



St. David's Episcopal Church
SEPTEMBER DOVETALE
2022

MISSION STATEMENT:

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love and serve God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of Scripture.

THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR

The New Program Year is almost upon us! It's a soft launch in the sense that things actually gear up on different days of the month. But look for an increase in activity at Saint David's and in our community.

We're kicking things off with a new event for us: Celebrating Grandparents. Grandparents Day is Sunday, September 11. Our main celebration will be that Saturday (the 10th) from 3:00 to dusk (around 7:00). We'll have music, a dance troop, food, and more. The event is free and open to everyone. Please help spread the word!

The most obvious change on Sunday mornings will be the resumption of Sunday School. We'll have a special event during the 10:00 service on Sunday, September 4, with regular Sunday School beginning the next week. All going well, we might also resume an acolyte program. Join me in a quick prayer!

This month is also Creation Season, which runs from the first Sunday in September to Saint Francis' Day (October 4). Our main activities will come towards the end of the season, with Creation Sunday September 18th, Blessing of our Grounds on the 25th, and a Holy Hike on October 9.

I continue to hope that we'll get a Bible Study started at the Chicopee Women's Correctional Center. We have a team of leaders ready to go. Now we're waiting on word about the necessary trainings to enter the prison and formal approval of our proposal. Neither should be any problem, but both are taking longer than I expected!

There is more, of course. We continue with our regular weekly and monthly events. We may participate with area Churches in Braver Angels, a group that facilitates honest and civil conversation between liberals and conservatives. I'll exchange pulpits with Jim Monroe for a Sunday. And so on.

The point is, a lot is happening, some of it familiar and some of it new. Please be aware of your options and join in as you feel called. And thanks for making this such a lively place to worship, study, and serve!

God's peace and all good to you all!

Fr. Harvey

VACATION WRAP-UP, by Fr. Harvey

Carrie and I had a wonderful two-week trip to England and Wales, highlighted with a visit to Saint David's Cathedral. The Saint himself lived in the sixth century. The current Cathedral was built six hundred years later and more than eight hundred years ago (!) on the site of one of his monasteries and the place of his death. I eagerly anticipated our visit, and found it even more moving than I expected. I told our tour group that I came from a younger and smaller, but still awesome Saint David's, and everyone was sweetly excited on my behalf. While at the Cathedral, I wore our Saint David's tee-shirt, so everyone could see where I was coming from! In the unlikely event that you are interested in stories from our trip, I'll be happy to share!

LIBRARY BOOKS ABOUT SAINT DAVID, by Fr. Harvey

When I visited Saint David's Cathedral this summer, I bought Saint David's stuff, things like a key chain, coaster, recordings of their choir, a candle, and so on. I also bought five books about the saint and/or the Cathedral. Two of them I marked up and have in my office. I have donated the other three to our library in the Community Room. Perhaps the most interesting is Wyn Evans, *St David's Cathedral* (2015), a picture book about the Cathedral. Martin Crampion's *Depicting St David* (2020) is about Saint David in stained glass windows at the Cathedral and around the United Kingdom, with pictures of every one he discusses. Two of the books are more or less biographical about Saint David: *Saint David of Dewisland* and Gerald Morgan, *In Pursuit of Saint David, Patron Saint of Wales* (2017). And David James, *St. David's and Dewisland: A Social History* (1981) is a history of the city Saint David's where the Cathedral of Saint David is located. The last two are in my office. The first three are in the Community Room. Anyone is welcome to borrow any of them!

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, by Fr. Harvey

Sunday School is back! Or at least it will be on September 11. Starting that Sunday, the kids will process out at the beginning of the service and return during Communion. Thanks to all our teachers and co-teachers your willingness to serve our children!! Special thanks to Norma Turcotte and to Deacon Terry!

As a kind of summer wrap-up, we'll have a special Super Sunday School event the week before (so, Sunday, September 4) also during the 10:00 service. It should be big fun!

We also have special events planned for our children—mostly things that have been popular in the past like bowling and Breakfast with Santa. Let us know if you have ideas for new things as well!

MORNING PRAYER

We continue our schedule of livestreamed Morning Prayer Tuesdays through Fridays at 8:00 AM, with Terry or me leading on Fridays. Please tune in as you are able. But also remember that we put forms in the narthex for seasonal versions of Morning Prayer and also for Compline. They're intended to help you say Morning Prayer or Compline on your own. Joining us or praying Morning Prayer or Compline on your own is a great way to add a little prayer into your weekly routine!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST

A small group of us gather on Fridays at noon for a short healing service. The service includes a conversational sermon on the saint of the day, an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar, and Holy Eucharist. It's a wonderfully intimate service. In September, we'll meet every Friday. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER ON FRIDAYS AT 2:30

We gather Fridays 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!

HEALING MINISTRY

We continue to offer prayers for healing each week at the altar after the 10:00 service. If you would like to receive prayers for yourself or for a loved one, please go to the altar after the service to meet the designated person offering prayers that week. If you would like to join the rotation of those who offer healing prayers, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

EUCHARISTIC VISITS AND VISITORS

Our goal is to offer Communion to homebound people something like every other week. We currently have six visitors, so we are about there. If you would like to join our intrepid crew, please let me know. We'll have a conversation about Eucharistic Ministry on Sunday, September 11 between services, so from roughly 9:15-45. Anyone interested in this ministry is encouraged to join us. Thanks!!

A YEAR WITH LUKE

A group of us meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 4:15 roughly every other week to talk about a chapter of Luke's Gospel, along with a very accessible guide by N.T. Wright called *Luke for Everyone*. Our September meetings are tentatively scheduled for the 6th and the 20th on Zoom. Please join us!

BRAVER ANGELS, BY FR. HARVEY

This organization aims to bring together people across the political divide for honest conversation. The goal is not to persuade anybody of anything so much as to listen to each other. With practice, we can talk together civilly about important issues even when we disagree. That's something America needs these days!

The Episcopal Churches in the Springfield area are teaming up to create a group of five to ten people, including two facilitators, one conservative and one more progressive. If you are interested in participating or facilitating, please contact me. Thanks!!

PRISON BIBLE STUDY, BY FR. HARVEY

We're trying again! Just before the pandemic first hit, we had set up a weekly Bible Study at the Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee. Before we had even a single session, the prison shut it down, along with all other volunteer efforts. Now that the prison is once again welcoming volunteers, we can resume this ministry.

The folks at the prison suggested we meet on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 in the evening. We will take one Monday a month—I've proposed the 4th Mondays—and other Churches/people will cover the remaining weeks.

My goal is to get everything in place so that we can begin on Monday, September 12. That means our first session would be Monday, September 26. But life is always complicated. The folks at the Prison have our proposal, but getting the leaders cleared takes time. It also takes a CORI check and an orientation at the prison. The next dates are Thursday, September 2 at 10:30; Wednesday September 7 at 10:00, or Thursday September 8 at 10:30. (You only have to attend one!) Hopefully all the participating Churches can get someone to attend one. I plan to go on the 8th.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating. If you would like to join me for the study sessions themselves, you, too, will need to be approved by the folks at the prison. I can talk you through the process.

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for...I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer the, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:34-40

Church without Walls, by Fr. Harvey

Our August Church without Walls happened while I was on vacation. I am grateful to Deacon Terry for leading the service in my absence! This ministry remains small, but it serves an important spiritual and physical need for the people who join us each month. It's also a great way we cooperate with brothers and sisters from other Churches and denominations.

We do need to make one change in this ministry, however. We recently learned from the Town Health Department that all food we give out must be prepared on site following Serve Safe Guidelines. This doesn't apply to packaged chips, drinks, or sweets. But, I am sorry to say, it does apply to sandwiches. Jude O'Hare is thinking through how we can most conveniently follow these guidelines. Be on the lookout for more information soon! Thanks

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. Note this is a slightly new policy. We decided to use the mail given the increased traffic in our building during the week. Thanks!!

PRAYER RIBBONS

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!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club is reading "The Elephant Girl" by James Patterson and others. Our next Book Club meeting will be Sunday, October 2, in the Community Room, at 11:15, after church. All women are welcome!!

GRIEF GROUP

Our St. David's Grief Group is established to help anyone coping with loss, and that would be the loss of not only a loved one, but any loss, your job, your pet, retirement; we all grieve many things at various times in our lives. Many of us that attend are at different stages of grief and we all are there to help make the process of grief less difficult to experience. Grief affects all of in different ways. There is no right or wrong way to deal with grief. We're not there to give advice but just to listen and support each other. Our group is not large, but the spirit is there. We have scheduled our meetings for one Wednesday each month beginning at 1:00PM until we are finished for the day. Our September meeting will be Wednesday, the seventh. Please, come join us. You may be the one person that's there to help someone else get through this difficult time .

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.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAGIC, by Fr. Harvey

An Episcopal Church in the Berkshires offers "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. While I was on vacation, a small group from Saint David's joined in. The food, drink, and chargers are all provided. Their role was to welcome hikers and offer them the stuff. I'm told good times were had by all, so we'll definitely do this again next summer!

DROP IN CENTER: by Linda Taupier

The Drop-In Center at the Episcopal Cathedral in Springfield is always looking for folks who might come and simply be present with our guests, sit and talk over a cup of coffee. We are open Thursday from 9 - 1 at present, and the setup is at 8:40. Many of our volunteers come every week, but that is not necessary. People could come once a month to help set up and leave around 11, or come at 11 and help put stuff away at 1. We can accommodate anyone's desire to help.

We are looking for donations of gently used clothes, particularly men's large and X-large. Sweat pants and hoodies are favorites. We need stuff people would wear who live on the streets. We don't need dress shoes, dresses or 3-piece suits! Thanks!!

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

John 14:27

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

I missed our August lunch because I was on vacation. But knowing our crew, I'm sure it was great! Our September lunch will be the 6th, beginning at 11:30. Please help spread the word that all veterans eat free. And join us if you would like to help!!

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Our September game will be Wednesday, the 14th, beginning at 6:00. There is good food, friendly competition, and lots of fun! Please join us!

CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS

On September 10th and 11th, St David's will be celebrating Grandparents Day (actually Sunday September 11). The main event is Saturday from 3:00 to dusk, and will feature RUST and a local Dance troop, among other fun events. Please join us, and spread the word!

SAFE CHURCH

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church trainings via Zoom on the following dates. Registration is open--choose your date and register now! Please register early as workshops fill up quickly.

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - Volunteers. 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Sunday, September 25, 2022 - Full day - 1:00 to 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 1, 2022 - Volunteers, 9:00 to Noon

Tues/Thursday, October 11 & 13, 2022 - Full Day, 5:30 to 8:00 pm (must attend both)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: by Jo Joubert

We are currently planning a "Paint and Sip" fundraising event for October. More information to come. I have had some suggestions from Church members regarding a Bus trip. I will investigate some places that might be fun and let the members decide where they would like to go. I think we are going to be very busy the coming year with our fundraising events.

9-11 COMMEMORATION

Agawam will again commemorate 9-11 with a short service in front of the fire station on Main Street. The event will be on Saturday, September 10, beginning at 9:30. Fr. Harvey is one of the participants.

**This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.**

John 15:12

LUNCH LADIES ??

Valerie Clapp, Dixie Lauzon and Linda Paquette go to lunch together every Tuesday. They take turns deciding what restaurant they will visit. They have invited all the ladies of St. David's to join them. Last Tuesday 17 ladies met at Cals on Riverdale Road. Thank you to the 3 amigos for finding a way for Church members to get to know each other. 8:00 and 10:00 services were together at one table. If anyone wants to go on a Tuesday, just see Val, Linda or Dixie in case they need reservations. If someone needs a ride we could car pool.

CREATION CARE KID'S CORNER by Mary

The Church will soon be celebrating the Season of Creation. In Sunday school, you probably have already learned about the creation story. After God created everything, He made Adam and Eve and all people the rulers of everything in nature. But being put in charge of something doesn't mean you get to do whatever you want with it. Instead it means that you are responsible for taking care of it. It was their job and ours to take care of Earth.

The Church sets aside time every year for us to stop and think about just how good a job we are doing and how we might do even better. This period of time is called Creation Season (or Season of Creation) and it runs from September through October 4th, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. We end on that day because Saint Francis is so well known for his love of nature. He lived in the late 1100's and early 1200's.

You might be asking yourself, "What can I do to help the planet? I'm only a kid." Here are some ideas:

plant a garden next year

walk instead of asking for a ride to places that are close to your house

try not to be wasteful

use a refillable water bottle instead of buying a new bottle of water each time you need to take a drink with you

talk about this with friends; share ideas

check out these websites: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/> and

<https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/kids-corner>

**God saw everything that He had made,
and indeed, it was very good.**

Genesis 1:31

**NEED SOME EXTRA SPACE?
A SHOE BAG CAN HELP!
PUT ON THE INSIDE OF A CUPBOARD DOOR AND
YOU HAVE LOTS OF SPACE FOR THE LITTLE
BAGS THAT ALWAYS SLIDE OUT OF PLACE.**



CREATION CARE CORNER: Jim Shields

We will soon be entering another Creation Care Season, which runs from 9/1/22 to 10/4/22. Our focus during this season should be to PRAY for all of creation here on Earth, to LEARN about our interdependence with the natural world and what we can do to help, to ACT to reduce our burden on the Earth, and to be an ADVOCATE for just solutions.

This year the Diocese offers a new liturgical resource, Season of Creation, that is packed with prayers, readings, lectionary comments and more, to inform and inspire you. I highly recommend that you refer to it often over the course of the season. You can find this liturgical resource by clicking on this link:

[SeasonOfCreationLiturgicalGuide2022-MADioceses2.pdf \(diocesewma.org\).](#)

If this doesn't open it, press the ctrl key and click on the link. Each of the 11 weeks in the season has specific readings. I suggest you break up the Season of Creation readings over the 11 weeks so that they are spread out.

In addition, we will celebrate Creation Care Season on certain Sundays as follows:

9/18/22: a special service, Creation Sunday, where we celebrate the sacredness of God's creation and our call to protect it.

9/25/22: a blessing of the grounds at St. David's.

10/8/22 (Saturday): Westfield River cleanup 9am-1pm.

10/9/22: Holy Hike, AKA Creation Care Walk (location TBA).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Fr. Harvey Hill 9/7

Joe Fabrycki 9/11

Linda Paquette 9/13

John O'Hare R.I.P OUR FRIEND 9/28

Jo Joubert 9/28

Hope everyone has a wonderful day.

PRAYERS

Prayers for Esther Nunn.

Fr. Harvey may know where we could send a card
She is having a real hard time .

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

Our Weekly Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Events

Sunday, September 4: Super Sunday School Celebration at 10:00

Sunday, September 4: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard

Tuesday, September 6: Veterans Lunch at 11:30

Tuesday, September 6 and 20: Conversation on Luke at 4:15 (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 7: Grief Group at 1:00 (in person and zoom)

Saturday, September 10: Town Commemoration of 9-11 at 9:30 at the fire station

Saturday, September 10: Celebrating Grandparents from 3:00 to Dusk

Sunday, September 11: Eucharistic Visitor Conversation at 9:15

Sunday, September 11: Sunday School Kick Off at 10:00

Tuesday, September 13: Clericus (Area Clergy) at 3:00

Wednesday, September 14: Dominoes at 6:00

Sunday, September 18: Creation Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00

Wednesday, September 21: Vestry at 7:00

Sunday, September 25: Blessing Our Grounds at 11:30

Sunday, October 2: Women's Book Group at 11:15 ("The Elephant Girl")

Regular Rentals

Sundays from 1:15 to 4:45 PM: Spanish Church

Sundays from 5:00 to 8:00 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

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 (once/month)

Saturdays from 8:00 to 12:00 Noon: Church of the Last Harvest (twice/month)

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

Saturdays at 7:00-9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting



Whatever the twists and turns of their particular journey, we are all traveling together to the same destination. And we are called to help one another, to have a zeal that those around us reach that point of growth intended by God in creating them.

Michael Casey, "Grace on the Journey to God"

PHONE: (413) 786—6133

FAX: (413) 786-4682

EMAIL: saintdavids@comcast.net

Jo's E-MAIL: joubertjo77@comcast.net

Jo's home phone 413-821-0444

Jo's Cell 413-374-7756

**St, David's Episcopal Church
699 Springfield Street**