



St. David's Episcopal Church

NOVEMBER DOVETALE

2021

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.

COMING SOON

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 28

FINANCIAL PLEDGES ARE BLESSED AND OFFERED TO GOD DURING EACH WORSHIP SERVICE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR DETAILS

Every  Perfect Gift



I am fairly sure that we have all read about all those cargo ships floating in the harbors off the California Coast just waiting to be docked and unloaded. Undoubtedly, there are more than a few thousand of cargo containers that contain just the perfect gift for the holidays. But wait, maybe the perfect gift isn't in a cargo container; perhaps it is in your home right now, or maybe in your bank account that could fill St. David's stewardship stocking.

Yes, it is stewardship season and yes, the St. David's faith community is invited to consider a financial pledge for 2022. Our theme this year, *Every Perfect Gift*, focuses our attention not on the cargo waiting offshore, but rather on all of the gifts that God gives us. I am energized by this year's stewardship theme. I like it because it can be viewed within multiple perspectives, not just in financial terms but also when we give of our time and talent or perhaps the gift of prayer.

At the very core of this theme is remembering that God sent his own beloved son as the author of our salvation. What a perfect gift that was and continues to be. We are called in this moment to reflect on the cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, in the humanity of Jesus, and in our own faith journey. Moreover, as we share our gifts through the Eucharist and through our service and caring, we participate in the ongoing creation of abundance and the generosity of giving.

We are then led to consider that *generosity itself can be an agent of transformation for our community and our church*. When we become financial stewards, we empower the ministries of St. David's and transform the wider community. We become partners in how our shared treasure is measured and used. Everything we have received, from worship to outreach ministry, is then transformed by our generosity and love, again the perfect gift to those with whom we share our treasure.

One further perspective can be found in the notion that *we can transform what generosity looks like*. We can define generosity as the way we live our lives and the way our church works to enrich us and hence in the community. We are called to be generous financially. But we are also called to be generous in the way we welcome newcomers, care for the planet, respond to those who are hurting physically or spiritually, forgive those who have offended us, and care for our facilities. Each time we live our lives with love, compassion, forgiveness, and stewardship, we are enabling a series of perfect gifts.

This year's pledge drive is about more than our parish budget, albeit a very important piece. It is about how we transform generosity and allow generosity to transform us. I know our lives can be changed through this work. I hope each one of us will prayerfully review the reflections distributed in the bulletin on Sundays during our pledge campaign. They represent a variety of voices on giving from across the Church. The first reflection is included in this issue of the Dovetale.

In the meantime, I invite you to think about the "perfect gift." These past 18 months have been a challenge with constantly changing circumstances and unyielding demands of sacrifice. Yet, through it all, that perfect gift from God in the humanity and divinity of Jesus has remained among us. What then will your perfect gift be?

I hope you'll join me as we work together to demonstrate transforming generosity in our church, our community and our lives.

Ted Zern, Stewardship Chair

Every Perfect Gift

 “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...”
– James 1:17 NRSV

What is the best gift you have ever received?

I have been asked this question throughout my life by many people in different contexts. Possible answers to a parent or a teacher could be a new Wham O ball or Pogo Stick (these were the 50's), a bike, a horseback ride with my grandmother, or when I was a teenager, a jeep in the driveway with a big red bow on it. Later it could have been my education, a chance to study abroad, tickets to a baseball game with my Dad, making Christmas cookies with my mom.

Every Perfect Gift

What did these perfect gifts give me, aside from the pleasure of the possession? **They each taught me about living in the moment**, appreciating what I had - whether it was long afternoons playing “secret agent” in the backyard with my best friend and our walkie-talkies, or singular moments like listening to the sound of the current of a river on a quiet summer afternoon with my father. They also taught me generosity, for the delight I had in experiencing the gifts called me to share such moments and experiences with others. **This is the relationship between receiving and generosity, and it's a pattern, that, once it takes root in us, continues in perpetuity.** The more we practice generosity, the more abundance we recognize around us.

Every Generous Act

In many congregations it is the practice to sing the Doxology as our gifts – the elements of the Eucharist and our offerings – are brought to the altar for blessing. “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,” it begins; and these words remind us of the font from which springs all generosity, all love, all gift. We are called in that moment to reflect on this cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, and in the gift of God's own son on Earth. **As we share our gifts through the Eucharist and through our service to the world, we participate in the ongoing creation of abundance and generosity.**

What is the best gift you have ever received?

The theme and image for *Every Perfect Gift* are wrapped in the metaphor of the butterfly and chrysalis. Of all the metaphors of gift that could be used, why did we decide on this one?

To the ancient Greeks, the butterfly represented the image of rebirth and freedom. The word they used for butterfly was *psyche*, and if you are thinking that sounds familiar, you are correct! It also means spirit. The humble and beautiful butterfly contains the philosophical and spiritual idea of the soul breaking free from its shell – free to **discover, to inspire, to create, to communicate, to share.**

These are also spiritual gifts, gifts that when we free ourselves to serve in the world, we need and share with others; and they are gifts of our stewardship. **As we share our time, talent, and treasure with our church and with the world, we unleash those same gifts in our communities: discovery, inspiration, creativity, communication, sharing.** Through the ministries that are enabled by our gifts, the inspiration we show to our neighbors to unlock their generosity in the world, and the stories we tell about ourselves and our experiences, we participate with God in an abundant vision for the world. **Every perfect gift comes from God above.**



Every Perfect Gift

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...”
– James 1:17 NRSV




“Keep awake!” Jesus tells us, as if we could possibly let ourselves sleep right now. This year, full of plot twists has not given us a chance to rest. Staying vigilant has been standard operating procedure since the first cases of COVID-19 started making news. This was followed quickly by economic unrest and work disruptions, changes of our routines. Suddenly our living rooms were classrooms and our kitchens stocked snacks for quick meals between web conferencing. Our summer was marked by political upheaval, demonstrations for justice, natural disasters of every kind – more sleepless nights. Thank you for the words of advice, Jesus, but keeping awake has not been a problem this year.

But I don’t think Jesus was worried about our sleep cycles; rather, his words were a caution to stay focused, to pay attention. Further, I believe Jesus was not asking us to merely pay attention to the news cycle, to the obvious events that shape the big moments in the world around us, but to notice the subtleties, the patterns of behavior, the nuances.

Advent is a subtle season. Its quiet refrain offers us hope and patience in equal measure. Around us it is characterized by a frenzy of shopping and planning; but deep into the darkening evenings and cooler days of the Northern Hemisphere, or fully into the languid heat and brightening skies of the south of our globe, there is a silent stirring of movement and of expectation, as the things we have planted deep, begin to take root and find the light. Those small moments, the delicate actions and thoughts of Advent, open our hearts to see that faint light as it breaks through the chaos of our culture.

These are the gifts of the season: patience, hope, anticipation, and like every perfect gift, these presents bestow on us just what we need when we need it most. In a season marked by the opposing forces of starkness and extravagance, God’s generosity appeals to us in the simplicity of God’s desires for us: to be patient, to live in hope, to anticipate the freedom that will unshackle us from oppression. “And

what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!” | 



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What are the gifts that you can give that meet the needs of the world?

What patterns in yourself do you want to nurture with the coming Light?

COVID PRECAUTIONS By Fr. Harvey

As I write this article, the COVID numbers are actually getting better. May the trend continue!! But as of now, we continue with the COVID precautions approved at the Vestry's September Vestry meeting and endorsed again in October. These remain recommendations rather than requirements. But please remember that some of our members and visitors, particular our youngest members and visitors, are unvaccinated and therefore at risk.

- Please wear a mask during worship unless masking interferes with your breathing.
- Please maintain social distance as much as possible when choosing your seat and when coming to the altar for Holy Eucharist.
- Please spread out at social times such as coffee hour.
- When using the restroom, please shift the sign on the door to "Occupied" if you prefer others not to come in. (And please shift it to "Vacant" when you leave!) If the sign already says "Occupied," please wait outside until the person exits. You may want to knock to make sure someone is in there!
- All children and teachers will wear masks when indoors for Sunday School.

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

DEFORESTATION IN THE NORTH EAST Submitted by Jim Shields

The carbon storage power of forests will be key to achieving net zero emissions in Massachusetts over the next 3 decades. But deforestation for development in New England has delivered a double blow to the climate protection effort by adding CO2 to the air AND then further limiting the ability to recapture it. A recent Clark University report found that the 6 New England states and New York together release about 4.9 metric tons of CO2 into the air each year through forest loss. This happens as the carbon stored in trees is released from the trees and roots after deforestation. And being without the storage power of those lost forests means that we lose out on about 1.2 million metric tons of CO2 annually in carbon sequestration (trees' ability to pull CO2 out of the atmosphere).

Our state alone lost an average of 5125 acres of forest per year in the early 2000s (the latest period studied). The latest Mass. climate law requires that emissions in 2050 be at least 85% lower than 1990 emissions. It will be difficult to meet that goal if we don't reverse the trend of increasing CO2 emissions and loss of CO2 sequestration caused by deforestation, and if we can't halt this progressive loss of forests, other more drastic measures will have to be taken to make up the difference, like carbon capture. This is another Creation Care issue that warrants our attention and action.

CAREGIVERS: by Fr. Harvey

The people of Saint David's have a long tradition of supporting each other in times of need. Now we are hoping to organize this generosity into a more regular ministry. If you are willing to offer fellow parishioners occasional help, please let me know. My goal is to have a handful of names of people who are willing to offer rides, run local errands, and/or provide meals when people need that. If we get several volunteers for each kind of help, no helper will be over burdened and people who can use a little help will get the help they need. Please also let me know if you are willing to help coordinate this ministry. Thanks!!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Our wonderful group of four young women (Lexi Barna, Eden Berry, Madeleine Soukup, and Em-merson White) have wrapped up their confirmation classes. They and participant/leader Chrissy Turcotte White will be confirmed when the Bishop is next with us. His visit isn't scheduled yet, but it should be sometime in early 2022. Please pray for all of them as we move towards the big day!

DAILY PRAYER: by Fr. Harvey

We have LOTS of opportunities to pray online together, with at least one option every weekday. On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, the Diocese offers a zoomed service of Compline at 8:00 PM. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Deacon Terry and I team up with Saint Mark's to offer Morning Prayer on Facebook at 8:00 am. (Terry or I lead it on Thursdays.) And on Fridays, the good people of Saint Mark's stream evening prayers at 8:00.

For people who prefer to say Morning Prayer or Compline by themselves, we have put versions of those Prayerbook services in the narthex. You can, of course, also just use the book if you have one!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON 11/5 and 12 but NOT 11/19 and 26

A small group of us gather on Fridays for a prayerful reading of Scripture. We read a passage three times, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? Like our other Friday events, in November this one will meet on the 5th and 12th, but not on the 19th or 26th. When we do meet, people can join us in person in the community room or else online through Zoom.

HEALING MINISTRY: by Fr. Harvey

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!!

DIOCESAN CONVENTATION

The Diocese made the wise decision to move Diocesan Convention online again this year. It will begin with a broadcast service of Morning Prayer on Saturday, November 6 at 8:30. At 9:30 we'll take up the regular Convention business. Our delegation (Carol Fabrycki and Penny Miller, with Linda Seabury and Kathy Glista as alternates) decided to participate together from the Community Room at Saint David's, and everyone is welcome to join us. I'm hoping this will be kind of fun!

UPCOMING SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

The Diocese requires that everyone working with children receive a Safe Church training at least once every three years. Church employees and lay leaders are strongly encouraged to do the same. The trainings are pretty intense, but they are also an important safeguard in keeping our children safe. Wonderful Carol Fabrycki, our Safe Church officer, keeps track of who received trainings when. If you think it might be time for an update, please check with her. The upcoming trainings are:

Wednesday, November 17, Volunteer, via Zoom, 5:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday/Thursday, December 7 & 9, Full Day, via Zoom, 5:30-8:00 PM

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 that those conversations and any help people receive from either discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

REIMBURSEMENTS:

Across from the office are forms for receiving reimbursements for expenses people incur on behalf of Saint David's, as well as a list of which vestry member is in charge of which budget line. You can also see who is in charge of which budget area on our webpage at <https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html>.

As always, if you need to spend the Church's money, please complete the form and get the signature of the relevant vestry person. Thanks!!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY at 1:00 on 11/5 & 12 but NOT 11/19 & 26

The title says it all. Our Friday Bible Study will meet at 1:00 as usual on Friday, November 5th and 12th, but not on the 19th or 26th. When we do meet, many of us will gather in person in the Community Room, while a few others join us by Zoom. We are currently working through the book of Job, one of the most challenging and relevant books on the entire Old Testament. I'm guessing that we'll finish Job and shift to our next book sometime in November. All are welcome, and you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

READING OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Those of us who have been working through the Gospel of Mark and a companion book by Michael Casey called *Fully Human, Fully Divine* will finish up on November 9. It's been a wonderful journey, and several of us plan to continue the conversation somehow. We will almost certainly continue meeting on Zoom on Tuesday afternoons. It is less clear what we will read together—at the moment, there are a couple of options on the table. If you are interested in joining the conversation next year and have thoughts about what we might read, please let me (Fr. Harvey) know. Thanks!

OUTREACH: FOOD FOR THE POOR DONATION: By Jim Shields:

A preliminary count of donations from the 10/10 visit of Fr. Bruce Torrey shows that we raised over \$500, which included money from our Outreach budget, money raised from Mary's wine sales, and personal checks. More donations were given that can't be included in the tally yet. When the final number is provided, I'll reveal it. Thank you for your generous response to this wonderful Ministry!

ALL SAINTS DAY By Fr. Harvey

All Saints Day (11/1) is one of the major feasts of the Christian Calendar. It only falls on a Sunday about once every seven years, but we typically celebrate it on the following Sunday. This year, All Saints Day falls on a Monday and it seemed strange to wait seven days, so we'll actually celebrate it on October 31 (aka Halloween!).

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

Attendance at our October Church without Walls service was up 400% from September! Of course, we just had one person in September, so maybe I shouldn't focus too much on that! But we did have a good service. Five of us came from Saint David's, including the Rev. Bruce Torrey, our guest preacher that day. Bob Fastie, the new executive director of the Parish Cupboard, joined us again. It has been a pleasure getting to know him. Along with the four folks we were there to serve, that makes ten for the service. More important than the numbers, it felt like our old CWW service. The people who joined us participated in our conversation about the gospel reading for the day with a familiar range of outrageous and insightful comments. We passed out the lunches. And we gave Bob the extras to serve as take-out meals the next day. The whole experience reminded me why we participate in this ministry.

Looking ahead, November is a double CWW month for us. On the first Sunday, we'll head over to Court Square to join with other Churches in the Springfield Church without Walls. The second Sunday of the month is our turn back at the Parish Cupboard.

I want to end with thanks to everyone who makes this ministry possible, with a special thanks to Susan Amabile who jumped in to help with meal preparation the weekend John died.

VETERAN'S MINISTRY: by Fr. Harvey

This is another ministry that will be affected by John's death. We have been working with the Lion's Club to put on our monthly Veterans' Lunches, with the Lions providing MUCH of the work. John is the one who set up this joint ministry and held us all together. Thankfully, Bob Rendrick has jumped in as our liaison with the Lions, and the Lions plan to continue. That means we'll have the November meal on the first Tuesday of the month, as usual—Tuesday, November 2nd, beginning at 11:30.

In October, we didn't have a regular meal. Instead, John handed out coupons for a free lunch from the Lions at the Big E to everyone who joined us in September. At the September meal, John was already too weak to do much cooking, but I will cherish the image of him sitting in a chair in the narthex, handing out the coupons. John was helping people right up to the end. We'll all miss him.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS: by Fr. Harvey

I write this article just a few days after the death of John O'Hare. Right now, many of us are still in a bit of shock, and it remains unclear what his loss will mean for several of our ministries, including our Community Suppers. I can say a couple of things with some confidence. We plan on resuming the suppers at some point. And that point will probably NOT be November, as we had originally hoped. We'll do our best to keep everyone posted as decisions get made..

COMMUNITY SUPPERS UPDATE: By Fr. Harvey , Bob Rendrick & Jo Joubert

We will continue with the suppers, with Bob being the Chair of the committee. December supper will be the Holiday meal. The development committee will host it. Profit will be applied to the replacement of the floors. February, the Development Committee will host a Valentine Dinner and Dance, again the profit being applied to the floor project. The remaining months will be put on by the Dinner Committee as follows:

- First Monday in March will be a Ham dinner
- First Monday in April will be a Turkey dinner
- First Monday in May will be Chicken dinner
- First Monday in June will be a pasta dinner

I will contact our Church Members to ask for help with serving and some preparation. I will TRY to stage servers and preps so no one gets burned out . Thank You to All.

OUTDOOR CRAFT FAIR

This relationship continues to develop. In 2021, we rented our grounds to the organizer of a series of Outdoor Craft Fairs, the last of which was in October. Thanks to John O'Hare, we began selling concessions at the second fair to improve the experience of the fair-goers and to make a little money. Susan Amabile and friends jumped in to handle concessions at the third fair after John died.

Looking ahead, the organizers of the fairs are planning to continue at Saint David's next year and perhaps to increase the number of fairs. Many of their vendors are also participating in our Holiday Bazaar.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Holiday Bazaar is back, and will be held on Saturday, November 20th. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Susan Amabile. As part of the event, we'll have a St. David's table(s), which is one of our biggest moneymakers. We sell used holiday and seasonal items (Autumn, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter-themed) and new crafts made and donated by our St. David's members: small "floral" arrangements, wooden spoons or spatulas, original paintings, hand-made ornaments, angels, rustic chic wood plaques, wreaths, and knitted or crocheted items or stockings, to name a few. If you have questions or have items you wish to donate, please see Virginia Ventulett. Thanks!!

CREATION CARE KIDS CORNER by Mary Moore

Nature in November

In some ways, November is special just as much because of what you don't see as what you do see.

What you don't see:

- *There are not many insects around.
- *Amphibians and reptiles are hibernating.
- *Some birds have flown south, not just because it is warmer, but in part because that's where they can find food, especially if they eat live insects.
- *Some mammals hibernate, which means they sleep all winter, and some are dormant, which means they slow down and sleep a lot, but will come out on warmer days. Woodchucks and bats hibernate. Skunks and chipmunks are examples of mammals that are dormant in cold weather.
- *By now many trees have lost their leaves for the year.

What you can see:

- *Note the shape and branching of the trees, now that the leaves are gone.
- *Look up at tree branches for bird nests - but leave them where they are. (You need a special permit to have a bird nest in your possession.) Notice the shape, size, and building material used. Also note details like where the nest is in the tree, towards the end of a branch, or at the base of two branches; how high up in the tree it is; and what kind of tree the nest is in. What kind of bird do you think built the nest? Why do you think that?
- *Some birds stay here during the cold months. What kinds of birds do you see?
- *What kinds of wild mammals do you still see?
- *The sun is lower in the sky than it is during the summer. What does this do to your shadow, say at noon? Is it longer or shorter?
- *It gets dark earlier, which means you can see stars earlier. Do you recognize any of the constellations? Ask an adult to point out the Big Dipper, and if they know how to find the north star using the dipper, have him/her show you that too.

NOVEMBER OUTREACH

Blessing Basket Sunday School: by Norma Turcotte

Dear Friends,

During the month of November our Sunday school class will collect items to create a blessing basket as part of our Outreach theme. In December, the blessing basket items will be given to our friends who need a “hand up.” As we learn how God blesses us, we will talk about tangible ways we can bless others through simple gifts, such as a blessing basket.

We are asking our church community to participate in this event as well. Items to consider are men’s/women’s/children’s socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, or candy (mints). As we create the blessing basket, children will explore how simple everyday items we may take for granted are actually treasured blessings. Thank you for your participation in blessing others.

THANKSGIVING, by Fr. Harvey

Thanksgiving is November 25th. The Agawam Clergy Association used to host an ecumenical Christian service the evening before, but that service has been one of the casualties of the Pandemic. I regret that loss. But an offsetting gain has been our increased ability to livestream services. As it happens, Thursdays are the day of the week when Deacon Terry and I livestream Morning Prayer at 8:00 anyway. As you might guess, on Thanksgiving Day, that service will have a thanksgiving theme.

AUCTION By Fr. Scott Seabury

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to our Fall Auction on Saturday, October 23rd . We had 120 wonderful donated items, including “Kim’s creations” bountiful baskets. We raised around \$4200.00 and had a lot of fun. I was pleased to return to the role of Auctioneer, having done so 11 years at St. Christopher’s Church in Chicopee. Let’s make this an annual fundraiser event at St. David’s. Again Thanks to everyone.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: By Jo Joubert

A GREAT BIG thank you to Fr. Scott and his crew for the hard work. Awesome start for the Development fund in 2021. We will be having our Halloween Breakfast on Saturday October 30. “Y’all come now!” December 10 will be our Holiday event. February we will host a Valentine dinner and dance. Big Tag sale date TBA. Much more to come. STAY TUNED.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS

- 1- World Vegan Day
- 1- Author's Day
- 3- Sandwich Day
- 4- National Candy Day
- 4- Men Make Dinner Day
- 6- National Nachos Day
- 7- Daylight Savings Ends (1st Sunday)
- 8- National Steam Day
- 10- Sesame Street Day
- 11- Veteran's Day
- 11- National Sundae Day
- 13- World Kindness Day
- 14- National Pickle Day
- 15- National Recycling Day
- 16- National Fast Food Day
- 17- Take a Hike Day
- 18- Mickey Mouse's Birthday
- 25- Thanksgiving Day (3rd Thursday)
- 26- Buy Nothing Day (day after Thanksgiving)
- 28- National French Toast Day
- 30- National Day of Giving

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November

BUCKET LIST



- Rake some leaves
- Go for a walk in the woods
- Jump in the leaves
- Bake a treat for a neighbor
- Shop local and small businesses for gifts
- Share what and who you're thankful for

celebrate where you live & where life takes you

TandemForTwo.com

Corn Syrup Substitutes

1 cup of corn syrup can be substituted with,

- a) 1 cup granulated sugar and 1/4 cup water
- b) 1 cup honey
- c) 1 cup light corn syrup
- d) 1 cup maple-flavoured syrup



Food Corner



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

**St. David's Episcopal Church
699 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030**