



# St. David's Episcopal Church

## JANUARY 2023 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 aching 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 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*

## **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; the O'Hares 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 keeps 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!

## **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. 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, with Epiphany forms coming soon. 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!

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

It's actually happening! As a reminder, we were all set to go just before the pandemic descended. That put us on hold for a couple of years. By the time the prison was again welcoming volunteers, we had to go through the approval process all over again. That took four months! But on Monday, January 9, members of our team, including Deacon Terry, will lead the first session. I'll go in with Mary Moore on Monday, January 30. Beginning in February, we'll settle into a routine, with Saint David's covering the fourth Mondays of the month. Other Episcopal priests and deacons, as well as a UCC pastor, a Jewish Rabbi, and a Jewish Cantor, will cover the other Mondays.

I can say that I am eager to start and also a little anxious. Please pray for us as this ministry gets underway!

## **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!

**“Be Still and know that I am God!”** Psalm 46:10

## **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 to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar, and Holy Eucharist. 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, both in person and on Zoom. We are now into the Acts of the Apostles, and just starting the story of the Apostle Paul. Please join us! All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

## **Refugee Update:** by Terry Hurlbut

The Khan family continues to grow in the new environment, though it will be a year in February. They have come such a long way in the past months. To think at one point, they lived in Afghanistan, in a one-room house with 12 other people, no running water, heat, electricity. Remember that Afzal took one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, supporting the US Army, because it paid the most and he was the bread winner for the family, as his father and brother were both killed by the Taliban.

The boys are all in school, and the three middle boys are getting tutoring three days a week by retired teachers from the Cathedral and St. Andrews. What a gift, as these boys have a lot of "catching up to do". The oldest boy with CP, is also in school and loving it. He has been going to the Shriners, who have just recently given him a brand-new upright chair. So, he no longer needs to eat, laying down. He can sit up and eat, watch TV and participate in life. The youngest boy stays home with mom and the new baby girl. They are doing wonderfully.

Afzal is still working at American Saw each night, going to JFS for learning along with Sharifa, learning English. They are being very careful with expenses, keeping the heat low, buying only what is needed for food, oil, electric, etc.

It reaffirms our thoughts on how important our ministry to this young family is, when we read and hear about how the Taliban now only allows females to attend school to the 6th grade. Our little Pawar would be one of those girls, not allowed to learn. Now she can! How awesome is that!

The huge news is that they have gotten a vehicle! A 2015 Honda Pilot. Blue, 110k miles, seems to be in pretty good shape. It fits 8, which they now need. Afzal is now driving himself to work, the boys to school, shopping, etc. They are slowly gaining their independence. Afzal managed to squirl away some money, the Cathedral donated some as did St. David's. The family is very indebted to everyone for this generosity. They are grateful indeed and know they would not be in this blessed position without everyone's support. There are still many challenges to come, and they will be met, one way or another.

Jesus came to serve and tells us to serve. I remind us all that when we think we've done enough, "did we"? They are a wonderful young, energetic full of life family who only want a chance. And we are helping to give them that chance.

## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB:**

The Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 22 at 11:15 to discuss *The Maid*, by Nita Prose. All women are welcome!! For more information, please contact Linda Seabury.

## **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 January, the group will meet every week. Please see Virginia for details.

## **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 assignments will change at the end of the month when we elect a new 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.

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!!

## **SNOW POLICY:** by Fr. Harvey

Now that winter is here, you will see this article for the next few 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** by Fr. Harvey

Our vestry does many things, but one of the most important is creating our budget. The vestry will be finalizing 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 as soon as possible.

## **ANNUAL MEETING ON JANUARY 29**

Our Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 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 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!

## **ANNUAL REPORTS:**by Fr. Harvey

We hope to make a booklet of annual reports available to everyone at Church on Sunday, January 22. I think we will also be able to distribute them electronically or 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 has once again generously volunteered to put the booklet together, and it's a big job! If you are making a report, please send it to Jo Joubert 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!!

## **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. They 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 the guests are homeless and in need of all types of clothing. They 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 (413 736-2742) first to schedule a time when someone will be there. They 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!

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Submitted by Jo Joubert

2022 has been a busy year for the committee and we want to thank everyone that has been involved in any event that the committee has held. IF I named everyone I would be naming the entire book of names. The committee will be holding a meeting soon to look at 2023 and the events that will be held to refill our budget line. We raised about \$13,000 toward the replacement of the floor. What will our next project be? Come to the meeting and give your suggestion.

THANK YOU ALL AND HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**, by Fr. Harvey

Our January Church without Walls comes on January 1, which gives us a chance to help our people start the year right. Thanks as always to everyone who makes this ministry possible. Special thanks this month to the Wolos' who are making sure we have tasty and healthy lunches to give the people who join us.

Looking ahead, our CWW rotation will change. Hopefully the change won't directly effect us. But January will be the last Sunday for Mittineague Congregational Church to participate in this ministry. Another Church has already agreed to cover the number of sessions coming open. The challenge is figuring out a schedule that works for everyone, which should be interesting!

## **FOOD FOR THE POOR SUNDAY**, by Fr. Harvey

Please join us the weekend of February 4 to hear The Rev. Canon Dr. Howard K. Williams speak at both services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Canon Williams will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. Canon Williams was ordained deacon in 1974, a priest in 1975, became Canon in 2004 and Archdeacon in 2006. He was a teacher and Rector of churches in the islands of Jamaica, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and here in the USA. He has initiated and spear headed many groups that aid women and children. The list of his involvement is far too long to note, but include him as Archdeacon overseeing thirty-Three Episcopal Churches in New York.

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

Well, it's really happening. After long deliberation, the vestry voted to replace the rug in the sanctuary, and also the community room. We'll carpet the altar area, have carpet running up the center aisle of the sanctuary, and also a matching carpet in the Community Room. On either side of the center aisle in the sanctuary, we'll have floor tiling to match what we currently have in the narthex.

We considered look, sound, cost, flexibility, durability, safety, cleaning and maintenance, parishioner preferences, and more. Not every consideration pointed in the same direction. My own greatest concern is acoustics during worship, and even that single consideration was complicated. As I understand it, rug is better for the spoken word, and tiling sounds better for music. But taking everything into account, I believe we have come up with the plan that best meets our various needs.

At this point, we don't know exactly when the work will be done. That depends in part on Allied, the contractor we are using, and in part on our own schedule. On our end, we want to replace the toilets in the bathroom first. And, of course, we need to avoid disrupting our Annual Meeting and Holy Week and other important dates. My guess is, we are looking at March.

Thanks to the Development Team for all their work on this project, to everyone who was part of the fundraising efforts, to the vestry for their wisdom and faithfulness, and to all our parishioners for your patience!!

## **FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE:** by Fr. Harvey

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 that anytime, but my own practice is to pick weeks to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries in my family at the start of the year, do the necessary paperwork, and then forget about it. I invite everyone to consider doing the same!

## **ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT:** by Fr. Harvey

The time between the beginning of Advent at the end of November and our annual meeting at the end of January is always a bit of a blur for me. A LOT has to happen in those two months! Some horrible years, Lent starts almost immediately after the annual meeting, starting up another busy season. Thankfully that is not the case this year—we get a few weeks of relative downtime. But mark your calendars now. Lent 2023 begins on Wednesday, February 22. We'll have our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper the night before, our Ash Wednesday service that day at 7:00 PM, and a Lent formation program starting the following week. I'm happy to say that it won't be for a while still. But when the time comes, I pray that we can all have a holy Lent!

## **PRAYER CYCLES:** by Fr. Harvey

By the time you read this, I am really hoping the 2023 prayer cycles will be available in the narthex near the mail slots. The list of nations will not change, so that's already good to go. I'm hoping to add the Anglican Cycle of Prayers, which covers the other Provinces of the Anglican Communion from around the world. And we need to update our Parish Prayer Cycle, which is the time-consuming part. (When it is out, please let me know if you notice missing people or ministries!)

The prayer cycles have become part of our Prayers of the People at Sunday services. They are also 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 them a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

## **A YEAR WITH LUKE WRAPS UP:** 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 January meeting is scheduled for the 3rd on Zoom. It's a big one since we'll be finishing the Gospel we have been reading together for a year! As I write this, we haven't decided what to do next. If there is a book you would like to read with others, please let me know. And when we find one, please join us!

## **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/>.

## **PARISH LIFE AND CALENDAR KEEPING:** by Fr. Harvey

Susan Amabile has served as our Parish Life Coordinator for well over a decade, beginning before I came to Saint David's in 2011. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her years of talent and dedication!

But the needs of the parish have changed, particularly with our growing number of tenants. What we need now is not so much a coordinator of Parish Life as a single person to pay attention to all areas of Church life, including rentals, to avoid scheduling conflicts and/or burnout. We have therefore eliminated the position of Coordinator of Parish Life, and created the new position of Keeper of the Calendar. I am happy to say that Carol Fabrycki and Janessa Piteo have agreed to serve as our inaugural Calendar Keepers!

On our webpage, you can find the calendar of all our events, along with the space in the building or grounds that will be used for that event, where relevant. So, for example, for the Women's Book Group on Sunday, January 22, you can see that the group will meet in the Community Room at 11:15. Since no other spaces are listed, the rest of the building is available for other things. At that time, the normal other thing is, of course, coffee hour. You can also see our events that are offsite, e.g. Church without Walls on Sunday January 1 at noon at the Parish Cupboard.

If you would like to schedule an event, please first check the calendar to see if the space you need is available. If so, please contact the Calendar Keepers to request the space. It will be reserved when you receive confirmation that the space is indeed available.

In my head, it's a beautifully simple system. In practice, there will surely be bugs to work out. Please be patient, and share your thoughts with me, the wardens, or the Calendar Keepers themselves. Thanks!!

## **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!



## **CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER – Winter Scavenger Hunt**

by Mary Moore

"Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so." Genesis 1:11

Tired of being inside? Here's a winter scavenger hunt to have fun with. You don't have to finish it all in one day; you have the rest of the winter.

1. An evergreen tree or shrub
2. A bird at a feeder
3. A squirrel at a bird feeder
4. A blue jay
5. A tree or bush with berries (winterberry trees and holly bushes have bright red berries)
6. Running water in a stream or river
7. People skating
8. Buds on a tree branch
9. A constellation (For The Big Dipper, look north - it and other constellations - will not be in the same part of the sky going east to west at the end of the month as they were in the beginning of the month. This is because Earth is moving.)
10. Animal tracks in the snow

## **CREATION CARE CORNER: by Jim Shields**

Scientists in California have made a key breakthrough in nuclear fusion, a technology with the potential to transform the global energy landscape. For the first time, researchers were able to produce a fusion reaction that generated more energy than it consumed. Fusion is the same process that powers the stars, and unlike fission, which also generates enormous amounts of energy but leaves behind environmentally-harmful, spent fuel rods, fusion promises abundant carbon-free energy with no harmful by-products.

In the experiment, lasers were used to bombard hydrogen isotopes held in a super-heated plasma state to fuse them into helium, releasing a neutron and energy in the process. Fusion releases several times the energy generated by fission. Fusion has drawn billions in investments from backers like Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates, as well as support from national development banks, venture capitalists, and sovereign wealth funds. While the results represent a breakthrough, it's still long way to creating a viable technology. Could this be the magic bullet we've been looking for to provide an inexhaustible, stable, clean energy source for the world?

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

Our meal this month is Tuesday, January 3, beginning at 11:30. As always, all Veterans eat free. And everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks!!

## JANUARY CALENDAR:

### Our Weekly Events

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

**Sunday School at 10:00 (not January 1)**

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

**Thursday: Grandparents Playgroup at 9:30**

**Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00**

**Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom)**

**Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom)**

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

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

### Special Events

**Sunday, January 1: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard**

**Tuesday, January 3: Veterans Lunch at 11:30**

**Tuesday, January 3: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (Zoom)**

**Monday, January 9: Community Supper at 6:00**

**Wednesday, January 18: Vestry at 6:30**

**Sunday, January 22: Women's Book Group at 11:15**

**Sunday, January 29: Annual Meeting at 11:15**

**Monday, January 30: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC**

### 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 4<sup>th</sup>)**

**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**

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks  
in all circumstances; for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you.”**

(Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, 5:16-17)

**Community Supper**

**JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**ST. DAVID'S CHURCH**

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET**

**MENU**

**MEATLOAF**

**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 at the 10:00 SERVICE**

**CALL OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS**

**BRING A FRIEND.**



Christ has no body now but yours  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes through which he looks  
Compassion on this world  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good  
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

St. Teresa of Avila

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