

GLAD TIDINGS

Volume XVII, Spring 2024

Easter and Beyond

Easter Eve

The Day of Resurrection

Easter Egg Hunt

Annual Ministries Celebration
with Potluck

Lent + Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Vigil

Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing Drive

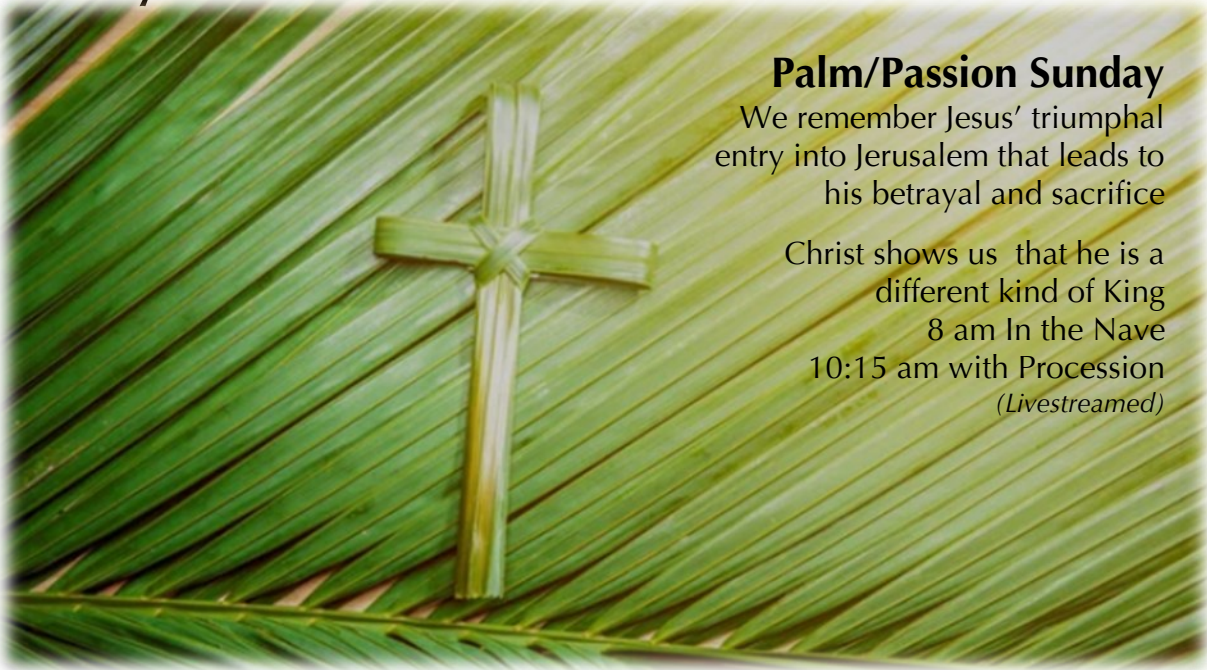
UTO Ingathering

Annual Meeting Potluck

Saint David's

...a community of disciples passing on God's love to all.

Holy Week and Easter—March 24-31



Palm/Passion Sunday

We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem that leads to his betrayal and sacrifice

Christ shows us that he is a different kind of King

8 am In the Nave

10:15 am with Procession

(Livestreamed)



Good Friday

Christ gives his life for the sins of the world.

7 pm in Nave

(Livestreamed)



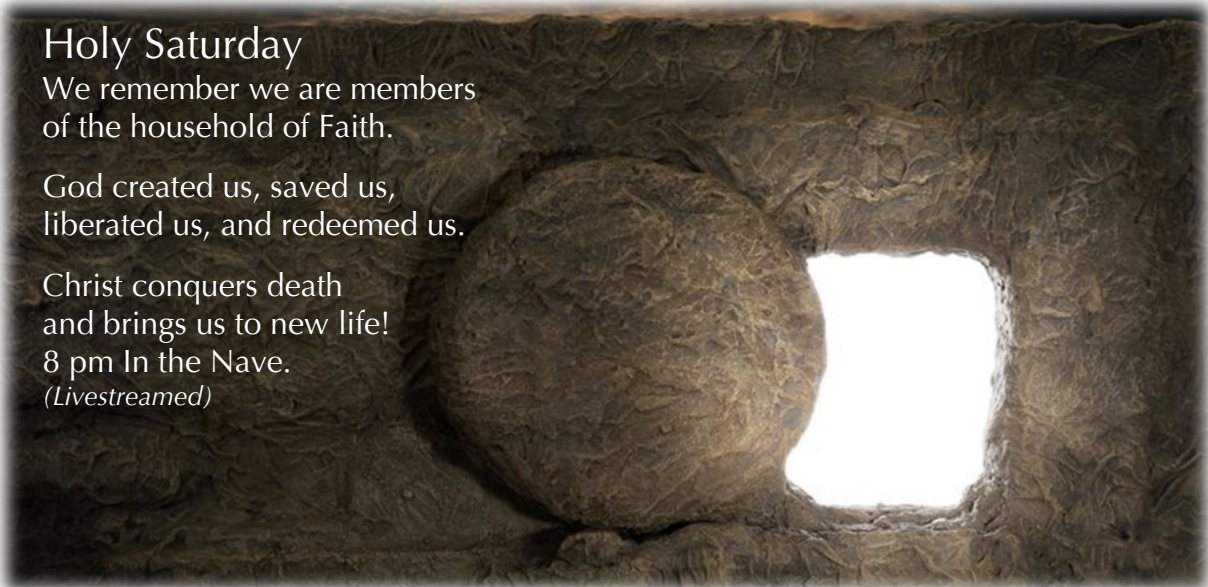
Maundy Thursday

Thursday

Christ gives us the Lord's Supper and washes his disciple's feet.

(Livestreamed)

7 pm



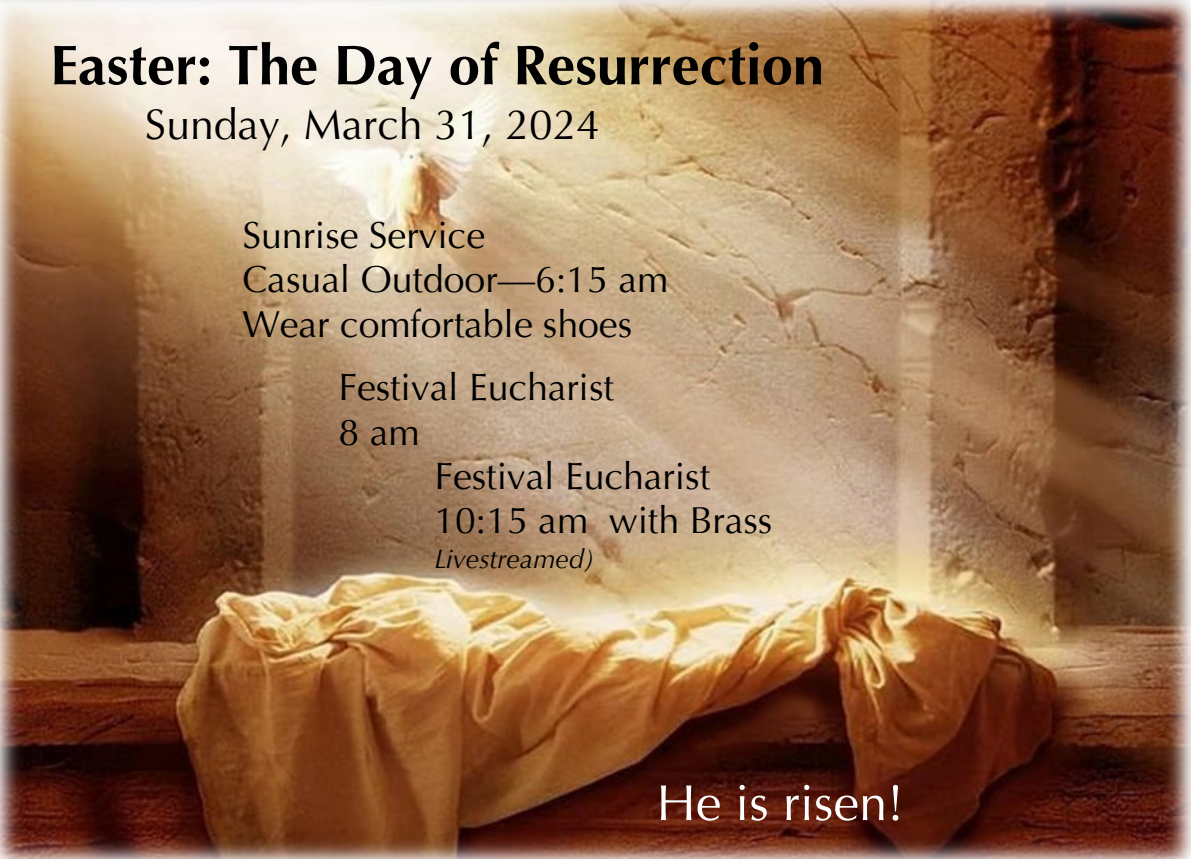
Holy Saturday

We remember we are members of the household of Faith.

God created us, saved us, liberated us, and redeemed us.

Christ conquers death and brings us to new life!

8 pm In the Nave.
(Livestreamed)



Easter: The Day of Resurrection

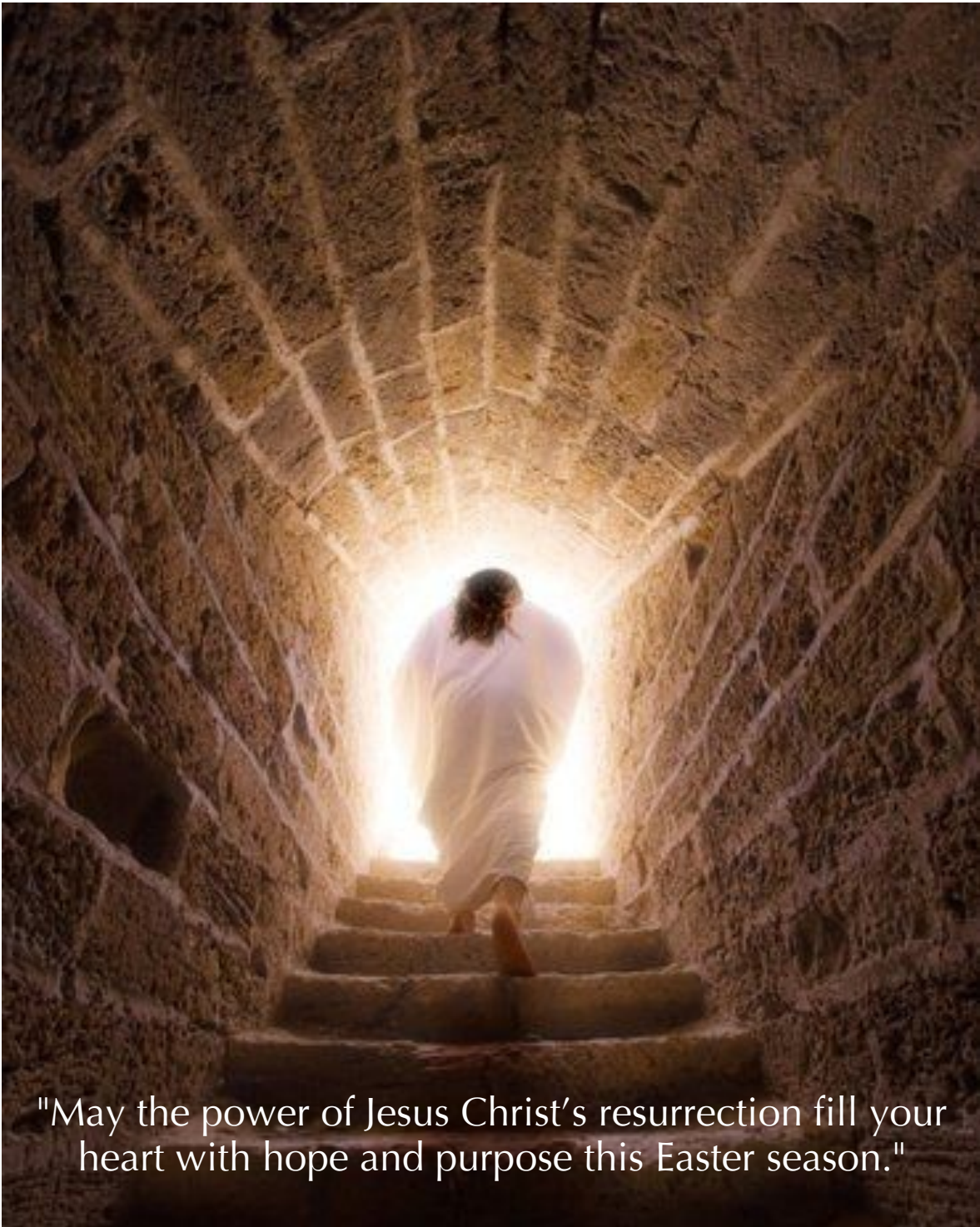
Sunday, March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service
Casual Outdoor—6:15 am
Wear comfortable shoes

Festival Eucharist
8 am

Festival Eucharist
10:15 am with Brass
(Livestreamed)

He is risen!



"May the power of Jesus Christ's resurrection fill your heart with hope and purpose this Easter season."

Easter Egg Hunt

Following the 10:15 am service. Meet in the Great Hall following the service if you wish to participate. Some adults are also needed to help hide the eggs. See Kathy Hanna if you would be willing to help.

And if you think about it ahead of time,

When you are out shopping, be sure to pick up a bag of wrapped candy for use in our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

You may leave donations in the Parish Office on or before Palm Sunday (March 24th).



You are invited to The Annual Ministries Celebration of Saint David's Parish

Brandywine Hundred, Wilmington

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Worship—9:30 am Celebration and Potluck to follow

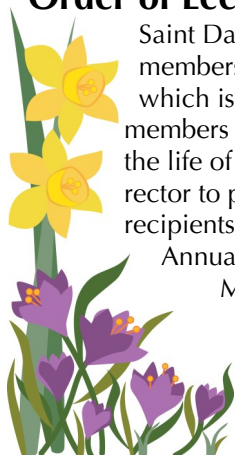


A potluck lunch will follow the meeting. Look for Sign-Up Genius links in the Weekly E-Pistle and on the parish webpage. All members of St. David's are strongly encouraged to attend this business meeting and celebration of our life together.

Your 2024 Vestry Nominees are: Jolene Baddick, Steve Hutt, and Bob Wright.

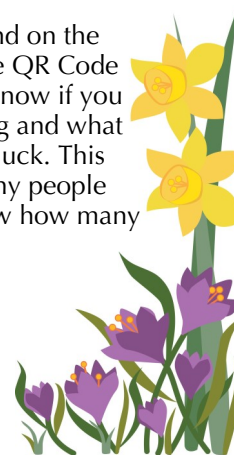
Nominations Open for The Sacred Order of Leeks & Daffodils

Saint David's will induct one or more members into this honorary society, which is comprised of Saint David's members who have greatly contributed to the life of the parish. Please contact the rector to put forth a candidate! This year's recipients will be announced at the Annual Ministries Celebration on May 5th.



Annual Meeting Potluck Sign-Up

Be sure to visit the links found on the Parish Web page or click the QR Code below to let the leadership know if you will be attending the meeting and what you'll be bringing to the potluck. This also helps us know how many people will be attending so we know how many chairs and tables to put up.



Building Up the Body of Christ by Worshiping God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer

Sunday Morning Worship

Worship is the central unifying act of our life together at St David's and within the Episcopal Church. The beautiful thing about our Episcopal tradition is that we are united not by common belief, but common prayer. So when someone asks what we believe, we can say a few things. We believe that love, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and grace are found in Jesus. And that those things are given freely by God to everyone, because every human being (and every living thing!) is an image-bearer of God. And we can also say come worship with us, because we believe that the way we pray together shapes what we believe. I have set a goal of building our 10:15 service up to 100 people each Sunday for three reasons: Most importantly, we are called by God to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is our mission as Christians. Secondly, our world needs Jesus now more than ever, which means the soil is very fertile! Finally, setting an identified goal helps all of us pull in the same direction. We have a fantastic foundation and a beautiful community that

showers love onto people; we are perfectly situated to grow.

We can do this in a few ways: A older nun was walking with a novice one day and the novice said, "I really don't want to go to mass." "Neither do I," said the older nun. "So let's go to mass." Maybe on that Sunday when we're really feeling like staying home and reading the paper (I have those days too!) come on in to church anyway. You make this place special! Now that our youth program is starting up again, there will be opportunities for youth to serve on the altar and gather for fun and fellowship. When they come and see other youth and kids, it makes them feel like they have community. Finally, we can invite others in our lives to come share in the love and soul-nourishing community that is St David's. The spirit of God in this community is such a healing experience for so many people. Let's continue to share it—I can't wait to see what God does with us this Spring!

Fr. Pete Nunnally
Interim Rector

Contemplative Prayer

What Does It Mean to be Contemplative? Last December a small group of folks from St. David's gathered between the 8 and 10:15 liturgies on Sunday morning for a time of prayer and reflection. We used as our guide the ancient practice of Lectio Divina or what is known as the sacred and prayerful reading of Scripture. We used as our reflection, the Gospel of Thomas. This group continues to meet on Sunday morning and all are welcome to come and see what it is all about. For me the answer to the question I posed at the beginning of this article is to be contemplative is taking time each day to rest in the presence of God, Jesus or the beloved. If you are interested in learning more about this rich prayer tradition of the Christian faith I would be glad to meet with you and not only say more

but also allow time for those interested to experience what it means to be silent and still in the midst of our busy lives.

Fr. David Andrews
Priest, retired



Youth Group & Acolytes

Youth Group is here! We have three lay volunteers helping our youth group, with monthly activities for kids aged 9-high school. Our focus for the spring is to build community among our youth while having fun and learning about God and Jesus along the way. We will gradually begin offering Sunday morning activities as well over the next year. Our first outing is bowling April 14, at 2pm. Please email me to sign up your youth. And tell them to bring friends!

We are also starting our acolyte program, and hope that all our youth will participate. Kids want to be a part of the service, and Jesus is very clear about the role children and young people play in the life of God's Kingdom. We literally need children and youth to be a part of our worshiping life in order to live into the fullest expression of God's kingdom here on earth. We are looking for a lay volunteer to coordinate the acolytes. Email me to sign your child up to be an acolyte!



Fr. Pete Nunnally
Interim Rector

Music Ministries

Like the Levites in the Temple in ancient Jerusalem, we seek through Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs to enhance, augment, and deepen the worship through the medium of music. Cantors, soloists, and choir members encourage the act of both praise and contemplation, and the opening of the heart Godward during worship. It was also the duty of the Levites in the Temple to sing Psalms during the sacrifices at the altar. Now, this manifests in Christian worship through the Holy Eucharist, in which Christ is both host and guest. Music helps open the soul and leads us to a place that would otherwise not be available.

So much of our belief, history, and tradition is carried on the wings of music. There are hundreds of sermons in our hymns and Spiritual Songs. In times of crisis, it is often some of these

songs that comes to us as salve for heartbreak and calm for the worried heart. May we honor our musical past, while broadening our repertoire to encompass the continuing revelation of who and what God is.

The Choir is a big part of St. David's recovery from the pandemic. Having the choir stationed in the midst of the People helps so much with congregational singing. They are doing an excellent job! The Choir will also be assisting with Holy Week services and singing an anthem on Easter Day

**“Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the LORD,
ALL THE EARTH. Sing to God and praise the Holy
One's name; proclaim God's salvation
from day to day!”**

Steven Weatherman
Director of Music



Building Up the Body of Christ by Reaching Out in Love to Those in Need

Outreach Means Action

One of the things I love best about St. David's is everyone's generosity in our many Outreach projects. It shows to me how much everyone cares about those in need. Our committee cooks a monthly meal for Emmanuel Dining Room. We collect food for St. Patrick's Center and Claymont Community Center. We hold used clothing drives and assist at the Clothing Bank of Delaware. Diapers are donated to impoverished new mothers. We collected toiletries, coffee, cleaning supplies, sheets and towels for Homeless Vets. At Christmas gifts are purchased for foster children and St. Patrick's seniors, then followed up with a Christmas Wrapping Party! During Lent we participated in the United Thank Offering. The committee is also charged with determining which groups to support, and how to best financially support the many worthy charities in the community. Our active outreach

members are encouraged to come up with new ideas to help others. The Blessing Bags is our newest venture.

Our committee has grown in the last year which has brought new ideas and insights. We'd love to have you join us! We meet the 4th Monday of the month at 6 pm the Memorial Room. Our meeting runs about an hour or a bit more. Additional time is needed to participate in activities of your choice. All are welcome!!

Amy Myers
Outreach Committee



Family Promise of Delaware

Family Promise is a program that keeps families together in the midst of homelessness. Families in need are housed, counseled, aided, and fed during their time of transition into the workforce and a new housing situation/ What a blessing it is to give out of our abundance! Here are some of the ways you can participate.

There are two main categories of giving and doing: **Action Items** and **Supplies**

- **Action Items** are food items that are prepared for a specific meal/date (*mains, salads, desserts, bread, butter*) and brought to the Memorial Room Kitchen, and then delivered by our volunteers to the Family Promise Center for the evening meal.
- **Supplies** are those things that can be purchased in advance (paper towels, cleaning supplies, coffee, tea, disposable plates and cutlery, granola bars...) and brought to St. David's.

You may sign-up to bring supplies or food on Sign-Up Genius or by calling Jackie Somers in the Parish Office (302-475-4688).

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

-Isaiah 6:8

Questions? Want to Sign-Up? Check out the Sign-Ups Page on the parish website:

stdavidsde.church



Ernst Hellriegel &
Ned Phillips
Parish Coordinators

Building Up the Body of Christ by Edifying our Minds and Souls

The Wisdom Seekers Tuesday Morning Book Group

Wisdom Seekers Book Group that meets on Tuesdays by Zoom from 10-11:30 am. The group meets weekly during the program year (with breaks for Christmas, Holy Days, Holy Week, and during the summer) and is usually 15-18 people. This modest number allows people to get to know one another in a more personal way as we explore good literature together. Also, the Wisdom Seekers enriches the life of the parish of St. David's by allowing people the opportunity to deepen their faith by reading and discussing books that speak to folks about ethics, morality, and faith. Faith is deepened for individuals participating in this book group as they come to understand that they have a ministry in this world and that we all have different gifts to share with one another.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of the Wisdom Seekers. Newcomers are always welcomed either from the church community or the larger community.

Carlene Deschaine coordinates the calendar, discussion leaders, Zoom meeting links, and arranges for a local restaurant to accommodate a group of 12-15 people every 5 or 6 weeks for lunch. Deva Scheel facilitates book selection (5 or 6 from a list of 15-20 books

each year) and organizes the voting selection process. Sandy Frazer leads the group in prayers for those who are ill and for prayers of Thanksgiving. Those wishing to join Wisdom Seekers should contact Jackie Somers in the church office (302-475-4688x0 OR at stdavidschurchoffice@verizon.net

Upcoming books will be will be :

April 9-May 7- **Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How it Can Transform Your Life** by Dacher Joseph Keltner.

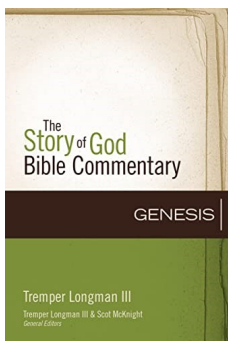
Discussion Leader: Jeanne Marie Yohe

May 14-June 11- **The Personal Librarian** by Heather Terrell & Victoria Christopher Murray.
Discussion Leader: Julie Grant.

New books will be selected in July and August of 2024 to be read by Wisdom Seekers during the 2024-2025 season. Information will be forthcoming in church newsletters next fall. Again, all are welcome to join Wisdom Seekers, a group that has been meeting continuously for over 20 years.



Carlene Deschaine
Wisdom Seekers
Coordinator/Contact



New Thursday Evening Bible Study Begins in the Season of Easter

Beginning on Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 pm, the Thursday Evening Bible Study will study the book of Genesis. To help us explore this text and mythology, we will use **The Story of God Commentary: Genesis**, by Tremper Longman III. Both hard and soft cover versions are widely available online. This new commentary for today's world explains and illuminates each passage of Scripture in light of the Bible's grand story and offers a clear and compelling exposition of biblical texts, guiding readers in how to creatively and faithfully live out the Bible in their own contexts.

Building Up the Body of Christ by Edifying our Minds and Souls

Women's Spirits

Women's Spirits is a discussion group for women led by women that tackles issues important to women. Carol Van Zoeren leads this group. WS meets at 10 am on

the second Saturday of each month for conversation about a scheduled topic (and sometimes we wander far afield). Group members are encouraged to suggest topics and lead a discussion of that topic. Recent topics include Spirituality in Nature, Key Life Lessons, Practicing Honesty, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Over the years, we've developed rapport and trust which enables open sharing, supporting, and learning much about each other and about ourselves.



If you'd like to join the conversation, just drop in sometime! It is a small, but vibrant group of 6-10 women. But, we always have room for one more. You are invited and most welcome.

Carol Van Zoeren
Women's Spirits Coordinator

EfM – Education for Ministry

Hi. I'm Rob Carver and I wanted to take a moment to tell you about my experience in the Education for Ministry Program here at Saint David's, or EfM as we call it.

When I started the program in January of 2020, no one could have envisioned the global pandemic we were about to experience or imagined how much the world would change.

I am grateful to have had EfM each week (via zoom) to help keep me from the deep isolation and separation that affected so many. The spiritual journey that EfM took me on and the fellowship which was formed in our small group not only got me through the pandemic, but it helped usher in a new way of seeing the world around me. My relationship with God has grown stronger and it continues to grow just as I continue to get acquainted with my true self. I don't believe it is an accident that those two things are connected.

The key lesson for me is one received through our weekly readings and theological reflection

discussions and by raising lots of questions and doubts about all of it: That the divine is within each of us and all we need to do is listen for it. We do this by sharing our stories with each other and pulling down our masks to reveal our true selves. God never fails in those moments and always provides enough 'God winks' to fill us with confidence we are on the right path.

EfM meets by Zoom each Tuesday evening (with an in-person meeting every 5-6 weeks.) We start our program year in September, and we are always looking for others to join us. Members come from all around the diocese, but we are based here at St. David's. If you feel you may be interested, please reach out to get more information!

Rob Carver
EfM Liaison at St. David's



St. David's Day School

Spring 2024

The 68th school year is well underway! It has been a busy year – full of lots of learning, fun, some smiles and some tears. We said goodbye to Father Brad in November and welcomed Father David to chapels in December and Father Pete in January! There are new teachers, new assistant teachers, new interns, and a new administrative assistant. And of course, new families!



Registration for the 69th school year began in January and is almost complete (a few spaces in the two-year-old classes remain). Registration is also now open for the summer program (June 10 – August 23 with a break week July 1-5). If you have friends, neighbors, or family members between the ages of 3 and 6 (rising 1st graders), direct them to our website

www.stdavidsdayschoolde.org
where they can find all the necessary forms to spend a week or 10 here this summer.



The Day School operates under the auspices of the Vestry and has its own Bylaws and Board of Directors. The Board sets tuition rates, salary increases, offers scholarships, and supports the Director in policy matters. The Day School Board is chaired by the Rector, with members coming from the parish, school parents (past and present) and the greater community. Current parishioners who are members of the Day School Board include Anne Doberstein, Jeanne Marie Yohe, and Rex Burnham (Sr. Warden). Want to join this group? – it only meets once a month (the 3rd Monday) – and support the BEST preschool in Delaware?? Send me an email (stdavidskidsde@outlook.com) or call me at 302-475-3747 x 202 for more information!

You'll be glad you did!!

Thank you for your continued support of our children, families, and staff.



Sincerely,
Janet Leishman,
M.ED., *Director*

Building Up the Body of Christ by Caring for the St. David's Community and Newcomers

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee meets once a month to determine where pastoral support is needed and create a plan of action. The chief ministry of Pastoral Care is staying in touch with people in our community. Just visiting, calling, writing notes, and letting them know they are remembered them is very important.

Occasionally, meals are offered during illness or after hospitalization. If this need arises in your household, please contact Jackie Somers in the parish office. Prayer Shawls are provided during long term illness and recovery from surgery. Baby blankets are delivered to new babies. These beautiful prayer shawls and baby blankets are made by members of our congregation and given to Pastoral Care to distribute as needed.

A series of Grief Books is provided for people in the congregation during their first year after a loved one dies. They are sent every few months during the year with a note by a member of the Pastoral Care Committee. They are surprisingly helpful and fitting to the many stages of grief and the passage of time.

A variety of Care Notes Booklets are provided for anyone to pick up and peruse. They are thoughtfully written on various topics as seen through the lens of faith. Care Notes are located on the table in the Narthex near the side door to the church.

Sandy Fazer
Pastoral Care Team



Hospitality Is Our Middle Name

The Hospitality Guild is a group of 6-8 people that enjoy food preparation and serving. Each week a member of the parish financially sponsors Hospitality Hour (HH). Each week a Guild member is assigned to set up and host HH after the 10:15 am service. Hosting involves planning and shopping for the food, possibly cooking or baking items of your choice, making coffee, setting out the food prior to the 10:15 am service, maintaining and refreshing the table during HH, plus cleaning up and storing food afterwards.

All parishioners are invited to attend HH following the 10:15 am service for coffee, tea, food, and conversation. Hospitality Hour is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners and learn more about St. Davids and the community.

We enjoy what we do because we love hosting, and a little coffee/tea and food is a great way to bring people together. St. Davids is an inviting,

inclusive, and growing community and our sponsors and hosts provide the means to bring people together, as well as providing a venue where Newcomers can become incorporated into the community. Our Guild members are all individuals with their own unique talents and creativity. We operate within a set budget and guidelines, and the rest is up to the host's own creativity and time. Any person that wants to join the Guild should talk to Gail or Sandy.



Gail Campbell &
Sandy Siezenski
Hospitality Guild

**HOSPITALITY
GUILD**

Sacristans of the Altar Guild

Each celebration of the Eucharist is almost like watching a short version of the passion play. The players on the stage (altar) are important, but to be successful every performance requires support staff to set the stage, manage the wardrobe, provide the props, etc. And that is pretty much what the Altar Guild does!

We have found that performing the duties of a sacristan is a great way to worship God and to share his love with our community. Reverently handling the holy vessels and preparing the sanctuary for worship brings a sense of peace and joy. Working together as a group to provide a beautiful setting in which to worship is very fulfilling. It can also be very educational (like learning the proper names of everything in the church!) and lots of fun when we gather for fellowship meetings once or twice a year or as we work together cleaning up after a service – this really is a wonderful group of people! Sacristans (proper name for members of the Altar Guild) are split into four teams who work under the direction of our priest. Each team performs the duties of the guild once each month.



St. David's Online Presence

We live in the digital age. So many of us would be panicked if we were to be without our phones. It is the easiest and most convenient way of communicating with others. While social media has a lot of drawbacks, the Church is striving to use this tool for the building up of the Kingdom of God and drawing more people into the loving embrace of Jesus' love. On Facebook and Instagram, we share inspirational thoughts, humor, theological points to ponder, reminders about community events, and encouragement in all varieties. This does not exist only for members, but as a flare sent up from our place on Grubb Road to illumine the world. It shares the Good News of Jesus Christ in God through the action of the Holy Spirit, while sharing our healthy pride in our community that seeks to

During busier times like Holy Week, we work together as a team to split up the duties, so that no one team is overburdened.

We welcome new members and hope you will consider joining this ministry. If you are interested in learning more before making a commitment, we are happy to let you "shadow" us as we perform our duties.

Come and join us in setting a beautiful table for God's People and for all Newcomers who seek a spiritual home.!

Michelle Black &
Gail Campbell
St. David's Altar Guild



serve others. It is our aim to draw more people into the St. David's fellowship to work in God's Vineyard. It is also a beacon to others in the larger community that St. David's is a place of solace, comfort, renewal and unconditional love.

Steven Weatherman
*Online Presence &
Publications*



Warm Words for the Craft Fair

POP QUIZ: What outreach funding event happens the second Saturday of every November? WHAT?!? You don't know?!? Why, it's our beloved annual Craft Fair! And I JUST KNOW you're wondering what all the buzz is about this event, right? Well, as your Craft Fair Chair, I'm gonna' share a bit about it.

I really can't remember what year I became the chairperson of this event...perhaps 2013?? I started small by volunteering to help out at the bake table. The next year became the chairperson of the bake table. It was all downhill from there!! Two years later, I became the co-chairperson of the entire event! Just the natural progression of things, right? But let me tell you, in all these years, I have always found so much joy in working with all our volunteers and crafters. And back then I was relatively new to St. D's so branching out and becoming involved created a deep connection for myself and family to this amazing community. I have forged incredible friendships along the way.

Crafters are a big part of the event, but we also have church-led areas of fundraising efforts (competition much?!?). We have Attic Treasures, the Bake Table, Soup Sales, the Book Nook, Silent Auction, and Cash/Accounting...all run by talented and capable hands. Last, but certainly not least, our famous soup chef, Jeff Cook, who leads a fabulous kitchen crew!

Each summer, planning begins for this one-day event. Beth Yoncha, our Crafter Coordinator, gets those crafter-invite letters flying out in June and by Labor Day weekend, our group of leaders

meet (preferably poolside! with beverages!) to go over all the plans to make it as successful as possible. So much goes into making it run smoothly, but when many volunteers come together, it makes the work easy and really enjoyable! Really.

So, let me get right down to the main point of all of this: the funds generated from this one-day event (well over \$10k) funds so many outreach initiatives. The Craft Fair provides the St. David's community with the resources to venture out into the greater community and help others. This always reminds me of our mission statement: "A Community of Disciples Passing Along God's Love to All." I truly believe we are living up that statement with our Craft Fair. THAT is the driving force behind it all!

Curious how you can be part of the fun? Questions? I'm always available to talk/chat about all things craft fair and the numerous s volunteer opportunities! 302-383-8807.

Peace & Love,
Jolene Baddick
Your Craft-Fair-Chair!



Craft
Fair 

Needles of Creation

Needles of Creation is a group of individuals that take their hard work very seriously. We gather on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. We share ideas, learn from each other and help each other with our projects. We help our other ministries, such as Nursery Necessities and the Prayer Shawl Ministry, increase their supply of hand made goods for distribution to our congregation in need. Whether it's crochet, knitting, cross stitch, embroidery, we enjoy each other's company and successes. Thanks!



Chris Zlotnik
Chief Snarl-Untangler

Livestream Crew

There's no doubt the pandemic changed a lot of things, including the way we worship. During those early days of social distancing, almost every church turned to virtual worship to keep services going. Now many, including St. David's have kept this online option going.

My son Luke and I are among the small group (with the leadership of Jackie Sommers!) that make the 10:15 service available live on Facebook on Sundays. People can also watch it online later in the week if they can't join live.

It's a fairly simple ministry. There's a little bit of set up to get the broadcast on Facebook. From there, make sure one of the two cameras is focused on what's currently happening and set up the other for what's next. Then, switch cameras using the cues Jackie provides each week. What could be easier than that? (Unless a priest/rector goes rogue, but that rarely happens....)

I believe this ministry is about building and maintaining community. It allows those who are sick and can't attend to remain connected to weekly services and the community. It allows those who've moved to check-in occasionally and keep their connection to our community. And it allows Newcomers a chance to check St. David's out before taking the sometime intimidating step of joining us in person -

and hopefully joining our community.

It's a great ministry for those who want to contribute to the community, but have limited time. You are coming to the service anyway, so why not experience it from a different perspective once a month or so? And for young people like Luke, it's a ministry that puts them in familiar digital territory while helping them feel more a part of what's going on.

If you remember how going to church virtually helped keep you connected with St. David's during the pandemic, remember there are people making that happen each week for those who can't be there now – and you can be one of those people too.

Tom Byrne
Livestream Ministries



Building Up the Body of Christ: Words of Hope and Direction from the Leadership of the Vestry

Words from the Senior Warden of the Vestry

What service do you provide to your members, the parish, or outside world?

As Senior Warden of the Vestry, I feel that in this time in the life of the Church, when laity and clergy are recognizing the benefits of shared leadership, the call means working collaboratively with fellow Vestry members and the Rector to create a vision and plan of action that reflects God's dream for the congregation. It means cultivating congregation-wide conversations about where God is calling your faith community. It means balancing your role in discerning God's mission and vision with sound stewardship of its property and resources."

How does the Vestry act and function?

"The shared responsibilities of the Vestry and the Rector can be described roughly as

- Discernment of God's call
- Identification of new leaders
- Stewardship and development of resources
- Special duties when a congregation is without a rector

We are convinced that the most important of these is discernment. The primary tasks for a vestry are discerning what God is calling your faith community to do and articulating a hopeful vision of the church and the world as God's mission. A clear mission and strong vision create a firm foundation for your decisions and actions."

How does the Vestry nurture/enrich the life of the Church? Parish? Community?

"The Episcopal Church reflects the sweeping changes in American life and culture in the twenty-first century. As the United States grows more diverse, so do our churches. The fastest-growing demographic in The Episcopal Church

is Latino members, with Asian membership, particularly in the West, coming in second. Evolving digital communications are bringing new ways for congregations to build community, network, and explore their faith. Greater fluidity in religious choice brings us new members from a variety of faith traditions."

How does your ministry inform your faith? OR...how does your faith inform your ministry??

"But your faith community is also where you wrestle with questions of faith and find meaning and purpose for your life. It's where life's small and large events are marked and celebrated. So there is an important element of shared life and purpose in vestry leadership. You're not just elected to the vestry; you are called to a sacred ministry in your faith community."

Why do you enjoy being part of this ministry?

"Election to the vestry is exciting—a sign of your congregation's confidence in you. But it can also be daunting. The challenges our churches face today can make a vestry person wonder at Jesus' promise that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. We at ECF are in agreement, though, with retired bishop Henry Parsley. He writes in a Vestry Papers article that he misses vestry meetings. "Vestries should be one of the most exciting ministries in the church—joyful, in fact," he writes. "Healthy, effective vestries make healthy, effective parishes. When rectors and vestries work together as a well-aligned team, extraordinary things happen for the mission of God."

Rex Burnham
Senior Warden

Some answers excerpted from
Vestry Resource Guide
by Nancy Davidge

Words from the Junior Warden of the Vestry

Everyone loves taking care of their house, condo, or apartment by cleaning, providing maintenance, doing upgrades, and finally waiting for the repair person to come fix something between 8 and 12 noon!? Hopefully that repair person showed up on time! What do you think it takes to do the same for our St. David's home has 60,000 square feet, 12 HVAC systems, 6 roofs, 300 plus doors, thousands of square feet of glass/windows, two kitchens, and I did mention the 10 bathrooms? Geez, I forgot the lawn and garden maintenance, snow removal, con-

stant painting projects, roof leaks, toilet back-ups and planting flowers in the spring. Sounds like an enormous task, it is, however with the Building and Grounds Team, much support from Jackie Sommers and Janet Leishman and the parish's financial support, it gets done. We are always looking for volunteers who are handy, want to help us get estimates for repairs, shovel snow or lend a helping hand. Please reach out to Bob Rhodunda or anyone on Vestry if you want to help -- we would truly appreciate it. Here are some pictures of the team at work. Thanks for your support!

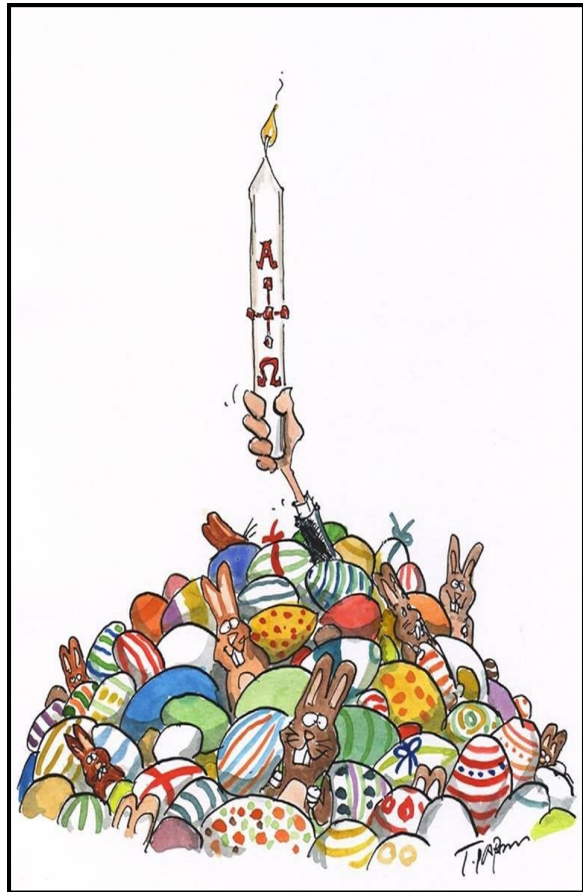
Bob Rhodunda,
Junior Warden



Parish Office & Administration

So much happens behind the scenes on Sunday mornings and during the week. So many things, people, and schedules have to be coordinated, confirmed, noted, and communicated in emails, the bulletin, and the Weekly E-Pistle. Office and program supplies need to be ordered and on hand for ready use. Prayer requests gleaned from emails, calls, and mailbox are compiled. Information comes from every compass point. Please, excuse us if we occasionally mess up. There's a lot to keep track of.

Jackie Somers
Administrative Assistant



United Thank Offering

Ending April 7, 2024

Be sure to bring in your United Thank Offering Collection by April 7th. This year, we request that all offerings be made in the form of a check, due to the pandemic. Your generosity reaches so much farther than you can possibly imagine. Many thanks!



Spring Clothing Drive

April 14—Before the one 9:30 am service Your donations of lightly used clothing are greatly appreciated. At this time of year, things for spring and summer are greatly needed. So, let's go clean out those closets! Many thanks!

An Order for Easter Evening

The Priest goes home.

People Do you have some time
Monday morning to get together?

Celebrant No.

“But from
this earth,
this grave,
this dust,
my God shall
raise me up,
I trust.”

—Sir Walter Raleigh

In Case of Pastoral Emergency...

In case of emergency, contact Fr. Pete directly at 504-352-4552
or email at frpete.stdavids@gmail.com.



The Day School and Parish
Offices will be Closed on
the entirety of Easter Week.
during this time.

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