bet nearly 200 young people of this diocese might admit that (in his or her own world) there is a ‘party’ almost every weekend, but a *HAPPENING* weekend is truly an experience of a lifetime! So, what is this thing called *Happening* and why is it so special to so many young people?

***Happening - A Christian Experience for Teens*** is a ministry for and about teens that was born out of the shadows of the Cursillo movement in the diocese of Dallas/Ft. Worth in the early ‘70’s when a group of teens noticed a significant difference in the lives of parents and other adults who had attended a Cursillo weekend there. Since then, *Happening* weekends have been held in all 50 states and in countries all across the globe, enabling thousands of teens to strengthen their relationship with Christ.

A typical *Happening* weekend begins at 7:30 pm on Friday evening and ends with a closing Eucharist service on Sunday at around 2:00 pm. The weekend evolves around 12 talks given primarily by teens (a couple are given by Clergy) and is interspersed with games, lots of christian music and singing, small and large group activities, a few surprises and a great deal of fun and fellowship.

The diocese of Western Michigan conducts two *Happening* weekends each year – in the late fall/early winter (~ mid Nov. to early Dec.) and again in the spring (~early to late April) – and are held in parishes throughout the diocese (some *Happenings* in other parts of the country are held at the diocesan retreat center when such a facility exists.) The locations of our weekends changes from weekend to weekend as different parishes allow our community to utilize their facilities for such a weekend. The entire weekend is conducted within the walls of a given parish as we eat, sleep, learn and recreate inside the parish. (We all

converge upon a neighboring YMCA or Rec Center for showers!) We move from deanery to deanery in a sequential order so that teens scattered all around the diocese have fair access to participate in *Happening* weekends. Any teen attending high school from 2<sup>nd</sup> semester freshman year through graduating seniors are eligible to attend a *Happening* weekend.

The host parish doesn’t have to do anything at all other than to be generous stewards of their facilities and open their doors and make as much of the parish facilities available to us from Fri. afternoon through late Sun. afternoon. In turn, we will leave the facility as we found it, express our sincere gratitude to your congregation with our joy-filled voices via a serenade during your late Sun. am service, fill every crack and crevice with praise and glory to God, and take a very special feeling away that you enabled 60+ young people to broaden their christian faith within your friendly walls! Several churches that do host our weekends often make concessions and either postpone or re-locate a number or routine functions, ie. church school, coffee hours, etc. so that we may continue to use their rooms while normal Sunday church services are in session.

A typical weekend is composed of 15-25 candidates (those attending *Happening* for the very 1<sup>st</sup> time), a staff of approximately 30 teens, 5-10 adults, 1-2 clergy and 5-25 outside support staff made up of *Happening* grads, staff parents, members of the Cursillo community, etc. All of the adult participants have specific responsibilities that enable the teens to enjoy a spirit-filled weekend without the burden of dealing with logistics and latrine duties. We are always fortunate to have at least 1 nurse on site for the entire weekend, 3-4 committed to feeding and watering our entourage, a couple who serve in the proverbial roles as weekend ‘Mom’ and ‘Dad’, and 1 adult who oversees the weekend prayer chapel.

The cost of a *Happening* weekend is currently \$40.00 for candidates and \$25.00 for on-site staff members. The majority of these funds offset the

cost of food and supplies during a weekend. Contributions of homemade baked goods, ie. cookies & brownies, Kool-Aid & lemonade mixes, fresh fruit, cereals, copy paper, and, of course cash, are always welcome and appreciated, and enable us to keep our costs in line. Cash contributions to the *Happening* program enable us to provide a small number of 'scholarships' discretely to those candidates and staff members who are unable to cover the weekend fee.

When asked what *Happening* has meant to them, a few of teens had a bit more to say about it:

"It (*Happening*) was (and continues to be) a place to express my faith freely and openly with some of my closest friends... and a place to refuel my faith when I am running 'low'." - Cara Rouse (17) St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Paw Paw

"... *Happening* helped me when I was running on empty, and, to this day, I look back and think of how it has changed me. They (*Happening* staffers) are not a bunch of old hags that tell you to 'believe or go to hell'. They are people my age that helped me see that God is real." - Chelsea LaForge (14) Mars-Hill Non Denominational, Grand Rapids

"*Happening*" is a place to hang out with other Christians while we experience God's amazing love! It has helped me to realize that I need to make more time for faith than just on Sundays. It has also shown me how good it feels when you help bring others closer to Christ. ...the warmth and faith of your fellow teens surrounds you and becomes contagious." - Margaret Leiby (16) St. David's Episcopal Church, Lansing

"*Happening*" has made me realize many things about myself... and many aspects of my faith that I didn't realize existed. I saw the influence that God has on other people. Just looking at people while they sang, you could see the happiness on their faces and on their lips as they sang out His praise. Everyone there made me finally realize the joy and happiness that God has to offer... it might

be hard for me to talk to God about some problems, but it will help and He does care. It was an indescribable experience. The whole weekend will be life changing... Once you go, you will never want to leave! The people, the music, the lessons you learn will change everything for you. - Paula Emerson (16) Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids

"*Happening* has helped me to have a closer relationship with God and has taught me that you don't have to talk 'formally' to Him as long as you talk to Him. I know that God has a plan for me even if I can't see it at the moment." - Kimmy Rouse (14) St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Paw Paw

Perhaps the best way you (adult members of this diocesan community) could support the *Happening* program as well as the teens of your own home parish – better yet, the teens who might share your address -- is to personally encourage your young people (& their parents to allow them) to prayerfully consider attending a future *Happening* weekend. I can almost guarantee that they will not regret it... and neither will you!

Our fall 2003 weekend #27 will take place at St. John's Church in Grand Haven from Dec. 5-7, 2003. Our spring 2004 weekend will be held at a church in the eastern deanery (perhaps St. Thomas Battle, Creek or St. David's, Lansing) on a date to be announced later. If you have any questions, please direct them to Gary Mugnolo (517) 321-4093 or your parish priest. ☩

Many thanks to the following for preparing the August Good News Letter for mailing:

Clarence and Lucille Burgess

Larry Carey

Scott Cathy

Larry Ewing

Helen Lee

Charlie Parker

Thanks from John Post.

**St. David's Episcopal Church  
Lansing, MI**

**Stewardship Statement of the Rector and Vestry**

**We Believe ...**

1. All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.
2. God calls us to use His gifts of time, talent and money for carrying out His purposes.
3. The primary role of the Church is to bring individuals into a closer and deeper relationship with God.
4. God calls us to excel in the grace of giving.
5. Giving generously and joyously are powerful building-blocks in deepening our relationship with God.

**We Commit ...**

1. To proclaim God's abundant provision in our lives and His principles for giving.
2. To offer generously and joyously our time, talent and money to do God's work.
3. To strive to give back to God proportionately from His gifts to us, with the biblical tithe (10%) being the minimum goal.
4. To develop and present a comprehensive, year-round educational program on God's principles of giving.

**We Challenge and Invite ...**

You, our sisters and brothers in Christ at St. David's to:

1. Embrace God's call to excel in the grace of giving.
2. Continue to empower the mission of St. David's through generous and joyful giving.
3. Experience the outpouring of God's blessings in your lives.

Fr. David R. Pilca  
Fr. David  
John Strickler  
John Strickler  
Jerry Williams  
Jerry Williams  
Charlotte Byers  
Charlotte Byers  
Debbie Davis  
Debbie Davis  
Gail Donovan  
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Thomas L. George  
Tom George

Jeri Hoffman  
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Steve Leib  
Steve Leib  
William E. Paff  
Bill Paff  
John A. Post  
John Post  
Ron Schavey  
Ron Schavey  
Dawn Sonnenberg  
Dawn Sonnenberg

## The Healing Corner

By John Post

In the Gospel of John (14:12) we find Jesus saying, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing." And, as we all know, one of the things Jesus was doing a lot of was healing the sick and the afflicted. It is evident from reading the Gospels that Jesus intended that this ministry of healing also be carried out by others. In all three synoptic Gospels, we find Jesus sending the apostles out, "...giving them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness". (Matt. 10:1) (See also Matt. 10:7,8; Mark 6: 12,13; (Luke 9:1-6.) And in the Gospel of Luke, we read about Jesus appointing 72 others and sending them ahead of him to "Heal the sick..." (Luke 10:1-9.) Further evidence that Jesus desired his ministry of healing be carried out by others is found at the conclusion of Mark's Gospel where he tells the apostles "...these signs will accompany those who believe in my name...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (Mark 16:15-18.)

But what happened after Jesus left his followers and returned to heaven? Did the healings all stop? They certainly did not! Take a look at the Book of The Acts of the Apostles, which tells the story of the early Church, following the ascension of Jesus. We don't have to go very far into Acts to find Peter and John commanding a man crippled from birth to rise up and walk. (Acts 3:1-10). In Acts 9, we find a man named Ananias being used by God to heal Saul (Paul) of the blindness he experienced on the road to Damascus. Soon after that, still in Acts 9, we find Peter telling a paralyzed man named Aeneas, "Jesus Christ heals you." and immediately Aeneas got up. A few verses later we find Peter successfully praying for Dorcas to come back to life following her death. In chapter 14, we find Paul being involved in the healing of a man who had never walked, and in Chapter 20, Paul is instrumental in bringing Eutychus back to life after he fell to the ground from a third floor window. In Acts 28, we find Paul praying for the

father of an official of the island of Malta who was "...sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured."

What about today? Shouldn't today's followers of Jesus also be praying for healing for one another? Of course we should!! I'm glad I attend a church whose members pray for one another!! I'm glad I attend a church that has a Prayer Chain program and that allows prayers for individuals during and after services! And I'm glad I attend a church that has a Chapter of The Order of St. Luke the Physician! ☩

### From Glynn and the family

We would like to thank everyone for their support during Marie's illness and her passing, along with your prayers, food and flower contributions, and donations to the church and Hospice. We especially want to thank all the ladies who worked hard on the luncheon as well. Everything was beautiful and made the day much easier to cope with. Thank you all!!!

### Thanks Jim and Diane

The ECW would like to thank Jim and Diane Kent for having the kneelers reconditioned. They are beautiful again. Diane had tags embroidered with the name of each individual who worked on the kneelers. The upholsterer sewed them on the underside of each kneeler. If you would like to know who worked on a particular cushion, turn it over and have a look. Again, thank you Jim & Diane.

The ECW of St. David's

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## *St. David's Sunday School Starting !!!*

Sunday School starts Sunday, September 14, 2003, with a kick off after the 10:30 a.m. service. The High School class is planning on an "Aloha" dinner as part of our kick off. So be sure to get out your grass skirt and flower shirts, and join us for the fun!

More information will be forthcoming in the Sunday bulletin.

## What Is It?

The labyrinth is an archetype, a divine imprint, found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world. By walking the labyrinth, a design laid in or on the ground, we are rediscovering a long-forgotten mystical tradition that is being reborn in modern times.

The 40-foot labyrinth you see here is like the one at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, which is modeled on the one laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France around 1200 AD. It is in the nature of an archetype for its origins to be obscure, so no one really knows when or where labyrinths were first used. We do know that they were found at sites around the world, such as the 4,000 year-old labyrinth on Crete, stone labyrinths in Scandinavia, and ancient representations in India and China.

Labyrinths are designed in accordance with sacred geometry (the design of the Universe), based on ancient knowledge that was also intuitively articulated in architectural forms. This Chartres-style labyrinth is based upon the thirteen-pointed star. Through proportion, placement and position, using a complementary system of numbers, angles and designs, the mind is induced to a state of rest, comfort and harmony, leaving it open to other levels of awareness.



7-Circuit Labyrinth

A labyrinth is not a maze, where the walker must make choices that often lead to dead ends. The labyrinth has only one path in and out. The path twists and turns, being like a mirror for where we are in our lives; it touches our sorrows and releases our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart, to receive all that it has for you.

## Why Do We Walk It?

We live in a time of extreme spiritual hunger. People are seeking ways to enhance and deepen their awareness of God. The labyrinth can be such a tool, as a prayer walk, or walking meditation.

## Walking the labyrinth can provide:

- A. A QUIETING OF THE MIND.
- B. A GROUNDING AND CENTERING OF THE SELF.
- C. A SENSE OF BEING HEALED.
- D. INCREASED UNITY AND WHOLENESS, ON BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS.
- E. AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF SELF AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE SELF TO OTHERS AND TO GOD.
- F. A VEHICLE FOR GOD'S VOICE TO DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MYSTERY OF OURSELVES AND OF GOD.
- G. EXPERIENCES IN WHICH WE MOVE OUT OF CHRONOS TIME INTO KAIROS TIME, FROM CLOCK TIME TO DREAM TIME, INTO A STATE IN WHICH WE CAN NON-JUDGMENTALLY RECEIVE AND ACCEPT WHATEVER ARISES WITHIN US.

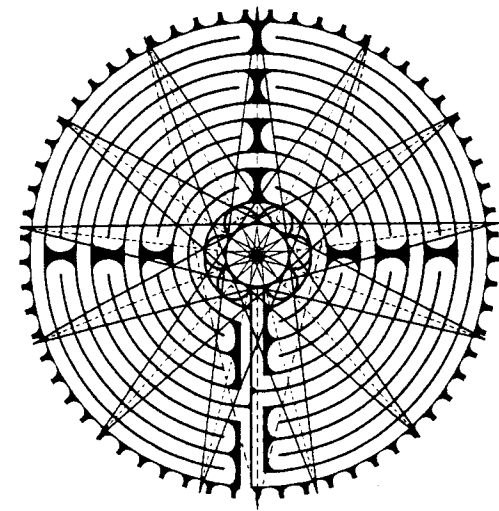
## How Do We Walk It?

Generally there are three stages to a typical walk: the first stage, the path in to the center, can be called **shedding** - a releasing, a letting go of the details of your life. This tends to quiet the mind.

The second stage, when you reach the center and linger there, can be called **illumination**. The center is a place of meditation and prayer; stay there as long as you like. The six petals represent the realms of creation, starting from the left: the mineral kingdom, the plant kingdom, the animal kingdom, humankind, the angels, and the Mystery (the Divine).

The third stage, the path out from the center, can be called **union**, with God and the healing forces at work in the world.

You may wish to bless your labyrinth experience by pausing at the entrance before and after you walk.



The Invisible 13 Pointed Star within the Chartres Labyrinth.