



St. David's Episcopal Church

MAY DOVETALE

2022

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.

KEEPING THE SEASON

We are now in the very heart of the Christian year.

The Christian year begins with Advent (around December 1), when we do our best to prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord. During the twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate his birth. Through Epiphany, we remember his ministry. For the seven weeks of Lent, we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the events from Jesus' dramatic entrance into Jerusalem, through the Last Supper, betrayal, and crucifixion, and finally resurrection morning. For fifty days, we rejoice in the good news of resurrection. Then comes Pentecost (June 5 this year) and the birth of the Church. That season lasts all the way until next Advent.

Each season of the Christian year has its own tone and value. All of them are important in their own ways. But Easter is really the heart of it all, just as resurrection is really the heart of our faith. As a historical matter, Holy Week and Easter came first. The rest of the Christian year was developed around the nucleus of Easter. So, make a season of Easter. Easter deserves at least as much emphasis from beginning to end as Lent does!

Lent begins with ashes smeared on our heads and the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." But on Easter, we received holy oil and the considerably more joyful words: "Remember that love is stronger than death, and to God's love you are returning." At the beginning of Lent, I invited everyone, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by fasting, repentance, and self-denial. But on Easter, I invited everyone, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a joyful Easter.

Our faith is all about the move from repentance to the joy of new life. This Easter season, from beginning to end, let us all be mindful of that joy. And let us give God thanks and praise for it!

In the name of our risen Lord, Fr. Harvey

LENT WRAP-UP

Just a few things to finish off Lent. (1) If you participated in the Complaint Challenge and would like to pool your donation with others from Saint David's, please get the money in asap, making sure we know it is for the Complaint Challenge. We'll make a "complaint donation" to the Senior Farm Shares Program of Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) in the next week or so. (2) Lent Madness has come to an end, and we have a new winner of the Golden Halo: Jose Hernandez. I didn't know anything about him, but he was an impressive and holy person: a 19th century doctor in Venezuela with a heart and a gift for healing. (3) If you had a Lent Prayer Partner and haven't already done so, please send your partner an Easter card, telling him/her you were praying for them.

HOLY WEEK THANKS!

This is actually about a bit more than Holy Week. In the week before Holy Week, we had Church without Walls, our first Community Supper in two years, and the Veterans Lunch. The next week, we had our regular Holy Week services, back in the building and together for the first time in two years, in addition to our children's Stations of the Cross/ Easter Egg Hunt, and an Easter Vigil at Saint Andrew's. Getting all that done took an enormous amount of work on the part of many people. Thanks to our cooks and servers, our Office Angels and Altar Guild, our choir and worship leaders, people who repeatedly reset the Church, and Lenny Scott, our devoted sexton. Thanks to everyone else involved and everyone who participated. It all went remarkably well!

Safe Church Dates

There aren't any Safe Church Trainings offered in May, as far as I know. But there will be a session for volunteers on Wednesday, June 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 on Zoom. This is the normal training. There will also be a training for clergy and paid staff on Tuesday, June 7 and Thursday, June 9 from 5:00 to 8:00, also on Zoom. It may be that volunteers can do the Tuesday session only as an alternative to the June 1 date. As one who has just completed the full training, I can say that it is really useful and eye-opening. If you are interested in participating, you can register through the homepage of the diocese or else contact me (Fr. Harvey). If you have done the training before but are wondering if you might be due for a refresher, please contact our Safe Church officer, Carol Fabrycki.

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.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such
sacrifices are pleasing to God”
(Hebrews 13:16)

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!!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, by Fr. Harvey

Our April service was our biggest so far. In addition to the Saint David's team, there were, I think, seven people, including one I hadn't seen since before the pandemic. Nothing about this ministry is predictable(!), but I am glad it seems to be growing. And I remain grateful for everyone who makes it possible!!

I also want to share a quick Holly Week story. On Good Friday, I stopped by Savers to drop off some stuff. The man working there recognized me from Church without Walls back before the pandemic. His co-worker was also a Church without Walls alumnus. They both greeted me warmly, and the first told me that he had gotten his life together. He was now married, safely housed, and working regularly. He remains profoundly grateful for the help he received along the way at Church without Walls. Our reunion was wonderful reminder that this ministry really does make a difference, even when we can't always see it!

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!!

BISHOPS' VISITATION, by Fr. Harvey

The date of Bishop Fisher's visitation has changed! At his request, it will now be Sunday, May 22 (not June 26). As part of his visitation, he'll be doing confirmations and receptions at both services. We'll also all renew our baptismal covenant. I encourage everyone to review the commitment made on our behalf at baptism and repeatedly renewed over the course of our Christian lives. You can find it printed in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 416-417.

“As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”
(Colossians 2:6-7)

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.

A YEAR WITH LUKE

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 May meetings will be the 10th and the 24th. Please join us!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather every Friday at 2:30 for a session of contemplative prayer. We read a passage of Scripture three times, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? Our sessions are hybrid: some of us gather in person while others join us on Zoom. Please join us in whatever way is most comfortable for you!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST

A small group of us gather on Fridays at noon for a short healing service. The service includes a conversational sermon on the saint of the day, an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar, and Holy Eucharist. It's a wonderfully intimate service and perfect for people who want to worship but are concerned about gathering with larger numbers of people. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

Our Friday Bible Study meets at 1:00 every Friday. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We are still working our way through the Gospel of John. All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

MORNING PRAYER

We continue our schedule of livestreamed Morning Prayer Tuesdays through Fridays at 8:00 AM, with Terry or me leading on Fridays. Please tune in as you are able. But also remember that we put forms in the narthex for an Easter version of Morning Prayer and also for Easter Compline. They're 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!

BELOVED COMMUNITY

The next event of the Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese is a book conversation in June. The book will be Stephanie Spellers, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community*. The plan is to have the book conversation on Zoom on June 2nd and 16th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Registration information will come from the Diocese in the next few weeks. If you are interested and don't get the diocesan emails, let me (Fr. Harvey) know, and I'll make sure to get you registered..

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

Our Veterans Lunches continue to be a great success. Thanks to our volunteers, and a big thanks to the members of the Lions Club for making that happen! Our May meal will be Tuesday, May 3, beginning at 11:30. The meal is free and open to all area Veterans. Please help get the word out. And let Bob Rendrick know if you'd like to help out. Thanks!

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES, by Fr. Harvey

I missed the last two months of dominoes because of snow (cancelled) and then Holy Week (I was overwhelmed!). But we'll be back at it in May. We gather on the second Wednesdays of the month at 6:00. This month, that will be the 11th. Please join us! It's a fun and easy game.

DONATION TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The Church donated over \$1400 to Episcopal Relief and Development to help Ukrainian Refugees! That was partly a donation from our Outreach budget. More of it came from individual parishioners. Thanks to everyone for making that happen!

MAINTAINING OUR FLOWER GARDENS

We have an outstanding crew of people maintaining our gardens and grounds, and I'm hoping many of them will continue this year to do the things they have done in past years. But I don't want to assume that. If you have been part of the garden/grounds crew and need a break, please let me know. If you haven't been, but would like to join the team, let me know that too, and I'll point you in the right direction for what you want to do. And don't forget our expanding vegetable garden. We're hoping to continue building that up this summer!

“Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God....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.”

(Romans 8:19, 21)

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP:

The next meeting of the Women's Book Group will be May 15th at 11:15 AM in our Community Room. All women are welcome! The book we are reading is *The Four Winds*.

CREATION CARE CORNER: by Jim Shields.

We've written about birds before in the CCC, and for good reason. Birds seem to be a particularly good example of how God's glory shines in our connectedness to nature. Birds are intelligent, fascinating, abundant, beautiful, and have a unique ability to raise our spirits effortlessly. Birds also are referenced frequently in the Bible in important ways. In Genesis 1:20 we learn how God created "every winged bird according to its kind", and Matthew 10:29 describes how God safeguards each bird attentively. In the Genesis story of the flood, God instructed Noah to bring 2 of every bird into the ark, and later Noah sent out a raven and a dove to find dry land. In 1 Kings, a raven brought food to Elijah at God's request, and in the Gospels a dove represented the Holy Spirit's presence at Jesus's baptism. As Christians we are called to treat all of Creation with the care God has entrusted to us. Whenever we spot a bird, one of God's precious gifts to us, we would do well to remember this.

Creation Care, Kids' Corner : by Mary Moore (May)

Sights and sounds of springtime in New England - enjoy the pictures and songs of the frogs found at this website: <https://musicofnature.com/calls-of-frogs-and-toads-of-the-northeast/>

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

I am sending out my apologies. I have been "off my feet" with an infection. We are working on dates for events. First on the list is the Tag Sale. The Church has so many events going on that interfere with dates for the "sale" that it is a little hard to schedule. WE WILL get it done. The committee will be meeting again soon to try to bring it all together. Thank you for your understanding.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”

(Matthew 10:29)

FROM THE KITCHEN CREW:

Just a few words regarding **SERVE SAFE**.

ServSafe is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the U.S. National Restaurant Association. The program is accredited by ANSI and the Conference for Food Protection. It is considered a system that aims to prevent foodborne illnesses based on a set of guidelines to improve safety and hygiene in the food preparation process.

We hold many events where food is served and we are required to have a person on staff to make sure that all precautions are taken to ensure the safety of our members and guests.

Dina Joubert is ServSafe person until 2025.

We will be holding an informational session shortly to share the rules of ServSafe. Date to be announced.

For now:

Gloves need to be worn by ALL servers and volunteers in kitchen.

Gloves need to be changed when changing types of food prep

Temperatures need to be followed for cooking foods. (Bob knows the temps)

The ONLY people in kitchen during public events are those authorized to be there. **PLEASE** do not go into the kitchen, but go to door and ask for what you need. Children should not be in kitchen.

There are many other rules but these are a few to start with. These rules are set by the ServSafe ANSI for the safety of our volunteers and guests.

GRIEF GROUP

The purpose of this group is to give people who have suffered a loss an opportunity to come together for mutual sharing and support. The next meeting of our Grief Group will be Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 in our Community Room. All are welcome. We can add a Zoom option on request. For more information, please see Penny Miller.

REFUGEE MINISTRY

In April, a group of parishioners, led by the indomitable Deacon Terry Hurlbut, spent a morning working in the yard of the Khan family, the family whose settlement we are co-sponsoring. In addition to cleaning up, they also aimed to make the yard a little safer for children.

In May, please join us for a conversation about how the family is doing and what we anticipate they'll be needing in the future. Terry will lead that conversation on Sunday, May 29, beginning at 11:15. Please join us!

Second Annual Parish Auction:

Last Fall we had our first ever Parish Auction. Everything went great. It was lots of fun and raised several thousand dollars for our Development Fund. The only drawback was how close it was to the Holiday Bazaar. This year we're trying a new date: June 4. Everyone should have received a letter with information about how to participate. If you didn't get one, please contact the office and let us know! But in brief, we're asking for donations of new items, which can be stored in Fr. Harvey's office. We can always use volunteers, including bakers. For that, please see Scott Seabury. And please help get out the word! The key to a successful event is lots of people! Thanks!!

The Chalice is Back

As of Sunday, April 24, the chalice is back at our Eucharists! Thanks be to God! Since the pandemic began, we have not been able to offer the chalice at our Eucharists. Instead, we've been putting a single drop of wine on the communion wafers. During the service, the bread and wine are consecrated, and people receive Communion in both elements (that is, the bread and the wine). Thanks to Carol Fabrycki for making that happen! Wonderful Carol has agreed to continue putting wine on the wafers each week, but now people don't have to rely on that drop. They can also receive wine direct from the chalice.

It is important to add that no one should feel pressure to receive from the chalice. The Church has always taught that Communion is complete in either kind. That means, we get the full sacramental benefit from the wafer, the wine, both, or even (if we can't receive the elements, for whatever reason) neither. Please do what feels right to you.

Spring Clean-Up

Mother's Day is coming (May 8). So is Bishop Fisher (May 22). And it's spring. That's three good reasons to for a spring cleaning! Please join us on Saturday, May 7 anywhere between 9:00 and 1:00 to help clean up our building and grounds. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for folks who can work. We'll also put out a sheet for people to suggest tasks to be done. When our work is complete, we'll celebrate with pizza! Thanks, as always, to our fearless leader, Junior Warden Bob Rendrick!

Spirituality and Leadership

We have already been blessed with one visit from Mark Beckwith, retired Bishop and current Missioner for Spirituality and Leadership. He preached at both services, led us all in a parish conversation about where God is leading us, and then met with the vestry. He'll do it again on Sunday, May 1. Please join us, and help spread the word. Those who were with us for his first visit will agree that he is a dynamic preacher and a very stimulating discussion leader. I can add that he was impressed with the spirit of the people of Saint David's. Let's make sure his second time with us is even better than his first! Thanks!!

MAY CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

Friday: Healing Eucharist every Friday at 12:00 (in person)

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

Contemplative Prayer, every Friday at 2:30 (in person and Zoom)

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, May 1: Forum with Bishop Beckwith at 11:15

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

Monday, May 2: Community Supper at 5:00

Tuesday, May 3: Veterans lunch at 11:30

Saturday, May 7: Work Day from 9:00 to 1:00

Tuesdays, May 10 and 24: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (on Zoom)

Wednesday, May 11: Dominoes at 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 15: Women's Book Group at 11:15

Tuesday, May 17: Vestry at 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 18: Women's Grief Group at 1:00 (in person and on Zoom)

Sunday, May 22: Bishop Fisher's Visitation

Sunday, May 29: Conversation about Afghan Refugees at 11:15

REGULAR RENTALS

Spanish Church, Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00

OA Mondays from 6:30-8:00

OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30

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

Mercy Church, Saturdays from 2:00-4:00

Priest's Vacation

I (Fr. Harvey) will be on vacation at the end of May and the beginning of June (May 30- June 5). Shocking to say, it's my 35th College Reunion. How time flies! Father Domenic will lead services on June 5, which is Pentecost, one of the holiest days of the Christian year. Before I go, I'll also make sure everyone knows who to contact in the event of a pastoral emergency. Thanks!

"As He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct"
(1 Peter 1:15)



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