



St. David's Episcopal Church

APRIL DOVETALE

2023

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love and serve God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of scripture.

HOLY WEEK

You can find all the details about Holy Week in this issue of the *Dovetale*. Here I just want to emphasize the importance of Holy Week as a whole.

Holy Week was the nucleus of the entire Christian year. First there was Easter. Then Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the rest of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday. Next came Lent as a season of preparation for Holy Week. Finally, the rest of the Christian year was filled in. The entire Christian year matters. But Holy Week was the start of it all.

Part of the work of Holy Week is properly done at home. Try to take a little extra time for prayer that week. Reflect on your life with God, where you stand now and where you would like to be. Ask God's help in taking another step forward on your Christian journey.

Some of that work is best done with each other. We offer a lot of options at Saint David's, and we co-sponsor events at other area Churches as well. Gathering with brothers and sisters in Christ is important.

I encourage you to make a particular effort to attend the **three services at the core of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; and Easter Sunday**. Those three services encapsulate in miniature the entire gospel story. We hear the story of the first time Christians gathered around the table to celebrate the Eucharist. We hear again the awful events of Christ's death. Finally, we hear the good news of great joy that Christ has risen, that Christ is alive, that Christ has defeated sin and death, and opened the way for us to experience eternal life.

On that first Easter morning, everything changed. This Easter will not be so dramatic as that very first one. But we will worship with great joy. We will drop the confession of sin, and bring back the alleluias. Afterwards we can indulge ourselves for the day—guilt-free!—in whatever we have given up for Lent.

Do your best to be part of the celebration. Bring family and friends with you. But also do the work of preparation in the remaining time leading up to that day. It will be worth it!!

In the name of the One who died and rose again, Fr. Harvey

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday—April 2 this year. The entire week is a time for focusing on Christ, but the next big service is Maundy Thursday (April 6) at 5:00. (Note this is a new service time. Same for Good Friday's evening service.) Then Good Friday (April 7), which begins with a children's combination Stations of the Cross and Egg Hunt from 10:00 to 12:00. Next up is a traditional Good Friday Service at noon. At 4:15 we'll walk the Stations of the Cross. And our main Good Friday service will be that evening at 5:00. On Saturday (April 8), we'll join the good people at our Cathedral for an Easter Vigil at 6:00. And of course, Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00 on Easter Sunday. I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities as much as you can. And particularly on Easter morning, bring friends or family with you to worship!

Easter Vigil:

This wonderful service is back! Once again we are teaming up with area Churches for an Easter Vigil. The service will be at 6:00 on Saturday, April 8 *at Christ Church Cathedral* in Springfield. The Vigil is a traditional service beginning around dusk on the eve of Easter. As I write this, the details of the service are still being worked out. But in past years when Saint Andrew's hosted the service, we began outside and marched around the Church, pausing for readings and songs at various points. We renewed our baptismal covenant and celebrated Eucharist. After the service, we had a festive reception. I assume that the service at the Cathedral will be similar. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

LENT PRAYER PARTNERS:

Participants should continue praying for their partner through Easter, and then send an Easter Card to their partner offering God's blessings on that person. This is a great way to support each other as a community of faith!!

CONVERSATIONS ON THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH: by Fr. Harvey

A group of us are reading *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh, a book in the Church's New Teaching Series, and chatting about it on Tuesdays at 4:15 on Zoom. Our April session will be the 11th. Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions.

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

Our April Church without Walls falls on Palm Sunday. What a great way to start Holy Week! Thanks, as always, to the people who prepare the food!!

Safe Church Trainings

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training on the following dates:

Sunday, April 16 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Volunteers

Thursday, April 27 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Thursday, May 18 - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Volunteers

To register, you can click the link or contact Fr. Harvey. The parish will cover the cost.

PRAYER CYCLES: by Fr. Harvey

The full set of 2023 prayer cycles are available in the narthex near the mail slots. We have a cycle that lists all the nations of the world, another for every Diocese in the Anglican Communion, one for our own Diocese, and one for our parish. The Parish Prayer Cycle is supposed to list every member and every ministry at Saint David's. Please let me know if you notice missing people or ministries!

The prayer cycles have become part of our Prayers of the People at Sunday services. They are also a wonderful part of my prayer life. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, I pray for every nation in the world, dioceses throughout the Anglican Communion, and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give them a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST

A group of us gather on Fridays at noon for a short healing service. The service includes a conversational sermon on the saint of the day, an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar, and Holy Eucharist. It's a wonderfully intimate service. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

But April is an unusual month for us. We'll have our normal Friday Eucharist on the 14th and the 28th. We won't have a service on the 21st. And on Good Friday (4/7), we'll have a traditional Good Friday service instead of our normal Healing Eucharist.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

Our Friday Bible Study meets most Fridays at 1:00. (We won't meet on the 7th or the 21st in April.) Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while others join us by Zoom. We are reading the Acts of the Apostles, the dramatic story of the very beginning of the Church and a regular part of our Sunday services in the Easter season. Please join us! All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather most Fridays at 2:30 for a session of contemplative prayer. (We won't meet on the 7th or the 21st in April.) We read a passage of Scripture three times, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage. Our sessions are hybrid: some of us gather in person, while others join us on Zoom. Please join us in whatever way is most comfortable for you!

HEALING MINISTRY

In the front row of chairs are baskets with small ribbons. If you would like special prayers at the altar during Communion at Sunday services, bring a ribbon with you. Fr. Harvey or Dcn. Terry will offer a quick prayer. Please return the ribbon afterwards!

We also offer prayers for healing after the 10:00 service. If you would like to receive prayers for yourself or for a loved one, please go to the altar after the service to meet the designated person offering prayers that week. If you would like to join the rotation of those who offer healing prayers, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

MORNING PRAYER

We continue to join with area Churches to offer a livestreamed version of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page Monday through Friday at 8:00. Please tune in as you are able! But also remember that we put forms in the narthex for seasonal versions of Morning Prayer and also for Compline. The forms there now are for Lent, and we'll put out Easter forms on the 9th. The forms are intended to help you say Morning Prayer or Compline on your own. Joining us or praying Morning Prayer or Compline on your own is a great way to add a little prayer into your weekly routine!

DIOCESAN CONVENTION ALTERNATE DELEGATE

At our Annual Meeting, we elected Carol Fabrycki as Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention for the Parish. Later in the meeting, we elected her to the Vestry. But a member of the vestry can't serve as Convention Delegate! (The Vestry has its own Delegate and Alternate.) Thankfully Catherine Koziol has agreed to serve as the Parish's Alternate Delegate. The Vestry voted approval on behalf of the Parish, and we're all set. Please thank Catherine for her willingness to serve!

SNOW POLICY: by Fr. Harvey

We have a new Snow Policy. The main change is that we are no longer closing automatically when the Agawam Schools close for weather-related reasons. It was sometimes the case that they closed first thing in the morning, but the roads were clear enough later in the day that we could continue with our afternoon or evening events. Going forward, the Wardens and/or I will make the call to close the building when we believe the roads are not safe. When Church is closed, notice will appear on our webpage and on television stations 3, 6, 40, and 22. All meetings are presumed to be cancelled, including any meetings by outside groups that rent the Church property, until we reopen. Our full snow policy is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks!

THE JOHN O'HARE VETERAN'S MINISTRY: by Fr. Harvey

Our meal this month is Tuesday, April 4, beginning at 11:30. It's Holy Week, and we briefly discussed whether we should cancel or postpone, before deciding this is a holy thing to do! As always, all Veterans eat free. And everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks!!

PRISON BIBLE STUDY: by Fr. Harvey

We are part of a Bible Study at the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee. Different people lead the study every Monday evening at 7:00. Deacon Terry joins with another deacon on the first Mondays of the month. Mary Moore and I cover the fourth Mondays.

We continue to settle into this ministry. For the last several weeks, we have had just a few participants. At first, I was a little disappointed in the numbers. But the conversations with the smaller group have been much richer than the conversations with more people. I suspect we can actually accomplish more good this way. We'll see where the ministry goes. For now, we're practicing waiting on the Holy Spirit!

DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Diocesan Confirmation is back! This class is a great way to do confirmation preparation, but it would also be great for folks who want to be received, reaffirm their baptismal vows, or anyone who just wants a refresher.

Most of the sessions are Wednesday evenings via Zoom, but the concluding session will be an in-person quiet day. Dates for the remaining classes are below.

- 12-April God's Justice in the World
- 19 April Living as a Christian
- 26 April The Sacraments of the Church
- 6 - May Ways of Praying (*in person quiet day*)
- 21 May The Mystery of Easter / Confirmation

FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE: by Fr. Harvey

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone, please complete the form (available in the narthex), attach a check for the relevant amount, and return it to the office or put it in the collection plate.

CALENDAR KEEPING: by Fr. Harvey

On our webpage, you can find the calendar of all our events, along with the space in the building or grounds that will be used for that event, where relevant. You can also see our events that are offsite.

If you would like to schedule an event, please first check the calendar to see if the space you need is available. If so, please contact the Calendar Keepers (Janessa Piteo and Carol Fabrycki) at saintdavidsMA@gmail.com (a dedicated email address) to request the space. It will be reserved when you receive confirmation that the space is indeed available.

In my head, it's a beautifully simple system. In practice, there will surely be bugs to work out. Please be patient, and share your thoughts with me, the wardens, or Carol and Janessa. Thanks!!

NEW LOOK IN THE OFFICE! by Fr. Harvey

The title of this article says it all. The office is getting a new look. Indeed, by the time you read this, the makeover might be complete.

When we replaced the rug in the office, our wonderful Office Angels repainted as well. And because the old furniture didn't look great, they decided to replace it, too. As I type, we are still waiting on the furniture, but it should come any day.

Once the new furniture is in, wander down the hall to check it out. The Church Office will be looking GOOD!! Thanks to the Office Angels for making this happen!!

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER -

EARTH DAY! by Mary Moore

The first Earth Day was in April, 1970. It started as a full day of teaching people how to help the planet by showing them how to take care of nature. Probably the most important idea that came out of the first Earth Day was that more people started to see themselves as part of nature instead of separate from it. To put this in every day terms, think about your house and a neighbor's house. Whose house is your family going to take care of, yours or your neighbor's?

Just as you think of the house next door as not your problem, a lot of people used to think that taking care of nature was not their problem. Nature was where plants and animals lived, not where people lived. Now we know better. What if the neighbor's house was your cousin's house? Would you be a little more careful about their property than you would if a stranger lived there? Remember: we are "cousins" to every other living thing on the planet.

Things you can do:

- 1) Try not to be wasteful.
- 2) Don't litter.
- 3) Get friends involved too. They can help you with #'s 1 & 2.
- 4) Ask a teacher if your school does anything special for Earth Day. If the answer is "No," ask if kids and teachers could have a cleanup day, some special lessons about taking care of nature, or perhaps some other Earth Day activity. The teachers can find lots of good ideas and information on the internet.

CREATION CARE TEAM By Pauline Mortenson

Palm Oil...The Concerns

Palm Oil is found in approximately half of all packaged food store items namely from snacks to shampoo. It now supplies the entire world with more edible fats than any other plant and has quadrupled since the 1990's.

But...always a but...

- Leading cause of orangutan loss which is the world's largest arboreal primate and has amounted to an 80% decline in population over the last two decades.
- Tropical forest ecosystems are being stripped bare, contributing to climate change, to make room for oil palm plantations.
- This has affected 193 imperiled species including the Bornean Pygmy elephant and Sumatran rhinos and tigers.
- Also...could ultimately effect 54% of all threatened mammals and 64% of threatened birds globally.

The average US consumer uses approximately eight pounds of palm oil each year. So... what can we do...

First...buy brands that are organic, non-GMO and fair trade.

Second...check to be sure your favorite products are made with sustainable palm oil.

Third Check their sustainability pledge on the products website or go to the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil database.

SERVE SAFE REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with Serve Safe regulations, please let the volunteers at coffee hour serve you, and stay out of the kitchen. Thanks!!

When dinners are being prepared and during the cleanup in kitchen, only the authorized people should be in Kitchen or handling food. Thanks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING SERVICE:

Please keep any announcements before the 10:00 service VERY short. If you don't have a microphone, people watching the service online cannot hear you, no matter how loud your voice is. Thanks!

CROP Hunger Walk!

The Spring 2023 Walk will take place on Sunday, April 30, 1:00 pm beginning with a rally at First Congregational Church, 108 Park Street in West Springfield. If you are interested in participating, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB : Leader Linda Seabury

The book chosen for the April meeting of the book club is "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles, published in 2021. It is a Historical Fiction story chronicling three 18 year old boys on a journey through 1950's America. The book club will meet to discuss it on Sunday, April 30 at 11:15.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: by Father Harvey

This is my regular reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. Deacon Terry does too. If you get in a bind, please talk to one of us. I should add those conversations and any help people receive from either discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

REIMBURSEMENTS:

Across from the office are forms for receiving reimbursements for expenses people incur on behalf of Saint David's, as well as a list of which vestry member is in charge of which budget line. You can also see who is in charge of which budget area on our webpage at <https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html>. As always, if you need to spend the Church's money, please complete the form and get the signature of the relevant vestry person.

When Helene Robbins (our treasurer) receives the signed form and the receipts, she will mail the reimbursement check to your home. You can also pick it up at Church during office hours or make other arrangements. Thanks!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH ACTIVITY: Submitted by Norma Turcotte

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the "Blessing Basket" by providing underwear and socks. A recent delivery was made to Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry in Chicopee by Marcel Lauzon. Deacon Terry also made a delivery to the Kahn family. Many were blessed by your generosity.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee met on March 12th at 11:15 in community room.

Attending: Linda Paquette, Ellen Rendrick, Beverly Lawson, Kim Kozik, Valerie Clapp, Fr. Harvey, Bob Rendrick and Beth Kronlund. Virginia Ventulett and Sue Amabile submitted information.

The committee met on March 12th at 11:15 in the community room. The Development Committee all agreed our next project will be to paint the Church Proper to start with. Jo and Bob will investigate getting quotes for the work so that we will know how much we need to raise to pay for the painting. Date of completion is set for 2025 or before.

Message from Scott Seabury regarding the annual Auction. It will be held on May 20th. Scott will keep everyone in the loop as the date gets closer.

Even though this meeting targeted Development, we also discussed other subjects.

Bazaar: will be held on November 18th, 2023
Jo Joubert, Ellen Rendrick, Sue O'Hare and Virginia Ventulett will co-chair the event.
Valerie Clapp and Dixi Lauzon will take care of the bake sale table.
Virginia Ventulett will be in charge of the St. David's tables.
Ellen Rendrick, Linda Paquette and Kim Kozik will handle the Raffle Tables.
Kim also will do the Scratch ticket Tree.
Bob Rendrick is in Charge of the food & kitchen.
Hopefully Scott Seabury will be our banker again.
We should make sure that the lawn signs are visible.
Jo Joubert will look for Vendors. If anyone has a vendor in mind, please let me know.
More information to come.

Development isn't just about Money!

Growth – What can we do to grow our congregation for the future of St. David's? much discussion on this subject. If anyone has any thoughts on how to grow, PLEASE come to our next meeting.

Training – Teaching our congregation to think of the future of St. David's.

Sharing our love for our Church with the community through Outreach.

Networking – Talking about how great our Church, our Priest, our youth group, and our programs are. Such as the prison ministry etc.

Beth made a great suggestion of getting Bumper Stickers and Sweatshirts. (Love that, Beth.)

I am looking into printing Bumper stickers. Let's talk more about the sweat shirt idea. Discussion targeted advertising our events, before and after. Kim and Val reminded us of all the places that we can place adds free or for little cost. We will be using our new media person more.

We will be doing a "Meet and Greet" Breakfast for New and Old members of our Church. Date to be determined

APRIL CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Sunday School at 10:00

Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00 (in person)

Wednesday: Diocesan Confirmation Class at 6:00 on Zoom

Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00 (on 4/14 and 28)

Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom) (on 4/14 and 28)

Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom) (on 4/14 and 28)

M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM (on Facebook)

M-F: Compline at 8:00 PM (on Zoom)

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Monday, April 3: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Tuesday, April 4: Veterans Lunch at 11:30

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday Service at 5:00

Friday, April 7: Children's Stations and Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00-12:00

Good Friday Service at 12:00

Stations of the Cross at 4:15

Good Friday Service with Choir at 5:00

Saturday, April 8: Easter Vigil at the Cathedral at 6:00

Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Tuesday, April 11: Conversation on Faith at 4:15 (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 19: Vestry at 7:00

Saturday, April 22: Earth Day

Monday, April 24: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Sunday, April 30: Women's Bible Study at 11:15

Sunday, April 30: CROP Walk

REGULAR RENTALS:

Sundays from 1:30 to 5:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM: OA

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (2nd and 4th)

Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 AM: OA

Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Fridays from 6:30 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (first Friday)

Saturdays from 2:00-4:00: Mercy Church

Saturdays at 7:00-9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting



“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Romans 12:18

HAPPY EASTER

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