



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church

AUGUST
2020

Reopening our Building

We have begun the process of reopening our building. Officially, we are in Stage Two as defined by the Diocese. That means we can have inside events, but must exercise considerable caution.

Our plan is to continue worshipping outdoors on Sunday mornings at 9:00 at least through August. But people can now get out of their cars and sit in their own chairs if they like, as well as use the Church restroom.

Beginning on August 7, we'll resume in-door worship on Fridays at noon. The service will basically be the Healing Eucharist we were doing at that time before the restrictions associated with the pandemic. We will have readings, a short sermon based on the saint of the day, and healing prayers. We will also have spiritual communion, as we do on Sunday mornings. For the foreseeable future, we will not offer individual anointings.

After the service, we will leave the sanctuary vacant for seven days, which the CDC assures us is enough time to disinfect the space. When we return to in-door worship on Sunday mornings, we will move the Friday service into another space in our building.

Several of the Twelve Step Groups that meet at Saint David's are also using our building. All of them meet in the Community Room, and they have agreed to follow our safety protocols. That means maintaining information for the purposes

of contact tracing and disinfecting the meeting room and the restrooms after each use.

For now, our kitchen continues to be closed, the caterers who occasionally rent it are not using it, and Ray Shugart is not offering his martial arts classes in our building.

I am grateful to the team that planned for our reopening. Bob Rendrick took the lead, ably assisted by Jude O'Hare, Pauline Mortenson, Penny Miller, Jim Shields, Lenny Scott, Linda Seabury, and Paul Fontaine. I apologize if I forgot anyone! It really was a group effort, and a LOT of work went into making sure we could both reopen and be safe.

As long as we are in Stage Two, we will have to observe real restrictions in what we do, particularly what we do inside. We cannot offer an in-person children's program, have congregational singing, exceed strict occupancy limits, or share physical communion. Everyone who enters will have to wear a mask (unless they are unable to do so for medical reasons) and maintain social distance. The restrictions are a nuisance, but they are the best way to stay safe and to stay open.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation!! This is a strange and challenging time, but we are getting through it together, with God's help!



*Opening our
Doors*

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Drive in Church

We've had a few minor gaffes, but overall our "drive-in" services have been really wonderful. Given the restrictions on worshipping in-doors through Stage Two of the reopening of our building, we plan to continue our drive-in services through August. When it is hot, most people seem to prefer staying in air-conditioned cars. But you are now welcome to get out of your car and sit (in your own chairs!) in the parking lot if you like.

I am grateful to the many people who have worked hard to make our outdoor services a success. As always, Bob Rendrick has been tireless in getting things set-up and keeping things moving, ably assisted by Jim Shields. Carol Fabrycki sets the altar, does the readings, and offers up the Prayers of the People. Deacon Terry proclaims the Gospel, leads us in confession, and sends us forth into the world rejoicing. Virginia Ventulett has the frustrating task of making the computer work with the FM Transmitter so that music can be part of our worship. Behind the scenes, Virginia and the Seaburys spend LOTS of time recording the hymns that do so much to enhance our worship. And the Office Angels prepare the readings and the music each week. We are truly blessed to have so many devoted and talented people making our worship possible!

Online Coffee Hour

Unfortunately we need to cancel our Tuesday online coffee hours through August. Since we teamed up with Saint Mark's to expand our weekday livestreaming, we have been able to offer Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, and Compline each day. But in August, the rector of Saint Mark's is on vacation, and Father Harvey is leading Noonday Prayers each Tuesday (and Monday and Thursday!). In September we'll see about bring the Online Coffee our back. A lot will depend on where things stand with our in-person gatherings. Stay tuned!

Virtual Pastoral Care

It is as important as ever that we be sensitive to each other's needs. Isolation can be as harmful as the covid-19 virus! Please stay in touch with your brothers and sisters at Saint David's. Reach out by phone or e-mail or in whatever other way seems appropriate. And if you are struggling, emotionally, financially, or logistically, please let Fr. Harvey know. He should be able to connect you with parishioners who are ready to help.

Friday Healing Eucharist Resumes!

Now that we are in Stage Two of reopening our building, we can move in-doors for worship. Our Sunday services remain outdoors through August, but for those who prefer to worship in the building, we will resume our noontime Friday services on August 7.

There will be no hymns (that was true before the pandemic) and no anointing. But we will read the Scriptures assigned for the day, talk about the saint of the day, offer general healing prayers, and celebrate spiritual communion. We do ask that everyone who joins us to wear a mask (unless you are unable to do so for medical reasons) and maintain social distance.

Daily Prayer

This is largely a repeat of the previous article. But I want to emphasize that there are now a number of options for praying each weekday. You can join us live on Facebook for Morning Prayer (M-F) at 8:00 AM, Noonday Prayer (MTThF) at 12:00 and/or Compline (M-F) at 8:00 PM. You can also watch any of those services anytime. Deacon Terry and I have teamed up with a crew from Saint Mark's in East Longmeadow to lead these services so that none of us get burned out. I am grateful to Terry for his leadership, and also to the folks at Saint Mark's.

Our goal with these services is to give people an easy option for committing to daily prayer and also for helping people learn more about using our Prayerbook as a resource. Please take advantage of these services as you are able. And please spread the word!

Parish Life

We continue to ponder ways to stay connected beyond online worship and Bible Study. If you have any ideas for fun events that would still be safe, please let Susan Amabile or Father Harvey know.

It is a win, win! A Fun-Demic! By Susan Amabile

This is an online raffle for a grab bag of prizes. The fun starts July 5th and the giveaway date is September 20! (You don't have to be present to win.)

To donate a prize, bring a gift card for any amount or a craft or a bottle of wine to the Church. Another option is baking some goodies. Just put your name and what you will bake on a piece of paper and in an envelope. Don't bake it now. If you bring your contribution anytime other than Sunday morning, please first check with the office to make sure that someone is present. Office hours are still irregular.

All prizes donated will be divided up into baskets and raffled off in September to all parishioners who participate. You can enter as much as you want! The more we take in the more we give away

To purchase tickets, write a check payable to St. David's. Tickets are 3 for \$5. You will receive an extra ticket if you bring a canned good or something for the Parish Cupboard.

Any questions please call me or Sue O'Hare. Thanks and GOOD LUCK!

Staying Connected, by Fr. Harvey

The Diocese strongly encourages Churches that are livestreaming services to continue doing so through the stages of reopening our building. Even without diocesan encouragement, we would keep going. I never thought I would say this (!), but the technology has been a real gift. More people join our Sunday services online than was typical of a regular Sunday. We also have a good crew for Morning Prayer, which is a new form of public ministry for us. And now we have teamed up with Saint Mark's to offer Noonday Prayer every week day but Wednesday and Compline every weekday evening at 8:00. This partnership is new and remains something of a work in progress. But we will get it right!

If you are having trouble getting connected to participate in any of this, please contact me. Hopefully I can help to get you started. If so, we know that God's grace must truly be at work!

Community Bulletin Board by Fr. Harvey

We have created a "community bulletin board" on our webpage. The idea is that people can list things they would like to give away or sell, skills they have, etc. In another place on the bulletin board, people can request help or make prayer requests. Now we just need content. If you would like to advertise or offer anything, please let Laurie know. I want to add a note of profound gratitude for all the work Laurie Littlefield regularly puts into our webpage!!!

Summer Sunday School on Zoom

We cannot resume in-person Sunday School until Stage Four, when a vaccine is readily available. In the meantime, thanks to a wonderful set of volunteers, we have been offering Sunday School on Zoom each week, immediately following the Sunday service. During the summer, that begins at 10:15. Thanks to Denise Noyes for hosting the meetings on Zoom! And thanks to Sue O'Hare for leading the classes each week!

Memorial Trees

Last fall, we cleared out the overgrown area on the street side of our property, in anticipation of planting three memorial trees. Thanks to our wonderful senior warden Carol Fabrycki they are now in the ground. Weeping cherry in the center is given by Anne McManus in memory of her brother. The two taller trees are given by Jane Nunn in honor of Reverend John Tyler and Canon Rush Smith, but I think of it as a memorial to Jane herself as well. We'll schedule the formal dedication of all three as soon as we can.

Creation Care

Just a few thoughts:

The commercial whaling industry may be coming to an end in Iceland. For the second year in a row they will not hunt whales.

The coronavirus outbreak may be responsible for some of our depleted fish stocks to rebound. There has been a widespread stop in commercial fishing during the coronavirus outbreak.

Sadly though, because of the absence of tourists in African parks and the wildlife reserves, poachers are back to slaughtering wildlife.

Previous ozone holes have been in the Antarctic but a large hole in the ozone layer over the Arctic has opened up.

Because of the nationwide decline in driving, the corn-ethanol industry has been hurting. But it is seeing a profit from an increased demand for hand sanitizer.

An executive order has been signed asserting the United States' right to mine on the moon.

Enjoy and please protect our Earth,
Pauline L. Mortenson

For Jane: The day that you left us

By Laurel Clark

The day that you left us, is a day I will never forget,
I knew you were gone when in my dreams we met.
You made sure I knew you were happy and free,
I know you're at peace and watching over me.

The day that you left us, still seems so unreal.
The pain is so heavy, don't know if I'll heal.
I feel so numb, yet so painfully aware,
Knowing you're gone is more than I can bear.

The day that you left us, felt so warm and so bright,
A breeze blowing through, so gentle and light.
The day carried on and my pain grew and grew,
Thunder clouds formed as a storm began to brew.

The day that you left us, the lightning did flash,
The thunder boomed around us with a crash.
The rain poured down then the sky turned orange, red and blue,
As I watched the clouds part, I knew that was you.

The day that you left us, I knew you were near,
Even though you are gone, I could still feel you there.
You sent us the sunshine, and painted the sky,
The raindrops that fell were your tears of good bye.

The day that you left us, an angel got her wings,
Reunited with your husband, I could hear your heart sing.
I will carry you with me in all that I do
And know that I will always miss and love you.

The Labyrinth and our Flower Gardens

Our grounds are looking great! Thanks to everyone who is putting so much work into them! I encourage folks who haven't had a chance to appreciate them to come by for a look. You can enjoy a picnic, relax on a bench, or walk the labyrinth. In a difficult time, there are few things better for the soul than a little quiet time outdoors with God!

Creation Care Kids' Corner by Mary Moore

Food Chains - we are all connected

Every living thing needs food to survive. Plants can make their own food, but animals cannot, so they have to eat either plants, other animals that eat plants, or sometimes both of these. When we trace the path from a plant to the animal that eats it, then to a different animal that eats that animal, and so on, we have a **food chain**.

Example #1: a caterpillar eats the leaves of a tree. A bird eats the caterpillar. A cat eats the bird. The food chain is tree -> caterpillar -> bird -> cat. Example #2: cattle eat grass. Humans eat the cattle in the form of hamburger. The food chain is grass -> cattle -> human

Activity: Think of some food chains you see every day in your life. Do you have a pet? Does it eat meat? What kind of animal did the meat come from? What did that animal eat? -or- What did you have for supper? Were there plants on your plate? Were there animals? If there were animals, what did they eat when they were alive?

Now draw and color a picture of your food chain.

Mid Year Giving Assessment (by Ted Zern)

God is good, and so are the His people of St. David's!

The month ending June 30 is typically a time when financial giving and the current budget are brought into focus. It is a good opportunity to determine if the financial projections are indeed realistic. The short answer to this question is YES, There is every reason to take heart in the snapshot of financial giving for the half way point in the current fiscal year. As the most recent pledge report was prepared, it was met with the unquestionable faithfulness of the people of St. David's. As many churches across the region grapple with how to sustain financial giving in the midst of a pandemic, it is clear that St. David's stands tall. How tall, might you ask? Well, here is a snapshot of the latest pledge report dated June 30, 2020.

There are currently 52 active pledge units, so each pledge is important and necessary to sustain God's work in our parish. It would not be unreasonable, however, to expect that in the absence of in person worship each week, there would have been a corresponding decline in pledge receipts. Yet, as of June 30, 48% of the dollars pledged have been received, just 2% below the exact half way point of the year. What is even more remarkable is that this is the best position noted in the last 5 years.

As we go forward through the summer and continuing into fall, it is with a sense of spirit filled grace. This community of faith is a special place. Please keep those pledge payments coming whether it be in person, by mail or on line. As the Psalmists wrote. "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. (**Psalm 27:13**)

At some point we will be rejoined in person with every reason to celebrate God's goodness. "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude." (**Timothy 4:4**)

Outreach during a Pandemic, by Father Harvey

For the first few weeks of the quarantine, my focus was on learning new technologies and establishing a regular routine of worship and Bible Study. Just as we are getting settled into the new normal, the process of reopening begins, with all that it means about a new set of routines! (That is, of course, a good thing!)

In the meantime, we cannot forget those of our neighbors who are being hardest hit. Service providers are working heroically to continue to help people with housing, food, and addiction issues. But the problems are escalating at the same time that familiar ways of helping are becoming impossible.

We are in conversation with Martha about ways to support the Parish Cupboard. Folks have been heroic about donating food in the bin that we leave by our backdoor and put out on Sunday mornings. Thanks to the leadership of Jim Shields, we made a generous donation to Episcopal Relief and Development at a time when our donation would be matched.

If you have any ideas, please be in touch with me, Jim Shields, or any other member of the vestry. As our Bishop sometimes says, the Church was made for times like these. Our job is to be the best Church we can be, with God's help!

Building Bridges Veterans Ministry and the Prison Bible Study

Both of these ministries remain on hold. As soon as we get the go-ahead to resume from the Building Bridges Program, we will do so. The same is true when the Women's Correctional Center allows volunteers to enter the prison. But in both cases that may be several months.....

Young Scholars Program, by Fr. Harvey

This program offers college scholarships to elementary school students. You read that right—elementary students. The idea is that at-risk children benefit from early interventions. The children come from the MLK Charter School and the White Street School, both in Springfield. The schools nominate promising children. The Young Scholars Program promises money if/when the children actually go to college. In the meantime, the schools and the program combine to offer enrichment and support.

Obviously the last school year ended strangely. It is unclear exactly what school will look like for children in the fall. But kids continue to grow and to learn, and so this effort continues to be important. Indeed it is more important than ever since children need a little extra support and encouragement these days.

If you would like to join this effort, please talk to me. I have served on the Board of the Program for the last few years, and I strongly recommend their work. You can also check them out online at www.youngscholarsfund.org. The Program can always use money, but the single greatest need is for "scholar partners." Each partner tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. For people with more time, partners are invited to school events and field trips (when they resume) or other forms of contact with their young scholars. I have not been able to do much of that myself, but it is the most rewarding part of the work since it means getting to know the children and their families.

Errands Are Us

If anyone needs any errands run, contact Susan Amabile at 519-7854 to work out the details, including payment when appropriate.

Prayer Shawls

This is a great time to make, use, or give someone a prayer shawl. If you have one to be dedicated, let Father Harvey know and he can include a prayer of dedication as part of our outdoor Sunday Eucharists. If you would like to pick one up from the Church, please let the office know, and we'll try to make appropriate arrangements. Prayer shawls can be a great comfort to people who need a little boost, and that is a lot of us these days! Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

The Financial Picture

I am happy to report that we remain in remarkably good financial shape. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our people, combined with the money we received from the federal government to cover salaries and the Diocese waiving our monthly assessment, we have an impressive surplus for the year. The times ahead will still be challenging. The grant from the government and the Diocese have both run out, so we are back to paying salaries and making our diocesan contribution. But we are blessed indeed to be in such a strong financial position!

Stewardship

None of us yet know the full economic impact of the covid virus, but some of us have already been hit pretty hard, and others might still be. If you need to adjust your pledge in light of what is happening, please let Pledge Secretary Ted Zern know. We all understand that people are making some difficult decisions these days!!

Rector's Discretionary Fund, 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. 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.

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. But of course no one can get to them! If you need to spend the Church's money, please be in touch with Father Harvey or Treasurer Jude O'Hare. One of them can fill out the form for you. Please first get approval from the relevant vestry person. You can see who is in charge of which budget area on our [webpage at https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html](https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html). Thanks!!

Losses in our Parish Family

Please pray for the souls of Joe Mineo, Jane Nunn, and Kristin Wheeler, all of whom died recently. Please also pray for their families. May Joe, Jane, and Kristin all rest in peace and rise in glory!

Covid Masks Available By Jude O'Hare

With a major Thank You to Ellen Rendrick for her talent and dedication, we now have Covid Masks to give to all. What is awesome about these masks is their Bible verse printed on them. I have seen many masks out in society right now, smiles, sports, faces and paper. I have not seen Bible verses. They may be out there but I have not seen them. I tell people I am not a great evangelist because of trouble speaking in a crowd. I can however speak one on one or in a small group about my love and belief in God and my church. Can this mask start that kind of a conversation? Maybe it will open a few eyes and ears. This could be an amazing opportunity. These masks are medical grade, washable with the filter between the reversible layers. I strongly encourage you to take a mask and see what God puts in front of you. They will be available at the service or call the office and leave your request. There are also masks available for children. Let us share God's love and Blessings with all.

Friday Bible Study at 1:00

The Friday Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom each week at 1:00. We are about to wrap up the stories about the fabulously wealthy and wise King Solomon in First Kings. Then we'll probably start a new book, which makes this an excellent time to join us. Almost certainly we'll stick with Zoom meetings through Stage Two, just to be on the safe side. Please join us, and help spread the word!

Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina

"Lectio Divina" is a prayerful reading of a Bible passage, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? We have now had a couple of sessions on Zoom, and they work surprisingly well. We used to meet after the Sunday service for about twenty minutes. In July, we tried a new time: Friday at 2:30. Our group is small, but the sessions are wonderful. Please join us! Or, if you would like to join us and that time is not convenient, please let Father Harvey know what time would be better. Thanks!

Prayer Cycles

We have two monthly prayer cycles, both of which are available on our homepage under the "Worship" tab (and in the narthex, for what that is worth). One lists all the nations of the world, and the other lists the people and the ministries of Saint David's. Please give the prayer cycles a try if you are not already doing so. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, you pray by name for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. We could all use more prayers these days! Also, if you notice any missing people or ministries, please let the office know. It's easy to correct, and we don't want to leave anyone out!

Prayer Requests

We typically list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, but we can't do that now. If you would like us to include a prayer request in the prayers of the people on Sundays or in Morning Prayer during the week, please let Fr. Harvey know. We also have an online prayer chain. To put out a prayer request on it, please contact Father Harvey or Kathy Glista. Do the same if you'd like to receive the prayer requests. If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. And don't forget thanksgivings. It's good to offer those, too!!

Reading the New Testament

We are still working our way through the New Testament, and folks are always welcome to join us! In August, we are working through the letters of Paul—Fr. Harvey's favorite! In weekly e-mail updates, Father Harvey announces the chapters for the week and attaches a link to a helpful video on the material for that week. We also gather once a month for conversation—on Zoom for at least through Stage Two. In August, our conversation will be Tuesday the 4th at 4:00. Spending time with Scripture is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. And that's what it is all about!

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the August 2020 Dovetale is August 20, 2020.
Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks



AUGUST 2020



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|--|---|---|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| <p>2 (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom</p> | <p>3 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom</p> | <p>4 NT Conversation at 4:00</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7 In-Door Eucha- rist at 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom</p> | <p>10 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14 In-Door Eucha- rist at 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom</p> | <p>17 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom</p> | <p>18 Vestry 7PM</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 In-Door Eucha- rist at 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom</p> | <p>24 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 In-Door Eucha- rist at 12:00 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30 (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom</p> | <p>31 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom</p> | | <p>Daily Office Livestreams Mon-Fri MP at 8:00 AM Noonday Pray- er at 12:00 Compline at 8:00 PM</p> | | | |



These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

***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.