



St. David's Episcopal Church
SEPTEMBER 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.

THE START OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

The Church year and the school year don't exactly line up. There is no significant change of liturgical season in June or September. We enter the season of Pentecost a few weeks before school breaks for the summer. We're still in Pentecost now, as summer comes to an end and school begins again. If we just went by the liturgical calendar, nothing special would be happening this month.

But it is our practice, like most Churches, to follow the school calendar at least to the degree that we slow down a bit in the summer, and shift into what we have come to call the "program year" in early September. As a result, things pick up at Church this month.

For families, the big change will be the resumption of Sunday School on September 10. That day we'll also commission our worship leaders, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet for the first time in a while. September is also "Creation Season," and we'll have a series of events connected to celebrating and caring for God's creation.

There are a pair of new formation opportunities. Starting in October, we'll have Confirmation classes for children and adults. Depending on interest, we may also watch and discuss episodes from the series "The Chosen" about Jesus and the disciples. All of that is in addition to our ongoing activities.

The point of all this is, I hope you'll get involved in whatever calls to your soul. And if something is calling you that we are not offering, please let me know. The Spirit is on the move. Our job is to figure out what the Spirit is doing and where, so that we can all get on board!

In Christ's name.

Fr. Harvey

DIOCESAN RESOLUTION: by Fr. Harvey

As part of our ongoing work on Becoming Beloved Community, the Beloved Community Commission is sponsoring a resolution at Diocesan Convention called “A commitment to healing the legacy of slavery and racism through an act of atonement.” The resolution calls for members of our Diocese to research the degree to which we profited directly or indirectly from slavery and, assuming we did, to make recommendations to the 2024 Convention for appropriate atonement. If you are interested in seeing the resolution or would like to share your thoughts, please talk to me. Thanks!

HEALING PRAYERS: by Fr. Harvey

We continue offering individual healing prayers after the 10:00 service most Sundays, but our format has changed. Instead of appointing a particular person to offer healing prayers each Sunday, any member of the healing team is potentially available any week. The current members are Sue O’Hare, Jim Shields, and Deacon Terry. If you are interested in receiving healing prayers, please let one of them know. Please let me know if you are interested in possibly joining the Team. If so, we can offer training. I believe the members of the Team would agree that offering healing prayers for someone is a powerful, spiritual experience.

SERVICE LEADERS: by Fr. Harvey

On Sunday, September 10, we’ll commission our new and returning service leaders. That’s ushers, readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, Streamers, and Sunday School teachers. If you serve in any of those roles, please join us if you can. If you don’t serve in those roles, please join us and thank the many people who help to make our services happen!

FRIDAY EVENTS: by Fr. Harvey

On Fridays we have a Healing Eucharist at noon, Bible Study at 1:00, and Contemplative Prayer at 2:30. All three are in person, but you can also join the last two by Zoom. All three will meet every Friday in September except the first. I’ll be in Atlanta that day celebrating my parent’s 60th wedding anniversary!

DIOCESAN CONVENTION: by Fr. Harvey

Diocesan Convention will be Saturday, October 28 at UMass. As always, there will be preparatory materials and events that give lots of information about what’s happening around our Diocese. I’ll provide more information as I have it next month, but let me know if you would particularly like to be kept informed. Thanks!

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY: by Fr. Harvey

Last year, the two Episcopal Dioceses of Massachusetts teamed for to celebrate Indigenous People’s Day (the same day as Columbus Day) at Plymouth. We’re doing it again this year, but in our part of the State (more or less). The event will be at All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester, from 10:30 until 3:00. There will be a presentation in the morning, lunch, and then a worship service. It’s free, but people need to register ahead of time so that organizers know how many lunches to provide. Let me know if you would like more information. Thanks!

NEIGHBOR TROUBLES: by Fr. Harvey

We are making progress. We have reached an agreement with one of our neighbors to sell him an easement for the land he has built on. Unfortunately, we have to file a legal complaint against the other. That’s in process now. Please keep praying for an amicable resolution!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: by Fr. Harvey

We're trying something a little different this year. Our practice has been to rotate teachers each week, which has worked well but sometimes been a little disjointed. This year, the teachers have agreed to lead Sunday School for three weeks in a row in order to give the kids some continuity. The kids will be in Church the remaining Sunday(s) of the month. The helpers will rotate weekly as before, so each helper will work with each teacher.

We also hope to offer a regular round of special events, things like Trunk or Treat, a bowling trip, and Breakfast with Santa. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or any of our events, please let me or Deacon Terry know. Thanks!!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: by Fr. Harvey

The Bishop makes a formal visitation to Saint David's every other year. When I last checked, the schedule for next year wasn't finalized, but he will probably be at Saint David's in February. Among the joys of his visits are confirmations and receptions into the Episcopal Church.

To get ready, we are offering Confirmation Classes this Fall, probably on Sundays after the 10:00 service, beginning something like October 15. It looks like we should have a good group, with adults and teenagers. If you are interested in more information or joining the classes, please let me know. Teens should be at least sixteen by the time the Bishop comes, although exceptions can be made for interested younger children. Folks who don't need to be confirmed or received but would like to learn more about their faith and our Church are also welcome!

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS:

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church training on the following dates via Zoom:

Tuesday, September 5, 5-8 p.m., Volunteers

Tues/Thurs, September 19 & 21, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Sunday, October 22, 2-5:00 p.m., Volunteers

Saint David's will be billed for your registration. Please sign up early. Registration closes one week prior to the training date.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: by Fr. Harvey

The Men's Bible Study continues to meet in person virtually every Monday at 7:00. But they are adding a zoom option. If you would like to join them, please contact me and I'll give you the Zoom link. Thanks!

DOMINOES!!

Dominoes is back! The group gathers at Saint David's on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 to play a couple of games, share a few laughs, and probably enjoy some yummy goodies. Please join the fun. If you don't know how to play, people will teach you—it's easy!

FRANCISCAN FELLOWSHIP MEETING: by Fr. Harvey

Saint Francis Day is October 4th, which falls on a Wednesday this year.

That Saturday, we will host the annual Saint Francis Day Celebration for the New England Fellowship of Third Order Franciscans. Mostly this is just to let you know what is happening. But contact me or Terry Hurlbut if you would like to learn more about the Franciscans or about this event.

HUMAN TO HUMAN GOLF TOURNAMENT: by Fr. Harvey

Human to Human is the umbrella organization of the Diocese which raises money to support ministries that are not exactly housed at any single parish. The main example is the Veterans Ministry, but it also supports a chaplain for the Women's Correctional Center of Chicopee (where we do our Prison Bible Study), Laundry Love, and other things. On September 18 they are sponsoring a golf tournament at the Ledges Golf Club in South Hadley. We are one of the (many) sponsors of the event. For more information or to register for the tournament, please go to: <https://www.humantohuman.org/golf-tournament>. Thanks!

THE CHOSEN?: by Fr. Harvey

The Chosen is an ongoing series telling the story of Jesus and his disciples available for free on YouTube. The series aims to stay close to Scripture as much as possible, while also offering a considerably expanded back-story for the disciples and many of the people healed by Jesus. The result is a fresh telling of the story. So far the series has run three seasons of something like eight episodes each. I've seen the whole thing, but would enjoy watching it with others and then talking about it. Please let me know if you would be interested in that. If enough people are, we'll set something up.

THE JOHN O'HARE VETERANS LUNCHESES: by Fr. Harvey

Our August lunch went well, with something like forty people in attendance. I am grateful, as always, to Bob Rendrick, our volunteers, and the members of the Lion's Club for putting on such excellent meals!

In September we don't offer a normal meal. At the August meal, the Lions distributed coupons for a free lunch at the Big E. Then we're back at it in October.

In the near future, we hope to begin targeted fund-raising specifically for our Veterans Meals. If you are willing to contact local businesses to solicit their support, please let me know. Thanks!

SAINT DAVID'S CALENDAR: by Fr. Harvey

You can now find every event scheduled at Saint David's, as well as every Saint David's event scheduled other places, on the calendar on our webpage. Take a look at it if you haven't already done so (<https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/calendar.html>). It's impressive! To add something to the calendar, please first check if the space and time you want are open. Then email our calendar keepers at saintdavidsMA@gmail.com to make your request. It will be official when you hear back from them.

Janessa Piteo continues managing our calendar, and is now joined by Beth Kronlund. Either can respond to your requests, but I'm thinking Beth will particularly help with requests from renters, which has become its own important and complicated set of issues. Please join me in thanking both for their help!!!

CREATION SEASON: by Fr. Harvey

Creation Season runs from September 1 through Saint Francis' Day (October 4), and plans are taking shape. On Sunday, September 17, we'll bless our grounds. On the 24th, we'll go on a Creation Walk. We'll skip October 1 because Church without Walls meets that day. But we'll wrap things up the following week, October 8, with a blessing of the animals. We'll publish information about a river clean-up and send a team if there is again a clean-up in Agawam. Please join us for any part of this that you can!

CREATION CARE CORNER: Submitted by Jim Shields.

The growing warmth and saltiness of the Gulf of Maine off New England is causing a dramatic decrease in production of phytoplankton, according to a NASA-funded group of scientists. Phytoplankton are the microscopic organisms that make up the base of the ocean's food chain. The study found that phytoplankton are about 65% less productive in the Gulf of Maine than they were 2 decades ago. The Gulf of Maine has become one of the fastest warming sections of the world's oceans. Phytoplankton are eaten by larger zooplankton, small fish and crustaceans. The loss of these tiny organisms has the ability to disrupt valuable fishing industries for species like lobsters, scallops, haddock, flounder, and pollock, and could further jeopardize imperiled animals like right whales and puffins. According to the lead scientist in the study, "the drop in productivity over these 20 years is profound. And that has large ramifications to what can grow here, the health of the ecosystem, the productivity of the ecosystem."

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER: Back to School by Mary Moore

Whether you walk or ride to school, here are some things to look for when you are outside this month. Homeschooled kids can expand on this and make it a science lesson.

A lot of songbirds are migrating south. This is a good time to watch for birds that you don't usually see here because they have been spending their summer further north in Canada and are now just passing through on their way back south. An example is the white-crowned sparrow. If you see an unusual sparrow that has black and white stripes on the top of its head, then congratulations; it is most likely one of these. (Springtime is another chance to look for out of the ordinary birds, as they head from the south to places north of here.)

Ladybugs might be gathering on your house trim as they try to find ways to get into the house for the winter.

Aster flowers - these provide needed food for bees, especially now that a lot of summer flowers have gone to seed or died. The flowers are typically about the size of a dime and they look somewhat like miniature white or light purple daisies.

You won't see as many bats as you might have during the summer. They are either migrating to caves in the area, or heading south.

The sun is rising later and setting earlier. It is also starting to get lower in the sky than it was compared to in June and July especially. (It will be at its lowest point in the sky about the third week of December.) Activity: Check and record the length of the shadow of a tall object such as an upright yardstick, or an adult, once a week, roughly in the same place and at the same time of day each time you measure. Midday is a good time to do this - you want to avoid doing this at sunrise or sunset, because these times will be changing. Keep at it at least until February if you can, even longer if you want to. Does the shadow's length stay the same, get longer, or get shorter? Why do you think this happens?

Get outside and enjoy God's creation!

Care Givers Ministry

Led by Susan Amabile

Phone: 413-519-7854

We are committed to helping parishioners in times of need:

Do you have errands to run and need a ride?

Such as pharmacy pickup, Groceries, Library.

Rides will be provided by parishioners or the Senior Center Van with advance notice.

Are you feeling ill or know someone who is?

Are you or someone you know housebound?

A snack or small meal or soup will be provided.

Anyone interested in helping with this ministry is welcome to join.

Please contact Susan at the above number.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR SUBMITTED BY JO JOUBERT

We are getting vendors slowly, but steadily. If anyone knows of anyone wishing to present their product at our bazaar, please encourage them to contact me at joubertjo77@comcast.net or 43-374-7756

We will be having a meeting soon to firm up all our plans. I will try to set the date and time following a 10:00 service so all can attend.

Thank you to all.

2025 IS St. DAVID'S CENTENIAL YEAR!

That is correct, St. David's will be celebrating its 100 year existence. I will be forming a committee soon to make 2025 special. I will meet with Fr. Harvey soon to hear what he would like to see happen. I have some ideas and I am sure that others will have some very awesome ideas on how to celebrate.

DINNERS WILL BE BACK



9/1 Beth Kronlund
9/1 Joann freeman
9/7 Fr. Harvey
9/7 Fr. Domenic Ciannella
9/11 Joe Fabrycki
9/13 Linda Paquette
9/25 Kaylin Barna
9/25 Kilee Barna
9/27 Denise Noyes
9/28 John O'Hare in Heaven
9/28 Jo Joubert
9/30 Michelle Joubert



TUESDAY CONVERSATIONS: by Fr. Harvey

A group of us meet roughly every other Tuesday at 4:15 on Zoom to discuss a chapter of Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. It's a great book, and it's not too late to join us! As I write this article, the first September date will be Tuesday the 12th, when we'll discuss chapter six. Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions. We'd love to have you!

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

Our August Church without Walls was on Transfiguration Sunday. Terry preached at Church, but I figured I would say a little something at the Parish Cupboard. I got into the Transfiguration as an invitation to transforming growth and also a revelation of who we really are as God's beloved children. After I finished, I got a bunch of blank stares from the people who were still paying attention. It was a reminder to keep it simple! Still, our service was good, and we had a couple of people I hadn't seen before. I was especially glad to be there because I had missed our July service. Thanks, as always, to all the generous people who make this ministry possible!!

NEW ALTAR! by Fr. Harvey

We're getting a new altar! It will be in loving memory of Ted Kopyscinski, Herb Carpenter, and Bob Hudson, a little bigger than the one we're using now and a little smaller than our previous one, and matching the color of our wooden altar rails. Carol Fabrycki has approved it on behalf of the altar guild, and Bev Lawson is handling the negotiations. I don't know when it will arrive, but when it does, we'll dedicate it with appropriate pomp and circumstance!

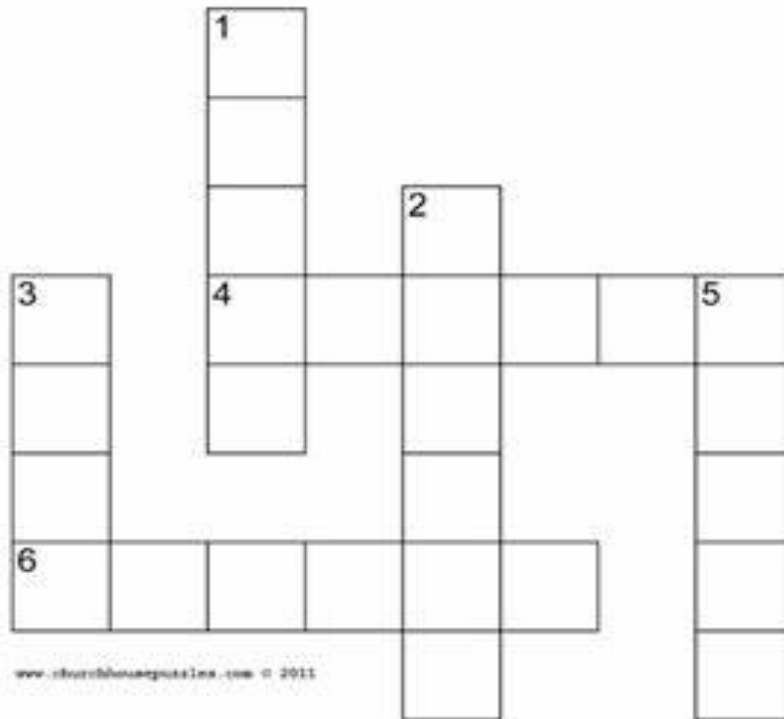
FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE: by Fr. Harvey

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone, please complete the form (available in the narthex), attach a check for the relevant amount, and return it to the office or put it in the collection plate.

DEVELOPMENT

A little test of memory.

Mountains in the Bible



ACROSS

- 4 Where you might find Noah's ark
- 6 Where Jesus ascended into heaven

DOWN

- 1 Where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses
- 2 Where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal
- 3 Where God showed Moses the promised land
- 5 Where God helped Barak defeat Sisera

SEPTEMBER 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

Wednesday: Choir Practice at 3:30

Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00

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

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

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

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

Our Special Events

(No Veterans Lunch this month)

Sunday, September 3: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Swing Out Dance (Rental, but open to all) from 7:00 to 10:00

Monday, September 4: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Sunday, September 10: Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting at 11:15

Tuesday September 12: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:15 on Zoom (chapt 6)

Wednesday, September 13: Dominoes at 6:00

Wednesday, August 16: Vestry at 7:00

Sunday, September 17: Blessing of our Grounds at 11:15

Sunday, September 17: Women's Book Group at 11:15

Sunday, September 24: Creation Walk (meet in our parking lot at 11:30)

Tuesday September 26: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:15 on Zoom (chapt 7)

Wednesday, September 27: Dominoes at 6:00

Monday, September 25: Prison Bible Study at 7:00 at the WCCC

Regular Rentals

Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM: OA

Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 AM: OA

Saturdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting

Saturdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM: Narcotics Anonymous

Other Events

Monday, September 11 at 9:30 AM, 9-11 Service, at the Fire Station

Monday, September 11 from 6:30-7:30: Six-Week Grief and Loss Support Group begins at the Church of the Atonement, Westfield

Saturday, September 16, at 11:00 and 1:00: Boat ride on the Connecticut River with focus on local geology.

Sunday, September 17 at 6:00: Recovery Service at the Church of the Atonement, Westfield

Monday, September 18: Human to Human Golf Tournament and Fundraiser, Ledges Golf Club, South Hadley



The struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow. DON'T GIVE UP!

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