



St. David's Episcopal Church
JANUARY DOVETALE
2024

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.

PARISH NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

The New Year is upon us, and that means it is about time for our Annual Meeting. (Details are inside this edition of the *Dovetale*.) Annual meeting is an opportunity for us to take stock of where we have been, and where we feel called to go. I think of it as a time for our Parish to make New Year's Resolutions.

In the weeks leading up to our Annual Meeting, please pray for our parish. Ask God for guidance, and listen for God's call, to you as an individual and to us as a parish. Dream big. And then share your dream. Talk to me or a member of the vestry, or anyone else you think might feel a similar call.

When the booklets are available, look through the annual reports. Probably few people will want to read the whole thing. But look at the areas of special interest to you. Pay attention to what is NOT there but should be. Pray some more.

If possible, come to the meeting and participate. Help us look back honestly and look forward both faithfully and courageously.

We live in strange and challenging times. But God remains at work in the world all around us. God continues to call us to lives of service and love. What does God's call mean for us now and in the near future? Help us ponder these things in our hearts!

I don't know what the new year will bring. But I know this: God has a plan for us. And God will be with us as we try to get on board. Lord, give us ears to hear!

In Christ's name.

Harvey +

OUR VESTRY AND THE BUDGET:

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. The vestry will be finalizing the 2024 budget this month. If you have suggestions about ways to save or spend money, please let someone on the vestry know asap. Thanks!!

ROOTED IN ABUNDANCE: A STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (by Ted Zern)

By the time you read this message, we will have concluded the first piece of the stewardship campaign for 2024, i.e. a gathering of our financial gifts to the glory of God. The generosity of the St. David's community of faith continues to sustain this parish, but it more importantly reminds us of the gift God gave us in His only son, Jesus Christ. In this context, how could we not be more Rooted In Abundance! In this season of love, we remember words from John 4:10, *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son."*

While the in gathering has been a bit less than in 2023, it would not take too much to eclipse it. While it is easy to understand the financial challenges of these times, St. David's is not immune from these pressures. Thus, monetary pledges for 2024 continue to be joyfully accepted. So, if you were still considering how and why to give, or perhaps have simply forgotten to do so, rest assured it is not too late. It is easy to make your pledge; simply send an email to tzern@comcast.net with the amount and frequency of giving. Of course you can also drop a pledge form (available in the Narthex) in the offering plate.

In early February, we will be asked to consider the next segment of the pledge campaign in the context of how each of us might be willing to give of our time and talent (also known as works and wisdom) to advance the mission not only of St. David's but also living out the call to make this world just a little better in the coming year. As we look ahead to the call for time and talent, perhaps a perspective offered by Davey Gerhard, Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship might begin our collective reflection. He speaks to the representation of the Epiphany and what it means to the gift of time and talent.

"Jesus begins his ministry by gathering others — it is nearly his first public act after his baptism. Peter, Andrew, James, and John are the first to hear Jesus' invitation to follow. It is a call so clear, so convicting, that they drop everything to follow it. Jesus leads them, as he leads us, through countryside that is native and into wilderness that is wild. As Jesus moves through Galilee, beginning his three-year ministry, he is extravagant with his generosity, inspiring faith and growing his following. We take note that Jesus does not hold back anything from those to whom he ministers, proclaiming the good news, healing every disease, and teaching everywhere he went. This is the model he sets for us: to inspire faith and generosity in those we meet through our own acts of sharing and love. As the Epiphany harkens us to consider examples of faith and generosity in the months of January and February, we encounter the familiar words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The direct teachings of Jesus point us toward looking beyond law and tradition and finding moments of grace that break through our routines and our daily lives. We find this collection of teachings so inspirational because they are at the same time about the basic elements of our lives and our greatest aspirations and challenges."

Our gifts of time, talent, and treasure serve to crystallize the extension of our faith journeys. Give some thought to how you might address the time and talent phase of our stewardship journey for 2024 which will come to fruition on February 11, 2024.

In the words of Tiny Tim, God Bless Us, Each and Everyone!

CHRISTMAS THANKS! by Fr. Harvey

There is a LOT to be thankful for!! My main fear is that I'll forget someone important. If I do, I apologize in advance! Thanks to our office volunteers who cranked out MANY bulletins for the different services; the choir for leading us worship for all of them; the altar guild and friends who kept us seasonal and well-decorated; Sue O'Hare, Dixie Lauzon and all participants in the Agawam Christmas Project; the children's ministry team for the pageant in addition to all the other good work they do with our children, including Breakfast with Santa; an incredible hospitality team that keep the goodies coming; Jo Joubert and the Christmas Supper crew; Lenny, Bob, and many others who cleaned and moved through the whole season; worship leaders who stepped up the plate and live-streamers who did the same. Celebrating Christmas in style and faithfulness takes a BIG village! Thanks to everyone!

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS:

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training on the following dates via Zoom. You can *register by clicking on the date* of your choice below. There is no cost to you; Saint David's will be billed. Thank you for helping to keep our churches safe!

Tues/Thurs, January 16 & 18 - 5:30-8:00 p.m., Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Wednesday, January 31 - 5:00-8:00 p.m., Volunteers

Saturday, February 10 - 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Tuesday, March 5 - 5:00-8:00 p.m., Volunteers

Thursday, March 21 - 5:00-8:00 p.m., Volunteers

ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 28:

Our Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 28, following the 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 2023 financials and the 2024 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!

THE CHOSEN by Fr. Harvey

The Chosen is an ongoing series telling the story of Jesus and his disciples available for free on YouTube. The series aims to stay close to Scripture as much as possible, while also offering a considerably expanded back-story for the disciples and many of the people healed by Jesus. The result is a fresh telling of the story. So far the series has run three seasons of something like eight episodes each, with four more seasons to come. We'll continue to work our way through season one at our first watch party of the year on January 16 at 6:00. Please join us!

TUESDAY CONVERSATIONS: by Fr. Harvey

A group of us meet roughly every other Tuesday at 4:15 on Zoom to discuss a chapter of Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. Our first date of 2024 will be Tuesday, January 16, when we'll begin chapter eight. Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions. We'd love to have you!

FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE: by Fr. Harvey

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candle 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. You can make your dedication anytime, but I like to do this once at the beginning of the year for all the people I memorialize. That way I don't forget!

THE JOHN O'HARE VETERANS LUNCHESES: by Fr. Harvey

Our December meal was a great success, which was especially impressive given everything else happening that week! Once again we had something like forty people who enjoyed an excellent meal, warm hospitality, and companionship with each other. We also distributed literature about benefits available to veterans in Agawam.

Our January meal will be the second, beginning at 11:30. All veterans eat free. Everyone else is welcome to come help. Please help spread the word! Thanks!

I also want to let folks know that we plan to invite people to sponsor veterans. The idea is that people donate the cost of a year's worth of lunches for one veteran. I believe the total is \$75, but more information will be coming out soon.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: by Fr. Harvey

The Men's Bible Study continues to meet in person on Mondays at 7:00, with a zoom option. If you would like to join them by Zoom, please contact me and I'll give you the link. Thanks!

FRIDAY EVENTS: by Fr. Harvey

On Fridays we have a Healing Eucharist at noon, Bible Study at 1:00, and Contemplative Prayer at 2:30. All three are in person, but you can also join the last two by Zoom. All three will meet every Friday in January. Please join us!

PRAYER CYCLES: by Fr. Harvey

The 2024 prayer cycles are available in the narthex near the mail slots. The list of nations did not change, and is already there. I updated the Parish Prayer Cycle, and it's there, too. My goal is to include every parishioner and ministry at Saint David's. If you use it, please let me know if I have missed anyone or anything!! As of the writing of this article, the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer was not yet published, but I'm guessing it will be by the time you receive this Dovetale. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give one or more of the prayer cycles a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET:

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 available Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

HEALING PRAYERS: by Fr. Harvey

We continue offering individual healing prayers after the 10:00 service most Sundays, but our format has changed. Instead of appointing a particular person to offer healing prayers each Sunday, any member of the healing team is potentially available any week. The current members are Sue O'Hare, Jim Shields, and Deacon Terry. If you are interested in receiving healing prayers, please let one of them know. Please let me know if you are interested in possibly joining the Team. If so, we can offer training. I believe the members of the Team would agree that offering healing prayers for someone is a powerful, spiritual experience.

SACRED GROUND OPPORTUNITY: by Fr. Harvey

Sacred Ground is a film and book-based discussion series around issues of racism and Beloved Community. A couple of years ago, we teamed up with Saint Andrew's, Longmeadow to participate in a couple of Sacred Ground Circles, and I believe all those who participated would agree that it was a powerful and illuminating experience. The Beloved Community Commission of our Diocese is setting up a Zoom circle for interested people. There will also be supplementary sessions for those who have already participated in the 10-session series. Please see me for more information about either.

BIG BLUE DROP-IN CENTER: (at Christ Church Cathedral), by Fr. Harvey

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. Typically something like fifty people visit the Drop-In Center every Thursday. Many of the guests are homeless and in need of all types of clothing.

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. They can use sweatpants and hoodies as well as coats, boots, gloves and other items needed for life on the streets.

But this month, there is extra news. One of the pillars of the Drop-In Center, Deacon Linda Taupier, is moving to Arlington MA early this month. They are therefore looking for volunteers to help staff the Drop In Center on Thursday afternoons. If you are interested, please let me know, and I'll direct you to the relevant people. Thanks!

ANNUAL REPORTS: by Fr. Harvey

We hope to make a booklet of annual reports available to everyone at Church on Sunday, January 21. We may also be able to distribute them electronically, and we can mail hard copies to people on request. But to get to that point, we need to receive the annual reports in the first place. Jo Joubert is working hard on putting the booklet together, and it's a big job! If you are making a report, please send it to her as soon as possible. If you can think of an area of Church life that has not received a report in the past, please let Jo or me know that, too. Thanks!!

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT: by Fr. Harvey

I am writing this article a week before Christmas, which makes looking ahead to January a little difficult! As you can see in other articles in this issue of the Dovetale, January is annual meeting month, which absorbs whatever is left of my attention. And yet Lent looms just beyond that! Mark your calendars now. Lent 2024 begins on Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine's Day!!). More on our plans in the February Dovetale. But when the time comes, I pray that we can all have a holy Lent!

INVITATION TO LECTORS: by Fr. Harvey

It occurred to me that lectors (aka readers) might enjoy a chance to talk together about the readings for the following Sunday. Something like that would hopefully make the experience of reading more meaningful. If you are interested, please let me know. If there is interest, we'll find a convenient time to make it happen. I should perhaps add that, if we do go forward with a lectionary-based Bible Study, others would be welcome to join, of course.

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!!!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

At our December Church without Walls, we did our usual thing. We had a short service, with a particularly lively group of participants(!), and then handed out lunches. That is always rewarding. But our December event was special because we were also able to hand out scarves and hats made by our prayer shawl ministry. Folks were thrilled! We left the extras with Bob for distribution to patrons coming in during the week. I am grateful to the folks who come from Saint David's to be part of the service, everyone who helps with the meals, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry for adding a Christmas touch last month!

Our January service will be the seventh.

PRISON BIBLE STUDY: by Fr. Harvey

This ministry continues to go well. Deacon Terry and friends lead it on the first Mondays of the month, although they get this month off since the first Monday is January 1. Penny Miller, Mary Moore, and I lead it on the fourth Mondays—the 22nd this month. Other Churches and even a Jewish Cantor lead the sessions on the remaining Mondays.

We are not allowed to give gifts to the inmates, but please let me know if you can think of ways to involve people from the parish in this ministry. One possibility is sending cards or letters. If anyone is interested, I'll check with the prison administration to figure out how that could work. Thanks!

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-waterfield-educational-grants/>.

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on Sunday, January 21 at 11:15 in the Community Room to discuss *A Promise to Astrid* by Michael Tourville. This true story has been made into a movie with the Rev. Scott Seabury as a major character! We believe the author will join the discussion. All women are welcome, even if you haven't finished the book. For more information, please see Linda Seabury.

Saint David's Calendar, by Fr. Harvey

You can now find every event scheduled at Saint David's, as well as every Saint David's event scheduled other places, on the calendar on our webpage. Take a look at it if you haven't already done so (<https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/calendar.html>). It's impressive! To add something to the calendar, please first check if the space and time you want are open. Then email our calendar keepers at saintdavidsMA@gmail.com to make your request. It will be official when you hear back from them.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: by Jo Joubert

What an awesome Christmas Dinner. A great Big Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it such a success. A Big thank you to "Music To The Max" our D.J. that volunteered free of charge to provide the music. Thank you to Ellen Rendrick and Kim K. for all the great door prizes. Gosh so many thanks, all the servers, the set up crew and the clean up crew. Each year it gets bigger. The kitchen crew was amazing, everything served on time and hot. The deserts were fabulous; thank you Virginia. Of course Santa added to the merriment. THANK YOU ALL! We took in \$990.00. I don't have the final figure but that was wonderful.



Mary and Larry Dutton enjoying the festivities.

Mary and Larry also came to Breakfast with Santa. They made sure that Santa had Bacon for breakfast. Larry said Breakfast isn't breakfast without bacon. Thank you Mary and Larry.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: by Ellen Scott

On Saturday December 9th we hosted our annual Breakfast with Santa. Around 20 kids and 50 adults enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage and bacon cooked by Lenny Scott and Bob Rendrick. Diane Seaver, Norma Turcotte, and Ellen Rendrick's niece Heidi and her son Brady helped serve our guests.

After breakfast, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their appearance to the total delight of the children. Mrs. Claus read the children a short story. Then it was time for the main event. Sitting on Santa's lap and telling him what they want for Christmas. They were so darn cute.

Santa was played by Paul Fontaine and Mrs. Claus was played by Mary Fleury. They both did a wonderful job.

Ellen Scott and Norma Turcotte helped to organize the event.



by

SUNDAY, 12/17 PAGEANT:

GREAT BIG THANKS TO The children's ministry team for the pageant in addition to all the other good work they do with our children: Thank you to Kim for her directions and costumes.

Thank you to Beverly Lawson for great pictures.



I would love to see an Easter pageant. How about it, Children?

Great job by all.

SNOW POLICY

Now that winter is here, you will see this article for the next couple of 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!

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.

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER BY MARY MOORE

Scrambled winter words - unscramble each of the letters below to get a word that is related to wintertime. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. oloig
2. dolc
3. wnnsamo
4. leicci
5. sofr
6. timnet

SPRING FLING: Development

The development committee decided not to hold a Tag Sale this year. Some of the items that were donated were not saleable.

Also, the Auction will not be held this year. In place of these events the committee has decided to hold a "Spring Fling". It will be held on March 9th. Basically this event will be the same as our Holiday Bazaar except with a few different twists. We will keep you all posted.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in anyway to make events successful at St. David's

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

If you or someone you know in the parish is not receiving a birthday card, please fill out a birthday greetings form found on the back table in the narthex, and deposit it in the Birthday Registry Box. Same for anniversaries! Thanks to Pat Wolos for her work sending birthday greetings on behalf of all of us!

SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Kids' Corner Answers: 1) igloo, 2) cold, 3) snowman, 4) icicle, 5) frost, 6) mitten



It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

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