



# THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church

**JULY**  
2020

## Reopening our Building

The Diocese has now released specific guidelines for reopening our building. Reopening will happen in stages, more or less following the pattern of the Commonwealth, but on our own timetable. As I write this, we are still in Stage One: Closed. Our hope is to apply to enter Stage Two: Cautious as soon as we can. Assuming that the public health indicators allow it, we should be able to move forward as soon after July 1 as we can obtain adequate supplies for cleaning and disinfecting. We are working on that!!

Stage two still has many restrictions aimed at keeping us safe. We'll have to limit the number of people at indoor events (including worship), wear masks, and maintain social distance. No communion or congregational singing, no peace, no coffee hour, no in-person children's ministry. It may not feel much like Church at first.

However we are fortunate compared to many Churches. Our space is flexible, so we will probably be able to fit as many people as we need. We already have screens, so we don't need to use bulletins or books. Best of all, we have a good parking lot and beautiful grounds, so we can worship outside more easily and pleasantly than most.

We have a Team working on the details of opening our building. There are LOTS of logistics to consider. High on the list is the outside groups that use our space.

We want to do everything we can to support our Twelve-Steps Groups in particular. But we need to make sure they, too, are following Diocesan Guidelines. This is a matter of prudence, proper Christian stewardship, and minimizing our potential legal liability.

The challenges we face through July continue to be real. Still, it is good news that we should be able to move into Stage Two. All going well, hopefully Stage Three won't be far behind, although that can't happen until new transmissions in our area drop to near zero.

The more important good news, of course, is that God is with us in the midst of the mess, and that God continues to call us forward. I am more and more convinced that this time, difficult though it is, is also an opportunity for true revival. God is calling us to

be creative in our worship and ministry. And we are doing our best to answer that call!

Please join me in praying for Saint David's. Pray first that we will all be safe and healthy. But pray also for guidance about what God is calling us to do and who God is calling us to be. We have never needed God's guidance more than now!

God's peace and all good to you all!!



*Opening our  
Doors*

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## **Drive in Church**

We've had a few minor gaffes, but overall our "drive-in" services have been really wonderful. It's great to worship together and to feel like a true community of faith! Given the restrictions on worshipping in-doors through Stage Two of the reopening of our building, we plan to continue our drive-in services through July. But when we enter Stage Two—hopefully soon!—people will be able to get out of their cars and sit (in their own chairs!) in the parking lot or our grounds if they like. And we'll have the option of moving in-doors if/when the weather is uncooperative.

I am grateful to the many people who have worked hard to make our outdoor services a success. As always, Bob Rendrick has been tireless in getting things set-up and keeping things moving, ably assisted by Jim Shields. Carol Fabrycki sets the altar, does the readings, and offers up the Prayers of the People. Deacon Terry proclaims the Gospel, leads us in confession, and sends us forth into the world rejoicing. Virginia Ventulett has the frustrating task of making the computer work with the FM Transmitter so that music can be part of our worship. Behind the scenes, Virginia and the Seaburys spend LOTS of time recording the hymns that do so much to enhance our worship. And the Office Angels prepare the readings and the music each week. We are truly blessed to have so many devoted and talented people making our worship possible!

## **Online Coffee Hour**

Since we can't yet easily and safely gather in person, as we used to do at coffee hour following the 10:00 service, we are coming together on Zoom for casual conversation for an hour every Tuesday at 12:00. There are no goodies, of course, which is tragic! But touching base is a great pleasure even without something sweet to eat. Sign on for just a few minutes, or stay for the whole hour, as your schedule permits. Thanks!

## **Virtual Pastoral Care**

Now more than ever it is important that we be sensitive to each other's needs. Isolation can be as harmful as the covid-19 virus! Please stay in touch with your brothers and sisters at Saint David's. Reach out by phone or e-mail or in whatever other way seems appropriate. And if you are struggling, emotionally, financially, or logistically, please let Fr. Harvey know. He should be able to connect you with parishioners who are ready to help.

## **Friday Healing Eucharist Still On Hold?**

I put a question mark in the title because this is one of many questions that we are currently considering. When we enter Stage Two of the reopening process, we will have the option of resuming services (without Communion and without physical anointing). But the requirements for cleaning and disinfecting are quite strict. I am guessing that we will not resume this service during the summer. But if we can work out the logistics, we would love to get it going again. Please stay tuned!

## **Morning Prayer**

We have been livestreaming Morning Prayer each morning (Monday through Saturday) at 8:00 AM on our Facebook page. Our plan is to continue Monday through Friday through the summer and until we have reopened, except on announced days. But going forward, we will discontinue our Saturday sessions. Please join us any weekday, and help spread the word!

## **Sunday School**

Episcopal Churches in our Diocese will not be offering in-person Sunday School classes until we can safely do so. As of right now, that means not until "Stage Four" of our reopening, when an effective vaccine is readily available. Until then, we will continue to offer Sunday School sessions each week on Zoom, immediately following the Sunday Eucharist. In July, that will be at 10:15 (to give families and our teachers time to get home after the Drive-In services). Please join us and help spread the word!

## **Parish Life**

We continue to ponder ways to stay connected beyond online worship and Bible Study. If you have any ideas for fun events that would still be safe, please let Susan Amabile or Father Harvey know. We've tried a movie night and Quarantine Show and Tell. There are lots of other possibilities. We just have to use our imaginations.....

### **It is a win, win! A Fun-Demic!** By Susan Amabile

This is an online raffle for a grab bag of prizes. The fun starts July 5th and the giveaway date is in September!

To donate a prize, bring a gift card for any amount or a craft or a bottle of wine to the Church. If you bring it anytime other than Sunday morning, please first check with the office to make sure that someone is present. Office hours are irregular until we officially reopen the building. Another option is baking some goodies. Just put your name and what you will bake on a piece of paper and in an envelope. Don't bake it now.

To purchase tickets, write a check payable to St. David's. Tickets are 3 for \$5. You will receive an extra ticket if you bring a canned good or something for the Parish Cupboard.

All prizes donated will be divided up into baskets and raffled off in September to all parishioners who participate. You can enter as much as you want! The more we take in the more we give away .....

Any questions please call me or Sue O'Hare. Thanks and GOOD LUCK!

### **Getting Connected, by Fr. Harvey**

The Diocese strongly encourages Churches that are livestreaming services to continue doing so through the stages of reopening our building. Even without diocesan encouragement, we would keep going. I never thought I would say this (!), but the technology has been a real gift. Often more people join our Sunday services online than was typical of a regular Sunday. We also have a good crew for Morning Prayer, which is a new form of public ministry for us. We can also join in the offerings of other Churches. Saint Mark's offers Noonday Prayer each weekday. The Diocese offers Compline every Monday Tuesday, and Wednesday evening, and contemplative prayer on Sundays. And so on.... If you are having trouble getting connected to participate in any of this, please contact me. Hopefully I can help to get you started. If so, we know that God's grace must truly be at work!

### **Community Bulletin Board** by Fr. Harvey

We have created a "community bulletin board" on our webpage. The idea is that people can list things they would like to give away or sell, skills they have, etc. In another place on the bulletin board, people can request help or make prayer requests. Now we just need content. If you would like to advertise or offer anything, please let Laurie know. I want to add a note of profound gratitude for all the work Laurie Littlefield regularly puts into our webpage!!!

### **Our New Facebook Page, by Fr. Harvey**

One result of closing our building has been our effort to up our technology game. We are now livestreaming the Sunday 9:00 drive-in service on Facebook, and we will continue livestreaming after we reopen. I have also been livestreaming services of Morning Prayer at 8:00 every day but Sundays. Hopefully beginning next week, we'll team up with Saint Mark's to livestream Noonday Prayers as well. Please like us at <https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsFeedingHillsMA/>, and help spread the word!

**“I still my soul and make it quiet,  
like a child upon its mother's breast;  
my soul is quieted within me.”**

Psalm 131:3

## **Community Solar**

We entered into a contract with a company called Nexamp to save some money and do something good for the environment at the same time. When it takes effect, we will continue to receive power bills from Eversource. But, and here is where it gets a little complicated, Eversource will also credit us the full amount of the bill, and then charge Nexamp for the power we have used. Nexamp pays Eversource, and then bills us for the same electricity. Since the electricity is generated by solar panels, and so earns tax credits, they can offer us a 15% discount on the power we have used. Originally we expected to be up and running about now, and it will happen whenever panels in our area become available. Hopefully that will be soon!

## **Covid Masks Available** By Jude O'Hare

With a major Thank You to Ellen Rendrick for her talent and dedication, we now have Covid Masks to give to all. What is awesome about these masks is their Bible verse printed on them. I have seen many masks out in society right now, smiles, sports, faces and paper. I have not seen Bible verses. They may be out there but I have not seen them. I tell people I am not a great evangelist because of trouble speaking in a crowd. I can however speak one on one or in a small group about my love and belief in God and my church. Can this mask start that kind of a conversation? Maybe it will open a few eyes and ears. This could be an amazing opportunity. These masks are medical grade, washable with the filter between the reversible layers. I strongly encourage you to take a mask and see what God puts in front of you. They will be available at the service or call the office and leave your request. There will soon be masks available for children. Let us share God's love and Blessings with all.

## **Reader Raves 2021.** by Jim Shields.

It's time again to rave for your faves in the Republican newspaper's Reader Raves 2021. Will you join me in voting for St. David's for "Best Place of Worship"? You never know what can happen if we make a strong showing. Also, if you enter 25 or more votes, you are eligible for a \$500 gift card. Vote on [READERRAVES.COM](http://READERRAVES.COM). Voting ends 8/2/20.

## **Expanding Our Vegetable Gardens**

Last year, we had a small vegetable garden in the lawn at the far side of the parking lot. We hoped to expand the garden this summer, with help from a diocesan grant. The Diocese understandably decided against awarding any grants this year. Probably we will apply again next year. In the meantime, we plan to continue with the two raised beds we created last year. We also invite parishioners to maintain their own small vegetable gardens on our property. If you are interested, please let Father Harvey know. He, Jim Shields, Bob Rendrick, and hopefully Larry Dutton will mark out a plot for you. We don't want to create more raised beds during this experimental year, but we'd love to devote more land to growing food.

## **Memorial Trees**

Last fall, we cleared out the overgrown area on the street side of our property, in anticipation of planting three memorial trees. Thanks to our wonderful senior warden Carol Fabrycki they are now in the ground. The two taller trees are given by Jane Nunn in honor of Reverend John Tyler and Canon Rush Smith. The weeping cherry in the center is given by Anne McManus in memory of her brother. We'll schedule the formal dedication of all three as soon as we can.

**“Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!”**

Psalm 70:1

## The Labyrinth and our Flower Gardens

Our grounds are looking great! Thanks to everyone who is putting so much work into them! I encourage folks who haven't had a chance to appreciate them to come by for a look. You can enjoy a picnic, relax on a bench, or walk the labyrinth. In a difficult time, there are few things better for the soul than a little quiet time outdoors with God!

## Creation Care Kids' Corner by Mary Moore

We have talked about all the different parts of a plant, but let's take a closer look at the fruit and the seeds. Remember that inside the each seed is a complete, tiny baby plant.

Imagine 10 different age and size kids sitting around a table that has just one sandwich in the middle. Everyone is hungry, but that single sandwich won't be enough to feed all 10 of them. Who do you think has the best chance of getting most, if not all, of the food? Probably the biggest kid. Fortunately the rest of the group can walk into the kitchen to find something to eat!

Now imagine that you are a baby plant that started to grow right next to the parent plant. You are trying to get enough water, minerals from the soil, and sunlight, but you can't because the bigger plant is taking most of it. Unlike a person, you are stuck where you are. You cannot just walk to a different spot to get what you need. If this happened to all the baby plants, they would probably die, or at least not be too healthy. So how do plants prevent this from happening? How do they make sure enough baby plants end up in a different place where they don't have to fight the parent plants for the same water, minerals, and sunlight? First of all, they make a lot more seeds than they need to, because a lot of the seeds will not end up in a good place to grow. But the design of the fruit and the seeds matters too.

Plants spread their seeds by using animals, water, the wind, gravity, or using exploding pods to help. Here's how.

Animals: have you ever taken a walk in the woods and found little burs attached to your pant legs afterwards? Those burs contain seeds, seeds that you just helped move away from the parent plants. The burs may also attach themselves to a dog or some other furry creature, only to get brushed off later, in a spot that might be better for growing. Another example of an animal scattering seeds is when a squirrel buries lots of acorns in order to store them for a winter meal. The squirrel will forget where he hid some of the acorns, and some of these will sprout into little oak trees. Birds are important seed spreaders too, especially if the seeds are in a berry. The bird eats the whole berry, but cannot digest the seeds. When the bird poops, some time and distance away from where it ate the berry, the seeds come out with the poop. (Did you know that bird poop is a good fertilizer?)

Water: some seeds float along a pond or even from island to island in the ocean, eventually ending up on land again, far away from where they started. An example of this is the coconut. (Did you know the coconut was a seed?)

Wind: some seeds are very light and get blown around easily. Sooner or later, some of them will land where the growing conditions are good, and they will sprout there. Some examples of wind blown seeds are dandelion and maple seeds.

Gravity: some fruits simply drop to the ground and bounce or roll away so that they are not directly underneath parent plant. Apples do this. Sometimes an animal will pick up the fruit, eat it, and leave the seeds behind, or sometimes the fruit sits and rots where it landed, leaving the seeds on the ground to grow.

Explosions: A plant that uses this method is found in our area, usually near streams. It is called jewelweed, or sometimes touch-me-not. Its seeds develop inside a pod. When the pod is ripe and the seeds are ready, the pod splits open at the seams and the seeds are ejected, landing a few feet away. A strong wind or an animal brushing up against a ripe pod can trigger the explosion. Fat, ripe jewelweed pods show up towards the end of August, in case you find some and want to try making the pods pop open. All you have to do is touch the bottom of the pod.

**Activity**: See if you can find some examples of the different kinds of seeds described above.

## **Outreach during a Pandemic**, by Father Harvey

For the first few weeks of the quarantine, my focus was on learning new technologies and establishing a regular routine of worship and Bible Study. Just as we are getting settled into the new normal, the process of reopening begins, with all that it means about a new set of routines! (That is, of course, a good thing!) But in the meantime, we cannot forget those of our neighbors who are being hardest hit. Service providers are working heroically to continue to help people with housing, food, and addiction issues. But the problems are escalating at the same time that familiar ways of helping are becoming impossible. We are in conversation with Martha about ways to support the Parish Cupboard. The Vestry is also having conversations about other ways we as a parish could be helpful. Thanks to the leadership of Jim Shields, we recently made a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development at a time when our donation would be matched. If you have any ideas, please be in touch with me, Jim Shields, or any other member of the vestry. As our Bishop sometimes says, the Church was made for times like these. Our job is to be the best Church we can be, with God's help!

## **Donations to the Parish Cupboard**

Church without Walls remains on hold for the foreseeable future. But the Parish Cupboard continues to hand out groceries, and for that they continue to need donations of boxed and canned goods. You can donate directly to the Cupboard, of course. But we have also put a donation bin beside the parking lot entrance. We'll get anything we find in the bin over to the Cupboard. Thanks for your help in helping our neediest neighbors!

## **Building Bridges Veterans Ministry and the Prison Bible Study**

Both of these ministries remain on hold. As soon as we get the go-ahead to resume from the Building Bridges Program, we will do so. The same is true when the Women's Correctional Center allows volunteers to enter the prison. But in both cases that may be several months.....

## **Young Scholars Program**, by Fr. Harvey

This program offers college scholarships to elementary school students. You read that right—elementary students. The idea is that at-risk children benefit from early interventions. The children come from the MLK Charter School and the White Street School, both in Springfield. The schools nominate promising children. The Young Scholars Program promises money if/when the children actually go to college. In the meantime, the schools and the program combine to offer enrichment and support.

If you would like to join this effort, please talk to me. I have served on the Board of the Program for the last few years, and I strongly recommend their work. You can also check them out online at [www.youngscholarsfund.org](http://www.youngscholarsfund.org). The Program can always use money, but the single greatest need is for "scholar partners." Each partner tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. For people with more time, partners are invited to school events and field trips. I have not been able to do much of that myself, but it is the most rewarding part of the work since it means getting to know the children and their families.

## **Summer Sunday School on Zoom**

We cannot resume in-person Sunday School until Stage Four, when a vaccine is readily available. In the meantime, thanks to a wonderful set of volunteers, we have been offering Sunday School on Zoom each week, immediately following the Sunday service. During the summer, that begins at 10:15. Thanks to Denise Noyes for hosting the meetings on Zoom! And during the summer, thanks to Sue O'Hare for leading the classes each week!

## **Errands Are Us**

If anyone needs any errands run, contact Susan Amabile at 519-7854 to work out the details, including payment when appropriate.

## **Prayer Shawls**

This is a great time to make, use, or give someone a prayer shawl. Of course, picking one up or handing one out is also a little complicated under the circumstances. So is dedicating new ones. If you have one to be dedicated, let Father Harvey know and he can include a prayer of dedication as part of our livestreamed Sunday Eucharists. 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, and that is a lot of us these days! Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

## **The Financial Picture**

I am happy to report that we remain in remarkably good financial shape. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our people, our pledged giving was higher than average in May (the last month for which we have complete information)! Combine that with the money we received from the federal government to cover salaries and the Diocese waiving our monthly assessment, and we had an impressive surplus for the month, bringing us into the black for the year so far. The times ahead will still be challenging. The grant from the government and the Diocese both run out this month, so our costs will inevitably climb. But we are blessed indeed to be in such a strong financial position!

## **Stewardship**

None of us yet know the full economic impact of the covid virus, but some of us have already been hit pretty hard, and others might still be. If you need to adjust your pledge in light of what is happening, please let Pledge Secretary Ted Zern know. We all understand that people are making some difficult decisions these days!!

## **Please Maintain Pledges and Other Donations**

Despite our strong financial position and our ongoing efforts to cut costs, we still need donations from those who can afford to make them. Inevitably many of our expenses continue, and we have already had to cancel or postpone several fund-raisers. You can mail donations to the Church (people are picking up mail and making deposits), donate through our homepage, or donate through an online program called tithely. Thanks for your faithfulness!!

## **Rector's Discretionary Fund**, 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. If you get in a bind, please talk to me. I should add that our conversation and any help from my 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. But of course no one can get to them! If you need to spend the Church's money, please be in touch with Father Harvey or Treasurer Jude O'Hare. One of them can fill out the form for you. Please first get approval from the relevant vestry person. You can see who is in charge of which budget area on our [webpage at https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html](https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html). Thanks!!

## **Losses in our Parish Family**

Please pray for the souls of Karen Douglas and Marjorie Alheim, both of whom died recently. Please also pray for their families. May Karen and Marj rest in peace and rise in glory!

## **Friday Bible Study at 1:00**

The Friday Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom each week at 1:00. We are currently reading about the fabulously wealthy and wise King Solomon in First Kings. We plan to meet through the summer, but we will take a couple of weeks off at some point. Almost certainly we'll stick with Zoom meetings through Stage Two, just to be on the safe side. Please join us, and help spread the word!

## **Contemplative Prayer and Lectio Divina**

“Lectio Divina” is a prayerful reading of a Bible passage, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? We have now had a couple of sessions on Zoom, and they work surprisingly well. We used to meet after the Sunday service for about twenty minutes. But we are planning on experimenting with a new time: Friday at 2:30. As I write this, we have not scheduled our July sessions. But stay tuned!

## **Prayer Cycles**

We have two monthly prayer cycles, both of which are available on our homepage under the “Worship” tab (and in the narthex, for what that is worth). One lists all the nations of the world, and the other lists the people and the ministries of Saint David’s. Please give the prayer cycles a try if you are not already doing so. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, you pray by name for every nation in the world, and every member and ministry here at Saint David’s. We could all use more prayers these days! Also, if you notice any missing people or ministries, please let the office know. It’s easy to correct, and we don’t want to leave anyone out!

## **Prayer Requests**

We typically list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, but we can’t do that now. If you would like us to include a prayer request in the prayers of the people on Sundays or in Morning Prayer during the week, please let Fr. Harvey know. We also have an online prayer chain. To put out a prayer request on it, please contact Father Harvey or Kathy Glista. Do the same if you’d like to receive the prayer requests. If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. And don’t forget thanksgivings. It’s good to offer those, too!!

## **Reading the New Testament**

We are still working our way through the New Testament, and folks are always welcome to join us! In July and August, we’ll be working through the letters of Paul—Fr. Harvey’s favorite! In weekly e-mail updates, Father Harvey announces the chapters for the week and attaches a link to a helpful video on the material for that week. We also gather once a month for conversation—on Zoom for at least through Stage Two. In July, our conversation will be Tuesday the 21st at 4:00. Spending time with Scripture is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. And that’s what it is all about!

## **DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn**

The deadline for the August 2020 Dovetale is July 20, 2020.  
Please submit your articles early to [estar00@winning.com](mailto:estar00@winning.com). Thanks





# JULY 2020



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

Diocesan Com- pline M-W at 8 PM		Morning Prayer Livestreaming @ 8am Mon–Frii	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>4</b> Independence Day
<b>5</b> (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom	<b>6</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>7</b> Zoom Coffee Hour 2PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom	<b>13</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>14</b> Zoom Coffee Hour 2PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom	<b>20</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>21</b> Zoom Coffee Hour 2PM NT Conver 4PM Vestry 7PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> (Drive-in) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom	<b>27</b> MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	<b>28</b> Zoom Coffee Hour 2PM	<b>29.</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	



*I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.*  
*Henry David Thoreau*

***St. David's Episcopal  
Church***

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET  
FEEDING HILLS, MA 01030**

**PHONE: (413) 786-6133**

**FAX: (413) 786-4682**

**EMAIL:**

**saintdavid@comcast.net**

**WE'RE ON THE WEB @  
[WWW.STDAVIDSAGAWAM.ORG](http://WWW.STDAVIDSAGAWAM.ORG)**

**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.***