



St. David's Episcopal Church

MAY DOVETALE

2023

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.

EASTER AND PENTECOST:

The good news of Easter is much bigger than a day! In a sense, every Sunday (and every day!) is a celebration of the good news that Christ is alive. But through most of May, we specially focus on the good news of Christ's resurrection. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Easter season ends, and Pentecost begins, on May 28. Pentecost is not nearly so well known as Easter, but it, too, is one of the most important holy days in the Christian calendar.

Pentecost was originally a Jewish holy day celebrating the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. A few weeks after the first Easter, Jesus' followers gathered to celebrate the Jewish Pentecost. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to praise God in different languages. As the Acts of the Apostles tells the story (chapter 2), devout Jews from every nation heard the apostles praising God, each in their own language. People were amazed, Peter preached, and thousands of people joined the new movement.

As a result, Pentecost has become a major Christian holy day. If Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birth, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. It's the beginning of our story with Christ, our life as Christ's body in the world.

I am always sad to say goodbye to the Easter season. But Pentecost is an inspiring (and in-spiring!!) day. I hope you will join us for worship that day. And my prayer for us all is that we will catch the Spirit this Pentecost!

In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Fr. Harvey

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.

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. Thanks!!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS, by Fr. Harvey

Our April Church without Walls fell on Palm Sunday, so we took palms with us in addition to our regular stuff. There was a little tension between two of the people who joined us, so it was especially good to hear the Gospel, pray together, and share the sacrament. Our May session will be the 7th. We'll see if the good influence of our prayers lasted! Thanks, as always, to the people who prepare the food!!

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

Our meal this month was Tuesday, May 2, beginning at 11:30. As always, all Veterans ate free. Everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks to all who made it happen!!

CALENDAR KEEPING, by Fr. Harvey

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. You can also see our events that are offsite. 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 (Janessa Piteo and Carol Fabrycki) at saintdavidsMA@gmail.com (a dedicated email address) to request the space. It will be reserved when you receive confirmation that the space is indeed available. Thanks!!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND VISITORS

Sometime in May we'll have a training for new Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, as well as a refresher for anyone who is already part of the rotation. If you would like to join either of these ministries, please let me know so that we can find a time that works for everyone. And, of course, thanks to all our current and continuing Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors!!

VACATION: by Fr. Harvey

Carrie and I both come from small nuclear families. Between us, we only have one niece (and no nephews!). Our niece graduates from Haverford College near Philadelphia on Saturday, May 13, and we're heading down to cheer her on. I'll leave Massachusetts on Wednesday, May 10 and won't be back until the following Thursday (May 18). (Benjamin and I are heading into the woods for a few days of camping after her graduation.) Fr. Domenic will lead services the Sunday I am gone, and is also available for pastoral emergencies while I am camping (5/14-18). Our very capable wardens will keep everything sailing along smoothly in my absence. I am grateful to them and everyone else who makes it possible for me to get away and then so easy to return!

MORNING PRAYER:

We continue to join with area Churches to offer a livestreamed version of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page Monday through Friday at 8:00. 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 Easter. We'll switch to Pentecost at the end of the month. The forms are intended to help you say Morning Prayer or Compline on your own. Another option using an app for those who are so inclined is The Daily Office from the Mission of Saint Clare. It's free, and includes hymns in Morning Prayer. Joining us or praying Morning Prayer or Compline on your own is a great way to add a little prayer into your weekly routine!

CONVERSATIONS ON *Scripture as Spirituality*: by Fr. Harvey

A group of us were reading *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh, and a few will continue. But the group as a whole decided to shift to a book with a greater focus on the Bible. At our next session, we'll begin Richard Rohr's book *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. Our first session will cover the introduction and chapter one.

We're still working on the date for this session. The current candidate is Tuesday, May 30 at 4:15, meeting on Zoom. If you would like to join us, this is a great time to start! In that case, please let me know about your interest so that I can include you in the planning. And please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions. We'd love to have you!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather most Fridays (except, this month, not on the 12th) 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 group of us gather on Fridays at noon for a short healing service. In May, we'll meet every Friday except the 12th. 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. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00 :

Our Friday Bible Study meets most Fridays at 1:00—in May, every Friday except the 12th. Many of us gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We are now into the Acts of the Apostles, the dramatic story of the very beginning of the Church and the source of our readings for much of the Easter season. Please join us! All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

HEALING MINISTRY

In the front row of chairs are baskets with small ribbons. If you would like special prayers at the altar during Communion at Sunday services, bring a ribbon with you. Fr. Harvey or Dcn. Terry will offer a quick prayer. Please return the ribbon afterwards!

We also offer prayers for healing 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!!

PRAYER CYCLES, by Fr. Harvey

The full set of 2023 prayer cycles is available in the narthex near the mail slots. We have a cycle that lists all the nations of the world, another for every Diocese in the Anglican Communion, one for our own Diocese, and one for our parish. The Parish Prayer Cycle is supposed to list every member and every ministry at Saint David's. 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. Over the course of the year, I'll pray for every diocese in the Anglican Communion as well. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give them a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHEET

This is just a reminder that we have forms in the narthex for planning a celebration of life (aka funeral). It can be really helpful to family members if you plan your service in advance. And the conversation can be surprisingly rewarding! Please speak to Fr. Harvey if you would like any help. We also have available Health Care Proxy Forms and Power of Attorney Forms.

PRISON BIBLE STUDY, by Fr. Harvey

I think we have hit our stride with this ministry. Our numbers remain small, but our conversations have been rich. At my last session, we talked about Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The women had watched a dramatization of that story in a television series called *The Chosen*. They spoke so highly of the series that I have been watching it. It's great, and a wonderful example of how we can receive at least as much benefit as we can offer.

We are still waiting to have a few more people oriented so that they can join us in this ministry at the prison itself. It has already taken a couple of months, which is a little frustrating. But I assume we'll get there eventually. In the meantime, please be praying for the prisoners and for this ministry. Thanks!

Safe Church Trainings

**The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training on the following dates:
Thursday, May 18 - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Volunteers**

To register, you can click the link or contact Fr. Harvey. The parish will cover the cost.

SERVE SAFE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to comply with Safe Serve Regulations please allow the volunteers at Coffee Hour serve you.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAGIC, by Fr. Harvey

Churches in the Berkshires have teamed up to offer "trail magic" to hikers passing through on the Appalachian Trail. That means things like hot dogs and soda, or else a free charge for hikers' cell phones. As a former Appalachian Trail hiker, I was the occasional recipient of such trail magic, and I can testify that it is a really wonderful thing.

Last year a group of us headed out there one day to take a turn, and said it was tons of fun. The food, drink, and chargers are all provided. Our role is to welcome hikers and offer them the stuff. The organizers are currently putting together a schedule for this summer. At the moment, we have reserved Saturday, June 24, although that may change. If you might be interested, please let me know. Hopefully we can find a time that works for everyone, including me this year! Thanks!

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE CLAPP

Our 50th. Anniversary was soon approaching and my Roger and I decided that we would like to celebrate with our family.

Our son Christopher and his wife Carey and their two sons, Mason and Owen. Our daughter Carol Ann and her daughter Olivia.

We decided that Disney World would be a place that we could all enjoy together.

As we were strolling thru Magic Kingdom, I kept seeing the same scenario over and over, very young mothers, some in their 20's and older. All around me, Mothers with their children, babies in strollers, some sleeping, so many crying.

Children in wheelchairs, too many wheelchairs, and the children on crutches, all ages. Then there were the little ones scampering away from their parents, they think this is funny, well to them, it is.

Mothers wheeling carriages, strollers, backpacking babies, either in the front or back. Mothers running after their little ones. Mothers smiling, laughing, cajoling, pleading, begging, reasoning, talking loud and soft. If raising their voice doesn't work then they whisper. It might work, they are saying to themselves.

All around us, Mothers, and Grandmothers looking after the children, and by the way, thank God for Grandmothers!!!

Moms who are exhausted after a long hot day at the park. She is looking forward to a shower, and to unwind for a little bit. Of course this all comes after the babies are fed, had their bath and rocked to sleep.

Now I know that the Dad's will not be happy about being left out of this story but this is my observation of Mothers and Grandmothers and of women who are extraordinary and stronger than they think they are, nurturing and loving human beings. Women, God Bless us all.

Valerie Clapp

SUBMITTED BY NORMA TURCOTTE

Sue O'Hare Is teaching on Mother's Day. I know Kim has some surprises for the kids so I will defer to Sue and Kim to share. We had 16 kids and 12 adults at the egg hunt. 2000 eggs filled by the Noyes family--a thank you to them.

Sunday, June 18 we will celebrate fathers with ice cream sundaes at coffee hour.

Norma

RECEPTION FOR BEULAH RICHARDSON Submitted by Ellen Rendrick

I don't know where to begin!

The people and friends at St. David's Church are **AMAZING!!!**

The reception after my mothers service was absolutely wonderful!!!

Thank you Jo for organizing it and all you did. It was nice not to worry about it and relax a little bit.!

With all that Jo did I also have a list of people that donated and worked in different areas to make it all happen and I can't just say thank you, I do have to list you as I so appreciate each one of you. Carol F., Penny, Diane and Denise, Barb, Traci, Val, Sue A, Norma, Lin S., Bev L., Ellen S., Mary F. , Lynn L., Sue O., Dina, Jean C., Mary M., Diane L., Dixie (Daisy), Dan, Marcel, all the guys that helped convert to seating and back.

I would also add a big thank you to our choir. It was an honor to have you sing for the service. The music was beautiful and my mother would have been proud. I was blessed.

I also would like to say thank you for all the dinners we received. With the house full of people staying with us and family in and out all week, we never had to worry about one meal. Something just appeared everyday and was more than enough for everyone.

One more thing. My mother was blessed to have such a loving Church family. Fr. Harvey you not knowingly, became the biggest Blessing in her life but also in mine. The day you asked her to work on Fridays, from that day her life became fuller and more meaningful to her. She loved working there and looked forward to it each week and your talking to her prepared her for what was to come. She was no longer scared, but accepted it with dignity and grace. Bless you Fr. Harvey for being like a son to her!

Bless each and every one of you!

Ellen and Family

NEWEST OFFICE ANGEL

For the last several years, Beulah Richardson served as our Friday office angel. Now that Beulah has vacated that role to be an angel fulltime(!), generous Norma Turcotte has agreed to fill the Friday slot. Please join me in thanking Norma for her help!!!

SPRING CLEAN-UP AT ST. DAVID'S

Our Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 to 1:00. Please join us to work in the building and/or around the grounds. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like to suggest something that needs to be done, please write it on the sheet in the narthex, or else let our wonderful Junior Warden Bob Rendrick know.

Thanks in advance to everyone who helps out!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please keep any announcements before the 10:00 service VERY short. If you don't have a microphone, people watching the service online cannot hear you, no matter how loud your voice is. Thanks!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: Submitted by Leader Linda Seabury

The April meeting was postponed to Sunday, May 21. The group will still talk about *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (Father Harvey's college roommate!). It's a fun, engaging book. All women are welcome!

AUCTION UPDATE **Auctioneer Scot Seabury**

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE....SOLD:

Our 3rd Annual Auction will take place on Saturday, May 20th , from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Admission is FREE and we will provide refreshments for those who attend.

As this is a major church fundraiser, we are encouraging **ALL PARISHINERS** to participate in this auction in a couple of ways as follows:

1. donate an item or two to the Auction. We are looking for quality NEW items to auction, such as appliances, handcrafted items, gift baskets, toys, etc. **GIFT CARDS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED!**
2. Invite your family and friends to attend our Auction.
3. Those who are unable to attend this year's Auction can make a cash donation with check made payable to St. David's. Note on the check memo: Auction fundraiser.

Donated items can be dropped off at the church in Harvey's Office accompanied by Donation Sheets. Please do so by May 14th.

Thanking you in advance for your generous support of this major fundraiser.

THE MONEY PICTURE, by Fr. Harvey

Each month, the Vestry minutes and the most recent financial statements are posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. But here are a few comments about what's happening.

Our financial picture remains good. Income is keeping pace with expenses, despite inevitably high utility costs. Thanks to our parishioners for their faithfulness and generosity, to everyone who works hard on our fund-raisers, and to John Litchfield and the Rental Committee for bringing in rental income!

Much of the work of the vestry in recent months has involved these financial issues. We have been grappling with issues and policies around rentals, as well as working on boundary issues with a couple of our neighbors. I am grateful to the vestry for stewarding our financial resources wisely and faithfully!

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES

In order to become more accessible to people with hearing challenges, we have a new set of hearing assist devices. As I hope everyone interested knows, we have long had ear pieces that connect directly to our sound system and so help people to hear more clearly what is said in our services. We will continue to use those ear pieces, but we have also invested in a more recent technology.

We quickly get beyond my feeble knowledge, but here is what I understand. Many, but not all, hearing aids have t-coils. We have purchased devices that people can wear around their necks. These devices receive signals from our sound system and broadcast them directly through people's own hearing aids, as long as they have the magic t-coils.

Our hope is to purchase ear pieces that will work with the new neck devices so that people without the magic t-coil hearing aids can use them. But for now, the new system only works with people own hearing aids.

Thanks to Virginia Ventulett for her work in obtaining the new hearing assist devices!!

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Saint David's celebrated our first service on Christmas Eve, 1925. That means our one hundred-year anniversary is coming up!

The math here is not hard. We still have two years to plan. But we want to do it right, so we are in the process of putting together a committee to organize appropriate celebrations. Jo Joubert has agreed to chair the committee. If you are interested in helping, please let her know. Thanks!!

CREATION CARE KIDS' Corner, by Mary Moore "Birds on the Brain" Scavenger Hunt for May

(Some of these, like the heron or the osprey may be tough to find because they live in special places.)

1. *Great blue heron nests, with chicks* - can be seen high up in trees near or in ponds. Herons usually live in colonies. The baby birds look like prehistoric creatures. (Think of baby dinosaurs.)
2. *Baltimore orioles* - males have bright orange markings. The nests look like a sack hanging from the tree branch.
3. *Mockingbirds* - gray with a white stripe visible on the wings when in flight, about the size of a robin. Male mockingbirds like to sit up high on a rooftop or in a tree and sing to attract a mate. The mockingbird gets its name from its ability to copy, or mock, the songs of other birds. The older the bird, the more songs it will have learned. Knowing more songs gives the older males an advantage over the younger ones in attracting a mate.
4. *Ruby-throated hummingbird* - tiny birds with long, skinny bills and, in the males, a throat that sparkles bright red when the sun hits it just right. They are the only kind of hummingbird found naturally in New England, and they time their arrival to be at the same time that wild columbine is flowering. This is because the nectar from that flower is a major food source for the hummingbird. If you spot one of these birds, it will probably be at a hummingbird feeder in someone's yard, and not out in the woods where the wild columbine is growing.
5. *Osprey* - these are found mostly near the coast, so if you are lucky enough to go to The Cape, you might see one. Their nickname is "sea eagle," and they build big nests, just as eagles and herons do.
6. *Bald eagle nests with chicks* - usually high up in one of the tallest living trees in an area. This is because they use the same nest year after year, and a living tree is stronger and can hold more weight.

CREATION CARE CORNER, Jim Shields

For the first time, United Nations members have agreed on a unified treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas, which are ocean regions outside national boundary waters, and represent 40% of the Earth's surface and 66% of its oceans.

This treaty is also critical to another recent U.N. Biodiversity Conference's pledge to protect 30% of the planet's waters, and land, for conservation. Several marine species, including dolphins, whales, sea turtles and many fish, make long annual migrations, crossing national borders and the high seas.

This treaty will knit together different regional treaties to be able to address threats and establish marine protected areas in the high seas.

The high seas have long suffered exploitation due to commercial fishing and mining, as well as pollution from chemicals and plastics. The new agreement is about "acknowledging that the ocean is not a limitless resource, and it requires global cooperation to use the ocean sustainably".

MAY CALENDAR:

OUR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Sunday School at 10:00

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

Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00 (except 5/12)

Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom) (except 5/12)

Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom) (except 5/12)

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, May 1: Community Supper at 6:00 (Barbecue Chicken)

Monday, May 1: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Tuesday, May 2: Veterans Lunch at 11:30

Tuesday May 2: Conversation on Faith at 4:15 on Zoom

Sunday, May 7: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Friday, May 12: regular Friday events cancelled, this week only

Saturday, May 13: Spring Clean-up at St. David's, 9:00-1:00

Sunday, May 14: Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 20: Auction from 1:00 to 4:00

Sunday, May 21: Women's Book Group at 11:15

Monday, May 22: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Wednesday, May 24: Vestry at 7:00 (I'm not sure about this date)

Sunday, May 28: Pentecost

Monday, May 29: Memorial Day

Tuesday May 30(?): Conversation on Scripture as Spirituality at 4:15 on Zoom

REGULAR RENTALS

Sundays from 1:30 to 5:30 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 (2nd and 4th)

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



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