



THE DOVETALE

St. David's Episcopal Church



COMMUNION!! And the New Program Year

I am thrilled to report that we have now resumed Holy Communion!

The Diocese gave us permission to do so in August. There remain lots of safety precautions, of course. As much as possible, we continue to worship outside, both on Fridays at noon and Sundays at 9:00. During the consecration and the distribution of the wafers, we all wear masks. I wash my hands

vigorously before the service, and use hand sanitizer immediately before the Great Thanksgiving. And still no chalice. Even so, sharing Eucharist again has been wonderful!

Communing TOGETHER



money. Ironically it feels to me a little like spring, with new life beginning to course through our parish veins!

We are still feeling our way forward in other respects. We continue to work on improving our technology, particularly with a view to having something permanent to set up in the Church when we are fully open. We'd like to have more parish life events that

are fun and safe. We need to keep thinking about ways to do outreach, both to share the Gospel and to help those who are struggling. We need to stay connected, particularly to our most vulnerable members. And so on....

As we move into September, I don't anticipate big changes in our new ways of being Church. The numbers of new infections nationally continues to be high, and the Massachusetts numbers, though still relatively low, seem to be rising, which is worrisome, particularly as schools resume. I fear we won't be able to enter Stage Three of reopening anytime soon. I would, of course, love to be wrong about that!

Still, we are entering the new program year, and we want to mark that somehow. Deacon Terry is putting together a blessing of students and their families, which we'll do at our Sunday service on September 6. The Green Team is sponsoring a couple of events to commemorate Creation Season (9/1-10/4). We're offering a wine tasting and a raffle, for fun and to raise some

I encourage everyone to spend a little time thinking about ways we can continue to be Church while the pandemic drags on. The more faithful we can be, the better for us and for our world!

I want to end by expressing my profound gratitude to the many people who have done so much to keep us going, by planning and/or participating in events, by contributing financially to support our mission and ministries, and by supporting us in prayer. Thanks to you all!

God's peace and all good to you and to those you love!!

Fr. Harvey +

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Saint David's Wine Tasting Fund Raiser!

Last year, Saint David's accepted an invitation from the people of Saint Mark's to join them in making Communion wine. Thanks to a Diocesan grant, Saint Mark's gave participating Churches a wine-making kit. Since then, we have used homemade wine for Communion. But not now, of course. Even as we cautiously resume Holy Eucharist, we are not sharing the chalice. Probably we won't use wine for another several months at a minimum.

But the wine ministry rolls on! Mighty wine-maker Mary Moore is hosting a wine-tasting on the afternoon of Saturday, September 26 (rain date Sunday, 9/27 at the same times), featuring seven home-made wines: raspberry merlot; cabernet sauvignon; malbec; chardonnay; dry and sweet meads; and blueberry wine. We will provide directions to her home—it is about 40 minutes from Saint David's

You can sign up at Saint David's or call the office to reserve a forty-five minute slot between 12:00 and 3:45. In the interest of safety, she is limiting each slot to not more than three cars and/or six people. We'll meet outside and wear masks when not actually tasting a wine. The wines will be served in single-use Dixie cups.

The event is free, but there will be an envelope for people who would like to make donations. People can also take bottles of wine home or request one ahead of time. The suggested donation is \$10 per bottle. All proceeds will go to Saint David's.



It is a win, win! A Fun-Demic! By Susan Amabile

This is a raffle for a grab bag of prizes. We'll draw for the winners on September 20. You don't have to be present to win.

To donate a prize, bring a gift card for any amount or a craft or a bottle of wine to the Church. Another option is baking some goodies. Just put your name and what you will bake on a piece of paper and in an envelope. Don't bake it now. If you bring your contribution anytime other than Sunday morning, please first check with the office to make sure that someone is present. Office hours are still irregular.

All prizes donated will be divided up into baskets and raffled off in September to all parishioners who participate. You can enter as much as you want! The more we take in the more we give away

To purchase tickets, write a check payable to St. David's. Tickets are 3 for \$5. You will receive an extra ticket if you bring a canned good or something equivalent for the Parish Cupboard.

Any questions please call me or Sue O'Hare. Thanks and GOOD LUCK!

Donations to the Parish Cupboard

Church without Walls remains on hold. But the Parish Cupboard continues to hand out groceries, and for that they continue to need donations of boxed and canned goods. You can donate directly to the Cupboard, of course. But we also put a donation bin beside the parking lot entrance and leave it out on Sunday mornings—safely alongside the exit from the parking lot so folks can toss their donations in. We'll get anything we find in the bin over to the Cupboard. Thanks for your help in helping our neediest neighbors!

Beloved Community, Fr. Harvey

This summer we witnessed the ongoing racial divisions in our country. Now we are heading into what is likely to be a divisive election. Our calling as Christians has never been more important. As Christians, our ideal is what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called the Beloved Community, a community in which we resist evil, love our neighbors as ourselves, strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. The Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese (of which I am a member) has invited every parish to add a regular column to our newsletters about the Beloved Community. Hopefully there will always be lots to report!

The main Beloved Community event at the Diocesan level this month is a clergy webinar on "Preaching Racial Justice" with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, one of the leaders of the Poor People's Campaign. Stay tuned—I'll let you know how it goes....

Community Solar

No news on this one, unfortunately. As a reminder, we entered into a contract with a company called Nexamp to save some money and do something good for the environment at the same time. When it takes effect, we will continue to receive power bills from Eversource. But, and here is where it gets a little complicated, Eversource will also credit us the full amount of the bill, and then charge Nexamp for the power we have used. Nexamp pays Eversource, and then bills us for the same electricity. Since the electricity is generated by solar panels, and so earns tax credits, they can offer us a 15% discount on the power we have used. Now we are just waiting for panels to become available.....

Church in the Lot, Fr. Harvey

I realized we needed a new name for our Drive-In service. Although folks have been mostly staying in their cars to escape the heat or the rain, people can now get out if they like. Church in the Lot is my proposal, but I welcome better ideas!

The main development in August was the resumption of Communion. We are taking lots of precautions, of course. I wash my hands before beginning the service, and disinfect them before Communion. I wear a mask during the Great Thanksgiving, and a glove to handle the wafers. We are dropping them into people's hands. And no wine any time soon.

Still it has been wonderful to have Eucharist again! And given that the weather is likely to remain generally cooperative, we are planning to continue meeting in the parking lot through September. Of course, we may be forced inside by nasty weather on any given Sunday.....

I am grateful to the many people who have worked hard to make our outdoor services a success. As always, Bob Rendrick has been tireless in getting things set-up and keeping things moving, ably assisted by Jim Shields. Carol Fabrycki sets the altar, does the readings, and offers up the Prayers of the People. Deacon Terry proclaims the Gospel, leads us in confession, and sends us forth into the world rejoicing. Virginia Ventulett has the frustrating task of making the computer work with the FM Transmitter so that music can be part of our worship. Behind the scenes, Virginia and the Seaburys spend LOTS of time recording the hymns that do so much to enhance our worship. And the Office Angels prepare the readings and the music each week. We are truly blessed to have so many devoted and talented people making our worship possible!

Friday Healing Eucharist Resumes!

We have also resumed our Friday noontime service. It, too, meets outside—at the picnic table in our back lot, which is comfortably shaded by a tree. We put out a couple of chairs and Prayerbooks, but we encourage people to bring their own. As was true before the pandemic, we don't sing. Now we don't anoint either. But we read the Scriptures assigned for the day, talk about the saint of the day, offer general healing prayers, and celebrate Holy Communion, following the same precautions we use for the Sunday service. We do ask that everyone who joins us to wear a mask (unless you are unable to do so for medical reasons) and maintain social distance.

Virtual Pastoral Care

It is as important as ever that we be sensitive to each other's needs. Isolation can be as harmful as the covid-19 virus! Please stay in touch with your brothers and sisters at Saint David's. Reach out by phone or e-mail or in whatever other way seems appropriate. And if you are struggling, emotionally, financially, or logistically, please let Fr. Harvey know. He should be able to connect you with parishioners who are ready to help.

Sunday School in the Fall

Episcopal Churches in our Diocese will not be offering in-person Sunday School classes until we can safely do so. As of right now, that means not until "Stage Four" of our reopening, when an effective vaccine is readily available. But teaching our children remains an important responsibility for every Church. Thanks to Sue O'Hare, we offered Sunday School on zoom each week through the summer. As regular school resumes, we are shifting a bit. We'll continue to offer zoom sessions on the second and third Sundays of the month. On the off weeks, we'll mail materials to interested families so they can work through the materials on their own. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Sue for her work this summer, and to Ellen Scott who coordinates the program for us!!

Getting Connected

The Diocese strongly encourages Churches that are livestreaming services to continue doing so through the various stages of reopening our building. Even without diocesan encouragement, we would keep going. I never thought I would say this (!), but the technology has been a real gift. More people join our Sunday services online than was typical of a regular Sunday. We have a good crew for Morning Prayer during the week. And now that we have teamed up with Saint Mark's to offer Noonday Prayer every weekday but Wednesday and Compline every weekday evening at 8:00, there are LOTS of ways for us to pray together. Our Christian formation opportunities (Bible Studies, Sunday School, Contemplative Prayer, and other things) continue and are another way to stay connected to each other and to continue growing in our relationships with Jesus Christ.

Since the pandemic is likely to disrupt our lives for at least another several months, it really is worth getting connected, if you have not already done so. If you are having trouble getting connected, please contact me. Hopefully I can help to get you started. If so, we know that God's grace must truly be at work!

Daily Prayer

This is largely a repeat of the previous article. But I want to emphasize that there are now a number of options for praying each weekday. You can join us live on Facebook for Morning Prayer (M-F) at 8:00 AM, Noonday Prayer (MTThF) at 12:00 and/or Compline (M-F) at 8:00 PM. You can also watch any of those services anytime. Deacon Terry and I have teamed up with a crew from Saint Mark's in East Longmeadow to lead these services so that none of us get burned out. I am grateful to Terry for his leadership, and also to the folks at Saint Mark's.

Our goal with these services is to give people an easy option for committing to daily prayer and also for helping people learn more about using our Prayerbook as a resource. Please take advantage of these services as you are able. And please spread the word!

Online Directory

Thanks to the hard work of Laurie Littlefield, we now have a password-protected online directory on our webpage! We have done our best to make sure the listings are correct, and to omit those who prefer to remain unlisted. We don't want to print the password, but please contact Father Harvey if you would like it. If you do have a chance to use the new directory, please take a moment to check your listing (or to make sure you are unlisted). If you need to make a correction, please contact Father Harvey or Laurie Littlefield. And thanks again to Laurie for making this happen!

Community Bulletin Board by Fr. Harvey

We have created a "community bulletin board" on our webpage. The idea is that people can list things they would like to give away or sell, skills they have, etc. In another place on the bulletin board, people can request help or make prayer requests. Now we just need content. If you would like to advertise or offer anything, please let Laurie know. I want to add a note of profound gratitude for all the work Laurie Littlefield regularly puts into our webpage!!!

Parish Life

We continue to ponder ways to stay connected beyond online worship and Bible Study. If you have any ideas for fun events that would still be safe, please let Susan Amabile or Father Harvey know.

The Day You Left Us, by Kim Kozik
(adapted from a poem of the same title by Laurel Clark)

The day that you left us, is a day I will never forget.
I knew you were gone, it was so hard, you can bet.
I felt so numb, yet so painfully aware
Your fight with cancer was a lot to bear.
Your courage and will were like no other
You are special, strong, beautiful and the greatest mother.

The day that you left us, still seems so unreal.
The pain is so heavy, it will take time to heal.
The courageous battle you had to endure
Is no longer present; we know that for sure.
You made certain I knew you were happy and free.
I know you're at peace and watching over me.

The day that you left us, Family, Friends, Nurses were there,
To give you support and the very best care.
Angela, Elizabeth and I were all by your side.
We told stories, held your hands, kissed you and cried.
In your final moments you were surrounded by love.
We held you and knew you had risen above.

The day that you left us, was the day I lost you.
It felt as though my life had ended too.
And though I am full of sadness that you're no longer here
Your influence still guides me, I feel you are near.
This loss has taught me many things and now I face each day
With hope and happy memories to help me along the way.

The day that you left us, an angel got her wings.
Being reunited with Dad, I could hear your heart sing.
Your spirit will always be a part of me with every breathe I take.
I will think of you each day and night with every breathe I make.
I will carry you with me in all that I do.
Please know I will always miss and love you!!

(In loving memory of Dottie Whitaker)

The Deacon's Corner by Terry Hurlbut

How can we, as a community of faith help our young people returning to academic life?

On Sunday, September 6th, at our 9am parking lot service we will take special note of our students returning to class either in person, hybrid or virtually. We will name each student, that God Bless them in the new school year ahead. We will also ask God's Blessings on parents, grandparents, and all support people of these students. Our teachers, faculty and support teams will also be prayed for.

In this time of such uncertainty, prayer is crucial for all of us. Asking God's blessings on all, that the decisions made are right and in the well being of all. Should you have a student or anyone supporting our students please send their names to FR. Harvey at revharveyhill@gmail.com or Deacon Terry at thurlbut02@yahoo.com. We will ensure they are included.

Young Scholars Program, by Fr. 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 partners.” Each partner tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. That has been my own practice. For people with more time, partners are invited to get more engaged in the lives of their scholars. Particularly in this time of disrupted school, children can use a little extra adult support! For most supporters, this is the most rewarding part of the work since it means getting to know the children and their families.

Creation Care, Kids' Corner by Mary Moore

Seasons

You may have heard that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Did you know that this is true on only two days a year? Those two times are the first day of spring and the first day of fall. On all the other days, the sun rises a little to the north of east and sets a little north of west (spring until fall) or rises a little south of east and sets a little south of west (fall until spring). North of the equator - where we live - the sun appears as far north as it is going to on the first day of summer and as far south as it is going to on the first day of winter. I say "appears" because the sun isn't moving. We are.

Another fact that most people get wrong is in thinking that it is the distance from Earth to the sun that causes the seasons. This is not true. In fact, we are closest to the sun in early January. So what does cause the seasons? It is the angle at which the sun hits us. The sun is more directly overhead as it beats down on us in the summer. In the winter it is lower in the sky and hits us at a more indirect angle. Think about batting a baseball. If you smack the ball directly head on, you hit it harder than if you get just a small piece of it. The sun's rays “hit” us harder the same way in the summer.

Activity: When the sun is directly overhead, your shadow will be shorter than when the sun is lower in the sky. Go outside and measure the shadow of something like another person or a yardstick around noontime. Go out to the same place around 4PM and measure again. Are the shadows the same length? If one is longer, which one? Why?

You can also do a similar activity: Instead of going out at different times of the day, go out at the same time, but on different days. Wait a week or two between times. Is the shadow the same length in the summer as it is in the spring? Fall? Winter? Why or why not?

Creation Care Season. Jim Shields.

This year's Creation Care Season is Sept. 1 through Oct. 4. This is a time when we should reflect on the care and value of our precious Earth, and celebrate it as one of God's greatest gifts to us. I would suggest we all re-commit ourselves to reduce our individual carbon footprint, and to support regional and global efforts to do the same, in order to halt the progression of climate change. To celebrate the season, we have proposed the following activities:

1. On Sunday 9/20 after our 9am service, we will take a nice walk in Robinson Park where we can observe nature up close.
2. On 9/26, there will be a Westfield River Cleanup from 9-1, at Pynchon Point, which is where the Westfield River empties into the Connecticut River. This is an annual event. This is NOT a St. David's event per se, but I mention it so you can help out if you feel moved to do so.
3. On Sunday 10/4 after our 9am service, we will walk our grounds and bless our labyrinth and gardens, as well as our new memorial trees.

Please mark your calendars and join us if you can!

Creation Care by Mary Moore

Just as we are starting to prepare for the colder weather ahead, animals and plants are doing likewise. For many birds this means migrating to warmer climes. Some mammals are fattening up before hibernating while others are setting aside food stores to help get them through the winter. Deciduous trees are taking in less water as their leaves slow down the food making process, and the food that is being made is getting stored in their trunks and roots. Here are some of the things you might want to look for in the next month or two. Happy viewing!

Birds - Before they migrate from inland freshwater sites, groups of common loons may gather on ponds to feed. This way they do not waste energy chasing one another out of the breeding/feeding territories they needed earlier. Most loons will migrate to the coast for the winter, since the ocean doesn't freeze around here. Songbirds are usually the first birds to head south. Be on the lookout for songbirds that may be passing through on their way from points north. Many raptors, the red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and American kestrel for example, follow by starting their migration later in September.

Mammals - Bears are eating whatever berries they can get. They also like acorns and beech nuts. Skunks are more likely to raid in-ground yellow jacket nests at this time of year. One nest may contain thousands of yellow jackets.

Plants - Many flowers have gone to seed by now, but you may see some fall bloomers such as goldenrod and asters. The flowers on almost all deciduous trees likewise have produced their seeds by now. One notable exception is the witch hazel, which blossoms in October.

The Financial Picture

I am happy to report that we remain in remarkably good financial shape. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of our people, combined with the money we received from the federal government to cover salaries and the Diocese waiving our monthly assessment, we have an impressive surplus for the year. The times ahead will still be challenging. The grants from the government and the Diocese have both run out, so we are back to paying salaries and making our diocesan contribution. But we are blessed indeed to be in such a strong financial position!

Stewardship

Some of us have already been hit pretty hard by the economic impact of the covid virus, and others might still be. If you need to adjust your pledge in light of what is happening, please let Pledge Secretary Ted Zern know. We all understand that people are making some difficult decisions these days!!

A Thank You from the Treasurer

A few months ago I asked you all to maintain your pledges. I wanted to thank you for doing just that. Your continued support of our church has kept us financially secure. The Dioceses forgiveness of Common Ministry Assessment and several months of payroll have of course helped. Your continued commitment however has kept us in the black during these difficult times. Please accept my and the Vestry's deepest gratitude for your support of St. David's Church.

Rector's Discretionary Fund, 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. If you get in a bind, please talk to me. I should add that our conversation and any help from my 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. But of course no one can get to them! If you need to spend the Church's money, please be in touch with Father Harvey or Treasurer Jude O'Hare. One of them can fill out the form for you. Please first get approval from the relevant vestry person. You can see who is in charge of which budget area on our [webpage at https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html](https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html). Thanks!!

Prayer Shawls

This is a great time to make, use, or give someone a prayer shawl. Of course, picking one up or handing one out is also a little complicated under the circumstances. So is dedicating new ones. If you have one to be dedicated, let Father Harvey know and he can include a prayer of dedication as part of our livestreamed Sunday Eucharists. If you would like to pick one up from the Church, please let the office know and we'll try to make appropriate arrangements. Prayer shawls can be a great comfort to people who need a little boost, and that is a lot of us these days! Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

Help Wanted on the Dovetale, by Fr. Harvey

After faithfully editing the Dovetale for the last few years, Esther Nunn needs to take a break. If you are interested in helping to put our monthly newsletter together, please talk to her or to me. Some computer skill is necessary, but not too much. I have never been trained in Microsoft Publisher—the program we use—and have been able to figure it out more or less. If I can do it, anyone can!

DOVETALE Deadline by Esther Nunn

The deadline for the October 2020 Dovetale is September 20, 2020.
Please submit your articles early to estar00@winning.com. Thanks

The Book of Common Prayer and The Daily Office

One the great, and often neglected, resources of our tradition is the Prayerbook. Now more than ever we all need to be cultivating a regular practice of prayer at home, and the Prayerbook can help. Our livestreamed services (Morning Prayer; Noonday Prayer; and Compline) all come from the Prayerbook and are intended at least partly as an opportunity for folks to use these prayer services themselves. The Prayerbook also has a service for Evening Prayer (a lot like Morning Prayer and with the same readings) as well as shorter and easier “Daily Devotions” (beginning on page. 137) and helpful prayers and thanksgivings at the back of the book (beginning on page 810).

If you need a Prayerbook, you can pick one up at any of in-person services. You can also order one for yourself, of course. And an easy-to-navigate online version is available here: [Online BCP](#).

Reading the New Testament

We are still working our way through the New Testament, and folks are always welcome to join us! September, we’ll still be working through the letters of Paul—Fr. Harvey’s favorite! In weekly e-mail updates, Father Harvey announces the chapters for the week and attaches a link to a helpful video on the material for that week. We also gather once a month for conversation—on Zoom for the duration of the quarantine. In September, our conversation will be Tuesday the 22nd at 4:00. Spending time with Scripture is one of the best ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ. And that’s what it is all about!

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? Originally I wasn’t sure how well contemplative prayer would translate to zoom. But we have now had several zoom sessions, and they work surprisingly well. We are now meeting on Fridays at 2:30. Our September sessions will be the 11th and the 25th. Please join us!

Prayer Cycles

We have two monthly prayer cycles, both of which are available on our homepage under the “Worship” tab (and in the narthex, for what that is worth). One lists all the nations of the world, and the other lists the people and the ministries of Saint David’s. Please give the prayer cycles a try if you are not already doing so. 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. We could all use more prayers these days! Also, if you notice any missing people or ministries, please let the office know. It’s easy to correct, and we don’t want to leave anyone out!

Prayer Requests

We typically list prayer requests in the bulletin each week, but we can’t do that now. Thankfully we also have an online prayer chain. If you would like to make a prayer request, please contact Father Harvey or Kathy Glista. Do the same if you’d like to receive the prayer requests. If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself, please first confirm that the person would like to be on the list. And don’t forget thanksgivings. It’s good to offer those, too!!

Prayers for our Nation, by Fr. Harvey

We gather occasionally to pray for our nation, and election season is a good time to do that. We are still working out the details, but hopefully we will be able to offer something through our Facebook page at least a few times over the next two months. Be on the lookout for more details to come. In the meantime, the Prayerbook has “Prayers for National Life” (the source of most of our prayer service) beginning on page 820. They can be a great help in your own prayers at home.



SEPTEMBER

2020



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	Morn P 8am Compline pm M-F Noon 12 MTTH	1	2	3	4 Healing Serv 12 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	5
6 (Church in Lot) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Blessing for Students	7 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	8	9	10	11 Healing Serv 12 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom Contemp Pray 2:30	12
13 (Church in Lot) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom	14 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	15 Vestry 7PM	16	17	18 Healing Serv 12 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom	19
20 (Church in Lot) RITE II 9AM Live Stream Sunday School 10:15 Zoom Creation Walk 10:30 am Raffle Drawing	21 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	22 NT Conver 4PM	23	24	25 Healing Serv 12 Bible Study 1:00 Zoom Contemp Pray 2:30	26 Wine Taste 12-3:45
27 (Church in Lot) RITE II 9AM Live Stream	28 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7PM Zoom	29	30			



*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah 29:11

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

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET
FEEDING HILLS, MA 01030**

PHONE: (413) 786-6133

FAX: (413) 786-4682

EMAIL:

saintdavid@comcast.net

**WE'RE ON THE WEB @
WWW.STDAVIDSAGAWAM.ORG**

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.***