



# St. David's Episcopal Church

## FEBRURY DOVETALE

2022

### 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.

### Stewardship of Time and Talent (by Ted Zern)

On Sunday, February 27, St. David's offers a chance to give thanks for the blessings of time granted, and the blessings of talents bestowed. On that date, our 2022 stewardship campaign turns from consideration of financial gifts to one of spiritual gifts, i.e. **our** time and talent, gifts from the heart.

Time versus Talent?

We often talk about time and talent as if these were one concept. It is true these often go together but there is also a distinct difference. You don't need any talent to give of your time, just your presence is needed. Keep this in mind when considering how you might give of your time.

So, then, what is Talent?

It is the wise and responsible use of the gifts God has entrusted to each of us. It stems from the belief that God has created each of us with unique abilities and attributes which make us who we are.

Why is It Important?

Our lives have real meaning only when we use our gifts and our time in accordance with God's will. As we grow in stewardship, we grow in our relationship with God.

How Can I Be a Good Steward of My Time and Talent?

Put God at the center of your life. We are given opportunities each day to be good stewards by using the blessings God has given us, particularly by sharing the unique abilities with which we have been granted. Similarly, no gift is greater than time, and yet, nothing is so easy to waste. Time spent in prayer, nurturing relationships or just enjoying the world's beauty is time well spent.

What are My Talents?

We often hold back from recognizing our gifts because of a narrow definition of "talent." We think "talented people" are extraordinary achievers or have easily identifiable gifts, such as music or art. Talents can also include being a good listener, being able to organize people, relating well to children or teens, and being patient with others. It can be as simple as a kind word spoken to another or the ability to offer support in a time of crisis. As Christians, we recognize that our gifts are meant to be cultivated and shared with others through family and friends, church, community, and with the world.

## How Can I Be a Good Steward of My Talents?

Begin by recognizing the talents you have been given. Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let go of preconceived ideas about yourself. Be still and listen with the “ear of the heart.”

## What are a Few Practical Ways to Share My Time and Talents?

Be available to your family and friends.

Be an active member of the church.

Get involved in your community.

## An Invitation to Action---Thoughts to Consider

Do something for yourself and your relationship with God, perhaps a Bible study or commit to morning prayer or try contemplative prayer or participate in a Lenten Study or any adult formation opportunity.

Make weekly worship a priority and engage at least one person each week in conversation. (after worship of course)

Check in on family and friends whom you may not have seen in a while or those who you know might be having a difficult time in his or her life.

Stay alert for a call for volunteers and then answer the call by asking how can I help.

Help to conduct or lead fellowship events at church; get to know your church family.

Seek out potential ways you can share your gifts through the various ministries of the congregation. Most of these are reflected on the commitment form.

**Commitment forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin preceding the 27<sup>th</sup> and can also be found below. Offer your time and talent on Sunday, February 27 by completing the declaration form with your commitments marked and send it to the church office or simply email the Pledge Secretary, Ted Zern, with your selection(s) at [tzern@comcast.net](mailto:tzern@comcast.net)** Ted will make sure that your commitments are directed in the appropriate manner with thanks and blessings. As we anticipate the onset of the Lenten season, perhaps it is not only a time to consider what we might give up, but rather what we can give.



St. David's  
Episcopal  
Church

## GIVING FROM THE HEART: TIME AND TALENT DECLARATION

As we anticipate the season of Lent, one message to consider is related to **not what you will give up in sacrifice but rather what sacrifice of time you will give.** What follows is a listing of ministries where a variety of gifts may be manifest. Each of us, therefore, is afforded the opportunity to declare our corresponding intentions. Perhaps you might find yourself declaring a new venture or possibly moving from one ministry to another. Or, you are comfortable continuing to serve God in a way that is consistent with the way you are presently committed. Whatever the choice, recall the lead words during worship when we pray the Lord's Prayer....."we are bold to say....." Be bold in your declaration and accept the call from God our Father.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Check the opportunity(ies) to which you feel called--one form per person)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lector (Reader)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Eucharistic Minister | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry (Choir)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Eucharistic Visitor  | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Delivery                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Hour Host         | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering Counter      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Teacher           | <input type="checkbox"/> Healing Ministry         | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Ministry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteer                | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Ministry         | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Ministry        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Leader (Morning Prayer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry      | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity Team        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Without Walls            | <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver's Ministry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Team      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministering              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Team                | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team              | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach              | <input type="checkbox"/> Advent/Lenten Study      | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Ministry     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Formation Study           | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Garden         | <input type="checkbox"/> Vestry                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Supper                | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Communion Wine    | <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Care         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Serving                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Bazaar Team             | <input type="checkbox"/> Contemplative Prayer     | <input type="checkbox"/> United Thank Offering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Team                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Mowing Team         | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Fellowship     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Repairs Team           |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                     |   |  |

**NOTE: This form can be sent to the church office or selections can be emailed to the Pledge Secretary at [tzern@comcast.net](mailto:tzern@comcast.net) Each person is responsible for his or her own commitment.**

## **COVID PRECAUTIONS**, by Fr. Harvey

The Bishop has issued new COVID precautions. Hopefully they will not be necessary for long! The main changes are requiring (not recommending) that everyone wear masks inside our building, unless people have a genuine problem breathing while masked, and no coffee hour. Sunday School also continues to be on hold; Valerie and I hope to resume as soon as we can safely do so! More generally, please do what you can to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID! Thanks!!

## **ANNUAL MEETING:**

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us for our Annual Meeting! It was our second on Zoom, which works surprisingly well. As always, we elected new leadership, received the 2022 budget, and discussed some of the annual reports. Booklets with all the reports are available in the narthex. Thanks to Jo Joubert for compiling them and to Bev Lawson for copying them!!

## **DAILY PRAYER**, by Fr. Harvey

We have LOTS of opportunities to pray online together, with at least one option every weekday. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, the Diocese offers a zoomed service of Compline at 8:00 PM. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Deacon Terry and I team up with Saint Mark's to offer Morning Prayer on Facebook at 8:00 am. (Terry or I lead it on Thursdays.) And on Fridays, the good people of Saint Mark's stream evening prayers at 8:00.

For people who prefer to say Morning Prayer or Compline by themselves, we have put seasonal versions of those Prayerbook services in the narthex. You can, of course, also just use the Prayerbook if you have one!

## **BELOVED COMMUNITY: Commemoration of Absalom Jones**

The Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese is sponsoring a streamed service of Morning Prayer to commemorate Absalom Jones on Saturday, February 12. Jones was the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church. We normally commemorate him on February 13, the anniversary of his death, but the Beloved Community Commission thought folks would be otherwise occupied on Sunday morning! You can watch the service on our Facebook page, among other options. If you do, keep an eye out for Kaylin Barna, one of the readers!

## **CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET, PLUS HEALTH CARE PROXY AND POWER OF ATTORNEY:**

This is just 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 Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

## **A YEAR WITH LUKE:**

We have begun our “Conversations about Luke”! We meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week to talk about a chapter of the Gospel, along with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. So far we have covered chapters one and two. Our February meetings will be the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us!

## **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>. Please note that the responsibilities will change this month, now that we have new members of the vestry. 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!!

## **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 and perfect for people who want to worship but are concerned about gathering with larger numbers of people. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

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

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 every Friday. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We recently began the Gospel of John, so this is an excellent time to join us. All are welcome, and you don’t have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

## **CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30**

We gather every Friday 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!

## **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!!

## **PRAYER CYCLES**

The 2022 prayer cycles are now available in the narthex near the mail slots. The list of nations did not change, but our Parish Prayer Cycle is new and improved. (If you notice people or ministries missing from our Parish Prayer Cycle, please let me know!) They are a wonderful part of my prayer life. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, I pray for every nation in the world and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give one or both a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

## **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, BY FR. HARVEY**

We're still working on finding a Church partner to cover the first Sundays of the month. Sigh....In the meantime, I am grateful to the Saint David's crew who are making it happen two Sundays each month. Our official Sunday in February will be the 13<sup>th</sup>, but we'll also cover the 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to contribute to the meals, please sign up on the form in the narthex. Thanks!!

## **OUR VESTRY AND THE BUDGET**

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. The 2022 budget was presented at our annual meeting, and a copy is posted on the bulletin board in the office-side hallway. The good news is, we anticipate a positive balance. Thanks to everyone involved in putting the budget together, and to the faithfulness of our parishioners who provide us the resources we need to continue our work on behalf of God's mission!

## **NEW VESTRY**

We have a new Vestry! Actually, many of the members from last year continue. Bob Rendrick is still our Junior Warden, and Mary Moore is Clerk. Continuing regular members are: Lin Paquette; Linda Seabury; Renee Sprinthall; and Paul Fontaine. Denise Noyes, who was Assistant Treasurer, is stepping into the Treasurer role. Our new vestry members are Luis Torres and Jo Joubert. Bev Lawson is taking over as Senior Warden. And Helene Robbins will serve as Assistant Treasurer. Please thank them all for their willingness to serve!! Special thanks as well to retiring members Carol Fabrycki, Jude O'Hare, Jim Shields, and Pauline Mortenson. It has been truly a pleasure working with all of them!!! We are blessed with excellent lay leadership at Saint David's!!!!

## **SNOW POLICY**

Now that winter is here, you will see this article every month. The Church will always be closed if Agawam High School closes their building 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!

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

Unfortunately, our February meal is cancelled due to COVID. I have high hopes that we'll be back in March, when the meal falls on Saint David's Day!

## **DEVELOPMENT NEWS:**

Unfortunately, our plans for the Valentine Dinner Dance have been cancelled. In the best interest of our guests we feel that it is a safety issue due to the increase of the COVID rise in our area. Fr. Harvey agrees with our concerns and we have discussed rescheduling in the near future. We wish to thank everyone for their interest in our first attempt at such an event at our Church. Stay tuned for further news.

## **MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES**

We'd like to resume our Mexican Train Dominoes game on the second Wednesday evening of the month in February. Unfortunately, the COVID numbers are quite high as I write this. I gather we can expect a sharp drop off soon, hopefully soon enough to allow us to go forward on the 8<sup>th</sup>. If not, we'll try for March..... Whenever it happens, please join us! It's a fun game and easy to learn.

## **CROP Walk**

We going walking! The 2022 CROP Walk to raise money to help feed hungry people will be Sunday, April 24, beginning at Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street. Registration is at 1:00. The Walk itself starts at 1:30. If you are interested in helping with our team, please be in touch with Valerie Smart. Thanks!!

**“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.”**

1 John 3:1

## **FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE**



Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the 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. You can do this anytime of year, but I find it is helpful to get it done early so that I don't forget! Thanks!

glory of



## **BEMENT/WATERFIELD EDUCATIONAL GRANTS**

Our Diocese offers a small College Scholarship for students who are active in an Episcopal Church in the Diocese. If you know someone who is qualified, please make them aware of this excellent opportunity. For more information, see <https://www.diocesewma.org/grant-opportunities/bement-grants-bement-educational-grants/>.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT**

I am happy to say, we have a little breather before Lent begins. Ash Wednesday this year is on March 2 (the day after Saint David's Day!). Be on the lookout for more information about our Lent and Easter plans in the next issue of the Dovetale!

## **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 that. If we get several volunteers for each kind of help, no helper will be overburdened, and people who can use a little help will get the help they need. Please also let me know if you are willing to help coordinate this ministry. Thanks!!





## **BISHOPS' VISITATION**, by Fr. Harvey



Our Bishop will be with us on Sunday, June 26. I realize that's a long way away (!), but I wanted to let everyone know. If you are interested in being confirmed or received, or in doing some formal preparation to renew your baptismal covenant (which we'll all do that day), please let me know. Thanks!

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

The beginning of February is about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. In December, we get the shortest day of the year (in terms of the amount of daylight hours). On the equinoxes in the spring and the fall, the day and night are about equal lengths, or about 12 hours each. You may notice that it doesn't get dark as early now as it did around Christmastime. With the increased amount of sunlight, temperatures are starting to go up a bit too.

Towards the end of the month, look for sugar maple trees that have been tapped to collect the sap needed to make maple syrup. The best conditions for getting a lot of sap are a warm day followed by a cold night. After the sap is collected, it is boiled down so a lot of the water can evaporate, leaving behind maple syrup. Once we get a little bit into March and continuing into April, some of the local sugarhouses will be open for pancake breakfast with real maple syrup. Some of these sugarhouses even let you watch how the syrup is made. Maple sugaring season in Massachusetts lasts anywhere from 4 to 8 weeks. Enjoy!



By Jo (development)

Just a little addition to Mary's awesome corner, I have relatives in Vermont that tap and collect sap from the maple trees and boil it down to make the syrup. My nephews always make sure they give me some each year. IF Mary and Fr. Harvey would like, after the boiling season we can arrange a little sampling party for all the Kiddos. Maybe even make Maple snow cones. Stay tuned for results.



Thank you Mary for all your great articles

## **CREATION CARE** By Pauline Mortenson

I've often wondered what animals do when it turns cold. They could head to warmer weather, just hibernate the winter away or deal with the cold like we do.

Arctic terns will fly halfway around the earth chasing schools of fish. Hibernators have a long, deep doze while waiting out periods of scarce food.

Then we have groundhogs who sleep the cold months until the grass they feed on can become part of their diet.

Below is a list of a few animals and what they do in the cold months:

- Arctic cod...They produce antifreeze proteins that bind to ice in the cod's blood to stop it from crystallizing.
- Reindeer...They navigate sunless periods in the Arctic Circle by actually seeing ultra-violet light.
- Humpback whale...In pods they migrate up to 3,000 miles to get to warmer waters.
- Chickadee...By expanding the part of their brain known as the hippocampus by 30% to help remember where they stored food.
- Alligator...They position their nostrils above the surface of water to breathe when they sense the waters are about to freeze.
- Moose...Shed their heavy antlers to help conserve energy.
- Polar bear...Their white hollow hairs reflect body heat back to the black skin underneath.
- Musk ox...They will grow an insulating woolly undercoat called a qiviut. Fat-tailed dwarf lemur...By living off the fat in its tail, they settle in a tree for approximately seven months.
- It is amazing how Mother Nature has certainly provided for the animals but how will climate change effect the animals???



## **Refugee Ministry**, by Fr. Harvey

Things are happening even as I write this article. For the most current information, please contact Deacon Terry. But here is where things stand at this very moment. Heroic Terry, Lainey, and others are getting the house ready for the family we will be hosting. Part of getting ready is figuring out exactly what we have and therefore what we still need. The family will arrive Monday, January 31. Hopefully we can host some kind of welcoming event after they have had a chance to get a little settled. In the meantime, please pray for the family as they adjust to their new lives. Please also say a prayer of thanks for Terry's leadership and a prayer of healing and strength for his back!

## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR:**

### **Our Weekly Events**

**Services every Sunday at 8 and 10;  
Men's Bible study every Monday at 7;  
Healing Eucharist every Friday at noon;  
Bible Study every Friday at 1;  
Contemplative Prayer, every Friday at 2:30;  
Online Morning Prayer TWTh at 8:00;  
Online Evening Prayers MTWF at 8:00;**

### **Special Events**

**Vestry retreat on Saturday, 2/5 from 9-1;  
Church without walls on 2/6, 13 at noon;  
Conversation on Luke on 2/8 and 22 at 4:15 on zoom;  
Dominoes 2/8 at 6?  
NO Veterans Lunch 2/1 at 11:30;  
NO Valentine's Supper;**

**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**

### **Regular Rentals**

**Spanish Church, Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00;  
OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30;  
Al-Anon Saturdays from 7:15-8:30;  
Mercy Church, Saturdays from 2:00-4:00**

# Peace DOVE GIFT ORNAMENT & Poem



## *~~~~~* A Gentle Reminder

PEACE IS A MINDSET.  
PEACE IS A CHOICE.  
IT SHOWS IN YOUR ACTIONS.  
IT SHOWS IN YOUR VOICE.

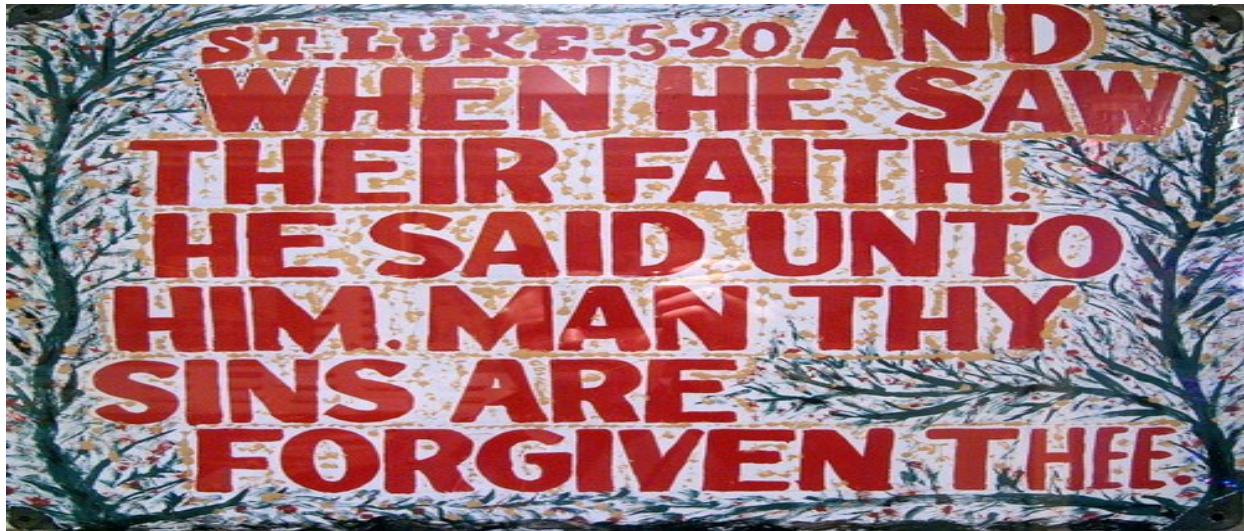
PLEASE NEVER USE IT  
JUST FOR A SEASON,  
BUT ALL THE YEAR ROUND  
AND FOR EVERY REASON.

HANG THIS SMALL DOVE  
AS A GENTLE REMINDER,  
TO KEEP PEACE IN YOUR HEART,  
AND HELP MAKE THE WORLD KINDER.

[www.ourpeacefulplanet.com](http://www.ourpeacefulplanet.com)

## Psst, Try This!

“To degrease wood cabinets near the stove, I use a spray bottle filled with three-quarters water, a quarter to a half-cup ammonia, plus 10 drops of dish soap. Spritz and wipe clean with a paper towel. This cuts the grease and leaves no residue!”



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