



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church



2019

April

Holy Week

Inside this issue:

You can find all the details about the remainder of Lent and also Holy Week in this issue of the *Dovetale*. Here I just want to emphasize the importance of Holy Week in particular.

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 weeks leading up to that day. It will be worth it!!

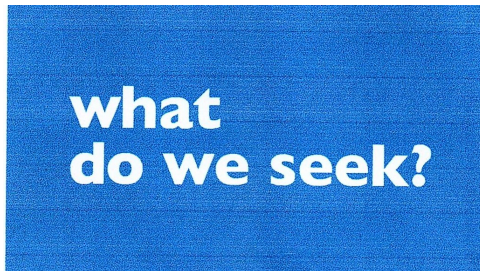
In the name of the One who died and rose again,

Fr. Harvey

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Lent Formation: The Way of Love

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited every Episcopalian to join him in living the Way of Love. This Lent, we have been talking about the different parts of the way of love each week, and we still have one to go. On April 7, beginning at 11:45, we'll talk about Prayer and Worship. We'll have a little time for contemplative prayer as well! For more information on the way of love, check out <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love>. Among other things, you can watch an inspiring short video. Alternatively, grab a copy of Bishop Curry's sermon announcing the program: copies are available in the narthex. Please join us if you can! And help spread the word!



THE WAY OF LOVE

Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

TURN Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus

LEARN Reflect on Scripture each day, especially Jesus' life and teachings

PRAY Dwell intentionally with God each day

WORSHIP Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and draw near God

BLESS Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

GO Cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus

REST Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

Ecumenical Holy Week Services

Every year, the Agawam Clergy Association sponsors ecumenical services at noon each weekday during Holy Week, followed by a simple meal. This year the services will be at Agawam Congregational on Main Street. Please join us any or all of April 15 to April 19 for worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters from other denominations!

Holy Week Summary

On Palm Sunday (April 14), we'll have regular services at 8:00 and 10:00, except that they will begin with the procession of Palms. Each weekday during Holy Week, the Agawam Clergy Association sponsors a short ecumenical service at 12:00, followed by lunch at Agawam Congregational on Main Street. Our Maundy Thursday service will be April 18 at 7:00. Our principle Good Friday service will be April 19 at 7:00. But Good Friday is a big day. We start with a combined children's Stations of the Cross/Easter Egg Hunt from 10:00 to 12:00, and we will have a less formal Good Friday service in place of our regular healing Eucharist at 12. Finally, at 6:30, to get ready for our principal service, we'll walk the Stations of the Cross. On Holy Saturday (4/20), we'll have our usual prayer vigil from 10:00 to 4:00. That evening we will join several area Churches in an Easter Vigil at Saint Andrew's. And, of course, our Easter services on April 21 at 8:00 and 10:00. Whew!!



Holy Week

Stations of the Cross

As in past years, we offer Stations of the Cross at 11:30 every Friday during Lent. In April, that means on the 5th and the 12th. On Good Friday (April 19), we will walk the Stations at 6:30. This short, powerful service is a great way to keep focused on the meaning of Lent and Jesus' sacrifice for us. Please join us at 11:30. Stick around for the Eucharist which immediately follows and/or the Bible Study at 1:00!

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

As we have done for the last several years, we will have a prayer vigil in the Community Room on Holy Saturday (4/20) from 10:00 to 4:00. I invite you to sign up for thirty-minute slots. I will provide a set of readings and prayers, based on the service of Tenebrae, that you can use. But you could also sit quietly or pray in other ways. My own goal for my slot is to take a few minutes to reflect deeply on what Christ suffered for me as a way of finishing off Lent. Then I am more ready for the joyful celebration of Easter.

Easter Vigil

Once again we are teaming up with Saint Andrew's and other area Churches (Episcopal and UCC) for an Easter Vigil at 8:00 on Saturday, April 20. The Vigil is a traditional service beginning after dusk on the eve of Easter. Plans may change, but we normally begin outside and march around the Church, pausing for readings and songs at various points. We renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate Eucharist. After the service, we have a festive reception with sweets! Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Easter Flowers

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. But in Easter we really do it up! If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone on Easter, please complete the special 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. Thanks!

Revival Worship Days

The Episcopal Churches in our area are trying to do more to cooperate. To that end, we have planned two events. On Thursday, May 23 at 7 PM at Grace Lutheran in West Springfield we will have a Jazz Vespers. The idea is to get people from our Churches together and also to bring in people who might not ordinarily attend Church. Then on Sunday, June 16 at 4:00PM Churches in our area will come together at the Cathedral for a joint worship service. Good times will be had by all!

Upcoming Youth Events!!

2018-2019

Friday, April 19	Good Friday/Easter Egg Hunt 10 – 12
Sunday, May 5	Cinco de Mayo Mother's Day Brunch after church
Sunday, June 16	Father's Day Ice Cream Sundaes at coffee hour

Agawam Easter Project

This is a wonderful tradition that we started a few years ago. The Town Nurse gives us names of Agawam children who could use a little extra Easter cheer. Our parishioners buy or make age- and gender-appropriate Easter baskets. We give them to the Town Nurse, who in turn distributes them to the families. Please get your baskets into my office by April 8 so that we can get them over to the Town Nurse in good time. Thanks, as always, to everyone who is participating in the Agawam Easter Project. Special thanks go to Roxanne Zern—aided by Ted—for coordinating our efforts.



Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now available in the parish office for the Boissonneault Memorial Scholarship, in honor of Albert Boissonneault and Ellie Van Valkenburgh. To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduating senior from high school, accepted at a four-year college, and a confirmed member of Saint David's for at least five years. Completed applications should be submitted to the parish office by May 15. The Boissonneault family will communicate the final decision to the applicant sometime after June 1.

Flooring Update

We have finished the first stage of our flooring project(!!!)—replacing the rugs in the narthex and hallways. We should all be proud, and we should all be grateful to Jo Joubert and the Development Team for their hard work in making this happen, Bob Rendrick for overseeing the process, and Carol Fabrycki for redecorating the narthex. The second stage is replacing the rug in the sanctuary. That is another big ticket item, but we plan to get right to work....

Snow Policy

I am hoping we are done with this for the year!!! But please remember, whenever Church is closed for weather-related reasons, we will announce the closing on our webpage, as well as 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. As a reminder, during the week, Church will always be closed if Agawam High School closes for the day because of snow. The same goes for the Agawam Library on Saturdays. On Sunday mornings, we make that call ourselves. Our full snow policy is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks!

Fr. Harvey



Complaint Free Lent

This wonderful discipline was brought to us last year by Penny Miller. The basic idea is to wear a purple bracelet (available in the narthex) that reminds us not to complain. Every time we do complain despite the reminder, we put aside a little money. At the end of Lent, we donate the collected money to a good cause. It's not too late to get started! In fact, I am beginning to think I might keep going even after Lent ends. I don't know if I can afford it, but Carrie would probably endorse the

idea!

Lent Madness

Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament, this online devotion pits saints against one another as voters choose their favorites throughout the penitential season of Lent. Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

Lent Prayer Partners

I hope everyone participating is praying for their partner! This is a reminder for participants to finish up the partnership with an Easter Card to your partner. Thanks to everyone who has joined us in this Lenten practice!

Wine Making

This quirky new ministry has begun! A small crew gathered at Jim Shields' house for fellowship and to make communion wine. They have completed the first few steps, and are now collecting bottles for the final product. Hopefully we will all get a taste in the relatively near future! If you are interested in joining this ministry, please let me know.

Parish Life

by Susan Amabile



SATURDAY MAY 11th 9:00 am

St David's Annual 5k run/walk

This fun day benefits our youth ministry.

Get your family and friends to join and make a donation to our youth ministry. (Do not need to run/walk to donate.) A light breakfast will be served to all participants.

SUNDAY JUNE 23RD

St David's Annual Picnic

After service on Sunday.

Looking for volunteers to help coordinate the picnic. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex prior to the event.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23RD 9:00 am

St David's Holiday Bazaar

We have started already in these areas!!

St David's Crafts Tables :

Sue O'Hare (Coordinator)

Crafts made by parishioners for sale to profit our church.

Vendors:

Virginia Ventulett (Coordinator) We

have lots of space to fill!

Creations and Stocking Stuffers: (Coordinator) A new table this year by Jo Joubert.

See Jo for details.

Raffle: Ellen Rendrick (Coordinator) The best prizes anywhere and the biggest raffle.

"We are looking for someone to sit at a table that consists of slightly used Christmas items. That person would have to accept donations in excellent condition and price them for resale to the public at the Bazaar. Total profits are for St. David's and you will work closely with Sue O'Hare. If interested please see Susan Amabile or Sue O'Hare.



If you would like to get involved in the Bazaar in these areas please see the Coordinator of the area. All are welcome. No donation is too big or too small!

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN AGAWAM ON THIS DAY? Customers come to St. David's for what we offer for lunch, our crafts and our huge raffle, in addition to our vendors.

For general questions please see or call Susan Amabile at 519-7854.

Senior Farm Shares for Lent

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has supported local farms for many years, in part by encouraging consumers to buy food directly from farmers through programs like farm shares. People with farm shares pay a certain amount of money to a farmer up front, and then receive vegetables or other farm products every week or so for a season. Recently CISA began subsidizing farm shares for needy seniors, and they are asking Churches for help. One share costs \$125.

Every year for Lent I give up some foods. Last year and this year, I am also aiming for a “complaint-free” Lent. I plan to donate the money I save on food, and the money I pay when I complain, to the senior farm share program. If others do the same and we pool our donation, I am sure we can support at least one farm share. You can also donate directly to CISA, of course. But if you would like to be part of a Saint David’s contribution, please let Jim Shields know. Thanks!

“Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home”

Lent is a time for us to be more reflective about how we live. That makes Lent an excellent time to think about our role in creation care. Our Diocese is part of a Pilot Program called “Sustaining Earth, Our Island Home,” which should be rolled out some time in April. The idea is to answer a few questions on a web-based app which will help you to evaluate your carbon footprint and offer suggestions about easy ways to reduce it and save money at the same time. We’ll provide more information as it becomes available. Together we really can make a difference!



Church without Walls

Life was complicated on March 10! First, we set our clocks forward an hour that night, which cuts down on sleep for those who remember and introduces chaos into the day for those who don’t. Making matters worse, it snowed! We carried on with Church without walls and had a better showing than I expected. Our Gospel reading was the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. As you might guess, the issue of temptation and how to resist it is one that everyone can relate to! Afterwards we distributed lunches to everyone as always. As it happens, our parish theme for that week was “Go,” meaning going out into the world as agents of reconciliation. Church without walls is one of the ways we at Saint David’s do just that. Thanks to everyone who makes this ministry possible!

Priest Sabbatical

Plans are moving forward for my three-month sabbatical next summer. Sabbaticals give priests a chance to rest, to engage in projects they could not otherwise complete, and to connect with God in a more intentional and intensive way than is normally possible during ordinary parish ministry. My application identified three goals: (1) paddle the northern half of the Connecticut River as a kind of two-week retreat; (2) complete a book on the Apostle Paul that I started several years ago; and (3) think with Bishop Scruton about new ministry goals for Saint David’s. I will be gone from May 20 until August 18.

We are blessed to have retired priests in our parish who have agreed to cover most of the Sundays I am away. We’ll also have a few lay-led services of Morning Prayer. I am profoundly grateful to everyone for filling in, and to the vestry for their support!

Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina

Our practice is to have a session of Contemplative Prayer at 11:45 on the first Sunday of the month. In April, that is the 7th. Since our Lent formation program meets at the same time, we are combining the two that day. First we’ll talk about prayer as part of “The Way of Love.” Then we’ll do an abbreviated version of Contemplative Prayer. Please join us!!



Why Statements

The focus at Parish Leadership Day this year was stewardship broadly understood. (“Stewardship is everything that comes after ‘I believe’”!) Our presenters invited us to think about why we do what we do. In stewardship, that means why we give our time, talent, and/or treasure to the Church. More generally, that means why we cultivate our relationships with God individually and as a parish. We’d love to have a few people share their thoughts on Sunday mornings and/or in writing. If you are willing to give it a shot, please talk to Father Harvey. Thanks!

Parish Bible Study

We are now working our way through Exodus, the second book of the Bible. It tells the story of the escape of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, as well as the first part of their wandering in the desert. About half-way through the book, the Hebrews arrive at Mount Sinai, where God gives them the law through Moses. This story is as central to the Old Testament as the Gospel story is to the New. Please join us on Fridays at 1:00. We always have a good time. And after Lent, we will probably once again have yummy treats!

Prayer Cycles

Two prayer cycles are available in the narthex near the mail slots: the nations of the world; and the people and ministries of Saint David’s. (If you notice people or ministries missing from our Parish Prayer Cycle, please let me know!) I use both, and they have become a wonderful part of my prayer life. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, I pray by name for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David’s. I encourage you to give it a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!
Fr. Harvey

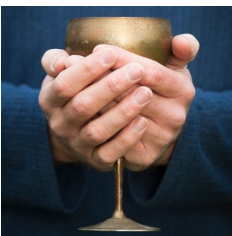
Prayer Requests

We list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, and do our best to keep that list current. But we need help! If you would like to add someone, please contact the office. If you are adding someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. We also have an online prayer chain. People who have signed up for it receive occasional prayer requests by e-mail. If you would like to receive these messages and/or if you would like to put out a request, please contact Father Harvey or Kathy Glista. Thanks!

Reading the New Testament

Our parish is reading the New Testament this year. To make it through to the end, we need to read just one chapter each weekday. To encourage broad participation, I am including the specific chapters for each week in my weekly e-mails, as well as a link to helpful introductory videos for each book. I hope as many of you as possible will join in this effort!!

As a supplement to our readings, some of us gather each month to chat. Those conversations are quite informal—we just talk about whatever has struck us in the books we have recently finished. In April, we will gather on Tuesday, the 9th at 2:00. Please help spread the word. And get reading!!



Healing Eucharist Fridays at 12 except for April 19

We continue to offer our healing service on Fridays at 12:00. The only exception in April will be Good Friday, April 19, when we will have a Good Friday service instead. On the regular Friday services, we hear the assigned readings for the day, have an informal, conversational sermon about the saint assigned for the day, and share Eucharist. In addition, participants can receive special healing prayers and an anointing with holy oil. After the service, stick around for Bible Study if you like. Please join us, and help spread the word!

Prayer Shawls

We are now down to our last couple of Prayer Shawls. If that is something you do, please make one with love and in prayer, and then bring it to Father Harvey for a blessing on Sunday morning. The shawls can be a great comfort those who need a little boost. Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

Discretionary Fund by Fr. Harvey Hill

This is just a reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. If you get in a bind, please talk to me. I should add that our conversation and any help from my discretionary fund will be fully confidential

Praying at Home

For the remaining couple of weeks in Lent, we will leave out our Lent forms for Morning Prayer and Compline. Come Easter, we'll put out forms of both that are more appropriate to that more upbeat season. If you have never said Morning Prayer or Compline at home, I encourage you to give one or both a try.

Fr. Harvey Hill

Living Wills, Health Care Proxies, and More.

You can find in the narthex blank forms for Health Care Proxies, the MOLST form, funeral planning, and an emergency contact list. Please take one, fill it out, and make sure that the relevant people in our life have copies. Saint David's will keep copies of any of those completed forms for any parishioner who so desires. I am happy to chat with you about any of these forms if that would be helpful. Preparing for the worst can be a little unnerving, but it is a huge help to your family and friends, and it can also help the Church offer more effective support as needed.

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the May Dovetale
is April 20, 2019.

Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks



APRIL 2019



Sun Tue Wed Thu Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Community Supper 6PM	OA 9:30AM PRAISE TEAM 1PM	GRANDPARENT' PLAY GROUP 9:30AM	OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	Stations/Cross 11:30 Healing Serv. Noon Bible Study 1PM	
7 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Contempl Pray 11:45 Way/Love 11:45	8 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8 Easter Baskets Due	9 OA 9:30AM PRAISE TEAM 1PM New Testament Converse 2PM Vestry 7PM	10 GRANDPARENT' PLAY GROUP 9:30AM	11 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	12 Stations/Cross 11:30 Healing Serv. Noon Bible Study 1PM	13
14 Palm Sunday RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Church W/ Walls 12	15* MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	16* OA 9:30AM PRAISE TEAM 1PM	17* GRANDPARENT' PLAY GROUP 9:30AM	18* Maundy Thurs Service 7 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	19* Good Friday Services 12 & 7 Stations 6:30 Child Stations and Egg Hunt 10-12	20* *See Below
21 Easter RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM	22 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	23 OA 9:30AM PRAISE TEAM 1PM	24 GRANDPARENT' PLAY GROUP 9:30AM	25 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	26 Healing Serv. Noon Bible Study 1PM Bumpa's Dinner 6	27
28 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Crop Walk 12	29 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	30 OA 9:30AM PRAISE TEAM 1PM	Holy Week Services at Agawam Congregational 4/15 - 4/19 12 (Noon) Followed by Light Lunch Prayer Vigil at St David's 4/20 10-4 Easter Vigil at St Andrew's 4/20 at 7			



We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves,
but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.
When you begin to pray, things remain the same but you begin to be different...

It is not so true that 'Prayer changes things'
as that prayer changes me, and then I change things."

from "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers

***St. David's Episcopal
Church***

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Mission Statement

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