



St. David's Episcopal Church

AUGUST DOVETALE

2022

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.

COVID THOUGHTS, ONE LAST TIME:

As I write this, I have heard rumblings of yet another COVID variant that poses yet another kind of risk. Like most of you, I suspect, my heart sank. All of us are tired of worrying about COVID!! I'm hoping this will be the last time I write about it in the Dovetale!!

It seems like COVID is not going away, and new variants will continue to emerge. But at Saint David's, we have about decided to stay the course, no matter what happens with COVID. A couple of the changes we made in our service are more or less permanent at this point. We'll continue to leave the collection plate by the entrance to the Church rather than passing it. We'll continue to "peace in place." Deacon Terry and I will continue to wear masks while we distribute communion. We'll continue to put a drop of wine on the communion wafers.

But we are not likely to return to some of the safeguards we took in the past. We are VERY unlikely to close our building. The Bishop has announced that he will leave future decisions about closures to local parishes, and we are not inclined to go that route. We will continue to sing, and to offer the chalice to those who want it.

If pandemic numbers go up and you are concerned about your safety, please talk to me. But here is the good news, even in the event the pandemic numbers get troubling. There is almost always space in the front pews where maintaining social distance is easy. It may seem un-Episcopalian to sit in the front row, but it could be kind of nice. Among other things, you could see and hear better! Another option is to watch part of the 10:00 service on the big screen in the community room, and then join us for Communion.

My point is, we want to do everything we can to help people feel safe. And we want to continue with our worship and community life with as few disruptions as possible.

So, absent some really dramatic outbreak, this really may be the last time you hear from me about COVID. We know what to do. We know how to stay safe. And we know how to keep going. That's our plan!!

God's peace and all good to you all!
Fr. Harvey

VACATION, by Fr. Harvey

By the time you read this, Carrie and I will be in England! We fly from Boston to London after Church on Sunday, July 24. During our two weeks abroad, we'll make a pilgrimage to Saint David's Cathedral as well as the birthplace of the saint himself! I'll be back at the post on Monday, August 8. Thanks to Fr. Domenic for leading services on July 31 and August 7! In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact him or, after July 30, Deacon Terry.

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. Thanks!!

CHALICE

We are back to offering the chalice at our services of Holy Communion. You may intinct (dip) or sip. Those who prefer not to share the chalice still receive the full grace of the sacrament from the host alone, especially since it has a drop of consecrated wine on it.

PRAYER RIBBONS

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL, by Fr. Harvey

Sunday School is on hold for the summer so that everyone can have a little break. We'll be back at it in the fall, probably beginning on Sunday, September 11. Now we are working on our roster of teachers and aids. If you are willing to join the team, please let me know.

We'll have a meeting for interested people on Sunday, August 21 at 11:30. All are welcome! Thanks!!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET

This is a reminder that we have forms in the narthex for planning a celebration of life (aka funeral). It can be really helpful to family members if you plan your service in advance. And the conversation can be surprisingly rewarding! Please speak to Fr. Harvey if you would like any help. We also have available Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

MORNING PRAYER

We continue our schedule of livestreamed Morning Prayer Tuesdays through Fridays at 8:00 AM, with Terry or me leading on Fridays. 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. They're 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!

A YEAR WITH LUKE

A group of us meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week to talk about a chapter of Luke's Gospel, along with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. Our August meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 9th and the 23rd. Please join us!

THE JOHN O'HARE VETERAN'S MINISTRY

Our July lunch would have fallen on the 5th, so we and the Lions decided to hold off last month. We'll be back at it on the first Tuesday of August (the 2nd) at 11:30. Please help spread the word that all veterans eat free. And join us if you would like to help!!

PRISON BIBLE STUDY, by Fr. Harvey

We're trying again! Just before the pandemic first hit, we had set up a weekly Bible Study at the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee. Before we had even a single session, the prison shut it down, along with all other volunteer efforts. Now that the prison is once again welcoming volunteers, we can resume this ministry.

The folks at the prison suggested we meet on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 in the evening. We will take one Monday a month—I've proposed the 4th Mondays—and other Churches/people will cover the remaining weeks. So far, we have three partners, although I am hoping to find a few more.

My goal is to get everything in place so that we can begin on Monday, September 11. If we make it, and if Saint David's gets the fourth Monday, our first session would be Monday, September 26.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating. If you would like to join me for the study sessions themselves, you need to be approved by the folks at the prison. I can talk you through the process, but for now I'll just say it takes some time. Unfortunately, it looks like those of us who already went through this process will have to do it again. I'll confirm that before signing up for the training!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST

A small 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. In August, we'll meet every Friday except the first—August 5. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 on Fridays. In August, we'll meet every Friday except the first—August 5. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We are still working our way through the Gospel of John. All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning! Please join us!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather Fridays at 2:30 for a session of contemplative prayer. 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? In August, we'll meet every Friday except the first—August 5. 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!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, by Fr. Harvey

On our Sunday to lead this service, I dashed around gathering the stuff at the last minute, as always. As I was walking out the door, someone double-checked, asking me if I had everything. I assured them I did. I should have looked—once again, I forgot the communion wafers! Thankfully Lorraine, one of the pillars of the Parish Cupboard, came to the rescue. This time we had cheese nips for communion. They were pretty tasty, so maybe it's something we should consider at Saint David's!

Despite my goofiness, we had a good service with several of our normal crew and one person new to me. And, to link our Sunday services that day with the service at Church without Walls, we blessed the lunches we provided our guests at the Cupboard on our altar at the 10:00 service.

In August, I'll be away for Church without Walls. Terry has agreed to lead the service, which means it's more likely to be done right this time!!

HEALING MINISTRY

We continue to offer 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!!

EUCHARISTIC VISITS AND VISITORS

Our goal is to offer Communion to homebound people something like every other week. We currently have six visitors, so we are about there. If you would like to join our intrepid crew, please let me know. Thanks!!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON ABORTION, by Fr. Harvey

This is a short summary of the material we covered at our July conversation about the position of the Church on abortion. It will not do justice to a difficult and controversial topic, on which we do not all agree!! But here goes. The Church begins with the premise that all life is sacred, from inception until death. But it also recognizes that life can be complicated and tragic. Terminating a pregnancy may never be a good option, but it is sometimes the best option, most obviously if the life of the mother is at risk, but in some other circumstances as well. Wisely the Church has refrained from specifying exactly when abortion might be appropriate and when it would not be. Instead, the Church encourages women to make their own decisions, in consultation with their doctors and in prayer. Our task as Church is to equip our people to make moral choices in exactly those kinds of difficult circumstances. If you have questions about this position or would like to talk more about it, please let me know.

DROP IN CENTER FROM: Linda Taupier

The Drop-In Center at the Episcopal Cathedral in Springfield is always looking for folks who might come and simply be present with our guests, sit and talk over a cup of coffee. We are open Thursday from 9 - 1, and the setup is at 8:40. Many of our volunteers come every week, but that is not necessary. People could come once a month to help set up and leave around 11, or come at 11 and help put stuff away at 1. We can accommodate anyone's desire to help.

We are looking for donations of gently used clothes, particularly men's large and X-large. Sweat pants and hoodies are favorites. We need stuff people would wear who live on the streets. We don't need dress shoes, dresses or 3-piece suits! Thanks!!

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Our August game will be Wednesday, the 10th, beginning at 6:00. There is good food, friendly competition, and lots of fun! Please join us!

BOOK CLUB: By Linda Seabury

Our next Book Club meeting will be Sunday, July 31st in the Community Room, at 11:15, after church. Discussion of "Where the Crawdads sing," by Delia Owens. All women are welcome!!

VESTRY CHANGE OF DAY

Beginning in September, our Vestry meetings will shift to a new day of the week: Wednesdays. We'll continue to meet the third week of the month, so our September meeting will be the 21st. (We're taking August off.)

BRAVER ANGELS: by Fr. Harvey

Bishop Beckwith mentioned this program when he visited us a few months ago. Its goal is to bring together people across the political divide for honest conversations. The basic idea is that we all need to be a little better at listening to each other. To set up a group, we need two people willing to facilitate conversations: one conservative and one more progressive. If we have enough people, including appropriate facilitators, we could set up a group specifically at Saint David's. Alternatively, we could combine with other Churches in our area. If you might be interested in participating or facilitating, please contact me. Thanks!!

GRIEF GROUP

Our St. David's Grief Group is established to help anyone coping with loss, and that would be the loss of not only a loved one, but any loss, your job, your pet, retirement; we all grieve many things at various times in our lives. Many of us that attend are at different stages of grief and we all are there to help make the process of grief less difficult to experience. Grief affects all of us in different ways. There is no right or wrong way to deal with grief. We're not there to give advice, but just to listen and support each other. Our group is not large, but the spirit is there. We have scheduled our meetings for one Wednesday each month beginning at 1:00PM until we are finished for the day. Our August meeting will be Wednesday, the third. Please, come join us. You may be the one person that's there to help someone else get through this difficult time.

REFUGEE CONVERSATION

On Sunday, August 28, Deacon Terry will lead us in a conversation about our Refugee Ministry. He'll give us an update on how the Kahn family is doing and what their current needs are. We'll then talk together about our vision for this ministry going forward. Please join us!!

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MINISTRY

This is an experiment for us. On Saturday, July 30, a group is heading to the Berkshires to spend the day handing out "Trail Magic" to Appalachian Trail hikers. As a former AT hiker who occasionally received Trail Magic myself, I can say it's a wonderful gift to a hiker to offer an edible treat and conversation with ordinary people. And I can say that thru-hikers (people who walk the whole trail in a single year—I took nine!) are an especially interesting group of people. Episcopal Churches in the Berkshires coordinate this ministry, but people from around the Diocese participate. You may have heard Bishop Fisher talk about it. He routinely reminds us that it is an example of exactly the kind of thing we should be doing: going to where people are, especially young people!!, to share the love of God with them.

You can still join our team for this year. Just contact Mary Moore. When we hear back from them, we'll decide if we want to do it again later this year or next. If we do, we'll have to move fast—slots fill up quickly!!

PARISH LIFE, by Susan Amabile

Anyone interested in making chocolate candy for church purposes (events, coffee hour, kids events or fun), please see Sue O'Hare or Susan Amabile. We will provide the molds and chocolate.

Anyone interested in Face painting for about an hour or so at the function on September 10th, please see Susan A.

September 10th and 11th St David's will be celebrating Grandparents Day (actually Sunday September 11)

Many good things are planned from Saturday to Sunday, with prayers and Dance troops to free snacks!

Creation Care Kids' Corner by Mary Moore **Summer Scavenger Hunt - Over the next few weeks, try to find everything on this list.**

A fruit that has more than one seed inside

A fruit that has just one seed inside

A garden vegetable that has many seeds inside

A butterfly

A caterpillar or a cocoon

A thunder cloud

A tree that has some leaves that have already changed to their fall color

A rabbit

A bat flying at dusk

A cricket (hearing one counts too)

Creation Care: By Pauline Mortenson

Firstly, I would like to share some amazing information I just received about a tasty treat or just a slimy shellfish - the oyster. They create oyster reefs by growing in crusty clumps and are sometimes considered the unsung hero of the marine world. They are powerful filter feeders with just a single oyster cleaning 50 gallons of water every day - that's like a bathtub filled to the brim. They can remove large amounts of excess nutrients and other pollutants from coastal waters. If anyone has shelled oysters, then you know how hard the shells are and can really cut-up your hands until you get the knack of it (which I never got the knack of doing). These hard shells provide a natural barrier against rising sea tides and protect shorelines from erosion.

But...and unfortunately in these times we always have a "but" - oyster reefs are the most imperiled marine habitat on Earth. Globally, over 85% of oyster reefs have disappeared due to pollution, overfishing and habitat degradation. Ok - they may not be the cutest creature in the animal kingdom, but they are a vital part of the ecosystem. Secondly, if you would like to support Monarch Butterflies, consider planting several kinds of pesticide-free native milkweed that flower at different times. For free seeds, go to saveourmonarchs.org and enjoy the Monarchs enjoying the milkweed.

JULY VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS by Mary Moore

Good news! Financially we are still doing quite well, despite having just paid for a brand new roof. We are pretty well set for Sunday school when it starts up again in the fall, but still need a few more aides. If you are interested, please see Father Harvey.

Thanks to a referral from Saint Andrew's to a company called St. Pauly Textile, we will be getting a clothing donation shed in the not too distant future. We will be looking mostly for "gently used" clothing, but for some other items as well. More information to come.

One section of our irrigation system needs repairs - just look for the brown grass on the lawn to tell where. The work should be done soon.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE : Submitted by Jo Joubert

Our Tag Sale was a Success! We made \$1,063.00 . A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the following workers:

Ellen Rendrick	Ellen Scott	Valerie Clapp	Kathy DeBonville
Bob Rendrick	Sue O'Hare	Jude O'Hare	Mary Fleury
Kathy Glista	Barb LeFebvre	Norm LeFebvre	Diane Seaver
Bea Richardson	Linda Paquette	Susan Amabile	Linda
Virginia Ventulett	Michelle Joubert		

All of whom worked very hard for three days to get ready for this event. Ellen, Bob, Barb and Norm set all the tables up on Wed night.

Valerie, Diane, Kathy, Ellen R, Ellen S., Sue O, and Kathy D spent all three days lugging and pricing each item. Valerie also know the value of many items that I priced at a low amount. Good job Val.

Kathy G was VERY helpful with knowing the value of the Electronics.

Bea and Sue O, helped out with collecting the cash. Great job ladies.

Mary you were so helpful at getting items where they belonged. AND kept us all laughing. Awesome.

Diane and Kathy had all they could do to keep track of all the clothing.

Barb was all around, she even found what someone stole. Oh well...good job Barb.

Michelle was like the Walmart Greeter. She and Valerie had fun making special bags of the small toys hoping to sell more.

Susan Amabile had the table for donations to help the S.P.C.A. to feed the cats and dogs that are in their care. Thanks Sue. We all love the Fur Babies.

We all pitched in to help clean up then went home and dropped.

BY THE WAY: THE \$\$\$\$ THAT THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RAISES IS TO-HELP TO REPLACE THE RUG IN THE CHURCH PROPER.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT DONATED AND TO ALL THAT WORKED AND MADE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

AUGUST CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00 (in person and Facebook)

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

Friday: Healing Eucharist every Friday at 12:00 (in person) (except August 5)

Bible Study every Friday at 1:00 (in person and Zoom) (except August 5)

**Contemplative Prayer, every Friday at 2:30 (in person and Zoom)
(except August 5)**

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Tuesday, August 2: Veterans Lunch at 11:30

Wednesday, August 3: Grief Group at 1:00

Sunday, August 7: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Tuesdays, August 9 and 23: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (on Zoom)

Wednesday, August 13: Dominoes at 6:00

Sunday, August 21: Sunday School Teachers Meeting at 11:30

Sunday, August 28: Conversation about Refugee Ministry

TBD: Women's Book Group, but some Sunday at 11:15

REGULAR RENTALS:

Sundays from 1:30 to 4:45 PM (new hours): Spanish Church

Sundays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest

Mondays from 6:30-8:00 PM: OA

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

Thursdays from 10:15-11:30 AM: OA

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

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

Fridays from 8:00 to 12:00 Noon: Church of the Last Harvest (twice)

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

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

SPECIAL AUGUST DATES:

Happy 30th anniversary to Fr. Harvey and Carrie.

We ALL wish you a safe trip and enjoy your Anniversary as your 2nd Honeymoon.

Best Wishes From your Flock



***Happy 30th anniversary to Fr. Harvey and Carrie.
We ALL wish you a safe trip and enjoy your Anniversary as your 2nd Honeymoon.
Best Wishes to you and Carrie, From your Flock***

PHONE: (413) 786—6133
FAX: (413) 786-4682
EMAIL: saintdavids@comcast.net

Jo's home phone 413-821-0444
Jo's Cell 413-374-7756

**St, David's Episcopal Church
699 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030**