



St. David's Episcopal Church

AUGUST DOVETALE

2021

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.

Christian Hope

This morning my newspaper carried an article about worrying trends in the pandemic. After weeks of dramatic drops in new cases, during which time I began to feel like the pandemic was effectively over, numbers of infections and hospitalizations are now increasing. Despite those rising numbers, many unvaccinated people remain hesitant about vaccination. Who knows what we will have to do if current trends continue and accelerate?

But despite that note of caution, I am happy to report that new life continues to pulse through our parish. Inside this issue of the Dovetale, you will see articles about old ministries that have just resumed (e.g. Eucharistic Visitors and Ministers; confirmation classes) or are in the process of resuming (e.g. Caregivers, "our" Church without Walls, and the Holiday Bazaar), as well as ministries that are expanding in creative new directions (e.g. the Wednesday children's programs and our vegetable garden) and new ministries that continue to grow and take shape (e.g. our digital ministry and the auction).

As a result, I find myself in an odd emotional place: worried about the future as I look at national trends but also excited about the future as I reflect on what is happening in our Church family.

That combination of worry and hope points to something important about Christian life today, at least as I experience it. Whenever I think about the challenges facing our world—not only the pandemic, but also political dysfunction, racial injustice, climate change, computer hackers, and so on—I feel totally inadequate to meet them. And whenever I think about God's presence with us, about the power of God's grace and love as we know it in Christ, about God's work moving us ever so slowly in the direction of God's kingdom, I am filled with hope.

Saint David's is a place, a parish, a community of faithful people, who consistently remind me of the foundation of our Christian hope in God. For that I will never cease to be grateful. And so, on this day of mingled fear and hope, I thank God for you, the people who keep me hopeful by keeping me rooted in God.

God bless you all!

Harvey +

O God, make speed to save me.
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalm 70:1

Outreach Ministry: by Deacon Terry

ST. David's is expanding its outreach mission!

Jesus teaches us to serve. Serve the less fortunate, those in need, those struggling.

We all have so much to be thankful for, and there are so many who are in need.

On the first Sunday every other month, we will offer snacks and attend an outdoor service at court square in Springfield. This service starts at noon and is about 40 minutes.

Our participation can be whatever each of us are comfortable with. Some may want to serve, some may simply wish to be present. We hope folks may like to come along, help hand out the lunches and, for those who can't or don't feel comfortable, they could bake some cookies, brownies, etc.(individually wrapped). Purchase some clementines, small bags of chips, donate some money to help with the costs. (There are usually about 50 people.)

If you do buy or make something – simply drop it off at the church and we will get it there.

Dates:

Sept. 5

Nov. 7

If you'd like to be a part of this in any way, please let us know.

Peace, Deacon Terry

CREATION CARE KID'S CORNER: by Mary Moore

You may have heard grownups use the term climate change, but do you know what that means? First, you should know the difference between weather and climate. Weather is what is happening outside today - is it raining? sunny? what is the temperature right here, right now? Climate is the typical weather you expect to get in an area at different times of the year, based on what has happened over many years in the past. For example, in Western Massachusetts in January, we expect cold temperatures and snow, but how cold, and how much snow? Scientists can tell us because they keep track of the weather year after year. Looking at what happened here in January for the last 20 years (or longer), they can figure out what is normal for us. Climate Change refers to the fact that the climate all over the globe is changing, more quickly in some places than others. Places that used to get enough rain for farming are now having droughts that last for several years. Places that used to get mild hurricanes, while not getting more hurricanes, are now seeing stronger hurricanes that are causing more damage.

Why grownups are talking a lot about climate change: small and not so small changes in the climate can have a big effect. For example, there are more wild fires out west because of a continuing drought. Another example - a small increase in the average winter temperature in a huge evergreen forest in Canada means that now it does not get cold enough to kill most of the insects that destroy those trees. So, many of the insects that would have died if it were just a little colder now make it through the winter instead. The result is that over half of the trees in this forest are dead because of these insects.

Activities: Watch the local weather report on television. The meteorologist (weather man or woman) will probably tell you if the temperature outside is normal, lower than normal, or higher than normal. They will do the same for the amount of rainfall.

DAILY PRAYER by Father Harvey

We have shifted to a summer schedule of the online Daily Office. Deacon Terry and I taking turns streaming Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 8:00 am. The good people of Saint Mark's share their livestreamed services of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also at 8:00. In the evenings, the Diocese offers a zoomed version of Compline on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 8:00 pm. For log-in information, please contact me. And Saint Mark's streams evening prayers on Fridays at 8:00, including on our Facebook page. That means there are one or more options every weekday! Please take advantage of these services as you are able. And please spread the word!

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER AND THE DAILY OFFICE:

One the great, and often neglected, resources of our tradition is the Prayerbook. Now more than ever we all need to be cultivating a regular practice of prayer at home, and the Prayerbook can help. Our livestreamed services (Morning Prayer; and Compline with Saint Mark's) come from the Prayerbook and are intended at least partly as an opportunity for folks to use these prayer services themselves. We have also put in the narthex copies of a specifically Pentecost version of Morning Prayer, along with the schedule of readings for the summer months. We can mail them to anyone on request. Just call the office or send Fr. Harvey an e-mail.

There are lots of other options in the Prayerbook as well. The Prayerbook has a quick service for Noonday (which we were livestreaming last summer), and a slightly longer one for Evening Prayer (a lot like Morning Prayer and with the same readings). If those are still too much, there are shorter and easier "Daily Devotions" (beginning on page. 137), and helpful prayers and thanksgivings at the back of the book (beginning on page 810). The result is something that will work for even the busiest people.

If you need a Prayerbook, let Fr. Harvey know and we can arrange a time for you to pick one up at the Church. You can also order one for yourself, of course. An easy-to-navigate online version is available here: [Online BCP](#).

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 continue to offer contemplative prayer on Fridays at 2:30 and, like so much else, we now meet both in person and on Zoom. That means every Friday except—you guessed it!—the 6th and the 13th. Please join us!

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 Sunday service. 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. Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

Fun and Fellowship: Outdoor Concert on Saturday, August 14

Our Parish Life Team is planning an Outdoor Concert on the afternoon of Saturday, August 14. We'll have live music by our very own team of Rene Sprinthall and Jim Shields, food and drinks available for sale (including baked goods!), a fifty/fifty raffle, bounce house, and more. For more information, please contact Susan Amabile. Please plan to join us for some fun! And help spread the word!! We'd love to have lots of people from outside the parish as well.

Springfield Church Without Walls, by Fr. Harvey

On July 4, for the first time at the Springfield Church without walls in Court Square, I was the preacher. The setting is quite different from our Church without Walls, so I was a little anxious about the whole thing. Looking back at it now, I can say this much at least. I didn't break the most important rule for this service: keeping it short! I have enjoyed getting more involved with this ecumenical effort and hope we'll be able to continue. Thanks to Deacon Terry for coordinating our efforts and to everyone who contributed and/or joined us. Our next turn will be September 5 and all are welcome!

Church without Walls, by Fr. Harvey

After a long break, we are inching our way towards resuming our Church without Walls at the Parish Cupboard. Two things changed during the pandemic, both of which created potential problems. As people may know, the Cupboard itself moved down the street. Their new home is better for virtually everything they do, but it has the disadvantage for us of not having a porch where we can gather for our service if there is bad weather. Also, after many years of heroic service, Martha Tighe retired. Martha joined the Church without walls service virtually every week, and became the real heart of the whole ministry.

But progress is happening on both fronts. The new executive director of the Cupboard is a man named Bob Fastie, and he seems great. He has given us permission to resume our services whenever we are ready, and he even purchased a canopy for us to use in bad weather. As far as he is concerned, we can begin virtually anytime.

All that remains now is re-establishing our weekly rotation of Churches. That may prove tricky. At least one pastor has retired, and I believe a couple more were interims who may well have left their parishes since we put the CWW ministry on hold. Ideally we'll be able to offer coverage every Sunday in the month, without any single Church committing to more than one. In the event we can't offer full coverage right away, Bob says he can post which Sundays a Church will be leading the service. That means we can start more or less anytime we feel ready.

I'm thinking we'll get going again in September. That will give us some time to see which Churches are still interested and therefore how many Sundays in a month will be covered. I look forward to getting this going again!!

Expanding Our Vegetable Gardens, by Fr. Harvey

As many of you know, we created a small vegetable garden in our back lot a couple of years ago. This year we won a grant from the Diocese to upgrade our efforts by, among other things, putting a spigot on that side of the parking lot to make watering easier. That project is happening as I write this article, and should be complete by the time you read it. Wander over to the fenced retaining pond and check out the new spigot as well as the vegetable garden inside the fence.

Assuming we raise a decent amount of produce, we plan to make it available to parishioners and perhaps neighbors, as well as donating some of it to food pantries in the area. If you are interested in helping with the garden, please be in touch with Denise Noyes or Father Harvey. Thanks!!

We're Going on Television!

It's official! The Agawam Television Station is carrying our 10:00 Sunday services on channel 12. I am excited about this new way of reaching out and grateful to Les Tingley and the people at Agawam Media for making it possible, as well as to Kathy Glista who has done much of the work getting things ready on our end. Les has contacts at other local stations in the area, so we may try to expand the area we reach. But for now I am happy with this next step in the creation and expansion of our digital ministry!

Outdoor Craft Fair

We have rented our grounds to the organizer of an Outdoor Craft Fair. By the time you read this, the first Fair will be behind us, and the second may be. Of course, given our weather lately, the second may be rained out, which would push it to the rain date of August 7. There will be one more later this year on October 9. Thanks to the tireless John O'Hare, we plan to offer food for sale at the fairs. Other than offering concessions, we don't have any role in putting on the Fairs, but we wanted to make sure everyone knew about them.

Eucharistic Visits and Visitors

This is another ministry which is in the process of coming back. Father Harvey and Deacon Terry have been making visits. A team of two laypeople recently joined the visitation rotation, and another will join us soon., Our goal is to offer Communion to people who cannot make it to Church at least every other week. If you are interested in making visits, let Fr. Harvey know. He can give you training, pair you with a partner, and go with you on your first visits if you like. As anyone who has made visits can attest, this is a really rewarding ministry. If you would like to receive visits, please also be in contact with Fr. Harvey. Thanks!!

Eucharistic Ministers

This is yet another ministry that is coming back after more than a year. Before the pandemic, Eucharistic Ministers served the chalice at Communion. We are not yet in a position to offer the chalice, but we want more people without clerical collars up front! We have resumed a regular schedule of Eucharistic Ministers who join Deacon Terry or Father Harvey in offering the consecrated bread, each with a drop of consecrated wine on it. If you would like to be part of the rotation, please let Father Harvey know. Thanks!!

Healing Ministry

We are back to offering prayers for healing each week at the altar 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!!

Reading the Gospel of Mark

Several of us are reading the Gospel of Mark together this year, guided by a kind of commentary by Michael Casey called *Fully Human, Fully Divine*. In August we plan to meet on Zoom at 4:15 on Tuesday, the 17th. If you would like to join us, let Father Harvey know and he'll get you up to speed on the Casey book. All are welcome!!

Friday Noontime Healing Eucharist

On Fridays at noon, a small group of us gather for a service of Holy Communion, including a conversational sermon on the saint of the day and an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar. Normally we meet every Friday, but in August we will NOT meet on the 6th or the 13th. When we do meet, all are welcome—please help spread the word!

Friday Bible Study at 1:00

This has become a hybrid event. Most of us meet in person in the Community Room on Fridays at 1:00. With snacks! Others join us by Zoom. We have a mounted screen in the Community Room, which allows everyone physically present to see and hear people on Zoom. Thanks to a special camera and microphone, people on Zoom can hear and see better as well. For the summer, we are shifting to some of the shorter books of the Bible, which makes this an easy time to jump in. But here too, please know that we will NOT meet on the 6th or the 13th. Also like the Friday service, all are welcome. And you don't need to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

Caregivers, by Fr. Harvey

The people of Saint David's have a long tradition of supporting each other in times of need. Now we are hoping to organize this generosity into a more regular ministry. If you are willing to offer fellow parishioners occasional help, please let me know. My goal is to have a handful of names of people who are willing to offer rides, run local errands, and/or provide meals when people need a hand. Thanks!!

Confirmation Classes

A wonderful group of four young women are studying for confirmation with Fr. Harvey and Chrissy Turcotte White. The group meets on Sundays at 11:30 as close to weekly as we can, given summer vacations. The young women are Lexi Barna, Eden Berry, Madeleine Soukup, and Emmerson White. Please say a prayer for them as they explore their faith and prepare to make a mature commitment to Christ. Please throw in a few prayers for Chrissy, who will also be confirmed!

Summer Vacation, by Fr. Harvey

I'll be away the first two weeks in August. If you have a pastoral emergency between August 1 and 14, please contact Deacon Terry. If for some reason you need a priest, he or one of the office volunteers can reach me or a covering priest. Please also note that our regular Friday activities (Healing Service, Bible Study, and Contemplative Prayer) will NOT meet those two weeks.

Beloved Community: Sacred Ground Follow-Up, by Fr. Harvey

Several of us joined with the people of Saint Andrew's to form three "circles" to read, watch videos, and discuss issues of race and faith. We recently finished that program, and there is interest in doing more. We are still planning next steps. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please be in touch with me. All are welcome!

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

ST. DAVID'S HAS EXCITING NEWS

THE AUCTION IS ON! By Fr. Harvey

As you may recall, we had scheduled an auction to raise money for the Development Team, with the ultimate goal of replacing the rug in the sanctuary of the Church. Everything was more or less set, and then a global pandemic intervened. But Scott Seabury and his intrepid crew of auction volunteers is once again moving forward. The plan is to have the auction itself on Saturday, October 23, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., with a viewing of items to be auctioned from 12:00-1:00. Be on the lookout for more information about ways to help and/or to donate.

Sunday School, by Fr. Harvey

We are looking forward to resuming Sunday School each week beginning this September. The plan is to have a teacher and an assistant for each Sunday of the month. We are set for assistants, but we need one more teacher. If you are willing to work with our children one Sunday a month, please be in touch with me or with Valerie Smart, our wonderful new coordinator for children's ministries. Thanks!!

VETERAN'S LUNCHESES CONTINUE!

Thanks to John O'Hare and the Lion's Club, our Veterans' Lunches are back and better than ever! Our August meal will be Tuesday the 3rd, beginning at 11:30. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, please be in touch with John.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: by Jo Joubert

The Development Committee met on July 16th. Many ideas were presented and discussion followed.

Beginning the first Sunday in October the committee will hold a bake sale which will continue to be held the first Sunday of each month.

October 23rd will be our first Auction

A breakfast is planned for October. DTBA

November DTBA a Paint and Sip and in December DTBA Paint Christmas ornaments

December 10th we will hold our annual Christmas Dinner.

On February 12th 2022 a Valentines Dinner Dance will be held . Menu TBA.

April 23rd 2022 we will hold a Tag Sale, so save all your items that you don't want or need.

Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

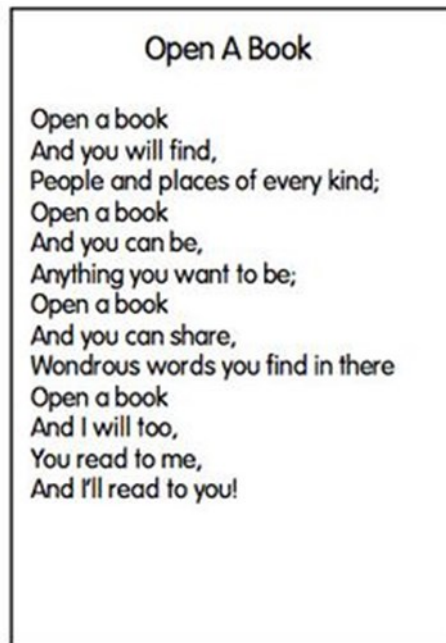
Beulah's Turning 90...

AND we're having a party! All are invited to join in celebrating Beulah Richardson (mother of Ellen Rendrick) at Saint David's on Saturday, August 7 from 2:00 to 5:00.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE BEST BAKER WE KNOW. GREAT BANANA BREAD.

I welcome any suggestions, adds, birthdays, food dishes or ANY news item that anyone would like to share with everyone.

Happy Birthday to: Jude O'Hare and all of St. David's birthday families.



FOR THE KID'S: WE MISSED YOU WEDNESDAYS!!

Each Wednesday (except August 25), Valerie Smart is leading our children in special events in the Church yard. Themes vary from week to week, but kids should dress for outdoor fun. So far the weather has been cooperating, but the event is cancelled in the event that it doesn't. You can contact Valerie for more details. And a big thank-you to Valerie for putting this program together!!!

August 4: Tye Dye Night!

August 11: We Are Superheroes

August 18: LEGO Challenge

Calendar: services every Sunday at 8 and 10;

Healing Eucharist every Friday at noon except 6th and 13th;

Bible Study every Friday at 1 except 6th and 13th;

Contemplative Prayer, every Friday at 2:30 except 6th and 13th;

Men's Bible study every Monday at 7;

Vestry on Tuesday, 8/17 at 7;

Morning Prayer TWTh at 8:00;

Evening Prayers MTWF at 8:00;

Mark Conversation on 8/17 at 4:15;

OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30;

Al-Anon Saturdays from 7:15-8:30;

Veterans Lunch August 3;

Beulah's Birthday bash 8/7 from 2-5;

Outdoor Concert 8/14;

Children's event every Wednesday from 6-7

Drain Unclogger



Bring 9 cups of water to a boil and dump 8 cups down your drain. Reserving 1 cup. Sprinkle baking soda down into the drain and let sit for a few minutes.

Mix the remaining cup hot water with 1 cup vinegar and slowly pour down the drain.

Let it sit for 10-15 minutes while you bring another 8 cups of water to a boil. Pour the boiling water down the drain!

THIS WORKS BEST ON DRAINS THAT ARE RUNNING SLOW-- AND NOT COMPLETELY CLOGGED. A LITTLE TENDER CARE BEFORE A FULLY CLOGGED DRAIN MEANS NOT HAVING TO USE YUCKY CHEMICALS!

WHOLE BODY LIVING
with Tara Wright



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

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