



St. David's Episcopal Church

JANUARY 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.

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. Join us by Zoom if you can't join us in person. Help us look back honestly and forward both faithfully and courageously.

We live in strange times. The pandemic doesn't seem to be going away. Political dysfunction continues. If polls are accurate, people are dropping away from Church and from God.

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 +

THE DEACON'S CORNER: By Deacon Terry

The Gospel tells us to step out of our comfort zone, to reach beyond our four walls and help those in need. So, we are going to trust in God, rely on the Holy Spirit and challenge ourselves to do just that!

We at ST. David's are teaming up with Christ Church Cathedral to sponsor an Afghan refugee. There are LOTS of "unknowns". How many, when, male, female, kids? The people/person we will sponsor were people who were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time, through no fault of their own. Typically, these folks are ones who aided Americans in the fight for Afghan freedom, who have fled Afghanistan for fear of their lives. They are currently in the US, housed at either an Army base or Airforce base awaiting a sponsor. These people are "vetted", meaning legal. They have been screened, vaccinated and deemed clear to be here. They come as "parolees". Once here for a year, they either apply for citizenship or return to Afghanistan, should it be safe for them to do so.

What do we need to do?

There are five major areas we need to focus on

Housing – finding them an apartment in which to stay for a time. Jewish Family Services (the sponsoring team lead), will pay the lease and sign for it. So should anyone know of a place, please let us know.

We need to collect articles to support an apartment. (Everything you can think of, yes).

Education – setting up the kids (if any), in schools

Community – helping them learn our ways around society.

Employment – help them find work

Health – assisting them in getting set up with local health care.

At this point we have someone who will oversee, Employment, Health, and Community. We are looking for folks who may be willing to oversee Education and Housing. You could also volunteer to simply assist in any of these areas as little or as much as you would like. You can also assist by donating things needed for an apartment set up (new or used).

What better way is there to start the New Year, than to help those in need? This is a huge opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives. So, we ask that you pray about how you can get involved (as little or as much as you want), we ask you pray for the people who will be coming, and that we have God's gifts to provide for them a chance for a new start in life.

Should you have questions, please see Jim Shields, Deacon Terry or Father Harvey. Details will come as we get them. But, be ready for an exciting ride!

Why should we do this?

Mathew 25:36-43

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

OUR VESTRY AND THE BUDGET:

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. A draft is done and will be included in the Booklet of Annual Reports for our Annual Meeting. It will become official at the January Vestry meeting on the 18th. I am happy to report that we are projecting a small surplus. 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!

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!!

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? That's a good question to ask anytime. But the beginning of a new year is a particularly good time to slow down and spend a little time focused on God!

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!

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!!

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!!

COVID PRECAUTIONS by Fr. Harvey

Looking ahead into January, we are making some COVID adjustments:

Building Bridges, the program that oversees **Veterans' Lunches** around the Diocese, has **canceled** all January meals.

Valerie and I decided we better **cancel in-person Sunday School for January** as well. Hopefully both will resume in February, but that will depend on the COVID numbers. Wonderful Valerie is preparing activity bags for our children for January. You can pick them up at the Church whenever we are open.

Otherwise, we continue with the COVID precautions approved by the Vestry. These remain recommendations rather than requirements. But please remember that some of our members and visitors, particularly our youngest members and visitors, are unvaccinated and therefore at risk, and that we are in the middle of yet another surge of infections.

Please wear a mask during worship unless masking interferes with your breathing.

Please maintain social distance as much as possible when choosing your seat and when coming to the altar for Holy Eucharist.

Please spread out at social times such as coffee hour.

When using the restroom, please shift the sign on the door to "Occupied" if you prefer others not to come in. (And please shift it to "Vacant" when you leave!) If the sign already says "Occupied," please wait outside until the person exits. You may want to knock to make sure someone is in there!

Thank you for your help in keeping all of us safe and healthy!

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 will be the 9th. At that service, we'll deliver the hats, gloves, blankets, etc. that we collected through Advent. It will be like another Christmas for the people who join us! Thanks to everyone who makes it all possible!

OUTREACH:

There is a box in the Narthex that we filled with new or slightly used gloves, socks, hats, scarves and mittens. We will continue collecting them through the Christmas season and bring them over to the Parish Cupboard at our January service on the 9th. The less fortunate could use some help during these cold, winter months.

A YEAR WITH LUKE: by Fr. Harvey

Last year a group of us worked our way through the Gospel of Mark, using as our guide a book by Michael Casey called *Fully Human Fully Divine*. We finished Casey and Mark last month. Beginning this month, we'll start again, this time with the Gospel of Luke (the primary Gospel for next year), with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. We plan to meet by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week. Our January meetings will be January 11 and 25. All are welcome to join us!!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00: by Fr. Harvey

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 every Friday in January. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while 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!

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE:

Canon Rich Simpson and (retired) Dean Jim Munroe will be leading our next diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2022. The total cost, including airfare, accommodations and travel insurance, will be approximately \$5,000. **A 50% deposit is required by January 31, 2022. For more information, see <https://files.constantcontact.com/bf18a9ba001/ffb93887-77cc-4a41-b8c6-194531249a9c.pdf>**

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 versions of those Prayerbook services adapted for the Epiphany season in the narthex. You can, of course, also just use the book if you have one!

PRAYER CYCLES: by Fr. Harvey

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!!!!

FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE.

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. You can do this anytime of year, but I find it is helpful to get it done in January so that I don't forget! Thanks!

ASH WEDNESDAY:

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!). We'll have more information about our Lent and Easter plans in the next issue of the Dovetale.

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/>.

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 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!

BELOVED COMMUNITY BENDING TOWARDS JUSTICE:

The Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese is teaming up with the Social Justice Commission to sponsor an event called “Bending Towards Justice” (the phrase comes from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). It will be the morning of Saturday, January 22 on Zoom and will address issues like climate change and anti-racism. If you would like more information, please contact Fr. Harvey or see the diocesan homepage: <https://www.diocesewma.org/>.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

We were hoping to resume our Mexican Train Dominoes game on the second Wednesday evening of the month beginning in January. Sadly the pandemic has complicated that plan. We’re now hoping for February, but only if the pandemic numbers improve. If that doesn’t work out, we’ll postpone again. But eventually we’ll be back. When we do resume the game, please join us. It’s a fun game and easy to learn. There will be people to help you out until you’re comfortable with the game.

BISHOPS’ VISITATION by Fr. Harvey

Our Bishop will next be with us on Sunday, June 26. I realize that’s a long way away (!), but I wanted to let everyone know. When he is with us, he’ll confirm several people. If you would like to be confirmed our received and haven’t yet gone through the classes, please let me know. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS THANKS!

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; the children’s ministry team for the pageant in addition to all the other good work they do with our children; Deacon Terry and Fr. Domenic for their help leading services; an incredible hospitality team that kept 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!

CEATION CARE CORNER

THE GLASGOW COP26 CLIMATE CONFERENCE: by Jim Shields

The Glasgow COP26 UN climate conference of 200 nations recently wrapped up. Here are some of the pledges made: 1. More than 40 countries agreed to phase down their use of coal power while 23 countries signed the COP26 Coal to Clean Power Transition Agreement. The U.S., China, Australia, and India were not among them. 2. More than 140 countries pledged to end deforestation, including the U.S., Russia, China, and Brazil. 3. More than 100 countries signed up to slash methane (a very potent greenhouse gas) emissions. China, Russia, and India did not sign up. 4. At least 6 major auto makers and 30 countries have pledged to phase out gasoline and diesel powered cars by 2040, including G.M., Ford, India, Britain, and Canada. 5. Importantly, China and the U.S. agreed to work TOGETHER to cut carbon emissions in the next decade. 6. 45 countries pledged to make farming more sustainable and invest in green agricultural practices. Whether these agreements made were “all talk”, as asserted by climate activists in Glasgow, remains to be seen. As noted by COP26 president Alok Sharma in his closing comments, the conference fulfilled its promise to keep the hope of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C within reach, but he further noted “it’s pulse is weak. It will only survive if we keep our promises. If we translate commitments into rapid action.”

KID’S CORNER: by Mary Moore

By now, there may be snow on the ground. This is when birds especially can use some extra help getting food because some of what they want is covered in snow. You can make a simple bird feeder by using a pine cone that has opened up a little bit, smearing peanut butter on it, and then rolling the cone in some bird seed. Make sure you tie string around the pine cone BEFORE you put the peanut butter on it, so you can hang the pine cone on a tree branch or in a shrub. Thanks! Also make sure to get permission (and help if necessary) from a parent or other household adult.

For an interesting chart that shows what kinds of seeds attract different birds, check out this website: <https://www.wild-bird-watching.com/Bird_Seed.html>. The chart is at the bottom of the article, so you can skip the material at the beginning and scroll right down to the end. Happy bird watching!

“The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only creation but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved....”

Paul’s Letter to the Romans, 8:21-24

KITCHEN HINTS

1. Crumble peanut brittle with rolling pin. Mix through vanilla ice cream which has been slightly softened, and sprinkle also on top when serving.
2. Slice a lemon and stand a small birthday candle in center of each slice. Light candles, and these "little boats" will be so pretty atop your party punch for pre-teens and teens.
3. Freeze cherries, berries, olives and other small fruits in ice cubes. Serve in punch.
4. Two teaspoons of creme de menthe before retiring at night will relieve that "ticklish tickle" in your throat.
5. Place onions under scalding water before peeling and avoid tears.
6. Add small amount of milk to water in which you cook corn on the cob. Makes it sweet and tender.
7. Two teaspoons of ice water dropped in egg whites (before beating) will make your meringue for pies extra-special.
8. A small amount of vinegar dropped in with meat (while cooking) tenderizes same.
9. To remove a piece of egg shell floating in a bowl, try using another piece of shell. Works wonders.
10. To keep rice white and fluffy, add one teaspoon of lemon juice to the water in which it is cooked.
11. To freshen wilted vegetables, soak them in cold water with the juice of one lemon for an hour or so. Not only do the vegetables perk up, but so does the flavor.
12. Two tablespoons of lemon juice added to a cup of sweet milk sours it immediately.
13. Use wet scissors to cut up dates and other sticky fruits. Dip scissors in water occasionally.
14. An easy way to glaze doughnuts is to add $\frac{1}{3}$ cup boiling water slowly to 1 cup confectioners' sugar. Mix well and dip doughnuts into glaze mixture.
15. When making a loaf cake, let batter stand in pan for at least 20 minutes before baking to lessen the size of the "crack" typical of this cake.
16. The addition of a few drops of vinegar to icing, while beating, will make it soft and less grainy.
17. Heat milk before beating into mashed potatoes and they will be lighter and fluffier.
18. For easy peeling of oranges, allow them to soak, unpeeled, in covered pan with boiling water for 5 minutes. Peel, and the membrane will be removed with the rind.

SOME TIPS FROM THE KITCHEN CREW

Kitchen Spice Mix 2 T salt; 1 ground dried lemon peel; 1 T dry English-style mustard; 2 t. ground allspice; 2 t. ground ginger; 2 t. ground nutmeg; 2 t. black pepper; 2 t. cayenne pepper; (For roasted meats and cutlets)

“Lowry’s” Seasoned Salt 2 T pepper; 1 T chicken bouillon powder; 1 t. onion salt; 1 t. onion powder; 1 T garlic salt; 1 t. cumin powder; 1 t. dry marjoram leaves; 1 T minced parsley; 1 t. paprika; ½ t. curry powder; 1 T chili powder; 1/3 C salt

Middle Eastern Spice Mix 1 t. cumin; 1 t. cardamom; ½ t. allspice; ½ t. coriander; ½ t. cloves; 1 t. pepper; 1 t. red pepper flakes, crushed; ½ t. ginger; 1 t. turmeric; 1 t. salt; 1 T paprika; 1 t. cinnamon

Mrs. Dash Seasoning Blend ½ t. cayenne pepper; 1 T garlic powder; 1 t. basil; 1 t. marjoram; 1 t. thyme; 1 t. parsley; 1 t. savory; 1 t. mace; 1 t. onion powder; 1 t. sage; 1 t. black pepper; (blend well and keep dry)

Mulling Spice 1 C brown sugar; 2 t. ground cinnamon; 1 t. ground cloves; 1 t. dried ground orange peel; 1 t. ground allspice; ½ t. ground nutmeg

No-Salt Seasoned Salt 1 T garlic powder; 2½ t. thyme leaves; 2½ t. onion powder; 2½ t. paprika; 2¼ t. celery seed; 2½ t. ground white pepper; 1 T dry mustard; 2¼ t. dried finely chopped lemon peel; 1 T ground black pepper

Old Bay Seasoning Mix 1 T ground bay leaves; 2½ t. celery salt; 1½ t. dry mustard; 1½ t. ground black pepper; ¼ t. ground nutmeg; ½ t. ground cloves; ½ t. ground ginger; ½ t. paprika; ½ t. red pepper; ¼ t. ground mace; ¼ t. ground cardamom

Onion-Paprika Blend 2 t. paprika; 1 t. onion powder; ½ t. salt; ¼ t. cayenne pepper; (opt.) ¼ t. white pepper (opt.)

Onion Soup Mix (Lipton’s)

¼ C instant minced onion; 1/2 C beef bouillon powder; 4 t. onion powder; ¼ t. crushed celery seeds; ¼ t. sugar

Oriental Spice for Stir Fry (keep refrigerated)

1 t. freshly grated lemon peel; ¼ t. fennel seed, crushed; ¼ t. ground cloves; ¼ t. anise seed, crushed; ¼ t. ground cinnamon; ¼ t. ground ginger

Parmesan Mix 1 lb parmesan or Romano cheese, grated; ¼ C oregano; ¼ C basil; ¼ C parsley flakes

Pasta Blend 5 T dried basil; 3 T dried oregano; 2 T dried thyme; 1 tsp. dried garlic

Pickling Mix ¼ C mustard seeds; ¼ C dill seed; ¼ C coriander seeds; 2 T crushed chili peppers; 2 T crushed bay leaves; 1 T celery seeds; 1 T white peppercorns

Poultry Seasoning 2 T marjoram; 2 T savory; 2 tsp. parsley; 1 T sage; 1½ t. thyme

Pumpkin Pie Spice Mix

2 t. ground cinnamon; 1 t. ground ginger; ½ t. ground cloves; ½ t. ground nutmeg

Seafood Herbs 5 t. dried basil; 5 t. crushed fennel seeds; 4 t. dried parsley; 1 t. dried lemon peel

Seasoned Salt ¾ C salt; ¼ C garlic salt; 1 t. ground pepper; ½ t. dried oregano leaves; 1 t. paprika; 1/8 t. celery seed; ¼ t. ground white pepper; ¼ t. dry mustard

Shake N’ Bake Mix 1 C all-purpose flour; 2 C fine dry breadcrumbs; 2 t. cornstarch; 2 t. paprika; 2 t. onion powder; 2 t. salt; 2 t. sugar; 3½ t. poultry seasoning; 2 T crumbled dried parsley

JANUARY CALENDAR:

Weekly Calendar

Sunday: Services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:00

The Spanish Church from 2:30 to 6:00

Monday: Men's Bible Study at 7:00

Compline with the Diocese on Zoom at 8:00 PM

Tuesday: Morning Prayer on Facebook with Saint Mark's at 8:00 AM

Compline with the Diocese on Zoom at 8:00 PM

Wednesday: Morning Prayer on Facebook with Saint Mark's at 8:00 AM

Compline with the Diocese on Zoom at 8:00 PM

Thursday: Morning Prayer on Facebook, led by Dcn. Terry or Fr. Harvey at 8:00 AM

OA from 10:15-11:30

Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00

Parish Bible Study at 1:00

Contemplative Prayer at 2:30

Evening Prayers with Saint Mark's on Facebook at 8:00 PM

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

Mercy Church from 2:00 to 4:00

Monthly Calendar

Church without Walls, Sunday, January 2 and 9 at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Conversation on Luke, Tuesdays at 4:15 on Zoom, January 11 and 25

Vestry, Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00

Single Service, Sunday, January 23 at 9:00

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 23 at 10:15 in person and on Zoom

COVID Adjustments this Month

NO Veterans' Lunch on Tuesday, January 4

NO Dominoes on January 12

NO In-Person Sunday School this month

From the Editor:

I have very much enjoyed doing the Dovetale. I Thank everyone for their comments of appreciation.

I wish to thank all who submit articles for our little news paper. I also want to encourage more participation. For example: IF someone has an Item they wish to sell or to give away I can make a page just for those "adds". I know that there are some VERY talented church members out there who might wish to share their talent or ask for on advice on some subject.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous 2022.

I can always be reached at joubertjo77@comcast.net

Epiphany Season by Fr. Harvey

Christmas is a season, not just a day. That's why we talk about the twelve days of Christmas. We shift to a new season on January 6, the feast of the Epiphany. That's when we remember the story of the wise men coming to Bethlehem to pay homage to the child born king of the Jews. Between January 6 and Ash Wednesday is the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany doesn't have quite as clear a theme as some of the other seasons of the Christian year. At least, it is not quite as clear a theme in my mind. But we tend to talk a lot about light, always culminating with the Gospel story of the Transfiguration (when Jesus shines with a divine light) on the last Sunday after Epiphany. The general theme of the season, as best I can tell, is God's light shining on us and inviting us to shine with our own reflected light.

One of the odd things about this season is how much it changes in length from year to year. It always begins on January 6 and ends on Ash Wednesday. But Ash Wednesday moves around a good bit. In recent years, it has been as early as February 10 (my wife's birthday—that's not a year I'll soon forget!). This year it comes on March 2. That's a good thing for the priests in the group. It's nice to get a little break between our Annual Meeting and the start of Lent!

Single Service and Annual Meeting on January 23 by Fr. Harvey

Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 23 beginning at 10:15, following a single 9:00 service. Please note the changed service time!!

Our current plan is to meet in person. I would be very surprised if that changes, but we are monitoring the COVID numbers. In the unlikely event that we have to go remote, we'll let everyone know in every way we can. WE do plan to have a Zoom option for those who prefer to join us online. I'll send out the Zoom link in my weekly e-messages.

At Annual Meeting every year, we elect new leadership, hear reports about our ministries, and receive the 2022 budget, all with time for questions, comments, and discussion. We normally also have some good food! Please plan to join us if you can. Thanks!

Looking Ahead to Lent by Fr. Harvey

Very little is set as I write this article. This is just a teaser! But I assume that we will do the things we normally do in Lent. That means a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper commemorating Saint David on March 1; an Ash Wednesday Service in the evening, perhaps with an opportunity to receive "ashes to go" during the day; Stations of the Cross every Friday, probably at 11:30; and a special Lenten Christian education series, maybe in person at Saint David's and maybe on Zoom with other area Churches. If there are other things that would help you to have a specially holy Lent, please let me know!!

**“I Invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent....”**

BCP 265



Romans 8:28

*“For those who love God all things work together
For good, for those who are called to his purpose.”*

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