



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church



Visioning 2019

One of my sabbatical tasks was to think about long-term planning for St. David's. That turns out to be tricky. When I discussed it with Bishop Scruton, he responded that our culture changes so rapidly that true long-term planning is not particularly useful. So much for that idea!

Father Domenic and Sue O'Hare came to my rescue. Domenic suggested a better way to frame the conversation. What is our vision for Saint David's? Where do we see ourselves heading? Where do we want to go? What is God calling us to do now, and for the immediate future?

While I was on sabbatical, Sue invited parishioners to consider a related series of questions. What feeds my soul? Can I do more of that? What no longer feeds my soul? Can I drop it?

We'll gather for a pot-luck meal and conversation about these questions on Monday, October 7 at 6:00. Please plan to join us that evening if you possibly can. If not, please share your thoughts ahead of time with me or with someone on the vestry. Alternatively, write your thoughts down and put them in the marked box in the narthex. We want to include as many people in this conversation as possible.

A few basic ideas structure my own thinking. First, we are all called to grow in the knowledge and love of the God

we know in Jesus Christ. Everything we do should ultimately contribute towards that end.

Our mission statement expresses our parish vision for how we seek to grow in the knowledge and love of God. It is: "As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love God & community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of Scripture." Our mission statement guides our reflections on our vision for our common life.

From our mission statement, I identify three basic tasks: prayer and worship; life-long Christian formation especially through Bible study; and loving service to our neighbors (our community). Those tasks are non-negotiable, but we have to decide how best to fulfill them.

We also do many other things to support our life together. Some, like responsible budgeting and property maintenance, are essential. Others are more discretionary. For all these additional things, the question is how they can best support our primary tasks.

Such are my general thoughts. But we will need to work together to put flesh on them. Please be part of that conversation!!!

In Christ's name,
Harvey

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Fall
Visioning
Meeting



FIELD TRIP TO BOSTON

On Wednesday, December 4, Rabbi Shapiro will lead a trip to Boston where the group will visit the Cathedral of Saint Paul, tour the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and hear from a Cantor at the Temple Beth Elohim. The cost for the day is \$95. Everyone should meet at the Central Library parking lot on State Street at 7:45. We will return about 7:30 that evening. For more information, please contact Liz Stevens at 413-686-3177 or cnmstevens@comast.net.

Rabbi Mark Shapiro as Guest Preacher on October 6

I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Shapiro, the “Rabbi in Residence” at our Cathedral, will be joining us as Guest Preacher at the 10:00 service on October 6. He is a wonderful speaker and an all-around good human being. Please join us for worship that morning. You won’t regret it!!

Mexican Train Night

Our Dominoes experiment has been a great success. We gather on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 for fun and fellowship. In October, that is the 22nd. Please join us!!

United Thank Offering In-Gathering on October 20

The United Thank Offering is one of the wonderful practices of our denomination. The idea is that you keep a little blue box somewhere handy, and drop a few coins in whenever you have something for which to be grateful. Over time, we can get a little better at maintaining an “attitude of gratitude.” Once or twice a year, we combine our thank offerings and send them off to the national office. From there, the UTO makes grants to help people and parishes in need in the United States and around the world. Our fall in-gathering will be Sunday, October 20 at both services. Our Convention Delegates will formally present our offering to the Diocese, which will send it on for us. Thanks to Barbara Mickna, Valerie Clapp, and Penny Miller for their leadership on this. And thanks to all of you for your participation!

Safe Church Workshops

The next Safe Church Training Workshops in our area will be on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 to 12:00 at All Saints, South Hadley. (The South Hadley training goes from 9:00 to 3:00 for clergy, but volunteers only need to attend the first half.) Safe Church trainings are especially aimed at everyone who works with children or makes pastoral visits in people’s homes, but all are welcome. Those who work with children or make pastoral visits are supposed to be trained at least once every three years. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops, please let me or Carol Fabrycki know. Thanks!!

Daughters of the King

This summer I received some brochures about the Daughters of the King, along with the following explanation: “We are an international group of women dedicated to prayer and service. We support each other in our spiritual journeys and living out our vows. We have a Rule of Life and that discipline helps us to grow in faith as well as support our sisters in Christ. We are ordinary women who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, sometimes manage to do extraordinary things.” The brochures are in the narthex; their website is <http://www.doknational.org>. If you are interested in knowing more, contact me and I’ll put you in touch with a local Daughter.

Building Update

Our current project is repairing the growing hole (!) in our parking lot. As I write this article, there is a cone directing cars away from the hole, thanks to our heroic Junior Warden. Hopefully by the time you read it, the parking lot at that spot will be resurfaced. Once again, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Bob Rendrick!

Flooring for the Church

Although we are not likely to be replacing the rug in the Church in the immediate future, our vestry has begun conversation about what direction we want to go. There are a variety of flooring options, and also carpet tiles. Each option has different strengths and limitations, so we are comparing apples and oranges. The different factors, as I see it, are: cost; durability; ease of cleaning; appearance; and acoustics. No doubt I have forgotten some. If you have an opinion about what kind of flooring you would like to see, or what should be the primary consideration in making the decision, please let someone on the vestry know. Thanks!!

Building Bridges

We have been invited by the Diocese to host a Building Bridges meal for veterans. The idea is to offer free meal to all area veterans once a month, probably on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning in November. The Diocese provides logistical support, including purchasing the food. To go forward, we need a couple of volunteers willing to coordinate the event. We have invited the Lion's Club to join us in this ministry as partners. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Work Day

Our Fall Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 to 2:00. Leading up to the day itself, we'll put two sheets in the narthex. One is to sign up to participate so that we can provide lunch for the proper number. The other sheet is to suggest projects for us to tackle. Please join us. We get a lot done and have fun doing it!

Diocesan Convention

On Saturday, November 9, delegates from around our Diocese will gather at the Tower Square Hotel (formerly the Marriott) for Diocesan Convention. Our delegates are Denise Noyes, representing the vestry, and Penny Miller, representing the parish. We'll hear reports about what is happening at Churches around the Diocese, get a financial update as well as a chance to see the 2020 budget, and vote on representatives to fill various positions. Please pray for our Church!

Car-Park Solar Project

The roller coaster has about come to a disappointing end. Available state subsidies are not adequate to justify moving forward with this project. Something may change. But for now, it looks like this project will not happen. I am grateful to the vestry, who put a lot of work into exploring this possibility, and sorry that it has ended this way.

Church Without Walls by Father Harvey

Our September CWW was my first time back since May. Complicating life, the Gospel reading was a severe one. To emphasize the good news of God's love, I decided to use the Old Testament reading instead. It was from Jeremiah, who is not always upbeat but who described us as clay in God's hand in the reading for that week. May it be so!

Our group was relatively small. But it was good to meet a couple of new people and to see one man I hadn't seen for a couple of years. After our service, we handed out lunches, as always. Given our numbers, we could give out more than one lunch to each person there. I was touched by the gratitude of one of the new people, who really appreciated the opportunity to share food with friends who could not join us.

Another highlight was delivering checks to the Parish Cupboard. Both Valerie Clapp and Mary Moore handed over generous donations, to go along with toiletries that we had gathered. Martha was VERY grateful!! This remains a really rewarding ministry. Thanks to everyone who makes it possible!!

Creation Care by Mary Moore

Ah, October! Fresh, crisp autumn air. While you are enjoying that exhilarating breath, during this, the end of our church's creation season, I'd like you to think for a minute about people whose lives have been adversely affected by climate change. We in Western Massachusetts have been fortunate so far in that we have yet to experience directly what has increasingly become the norm for many on our planet, namely the repercussions of climate change. As Christians, we should care.

Because of increases in the average global air and ocean temperatures, we are seeing changes in wind patterns and ocean currents. These have led to more severe weather in recent years such as the more destructive hurricanes in our own south, or the prolonged droughts in other parts of the country. In addition to the harsher weather, there are other consequences from climate change, some not so obvious to those of us living in The Pioneer Valley, but nonetheless very real for large segments of the world's population. Here are some of the ripple effects of climate change: higher mortality and morbidity from heat stress; increases in the transmission of vector-borne diseases (think mosquitos and ticks); food insecurity (caused by droughts and flooding); and, surprisingly, a higher incidence of mental ill-health as a result of the other stressors.

If you want to learn more about what you can do to become a better steward of creation, here are some helpful web addresses from our diocese office:

<https://www.diocesewma.org/season-of-creation-learn/>

<https://www.diocesewma.org/season-of-creation-act/>

Creation Season

Creation Season comes to an end on October 6. As the final event in our observation of the season, we'll have a "Creation Walk" in Robinson State Park, led by Jim Shields. We'll meet at the Park at 11:45. All are welcome—please join us!

"Tag Sale" Table by Virginia Ventulett

St. David's will be having a "Tag Sale" table again this year at the Holiday Bazaar. Virginia and Elizabeth will be "manning" it. We are looking for donations of used holiday decor, tableware, ornaments, stockings, etc. Please bring your items and leave them in the "music area" at the rear of the nave; we'll take it from there! Thanks for your help!

Youth Ministry 2019 by Norma Turcotte

The new Sunday School year kick off with the commissioning of our teaching staff took place on September 8, 2019 at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. Our teachers and co-teachers are: Jo Joubert, Michelle Torres, Sue O'Hare, Marybeth Tichy, Jaime Bouchard, Lexi Barna, Penny Miller, Linda Paquette, Carol Fabrycki and Ellen Scott. Substitute teachers are Ellen Rendrick and Norma Turcotte.

How exciting that nine children were present on opening day eager to learn about Jesus! We pray that God will bless our children and staff as they continue to grow in the knowledge and love of our risen Lord. We are off to a great start!!

September 22 is our first youth event—Bowling at the Agawam Bowl. Who will be out top scorer? Tune in to the next Dovetale!!

During the month of October, we will be collecting winter hats, scarves and gloves/mittens for our Open Pantry children. Thank you for any donations you can provide. A bin will be placed in the Narthex for these items.

Upcoming Youth Events 2019-2020

2019

Saturday, October 26 Trunk or Treat 3-5 pm
During the month of October, we will collect mittens and hats for children as our Sunday School Outreach



Sunday, November 17 Craft Day with Miss Norma after the 10:00 a.m. service
Saturday, December 7 Breakfast with Santa 9-11

2020

Sunday, January 26 Pizza Baking Event after the 10:00 a.m. service
Sunday, February 16 Slime Day after the 10:00 a.m. service
Sunday, March 15 Bowling after church, noon
Friday, April 10 Good Friday/Easter Egg hunt 10-noon
Sunday, May 3 Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, June 21 Father's Day Ice Cream Social



Trunk or Treat!

We will hold our second "Trunk or Treat" in our parking lot on Saturday, October 26 from 3:00 to 5:00. The idea is to decorate your car and hand out candy to the little costumed cuties that come by. People mostly bring their own candy to hand out, but we'll collect candy ahead of time for those who might find that helpful. All children are welcome to participate. We are particularly hoping for guests as well as our own kids. Please join us for a fun event, and help spread the word!

Young Scholars Program by Father 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. The Program can always use money, but the single greatest need is for "scholar mentors." Each mentor tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. For people with more time, mentors 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.

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 gather on Sundays at 11:45, and wrap up by 12:15. In October, we plan to meet on the twenty-seventh. Please join us!!

Why Statements

The focus at Parish Leadership Day earlier this year was stewardship broadly understood. (“Stewardship is everything that comes after ‘I believe’”!) Our presenters invited us to think about why we do what we do. In stewardship, that means why we give our time, talent, and/or treasure to the Church. More generally, that means why we cultivate our relationships with God individually and as a parish. We’d love to have a few people share their thoughts on Sunday mornings and/or in writing. If you are willing to give it a shot, please talk to Father Harvey.

Reading the New Testament

We continue to work our way through the New Testament this year. The reading is quite manageable—we read just one chapter each weekday. To encourage broad participation, we include the specific chapters for each week in the bulletin and our weekly e-mails, as well as a link to helpful introductory videos for each book. It’s not too late to join the effort!! Just start where we are now. You can go back over the books we have already read later if you like. We’ll gather for conversation about what we are reading on Tuesday, October 8 at 2:00. Please join us, even if you aren’t current in your reading.

Praying at Home

Versions of both Morning Prayer and Compline appropriate to this season (Pentecost) are available in the narthex, along with a schedule of readings. Pentecost lasts until Advent, which begins on December 1. If you have never prayed any of the Daily Offices, consider giving it a try. It’s a wonderful way to add a little time for prayer and engagement with Scripture! And it is not a big time commitment. Depending on how you say it, Morning Prayer takes about 15 minutes, and Compline is under five.

Healing Ministry

Every Sunday after Church, a layperson offers healing prayers at the altar or, if someone prefers privacy, in Father Harvey’s office. We have a great group, but could use a few more people to fill out the rotation of pray-ers. Father Harvey meets with interested people for a simple training. Then you pray with people for whatever they request. The prospect can be a little scary, but the experience of praying together before the altar is deeply holy and doesn’t require any special skill or eloquence. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please talk to Father Harvey. Thanks!

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the November Dovetale
is October 20, 2019.

Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks

Prayer Cycles

Two prayer cycles are available in the narthex near the mail slots: the nations of the world; and the people and ministries of Saint David's. (If you notice people or ministries missing from our Parish Prayer Cycle, please let us know!) 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. Give it a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!!

Prayer Requests by Father Harvey

We list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, and do our best to keep that list current. But we need help! If you would like to add someone, please contact the office. If you are adding someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. We also have an online prayer chain. People who have signed up for it receive occasional prayer requests by e-mail. If you would like to receive these messages and/or if you would like to put out a request, please contact me or Kathy Glista. Thanks!

Saint Paul at Saint Andrew's by Father Harvey

Saint Andrew's, Longmeadow is offering a series on the Apostle Paul on Wednesday evenings in October from 7:00 to about 8:30. Rabbi Mark Shapiro will lead the first session on October 2; his topic is Paul and the Jewish law. (Happily he also will be preaching at Saint David's the following Sunday!). I will lead sessions on the next three Wednesdays, reporting on my sabbatical research. On October 9 I'll mostly tell the story of Paul and the early Church, with an emphasis on his conversion and the theological issues it raised for him. On October 16, I'll talk about Paul's views of the kingdom of God. And on October 23, I'll wrap up with Paul's views on Christian freedom and Christian love, with some attention to what he said about women. All sessions are free and open to all. Although the sessions are connected as a series, you can also come to individual offerings. Please join us!

PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL by Father Harvey

Bishop Fisher and Rabbi Shapiro are leading a trip to the Holy Land next spring from April 18 to April 30. Coincidentally, as I write this my mother is in Israel and loving it. We have posted a flyer with more information about the trip on the bulletin board on the office side of the building. It includes the cost of the trip, which varies depending on how you pay and what you include. To see the full itinerary, go to secure.ayalet.com/SpringfieldtoIsrael2020.aspx.

A MESSAGE FROM ENER-G-SAVE

OCTOBER is Energy Efficiency Month here in Springfield! All month, people in this City are encouraged to get their free energy assessment of their home or apartment. Not only are the assessments free, but the cost of insulation that gets suggested is greatly reduced, and sometimes even free. You can also receive free LED bulbs, water-saving shower fixtures, programmable thermostats, and even free sealing of those leaks around your doors and windows that drive you crazy. If you own your home, call 413-279-9141 or go to www.ener-g-save.com/contact. If you rent, ask your landlord to contact Mass Save at 866-527-7283. If you receive fuel assistance, call Springfield Partners at 413.263.6500.

Act now, and you can tighten up your home before it gets really cold!

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!!

Agawam's Holiday Bazaar Saturday
is coming NOV. 23rd

Why choose St. David's to sell at?

- . **LUNCH VOUCHER** included with your
\$25 space fee
- . **NO RAFFLE PRIZE REQUIRED** from you
- . **Location (next to Agawam Police)**
- . **Plenty of parking**

CALL FOR AN APPLICATION TODAY!

786-6133 and leave message

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

(adjacent to the Agawam Police Station)



OCTOBER 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 OA 9:30AM Choir 1PM	2 Playgroup 9:30	3 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	4 Healing Serv. 12 Bible Study 1:00	5
6 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Rabbi Shapiro Preacher Creation Walk	7 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8 Vision Potluck 6pm	8 OA 9:30AM Choir 1PM Bible Conver 2PM	9 Playgroup 9:30	10 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	11 Healing Serv. 12 Bible Study 1:00	12
13 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Church W/ Walls 12	14 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	15 OA 9:30AM Choir 1PM Vestry 7PM	16 Playgroup 9:30	17 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	18 Healing Serv. 12 Bible Study 1:00	19 Work Day 9am to 2pm
20 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM UTO Collection	21 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	22 OA 9:30AM Choir 1PM Dominoes 6	23 Playgroup 9:30	24 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7	25 Healing Serv. 12 Bible Study 1:00	26 Trunk or Treat 3-5 pm
27 RITE I 8AM RITE II 10AM Cont. Prayer 11:45	28 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM SHUGART'S 6-8	29 OA 9:30AM Choir 1PM	30 Playgroup 9:30	31 OA 10:00AM SHUGART'S 6-7		



“Kind words can be short and easy to speak,
but their echoes are truly endless.”

Mother Teresa (1910 – 1997)

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

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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.