



# St. David's Episcopal Church

## DECEMBER 2022 DOVETALE

### 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.*

### A HOLY ADVENT

Please consider this an invitation to a holy Lent.

Advent, and the new Christian year, began on Sunday, November 27. Inside this issue of the *Dovetale*, you will find lots of ways you can observe the new season, both at Church and at home. I hope you will take advantage of many of them.

We will experience these weeks differently. Many of us will be busy with family and friends. Others of us may find this a difficult time as they struggle with loneliness or grief. All of us will be besieged with advertising and other messages telling us how we should feel, and what we should be doing, and mostly where we should spend our money. That is the reality of the Christmas season in contemporary America.

But in this season, the Church invites us to spend time in prayer and self-reflection, in preparation and hopefulness, in gratitude and loving service. What specific Advent activities work for you doesn't matter so much. But I encourage everyone to spend some intentional time with God over the next four weeks. Advent is a holy season of preparation to welcome our Lord come Christmas, as well as to grow in our relationship with God in the coming year.

I also encourage everyone to let others know what you are doing to observe Advent. There is, I think, a spiritual hunger in contemporary America that only God can satisfy. But many people need a little encouragement to address that deepest need.

The Christmas season is a complicated time. But whatever else it is, it is also a time when people expect to hear about the Christ child, when people's attention turns to worship at least some of the time, when people pause to reflect on what matters most.

My prayer for us in this season is that our lives witness to what truly matters.

In the name of the coming Christ. Fr. Harvey +

## **MORNING PRAYER**

We have expanded our offerings for Morning Prayer! Christ Church Cathedral has joined the rotation on Mondays at 8:00. (Our other MP partners are Saint Mark's and Saint Andrew's.) Oswald Howard is leading the services. Oswald also streams Noonday Prayer a few times each week, which should also show up on our Facebook Page. Please tune in as you are able. But also remember that we put forms in the narthex for seasonal versions of Morning Prayer and also for Compline. The forms there now are for Advent and Christmas. The forms are intended to help you say Morning Prayer or Compline on your own. Joining us or praying Morning Prayer or Compline on your own is a great way to add a little prayer into your weekly routine!

## **HEALING MINISTRY**

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

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

## **NO WINE ON THE WAFERS**, by Fr. Harvey

You may have noticed that we are no longer putting a drop of wine on communion wafers. That was a special pandemic accommodation since we were not able to share the common cup for so long. After we resumed offering the chalice, we wanted to continue putting wine on the wafer for some time for those who were not comfortable receiving wine from the chalice. We have now discontinued that practice since most of us do receive from the chalice. To those who prefer not to receive from the chalice, for whatever reason, please know that the Church has always taught that Communion is complete in either kind. You receive the full benefit of the sacrament from the wafer, whether or not you also receive wine.

## **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. 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!

## **THE JOHN O'HARE VETERAN'S MINISTRY**, by Fr. Harvey

Our meal this month is Tuesday, December 6, beginning at 11:30. I'm hoping we'll have a little Christmas cheer! As always, all Veterans eat free. And everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks!!

## **FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST**

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

## **FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00**

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 on Fridays. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We finished the Gospel of John (!), and recently began the Accts of the Apostles. That makes this a good time to join us if you haven't been coming. All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning! Please join us!

## **PRISON BIBLE STUDY**, by Fr. Harvey

We're still working on this! Getting leaders from multiple Churches cleared for orientation is taking MUCH longer than I hoped it would. As I write this, most of the leaders, including everyone from Saint David's, has gone through the mandatory orientation. Three people still need to get oriented and then, at last, we can actually begin. My latest hope is that it will be in early December. But this has become a good Advent discipline: we wait patiently for a joyful day that only comes slowly!!

## **A YEAR WITH LUKE**, by Fr. Harvey

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 December meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 13th on Zoom. Please join us!

Looking ahead, we will soon finish Luke. That means we will have to decide if we want to continue into 2023 and, if so, what we'll read and discuss. If you are interested in joining the group next year, please let me know. And if you have suggestions for what we might do, please let me know that, too. Thanks!!

## **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.

## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

The Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, December 11 at 11:15 to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus. All women are welcome!!

## **Holiday Bazaar**, by Susan Amabile

Total intake was \$3564. More money coming in and deductions! Everyone from St David's had a great time working with each other. Our visitors were very friendly and happy. Thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Bazaar 2022.

(addition by Fr. Harvey): Also a big thank you to Susan for all her work coordinating the Bazaar!!! Also a big Thank you to your team:

Sue O'Hare, for finding all the vendors, Virginia Ventulett, for the beautiful Christmas table, Ellen Rendrick and Kim Kozik, for all the baskets, Bob and Sue for the luncheon food, Valerie Clapp and Dixie for the bake sale and all that baked, Jude O'Hare for the coffee and donuts, Scott Seaberry (the Banker), Kim for the Lotto Tree. It was a great event and well visited. Thanks to everyone for set up and clean up. I know I probably missed someone but if I did I am sorry.

## **SNOW POLICY**

Now that winter is coming, you will see this article for the next several months. The Church will always be closed if Agawam High School closes for the day because of snow. On Sunday mornings, we have to make that call ourselves. When Church is closed, notice will appear on our webpage and on television stations 3, 6, 40, and 22. All meetings are presumed to be cancelled, including any meetings by outside groups that rent the Church property. Our full snow policy is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks!

## **OUR VESTRY AND THE BUDGET**

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. The vestry will be working on the 2023 budget this month. If you have suggestions about ways to save or spend money in 2023, please let someone on the vestry know. Thanks!

## **OUR ANNUAL MEETING :** by Fr. Harvey

Our meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 2023 following 10:00 service. After the service, we'll take a short break to get food/set-up. Hopefully we can turn to business by 11:15. We'll present the 2022 financials and the 2023 budget, elect a new vestry, and discuss some of the annual reports. Hopefully the booklet of reports will be available the week before so that people will have a chance to look them over before the meeting itself. Please join us in our one business meeting of the year!

## **GRANDPARENTS PLAYGROUP**

Virginia Ventulett and the kids meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 for about an hour for fun, friends, and music. It's free and all are welcome. In December, the group will meet every week except the week between Christmas and New Years Day. Please see Virginia for details.

## **OCTOBER RIVER CLEAN-UP**

In October, a Saint David's Team joined with others from the Connecticut River Conservancy to help clean-up the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Our section was the spot where the Westfield River meets the Connecticut. The Connecticut River Conservancy sent us their final report:

### **Check out the Stats**

Preliminary results are in:

- 81 groups and/or individuals submitted their trash tallies\*
- 1251 volunteers were recorded as participants
- 81 miles of rivers were cleaned
- 34.06 tons of trash were diverted
- Over 12,399 beverage containers were rescued

**THANK YOU** for making this happen!

## **REPLACING THE RUG IN THE SANCTUARY**, by Fr. Harvey

We're getting there! Bob Rendrick and Jo Joubert have received quotes from two companies for replacing the rug in the sanctuary and also in the Community Room. On Sunday, December 4, in-between services (from 9:00-9:45), Senior Warden Bev Lawson will lead a conversation with the whole parish about our options. Hopefully the Vestry can then make a final decision on what to do at the December meeting, and we can schedule the work sometime in the new year. Thanks for the patience and hard work of many people in getting us to this place!!

## **CHURCH RENTALS**, by Fr. Harvey

Rentals are a bigger and bigger part of our budget, as well as our parish life. Anyone who has been to Church recently will have noticed musical instruments along the wall of the sanctuary. If you look more closely, you can see that our storage room is full, and that there is a lot of action in the kitchen. All that action can be a pain. But it is also a REALLY good thing for us.

Renting space has become a critical part of our budget. Pledges and fundraisers have not fully covered our expenses for years. Our expenses continue to go up, and to go up faster than pledge income. Realistically, we need to increase our rental income every year if we want to maintain balanced budgets.

So, if you find yourself inconvenienced by one of our tenants, if for example you want space at a time when the space is taken, please take a minute to remember that we rely on our tenants to fund our own mission, and be as patient as you can. Thanks!

## **BIG BLUE DROP-IN CENTER** (at Christ Church Cathedral)

The Big Blue Drop-In Center located in the undercroft of Christ Church Cathedral is once again looking for donations of gently used winter wear. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people who visit the Drop-In Center on Thursdays and are near 50 consistently each week. Many of our guests are homeless and in need of all types of clothing. A few weeks back we had a family of 10 come in after getting lunch at Loaves and Fishes. We had no clothing we could give to the mom. We had some shirts in the dad's size which he appreciated. We are especially low on larger size, men's clothing/coats.

If you go through your closets and drawers and find items to donate, please drop them off. Please call the Cathedral first to schedule a time when someone will be there. 413 736-2742. We can use sweatpants and hoodies as well as coats, boots, gloves and other items needed for life on the streets.

If you need items picked up, please call Deacon Linda Taupier at (413) 478-9813. Thank You for your generosity.

## **BOUNDARY DISPUTE**, by Fr. Harvey

I want to let everyone know about an unfortunate situation. The neighbor behind the Police Station and abutting our retaining pond has been pushing into our property, most recently with a new fence. We stated our position that his fence was on our land. He and his father, who lives next door, insisted that they owned the property right up to the fence. Finally, we had a survey done, which showed that father and son both have buildings on our land. They were still unwilling to negotiate.

The Diocese has now gotten involved, which is a great relief. The Diocese' lawyer has been in touch with both men, and he is prepared to take them to court if necessary. I am glad the Diocese is doing what needs to be done, and at no cost to us. In the meantime, our job is to pray for our neighbors and for the whole situation.

## **REIMBURSEMENTS**

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

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

## **CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER** by Mary Moore

### **Let it snow! - How Snow, Sleet, Rain, & Freezing Rain Are Formed**

Winter weather sometimes means snow, sleet, or freezing rain coming down. On occasion we might get plain rain. The difference between each is how they are formed.

**Snow** - Water vapor in the clouds freezes into individual ice crystals. One crystal is not heavy enough by itself to fall to the ground, but when they collide and stick to each other, they get bigger and bigger until finally snowflakes are formed. Snowflakes are heavy enough to fall to the ground.

**Sleet** - Sleet is made up of raindrops that freeze on their way down to the ground. Sleet is already frozen before it hits the ground.

**Rain** - Rain in the wintertime is from snowflakes that melt on their way down to earth. Some summer rain forms in the same way, from melted snowflakes, but it can also come from water droplets that never go through the snowflake state. Water droplets in the clouds bump into each other, making bigger water droplets. Eventually these droplets get too heavy and fall as rain.

**Freezing Rain** - This is simply rain that freezes as soon as soon as it hits the cold ground.

**Activities:** Ask someone who drives a car which of these they like least to drive in, and why.

Make some paper snowflakes. If you don't know how, you can find directions online.

## **CREATION CARE CORNER**, by Jim Shields / Pauline Mortenson

Living deep in the channels and sounds of the Arctic Ocean is an interesting whale called the narwhal whale. Why so interesting?? Well, they have up to a ten foot tusk which is long and pointy coming out of their heads. This tusk is actually a tooth which is the only tooth this narwhal whale has...unless...it has two tusks which some narwhals actually have. Usually males have the tusk according to field guides. But...some female narwhals also have a tusk. It is a sensitive organ which transmits pleasure. The tusk senses changes in pressure and temperature. Also, it accurately measures the levels of salt in the water. All this information is translated through a nerve that goes directly to the brain. This information transmitted by the tusk can change a narwhal's heart rate. Space-camera observers notice how narwhals seek areas of complex shoreline to avoid orcas. They are fascinating and sadly they must be impacted by the melting ice. According to the scientists watching them, these narwhals are changing their migration patterns to adapt to the melting ice. What a thrill though to actually see one and how sad to have our oceans changing on them.

## **FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE: CHRISTMAS STYLE!**

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone, please complete the form (available in the narthex), attach a check for the relevant amount, and return it to the office or put it in the collection plate. But for Christmas Eve, we have extra special flowers. If you would like to contribute towards them, please use the special Christmas form, which is also available in the narthex.

## **THE LUNCH LADIES**

Each Tuesday a lady picks a restaurant to meet at. Last week we met at the Longhorn in West Springfield. This Tuesday 11/29 the pick is the Buccaneer, Maple Street in Agawam. Anyone is welcome to come. Just check with Valerie Clapp for the pick of the week and let Valerie know if you will be attending. It is a lot of laughs and giggles. This was started by Valerie, Linda and Dixie. Thank you Ladies.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** by Jo Joubert

A **BIG** thank you to Larry Dutton for his help with our emergency. We were planning to hold a Advent Wreath making event after 10'o'clock service on Sunday the 27th. When Ellen Rendrick and I couldn't find the frames for the wreaths, Larry made 21 beautiful frames

Eight people made wreaths because of Larry's quick thinking. Three of our Sunday School children made a wreath. So did Harvey. Everyone had lots of fun.



**STAY TUNED FOR WHAT'S NEXT !**



## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**, by Fr. Harvey

We have a lot going on! A full schedule is posted in the narthex and included with my weekly email blasts, as well as listed on a single page at the end of this issue of the Dovetale. Here I'll be brief. I have organized events topically.

**Worship:** The first three of our Friday noon services of Holy Eucharist will have an Advent theme, although I'm not entirely sure what that will look like(!). The service on Friday December 23 will have a Blue Christmas theme. We are also joining with the Cathedral in their Blue Christmas Service of Evening Prayer, with Bishop Fisher as the preacher, on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00.

Our Christmas Pageant will happen during the 10:00 service on December 18. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00. On Christmas Day, we'll have a single, quiet service at 9:00. And on January 1, we'll have Lessons and Carols at 10:00.

**Children:** Beginning on Sunday, November 27, our children will receive a Jesse Tree for use at home, along with instructions. This is a fun devotion that introduces children to some of the biblical heroes. Children will rehearse for the pageant during Sunday School, and have a final walk-through after Church on Sunday, December 11. As noted above, the pageant itself will happen at the 10:00 service on December 18. Thanks to everyone involved in making it happen! And of course Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 10 from 9:00-11:00.

**Retreats:** We've been invited to participate in two retreats. The first, on December 3 with Margaret Bullit Jonas is about finding comfort in hard times. It's on Zoom. I've done an online retreat with Margaret before, and it's really wonderful. Let me know if you need the registration information. The other is a Zentangle retreat on December 17 at the Church of the Atonement in Westfield. I'm a little fuzzy on what zentangle is. But here's what I am told: it's an art thing that is easy for people with no artistic talent.

**Outreach:** We continue with our usual outreach: the Veterans Lunch and Church without Walls. We also collect food for the Parish Cupboard and diapers for the Kahn family. You might consider giving "Gifts for Life" this year instead of regular gifts. That is when you donate things like a well or a flock of chicks to a needy family in honor of someone you love. You can give these gifts through organizations like Episcopal Relief and Development. We have several catalogs in the narthex.

The main thing we do as a Church is the Agawam Christmas Project. Jude and Sue O'Hare are coordinating it for us this year. As of this writing, they were still waiting on the town nurse to give them names and a deadline for the gifts. We'll get that information out as soon as it's available.

**Formation:** Here, too, we continue with our regular round of online Morning Prayer, Bible study, and similar offerings. We also have Advent devotionals in the narthex, as well as seasonal forms for saying Morning Prayer or Compline at home. We had an Advent-Wreath making session on the first Sunday of Advent (11/27). That's a great Advent home devotion-al practice.

The main Advent formation offering for the parish is the series "The Gifts of Advent" on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 on Zoom. Several Churches are teaming up for this series. Bishop Fisher will lead the first session. Other area priests lead the next two, and I'll lead the last one. The sessions are a series based on the Advent candles (hope, peace, joy, and love), but the sessions can also stand alone for those who can't make all four.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER**

**DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**ST. DAVID'S CHURCH**

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET**

**MENU**

**SOUP**

**Salad**

**LASAGNA**

**Vegetable**

**Rolls & Butter**

**Dessert**

**Coffee, tea, water, lemon aid**

ADULTS: \$15.00

CHILDREN AGE 5-12 5.00  CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE

SERVING AT 6:00 P.M

For Reservations: 413 - 786 - 6133

OR

**Take outs by reservation need  
to picked up by 5:30 p.m.**

e-mail: [joubertjo77@comcast.net](mailto:joubertjo77@comcast.net)

**DOOR PRIZES**

**RAFFLE PRIZES**

**TICKETS ON SALE 12/4 AT 8 & 10 SERVICE**

**CALL OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS**

**BRING A FRIEND.**

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## **DECEMBER CALENDAR:**

### **OUR WEEKLY EVENTS:**

**Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00 (in person and Facebook)**  
**Sunday School at 10:00**  
**Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00 (in person)**  
**Thursday: Grandparents Playgroup at 9:30 (except 12/28)**  
**Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00 (except 12/30)—Advent Themes**  
**Bible Study at 1:00 (except 12/30) (in person and Zoom)**  
**Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (except 12/30) (in person and Zoom)**  
**M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM (on Facebook)**  
**M-F: Compline at 8:00 PM (on Zoom)**

### **REGULAR RENTALS:**

**Sundays from 1:15 to 4:45 PM: Spanish Church**  
**Sundays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**  
**Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM: OA**  
**Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**  
**Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th)**  
**Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 AM: OA**  
**Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**  
**Fridays from 6:30 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (first Friday)**  
**Saturdays from 2:00-4:00: Mercy Church**  
**Saturdays at 7:00-9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Saturday, December 3: Online Advent Retreat, the Rev. Margaret Bullit-Jonas**  
**Sunday, December 4: Replacing Rug Conversation at 9:00**  
**Sunday, December 4: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard**  
**Tuesday, December 6: Veterans Lunch at 11:30**  
**Tuesday, December 6: Advent Formation: "Peace" on Zoom from 6:30-7:30**  
**Friday, December 9: Christmas Supper at 6:00**  
**Saturday, December 10: Breakfast with Santa from 9:00 to 11:00**  
**Saturday, December 10: Kids Night Out from 5:30-8:00 at Atonement**  
**Sunday, December 11: Women's Book Group at 11:15**  
**Sunday, December 11: Creation Walk at 11:30**  
**Tuesday, December 13: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (Zoom)**  
**Tuesday, December 13: Advent Formation: "Joy" on Zoom from 6:30-7:30**  
**Saturday, December 17: Zentangle Retreat from 9:00-12:00 at Atonement**  
**Sunday, December 18: Christmas Pageant at 10:00**  
**Sunday, December 18: Greening the Church at 11:15**  
**Sunday, December 18: Blue Christmas Evening Prayer at 5:00 at the Cathedral**  
**Tuesday, December 6: Advent Formation: "Love" on Zoom from 6:30-7:30**  
**Wednesday, December 21: Vestry at 6:30**  
**Friday, December 23: Blue Christmas Eucharist at 12:00**  
**Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 4:00**  
**Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day Service at 9:00**  
**Sunday, January 1: Lessons and Carols at 10:00**



**Lord as we walk  
Through this world  
Let your Grace  
Light our path  
Your Mercy  
Shelter our souls  
And your Love  
Heal our Hearts.**

## **HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAYS TO ALL**

**PHONE:** (413) 786—6133  
**FAX:** (413) 786—4682  
**EMAIL:** [saintdavids@comcast.net](mailto:saintdavids@comcast.net)  
**Jo's E-MAIL:** [joubertjo77@comcast.net](mailto:joubertjo77@comcast.net)  
**Jo's Cell** 413-374-7756

**St, David's Episcopal Church  
699 Springfield Street**