



St. David's Episcopal Church

SEPTEMBER DOVETALE

2021

Summer Wrap-Up, by Fr. Harvey

As the summer comes to an end, I want to pause in thanksgiving to God for the good things that have happened in our common life over the last few months. I do this with hesitation because I know that I will forget some important things! But we have come a remarkable way in a short time.

We resumed in-person worship indoors in the middle of April. We were still masked and not singing. It looks like masking may be making a comeback, but I certainly hope we can keep singing! We were able to bring Eucharistic Ministers back up front, and also to resume our healing prayers after the 10:00 service. We resumed making Eucharistic Visits, and are in the process of increasing how often we can get to people who cannot easily attend worship in person. Finally, at least finally on the topic of worship, we continued and expanded our digital ministry. We now have a team of people capable of streaming our services, including to the local access television station in Agawam.

Valerie Smart offered weekly programs for our children that she called "We Missed You Wednesdays." Each week, several children gathered for fun and the opportunity simply to be together. Beginning in a few more weeks, we'll be back to weekly Sunday School, with a (nearly!) full roster of teachers and aids. After a year with no in-person events for children, I am thrilled that we have fun and formative things for them to do.

We are resuming many of our outreach ministries. The Veterans' Lunches are back, thanks to John O'Hare, the Lion's Club, and our own volunteers. We stuck with the Springfield Church without Walls. Now we are bringing back the West Springfield Church without walls at the Parish Cupboard.

And we have resumed Parish Life events. I am writing this article just after the Outdoor concert featuring our very own Rust. There is talk about bringing back Dominoes night. If the pandemic numbers don't rise too much, we'll start our Community suppers in October, and have our first annual Parish Auction later the same month. In addition to that, the Development Team has big plans!

Along the way, LOTS of people kept us going day in and day out, if mostly behind the scenes. Lenny kept the Church looking good. Sue O'Hare and the office angels kept the office going. Jo Joubert kept the Dovetale coming, and Laurie Littlefield maintained our webpage. Carol Fabrycki and others made sure the altar looks good every time we worshipped, as well as taking on the thankless task of making me look presentable in my vestments. Denise Noyes and her people expanded our vegetable garden. The Duttons, Jim Shields and the lawn crew, and a host of gardeners kept our grounds in good shape. Bob Rendrick and his team did the same for our building.

I apologize to anyone I am forgetting! The point is, we experienced a surge of new life over the last few months, and it looks to continue. For that I give thanks to God for you, the good and faithful people of Saint David's!

Harvey +

Outreach Ministry: by Deacon Terry

ST. David's is expanding its outreach mission!

Jesus teaches us to serve. Serve the less fortunate, those in need, those struggling.

We all have so much to be thankful for and there are so many who are in need.

On the first Sunday every other month, we will offer snacks and attend an outdoor service at Court Square in Springfield. This service starts at noon and is about 40 minutes.

Our participation can be whatever each of us are comfortable with. Some may want to serve, some may simply wish to be present. We hope folks may like to come along, help hand out the lunches and for those who can't or don't feel comfortable, they could bake some cookies, brownies, etc. (individually wrapped). Purchase some clementine's, small bags of chips, donate some money to help with the costs. (there are usually about 50 people)

If you do buy or make something – simply drop it off at the church and we will get it there.

Dates:

Sept. 5

Nov. 7

If you'd like to be a part of this in any way, please let us know.

Peace, Deacon Terry

CREATION CARE KID'S CORNER: by Mary Moore

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,,
- * 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: <climatekids.nasa.gov> and <archive.epa.gov/kids>

The Auction is On!

It's time to get organized!

Scott Seabury and his intrepid crew of auction volunteers are ready to go forward with the auction on Saturday, October 23, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and a viewing of items to be auctioned from 12:00-1:00. If you would like to donate an item or help out, please let Scott know. Thanks!!!

Creation Care Corner: Extreme Weather/Climate Change. : by Jim Shields.

One extreme weather event after another is causing misery around the world this summer. A large heat dome settled over Western Canada and the Northeast U.S. in June, triggering record high temperatures and massive wildfires; as many as 580 deaths have been linked to the punishing heat. Wildfires out West are raging again this year, as evidenced by the smokey air we recently experienced here in Western Mass. In Madagascar the worst drought in 40 years is driving 400,000 people into famine. Northwestern Europe experienced historic rainfall amounts and catastrophic flooding; scores of people are missing. Hurricane season started early this year and looks to be another banner year. The Chinese province of Henan saw “once in a lifetime” rain, which flooded subway tunnels and drowned commuters.

The 2 degree F. increase in the temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere since pre-Industrial times means it can hold roughly 15% more moisture. Scientists say it is safe to assume that while extreme events weather are not always the direct result of climate change, the global warming certainly makes them worse. Another possible factor is the changing (shrinking) temperature difference between the Earth’s polar regions and the Equator, which could weaken the massive global air currents (the Jet Stream), causing them to travel in a wave-like manner rather than a straight line, allowing low-pressure systems to stay in place longer; this is what we saw in Northwest heatwave in June. Reversing worsening extreme weather events is another reason why climate change must be taken seriously and deserves worldwide action.

Expanding Our Vegetable Gardens: by Fr. Harvey

As many of you know, we created a small vegetable garden in our back lot a couple of years ago. This year we won a grant from the Diocese to upgrade our efforts by, among other things, putting a spigot on that side of the parking lot to make watering easier. The spigot is now installed, which is great. This summer, we also moved the garden inside the chain link fence near the (always dry) retaining pond, and expanded its size.

The produce is coming is coming in now. Assuming we get a decent amount, we plan to make it available to parishioners and perhaps neighbors, as well as donating some of it to food pantries in the area. If you are interested in helping with the garden, please be in touch with Denise Noyes or Father Harvey. Thanks!!

Creation Season

From September 5 to October 4 (Saint Francis Day!), the Diocese of Western Massachusetts unites with Christians around the world in celebrating a special season of prayer and action to protect God’s creation. Our first big event will be welcoming the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullit-Jonas, the Creation Care Missioner of the Diocese, to preach at both services on September 12. Come prepared to hear a powerful sermon about our Christian calling to be better stewards of God’s creation. Later in the month, we’ll do a formal blessing of our grounds after the 10:00 service and go for a walk to enjoy the beauty of nature. If you have other ideas for ways we can mark Creation Season, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

“The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21)

Daily Prayer, by Fr. Harvey

As the summer comes to an end, we are pondering our online weekday services. For now, we'll stick with the summer schedule. That means Deacon Terry and I will continue streaming Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 8:00 am on our Facebook page. The good people of Saint Mark's will continue to share their livestreamed services of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also at 8:00. The Diocese will continue to offer zoomed versions of Compline on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 8:00. For log-in information, please contact me. And Saint Mark's will continue streaming evening prayers on Fridays at 8:00, including on our Facebook page.

But we would love to know what folks think. Should we stick with the same schedule through the program year? Have some or all of these services outlived their usefulness? Are there other times that would be more helpful? Please share your thoughts me or with Deacon Terry. Thanks!!

Friday Bible Study at 1:00

This has become a hybrid event. Most of us meet in person in the Community Room on Fridays at 1:00. With snacks! Others join us by Zoom. We have a mounted screen in the Community Room, which allows everyone physically present to see and hear people on Zoom. Thanks to a special camera and microphone, people on Zoom can hear and see better as well. All are welcome to join us as we continue to work our way through the Old Testament book of Esther. It's racy! And you don't have to have any background knowledge about the Bible—just an interest in learning!

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 continue to offer contemplative prayer on Fridays at 2:30 and, like so much else, we now meet both in person and on Zoom. Please join us any Friday!

Friday Noontime Healing Eucharist

On Fridays at noon, a small group of us gather for a service of Holy Communion, including a conversational sermon on the saint of the day and an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar. We took a couple of weeks off in August, but we'll be back to our regular routine every Friday in September. All are welcome—please help spread the word .

Healing Ministry

We are back to offering 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!!

Reading the Gospel of Mark

Several of us are reading the Gospel of Mark together this year, guided by a kind of commentary by Michael Casey called *Fully Human, Fully Divine*. In September we plan to meet on Zoom at 4:15 on Tuesday, the 7th and 28th. All are welcome. But if you are joining us for the first time, let Fr. Harvey know so that he can tell you where we are in the Gospel and in Casey's book. Thanks!

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 our conversation and any help people receive from either 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. You can also see who is in charge of which budget area on our webpage at <https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html>. As always, if you need to spend the Church's money, please complete the form and get the signature of the relevant vestry person. Thanks!!

Church without Walls, by Fr. Harvey

This is a big month for Church without walls! On September 5, we'll take our bi-monthly turn at the Springfield service in Court Square. Our contribution is snacks for 50. If you would like to contribute, you can drop off individually wrapped snacks in the Parish Cupboard bin at our parking lot door (labelled CWW), drop them off at Church anytime we are open, or be in touch with Deacon Terry. The service itself begins at 12:00 and all are welcome.

Then on the 12th, we'll resume our own Church without walls at the Parish Cupboard in West Springfield. This will be the first time we gather at the Cupboard since the pandemic began, so we have no idea how many people to expect. Just to be safe, we should probably prepare the same number of sack lunches we were doing before the pandemic. There is a sign-up sheet for contributions to the lunches in the narthex at Church. That service also begins at 12:00 and again all are welcome. If you plan to join us, please know that the Cupboard has moved down the street from their old location.

I love both these ministries. They give us a chance to worship with people who are not likely to show up in Church but who can use a bit of Good News. We share food with folks who wrestle with food insecurity. And we work with other Churches. In Springfield, we team up with three other Churches (2 Episcopal and 1 UCC) each time we go. In West Springfield we don't see the other Churches as much, but we partner with several UCC Churches, a non-denominational Church, a Lutheran Church, and hopefully a pair of Episcopal Churches (one is still deciding if they can join us).

But as we resume what I think of as "our" Church without walls in West Springfield, we'll have to decide if we can continue with the Springfield Church without walls. Our CWW meets on the second Sunday of every month. Our turn at the Springfield CWW is the first Sunday of every other month. I believe I speak for Deacon Terry when I say that I am happy to attend both services. The question is our food contribution. Please let me or Deacon Terry know if you think we can continue with both or if that seems like too much. Thanks!!

Springfield Church without Walls, Sunday, September 5 at 12:00 in Court Square

West Springfield Church without Walls, September 12, at 12:00

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor....” (Luke 4:18)

Confirmation Classes

A wonderful group of four young women are studying for confirmation with Fr. Harvey and Chrissy Turcotte White. The young women are Lexi Barna, Eden Berry, Madeleine Soukup, and Emmerson White. Please say a prayer for them as they explore their faith and prepare to make a mature commitment to Christ. Please throw in a few prayers for Chrissy, who will also be confirmed!

Commissioning our Ministers, by Fr. Harvey

Through September, we'll be commissioning many of our Ministers. Many! We'll commission our Sunday School Teachers and Aids, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Healing Prayers, and Streamers. That means I'll invite folks to come forward and pray over the different groups. If you have a role in any of these ministries, I hope you'll make a special effort to be present. If you're not, it's never too late to join! And even if you don't feel called to join, please come to thank some of the people who make common life and worship work.

Caregivers, by Fr. Harvey

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

Beloved Community: Sacred Ground Follow-Up, by Fr. Harvey

Several of us joined with the people of Saint Andrew's to form three "circles" to read, watch videos, and discuss issues of race and faith. We recently finished that program, and there is interest in doing more. We are still planning next steps. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please be in touch with me. All are welcome!

Veteran's Lunches Continue! By. Fr. Harvey

Thanks to John O'Hare and the Lion's Club, our Veterans' Lunches are back and better than ever! Our September meal will be Tuesday the 7th, beginning at 11:30. I've had to miss the last two, but I am looking forward to rejoining the crew this time. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, please be in touch with John.

We're on Television!

It's official! The Agawam Television Station is carrying our 10:00 Sunday services on channel 12. I am excited about this new way of reaching out and grateful to Les Tingley and the people at Agawam Media for making it possible, as well as to Kathy Glista who has done much of the work getting things ready on our end. Les has contacts at other local stations in the area, so we may try to expand the area we reach. But for now I am happy with this next step in the creation and expansion of our digital ministry!

“Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Outdoor Craft Fair

We have rented our grounds to the organizer of an Outdoor Craft Fair. By the time you read this, the first two Fairs will be behind us. There will be one more later this year on October 2 (Rain date, October 9). Thanks to the tireless John O'Hare, we plan to offer food for sale at the fairs. Other than offering concessions, we don't have any role in putting on the Fairs, but we wanted to make sure everyone knew about them.

Safe Church

Tuesday, August 31 - Volunteer, via Zoom, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Sunday, September 26 - Full Day, IN PERSON @All Saints, S. Hadley, 1:00-6:00 PM

Tuesday/Thursday, October 19 & 21, Full Day, via Zoom, 5:30 -8:00 PM

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

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

Sunday School, by Fr. Harvey

We are looking forward to resuming Sunday School each week beginning September 12. The plan is to have a teacher and an assistant for each Sunday of the month. We're also aiming to have one additional event each month. In September, we'll have a special 9-11 event for children on the day itself. For more details, please be in touch with me or with Valerie Smart, our wonderful new coordinator for children's ministries. Thanks!!

Wine Tasting/Fund Raiser in October! by Mary Moore

To keep boredom at bay during the pandemic, the wine making ministry has been busy preparing all sorts of wine for your enjoyment. We have 9 different kinds of wine available and an inventory of over 150 bottles! Please join us for a wine tasting at Mary Moore's house. The suggested donation is \$15 per bottle for the dessert wines and \$10 per bottle for all the other ones. We have reds, whites, and mead (wine made with honey instead of grapes). If you cannot make it to Deerfield, you can order wine from Mary any time after the wine tasting. These wines make great gifts for the holidays. Details below:

What: Wine Tasting/Church Fund Raiser

When: Saturday Oct. 9 from 1 - 5 PM; rain date Saturday Oct. 16

Where: 26 Thayer St. South Deerfield –

Contact Mary at < burrenmead@gmail.com > if you need directions.

New Tabernacle!

Thanks to the generosity of Ellen and Lenny Scott, we have a spiffy new tabernacle! That's the wooden box in the altar area where we store oils for anointings and the consecrated elements of the Eucharist. They donated the new tabernacle in honor of their son Danny. Be sure to check it out next time you are at Church. And say a prayer for all three Scotts!

“Make all that the Lord has commanded: the tabernacle...” (Exodus 35:10)

Watch Out for this Vine! By: **MaryAnn Fitch, a member of the Friday Bible Study**

Our trees In CT & MA are swiftly being killed by these vines. This can be stopped simply by cutting the vines at the base of the trees; it is also very helpful to pull them up from the ground surrounding the trees. These vines climb up the trees & actually cut off their light & strangle them. From start to finish, within 2-3 years they are goners.

You can see this all along the roadways you drive on in CT & MA & probably also in many other states.

The 1st photo shows my neighbor's trees on the left where the vines have begun climbing; the tree on the right is on my property & I have cut the vines off at the base.

The 2nd photo shows fully grown dead trees surrounded & killed from these vines.

The 3rd photo shows the vines on the ground & starting to climb.

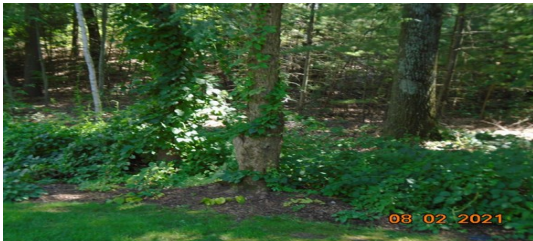
These vines are not poisonous; remember to be cautious of "leaves of 3" which can indicate poison ivy; these are not leaves of 3.

My concern is that many trees are being killed in this way & will fall onto the roadways and people's vehicles in wind storms. Also people who have trees near their houses probably do not realize the potential hazard that these vines are wreaking on their trees. Cutting them off at the base is such an easy fix.

Hope this info is a blessing to all !

MaryAnn

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St. David's Sunday School September 2021 Schedule

September Theme: Kindness

September Motto: "Be kind whenever it is possible. It is always possible."

The 14 Dalai Lama

(The 14th Dalai Lama is the current spiritual leader of the Gelug School of Tibetan Buddhism).

September Scripture Verse: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

On Sundays, we'll read the motto and scripture verse each class meeting and have a quick game each week to help the kids can memorize the motto and verse – something simple like an easy fill-in-the-blank or a word scramble where they need to work together to get the words in the right order.

Saturday, September 11, 2021 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We'll honor the 20th anniversary of September 11 by learning how to be more peaceful citizens. (This will be our non-Sunday program for the month)

Lead: Valerie Smart

Assistant: anyone who would like to join

Book: Peace Is An Offering by Annett LeBox

YouTube Read-a-loud link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1VgWgzjCOw>

Craft: Peace Flags <https://thepeaceflagproject.org/workshops/how-to-make-peace-flags/>

Games/Activities: Hula Hoop Balance, Friendship Chain, Peaceful Yoga

We'll create a peace flag banner to hang in the classroom, play some collaborative games to encourage peaceful playtime, practice peaceful resolution and enjoy some "peace" (pizza) pie for lunch.

Rest of September Schedule:

September 12, 2021 (2nd Sunday)

Lead Teacher: Sue O'Hare

Assistant: Valerie Smart

September 19, 2021 (3rd Sunday)

Lead Teacher: Norma Turcotte

Assistant: Ellen Scott

September 26, 2021 (4th Sunday)

Lead Teacher: Valerie Smart

Assistant: Linda Paquette

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me...; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-16)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S THAT ARE KNOWN:

SEPTEMBER 7 TH	FR. HARVEY HILL
SEPTEMBER 11 TH	JOE FABRYCKI
SEPTEMBER 11 TH	KARLIE SHAMER RUIZ
SEPTEMBER 13 TH	LINDA PAQUETTE
SEPTEMBER 27 TH	DENISE NOYES
SEPTEMBER 28 TH	JOHN O'HARE
SEPTEMBER 28 TH	JO JOUBERT

Tips for baking: by Jo Joubert

Pie Crust:

Add 1/2teaspoon of cornstarch to the flour when making pie crust. The crust comes out noticeably tastier and flakier.

CALENDAR

Weekly Events

Services every Sunday at 8 and 10;
Men's Bible study every Monday at 7;
OA Thursdays from 10:15-11:30;
Bible Study every Friday at 1;
Contemplative Prayer, every Friday at 2:30;
Healing Eucharist every Friday at noon;
Al-Anon Saturdays from 7:15-8:30;
Morning Prayer TWTh at 8:00;
Evening Prayers MTWF at 8:00;

Special Events

Church without walls on 9/5 in Springfield at noon
Veterans Lunch September 7;
Mark Conversation on 9/7 and 28 at 4:15;
guest preacher Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, 9/12 at both services;
Church without walls on 9/12 in West Springfield, at noon;
Blessing of Gardens and Grounds on 9/19 at 11:30;
Vestry on Tuesday, 9/21 at 7;
Creation Walk, 10/3 at 11:30;
Community Supper, 10/11 at 5:30

COVID PRECAUTIONS

At the August 2021 Vestry meeting, the Vestry approved the following COVID precautions. These are **recommendations rather than requirements**. But please remember that some of our members and visitors, particular our youngest members and visitors, are unvaccinated and therefore at risk.

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

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

MUMS Sale

Every September we sell Mums to raise money for Action Centered Tutoring, a free, faith-based tutoring service for children in Springfield. If you would like to purchase some Mums and support a great cause, please let the office know. You can choose different sizes and colors, with prices varying by size. Special thanks to Sue O’Hare for coordinating this effort!

9-11 Service, by Fr. Harvey

The Agawam Fire Department organizes a 9-11 service each year to commemorate the attacks in 2001 and to honor our first responders. This year the Fire Chief wants to recognize our service men and women, particularly in light of our final withdrawal from Afghanistan. I have been invited to make a few comments. I am grateful for the opportunity and also a little nervous! Please say a prayer for me! Although I don’t anticipate mentioning it, that day will also mark the tenth anniversary of my first Sunday at Saint David’s, and for that I give thanks to God!

Renting our Space

We continue to make good use of our building and grounds. We now regularly rent our kitchen to local caterers. At the end of August, Christian filmmakers rented our property for a film. This was not a rental, but the Agawam Field Hockey Team held a carwash in our parking lot for a fundraiser—raising something like \$1600! I am grateful to John Litchfield who negotiates our rentals, and to Bob Rendrick and Lenny Scott who handle the logistics and clean-up!!



“ Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

I like to start working on the Dovetale by the 20 th of September for the month of October. Please have any information to me by then. Blessings Jo

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