

Volume XVII, Fall 2024

Faith Reflections

"Bring On the Fun" by Olivia Lawrence

"A Reflection on Water and Wilderness Church"

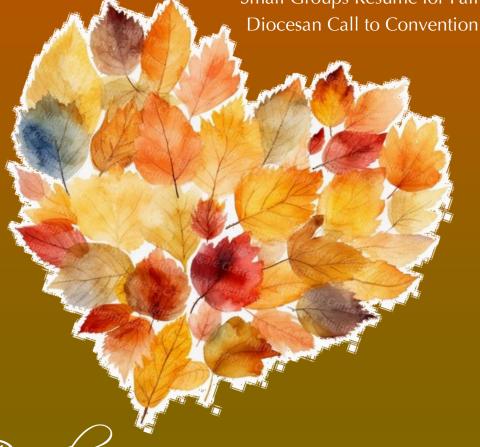
"The Annual Craft Fair: WHY?" by Jolene Baddick

What's Happening

The Season of Creation Celebrated at St. David's

How Do Episcopalians Decide What to Believe?

New Parent Support Group Small Groups Resume for Fall



Saint David'sa community of disciples passing on God's love to all.

Outreach Sunday October 13, 2024

Come learn more about the Outreach opportunities at St. David's. Joining us that day at both the 8am & 10:15am services will be Rob Gurnee from Lutheran Community Services.

lutheran LCS community services

Clothing Drive in between services! Please, wash and pack up any lightly used clothing and bring them on Outreach Sunday!



Celebrating the Season of Creation in the Episcopal Church

At St. David's, we have been granted special permission to celebrate this new and evolving Season of Creation by The Right Reverend Kevin S. Brown, the Bishop of Delaware. This is an honor and privilege not granted to all. St. David's is known to be not only a warm & friendly congregation, but also an open, liturgically creative parish. This is a great opportunity for our parish, before wider use becomes available in future years. Plus, it's always nice to mix it up a little! Variety is the spice of life!



A Word on The Season of Creation from the General Convention in 2022

The 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognized climate change as "an all-encompassing social crisis and moral emergency that impacts and interconnects every aspect of pastoral

concern including health, poverty, employment, racism, social justice, and family life and that can only be addressed by a Great Work involving every sector of society, including the Church."

A CREATION CARE THEOLOGY PRIMER

Why is it important to mark the Season of Creation?

- The Gospel calls us to grow in faith as we affirm that God in Christ loves, redeems, and sustains the whole of Creation, not only human beings.
- The climate and ecological crisis is urgent and needs bold prophetic response.

What is our Gospel call to grow in faith? What does Christianity have to do with ecology?

- God the Creator pronounced the world "*very good*" (Gen. 1:31), and gave humans the task to "*till and keep*" the Earth (Gen. 2:15) as stewards and caregivers rather than owners (Ps. 24:1).
- Jesus, Christian saints, the prophets, and many of our mystics, including the Desert Fathers and Saint Francis, lived in close relationship with Creation. As Saint Paul wrote (Rom. 1:20), humanity encounters and dwells with God through the natural world.
- Destruction of nature is a sign of estrangement from God: "There is no knowledge of God in the land. Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing," Hos. 4:1b, 3; "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea nor the trees," Rev. 7:3.

- The Paschal mystery includes all of Creation: everything has been redeemed in the work of Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things were made (Jhn. 1:3). In him, "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:19-20; c.f. Eph. 1:10, 2 Cor. 5:19). Creation is thus made new (Rev. 21:5).
- Jesus said that loving our neighbors is like unto loving God. Our neighbors include people of the Third World who now face the worst effects of the crisis built by the First World; climate refugees; low-wealth and minority communities, which are hurt first and hardest by the changing climate as social justice is inextricably linked to ecological justice; and future generations, who depend on us to leave them a habitable world. God's "everlasting covenant" is with "every living creature" (Gen. 9:8-17)—they, too, are the neighbors we are summoned to love.
- We proclaim a Gospel of salvation that includes all of Creation, not only human beings. Jesus commissioned his disciples, saying, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). As disciples of Jesus, our mission is to bring good news in word and deed to the whole Creation.
- Our discipleship bears witness to a love that transcends death. In baptism, we die to ourselves and live in Christ, and are delivered from undue fear of death (*c.f.* Rom. 8:38-39, 2 Tim. 1:7, Heb. 2:14-15). This experience empowered the early Christians to resist the unjust powers-that-be: they "turned the world upside down" (Act. 17:6) and "acted contrary to the decrees of the emperor" (Act. 17:7), obeying God rather than any human authority (Act. 5:29) in resisting the forces of death and destruction to the point of suffering and martyrdom.
- Christian hope is in the renewal (Mat. 19:28) and restoration (Act. 3:21) of all things. Our participation with God in creating a more just and habitable world and living more gently on Earth is how we share in what Archbishop Desmond Tutu calls the "supreme work" of Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to God, one another, and God's whole Creation. The good news of God in Christ is for all creatures and the whole Earth.



What is the urgency of climate and ecological crisis?

"We've changed the planet, changed it in large and fundamental ways. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and burning in ways that no human has ever seen."

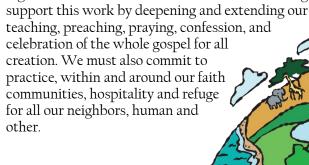
Bill McKibben

Because of the relentless burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, the world's climate has become disrupted and unstable. The web of life is unraveling before our eyes. Human society is at risk of collapse within decades along with mass extinctions of species and forced migrations.

- Over the last fifty years, 60% of the planet's mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish have been wiped out by human land development and habitat destruction.
- More than 1 million species are on the way to extinction.
- Oceans are acidifying and warming, and living fish are being displaced with dead plastic. Sea levels are rising, coral reefs dying, and ecosystems collapsing.
- Record-breaking and intensifying weather patterns are increasing deadly droughts, floods, storms, and heat.
- Food supply disruption due to weather events, water shortages, and unpredictable seasons will increase, leading to mass starvation events.

What must be done?

The U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns we have only a short amount of time to limit the worst of the effects of the crisis by reversing deforestation, stopping the burning of fossil fuels through switching to renewable energy sources and lowering demand, developing and using better agricultural practices, and adapting to a changed world by redirecting resources to the Third World and climate refugees. As religious communities, we also must







SEA & SOUL RETREAT

Hosted by Water and Wilderness Church October 11-14, 2024 Chincoteague Bay Field Station, Wallops Island, VA

TO REGISTER, EMAIL FATHER PETE: pete@waterandwilderness.org

- Expand your soul by diving into the science and spirituality of the ocean!
- Immersion classes on coastal wetlands, barrier islands, and shoreline crustaceans.
- Spiritual reflection, solo time, and worship.
- \$550 per person: includes 3 nights lodging, all meals, classes, and excursions.
- Open to anyone 12 and up.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ Water and Wilderness Church!





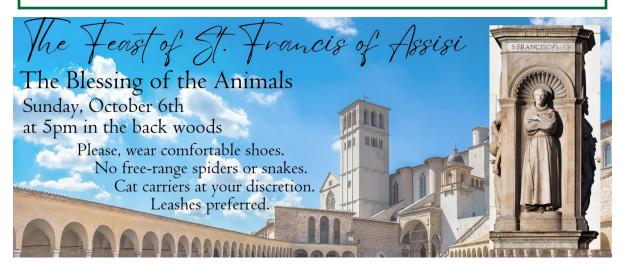


New Hospitality Sponsor dates have been added and sponsors are needed beginning in November. The cost is \$30 per Sunday and no shopping or setting up us needed. Click the 'sign-up' link on the parish website to selecty your date today. www.stdavidsde.church

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY



The Hospitality Guild is looking for new members. While Hospitality Hour is *sponsored* by parishioners each week, there is a very dedicated and creative group of people who "give the gift of hospitality" by preparing and setting out the refreshments each week for all to enjoy. The Hospitality Guild is looking for some new members who want to be involved with this important ministry. If you are interested in becoming a member or if you just want some more information about this ministry, contact the Parish Office at 302-475-4688.



SO...how do Episcopalians decide what to believe and what NOT to believe? How do they filter out that which is not of God, and that which falls in line with the perceived will of God? Good question. Here's our attempt at an answer.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF EPISCOPAL BELIEF ARE...

Scripture, Reason, Tradition, & Experience. We believe we are called to love everyone, with no exceptions. Ours is an ancient faith, but a faith that looks forward to the evolving needs of our global community and our evolving understanding of what "living in beloved community" means.

SCRIPTURE

Each week we have readings from the Bible and we listen for the inspired Word of God. Sermons are based on the weekly scripture readings, but because the Good Book was written by humans (who are fallible), we draw on knowledge and reason to interpret the Bible's meaning—and not literal interpretation of every word.

REASON

Episcopalians are free to apply their God-given minds to reason, interpret and comprehend God's works and wisdom. We study, seek meaning, and welcome questions. It is normal to have doubts. (The disciples did, too.) We are asked to make a faithful journey in communion with other seekers and searchers. Our understandings are, therefore, tested in/by the community of faith. Science is welcome here, too. Jesus died to take away your sins, not your mind.

TRADITION

We have inherited many valuable traditions from the time of the Apostles. We seek a universal Church for everyone, everywhere. We are called to love everyone. Asking what God calls us to do in the here and now is balanced by the collective wisdom of the church, the essential truths, developed over the centuries of practice in creeds, liturgies, and traditions. Yet, because ours is a living, growing faith, we must welcome new truths discerned through prayer and informed by reason and practice. This is how change happens.

EXPERIENCE

We experience the faith by putting it into practice. We live the faith. We are called not just to prayer, worship, liturgy, and meditation, but to study, act, and stand for justice. We learn more of God's love and mercy by doing God's work in the world.

Parents and Caregivers of St. David's Day school students and St. David's church members (child ages 0-5 yrs old)

What Social/educational/spiritual group for enrichment and support

When Sept 22nd, Sunday Brunch (11:30am); monthly events throughout the school year

Where St. David's Memorial Hall or Great Hall

Why Support the needs of the parents and caregivers in our church and school community



Youth Group Fall Activity!

On Sunday, October 20 from 2-4pm, the Youth Group of Saint David's will go to Ramsey Farm for an afternoon of fun! This will include such things

as a bonfire with s'mores, some snacks,

and drinks. Kids will get a wristband with access to all pumpkin patch activitie (hayride, corn maze, etc.). Drop-off and pick-up at Ramsey Farm. Cost TBA.. To register, email Kate Kapron at ktdykeman@gmail.com!

Education for Ministry (EfM) Open to Receive New Participants!

The Northern Delaware EfM group based out of St. David's Brandywine Hundred is open to new participants to join this small group for the upcoming 2024-2025 program year (hopefully beginning October 8th). EfM is a program for anyone interested in broadening

and deepening their spiritual journey and discovering new ways to build spiritual connections within the communities they live in and serve. Contact the Parish Office or visit the website for more information.



SEEKING MORE WISDOM & LIGHT

TUESDAY MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

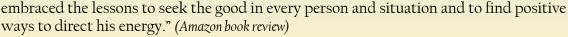
The Wisdom Seekers begin the 2024-2025 season with the book, The Light We Give: How Sikh Wisdom Can

Transform Your Life by Sumran Jeet Singh. This book will be read and discussed until October 13, led Chris

Yovino. The Wisdom Seekers book discussion group is open to all and meets by Zoom on Tuesdays from 10 - 11:30 am. Participants should purchase their own books or Kindle editions from book sellers such as Barnes & Noble or

Amazon. Please contact Jackie Somers at the church office at 302-475-4688, Ext. 0 if you are interested in joining this small group.

"As a boy growing up in South Texas, Sumran Jeet Singh and his brothers confronted racism daily: at school, in their neighborhood, playing sports and later in college and beyond. He refused to give in to negativity. Instead, Singh delved into the Sikh teachings that he grew up with and

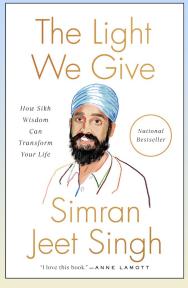


Again, all are welcome to this book study group which meets from September through June weekly on ZOOM.



All are invited to make a JOYFUL NOISE with the Choir of St. David's. This ensemble meets on Thursday evenings to rehearse at 7:30 pm (immediately following Bible Study). The Choir plans to sing anthems approximately twice a month, at special services like Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter, and always helps support congregational singing while embedded in the congregation (guerilla musical warfare!). Join the ranks, and let's spread the Good News through music!

All are encouraged to give it a shot. The Bible doesn't say "Make a <u>perfect</u> noise," it says "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!"



Women's Spirits: New Season, New Topics

Hello Wimmin! Summer's over. We start meeting again on the second Saturday (with minor variations) of each month. Kudos to Carolyn, Susan, Jane, and Diane for stepping up! Even if each hasn't yet decided on a topic, they've all made a commitment, and I look forward to whatever they come up with. Still looking for Topics/Leaders for November 16th, December 14th, and May 10th.

Here's the line-up so far:

Oct 12 - When Bad Things Happen to Good People -- Carolyn Luttrell

Nov 16 - Open topic - (Shifted a week for Craft Fair)

Dec 14 – Open topic

Jan 11 - Topic TBD - Susan Marengo

Feb 8 - Topic TBD - Jane Bordzol

Mar 8 - Topic TBD - Diane Camerote

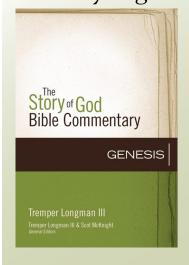
April 12 - Prayer, especially when not "answered" -- Carolyn Luttrell

May 10 - Who knows???

I feel so blessed to be associated with this great group of wimmin, and am looking forward to getting together again!

-Carol Van Zoeren

Thursday Night Bible Study Resumes!



This rowdy bunch meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. This group is working its way through <u>The Story of God Bible Commentary: Genesis</u> by Tremper Longman III. This commentary series offers a clear and compelling exposition of biblical texts, guiding everyday reads in how to creatively and faithfully live out the Bible in their own contexts. Its story-centric approach is ideal for pastors, students, Sunday school teachers, and laypeople alike.

Snacks and goodies have been welcomed in previous years! There are rumors that this tradition may continue.



Craft Fair Season is upon us!

It will be here before we know it: November 9, 9am to 3pm. So, let's not get caught off-guard. We have to be joyful warriors! We ride at dawn!

Okay, let's just take a minute to refocus on the real reason for the Craft Fair. The money generated from this one-day event (well over \$10k!) provides the Saint David's community with resources to venture out into the greater community to 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. It all comes down to "Community Helping Community" - that is the driving force behind it all! As part of the St. David's Community, I know you're wondering right now how you can help-out this Craft Fair Season! There are many ways to help-out:

- Volunteering some time to help during the fair: in Attic Treasures, at the Bake Table, in the Book Nook, or with the Silent Auction baskets.
- Volunteering some time to help before/ after the fair for set up/clean up, when we really need help! (Craft Fair Eve is always a good time!)

- Donating gently used items for Attic Treasures and the Book Sale.
- Baking some tasty treats for the Bake Table.
- Attending the fair (with Christmas gift list in hand!) to do some serious shopping!
 When we shop at our fair, we're supporting so many small businesses in our community.

Again, it all comes down to Community Helping Community!

I have been a part of this event (or this event has been a part of me!) for well over a decade. After all these years, I still find so much joy in working with all our volunteers and crafters...and I guarantee, you will too!

If you have any questions or need assistance deciding what you can do to

help, please give me a call/text at 302.383.8807.

Many thanks! Jolene Baddick Your Craft Fair Chair



Bring On the Fun!

by Olivia Lawrence



Hello, my name is Olivia Lawrence. I am a member here at St. David's and I am going into 4th grade. I am a part of the Saint David's Youth Group, and recently we went on a tubing trip down the Brandywine River! I've been tubing before but never in a large group like this and it was so fun to be on the river for TWO HOURS with my new friends. I would love to share my tubing experience with you.

When I first got there to the tubing location, I expected for it to be a relaxing float, but the minute we pulled up to the river from the bus, I knew it would be crazy fun. We tied our tubes together and we made a giant boat of floats. It was so much fun! There was even one point in the river where I couldn't touch the bottom!

We saw so many cool things as we bobbed down the river: turtles, a bald eagle, and so much more. I felt like I was really a part of the group, and that all these people that I barely knew yesterday really cared about me today. I hope that the Youth Group and I can go on more adventures together. I felt and saw a lot of God on this trip, and let me explain why. Since I'm the youngest, it's easy to feel left out...left behind the older kids, but I was able to make friends, which is not me because I'm also a very shy person. I felt like I was part of the group.

If you want more information about Youth Group, I am always available to talk at hospitality hour.

-Olivia Lawrence



Water and Wilderness Church Reflection by Kristen T.

I was baptized, raised, married, confirmed, led a youth group, baptized my babies, taught Sunday school, served on All The Things and showed up week after week in a church that truly loves me and welcomes me whole-heartedly. I trust that my questions, doubts, disbeliefs, and misunderstandings are patiently welcomed. I find comfort in knowing I am part of a religious practice in which a liturgical cycle is followed and there are protections in place to keep the church connected to a larger community rather than individually driven. I share peace and kneel at the altar to break bread with people I may otherwise not interact with, and these things kept me coming back to the practice for most of my life. Yet when addiction led to a bottoming out of my spiritual, emotional, and physical health, when family crisis as a way of existence led to inevitable separation from peers, when my center of gravity shifts as I rebuild and rebuild again the idea of what type of human I am to other humans, I find sitting in a church building to be a painful experience.

Enter Water and Wilderness Church. It is here I find a connection to liturgy and the natural world. Where I can still offer peace and break bread with people whose paths mine would likely not otherwise connect. (People who intend to be present for the service and those who wander closer to see what is happening). It is where I can feel the breath of God in the breeze and see it in the rippling of the grass and shimmer of the water, while I listen to the words of

Scripture. Immersed in my senses, the Word is alive. Offering prayers for the people of the world and the well being of all beings while next to a tree that has witnessed hundreds of years worth of births and deaths and everything in between, feeling the soil beneath my feet that has held the blood, sweat, tears and bones of those who lived, tended it purposefully, and been cradled at the end of their earthly time, I am truly connected. The messiness of daily life of a squirrel, the angst of a couple in deep discussion on a river bank, the squeals of delight from children playing in water, the pain and isolation of an unhoused young man desperately wanting to connect, the terror of a woman in mental health crisis being surrounded by police, the celebration of families looking to savor each moment of the rest of their weekends, the miracles of birth and struggles of raising young for all species are present while worshiping with WWC. Rather than a distraction, something that would be kept outside the walls of a brick and mortar church, they become the worship. We bear witness to the joys and pains of life and there is reciprocity with nature for holding our stories and honoring cycles.

Nothing of what kept me engaged in religious practice is missing when I worship with WWC. Rather, it is all enhanced by the experience of being in the world. The physical and metaphorical walls are down, and connections abound.

News from The Day School

Fall 2024

Welcome!

and welcome back to the 69th year of our Day School! Here are some statistics about this year. There are <u>96</u> children enrolled (as of now); there are 8 sets of siblings and 2 sets of twins! Of those 96 children enrolled, six are children or grandchildren of parishioners and a few are children of alumni! There are four returning families (having skipped a year or two in between children. Families come from several Asian countries, Ukrania, Chile, and India, as well as from across the tri-state area! Of the 96 children, 56 stay full day almost every day they attend – that is a lot of milk, chicken nuggets, and animal crackers!

Rich Diversity in Staff

Our staff is also diverse – coming from Jamaica, India, Bangladesh, and Eritrea. Three alumni are now employees and nine employees are past parents or grandparents. Staff tenure ranges from brand-new to over forty years! I thank them for all their hard work over the past few weeks to get ready for the school year!



Board of Directors Thanks!

Many thanks to our Board of Directors – Bob Rhodunda, Dave Strauss (past parent), Nitasha Smith (current parent), Anne Doberstein, and Jeanne Marie Yohe (parishioners, but also connected to the Day School through family ties), Robyn Pierce (Vestry liaison), and Father Pete.

Upcoming Events

Watch the E-pistle and Sunday bulletins for information about our fall and early winter activities – the 3rd annual Trunk or Treat (Sunday, October 27th) and the Scholastic Book Fair – in time for holiday giving (December 2 – 8).

I thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, and encouraging words as I begin my 24th school year in this special place.



Fondly,

Janet Leishman, M.Ed. Director 302-475-3747



The Way of Love

Jesus loved to be with children, so we are thrilled to offer a new discipleship resource: The BIG Way of Love for Kids. It's a set of playing cards and activities to help our kids to become the BIG, beloved children of God they were created to be.

The Way of Love Playing Cards for Kids

The BIG Way of Love for Kids comes from the Way of Love, a rule of life with seven spiritual practices that help us all to look, live, and love more like Jesus. Learn more here.

Where can I get a set of these cards?

Sets of playing cards in the box are available from the parish office. The cards guide children to explore Bible stories, listen, pray, learn, and practice. They can play alone and with friends, church teachers, or family. Jesus meets us everywhere where we go, so this resource is easy to take everywhere you go. Because we're never too old or too young to walk the Way of Love with Jesus.

Introduction—BIG Way of Love for Kids The Grown-Ups Guide to the BIG Way of Love for Kids helps you to effectively companion kids engaging the deck of 75

playing cards and activities. These booklets are free and available in the tract rack in the lobby/narthex. Here are some important notes as you begin:

Who can use The Way of Love for Kids?

The card deck is designed to be child-centered and child-led.

- Early readers (ages 2-5) may benefit with extra help from someone older.
- More seasoned readers (ages 5-8) and experienced readers (ages 8-10) may engage in more independent, selfdirected play.
- Use what works for you and your context, whether you are a parent, caregiver, Sunday School leader, godparent, or other guide in children's lives.
- You can also listen to one of the accompanying bible story recordings in the car, before bedtime, or during children's chapel.

What's on the cards?

The cards are designed around reading levels. On the front of each card, you will find one or more white pinwheel symbols.

- * = getting started (early reader-ages 2-5)
- ** = next level (mid-level young readers- ages 5-8)
- *** = all the way (advanced readers- ages 8-10)

Each card in this deck relates to one of the practices of the Way of Love.

TURN to Jesus

LEARN about Jesus

PRAY to God

WORSHIP God

BLESS people close to us

GO to people who are different

REST in God's grace

Children can pick any card they want, or they can focus on cards related to one of the seven practices (easy because every practice has its own color).

On each card, you'll find the name and color for one of the seven practices, plus either a story from the Bible SAY IT, a prayer PRAY IT, or a game or activity to try out in real life LIVE IT.

The printed cards are supplemented by seven audio recordings featuring paraphrased Bible stories related to each practice. The recordings are available here: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/bigway-of-love-for-kids/

Encourage kids to be fearless with the cards. They may need a little help from you or a stronger reader by their side. That's OK; the BIG Way of Love works for all kinds of young children and is de-

signed to grow with them.

For more information about this resource, please contact wayoflove@episcopalchurch.org

The Way of Resources for Adults



Way of Love Pamphlet

Using the powerful prose of Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and the Forward Movement bullet points you've come to know and trust, we explore how to live into The Way of Love as we continue the Jesus Movement.

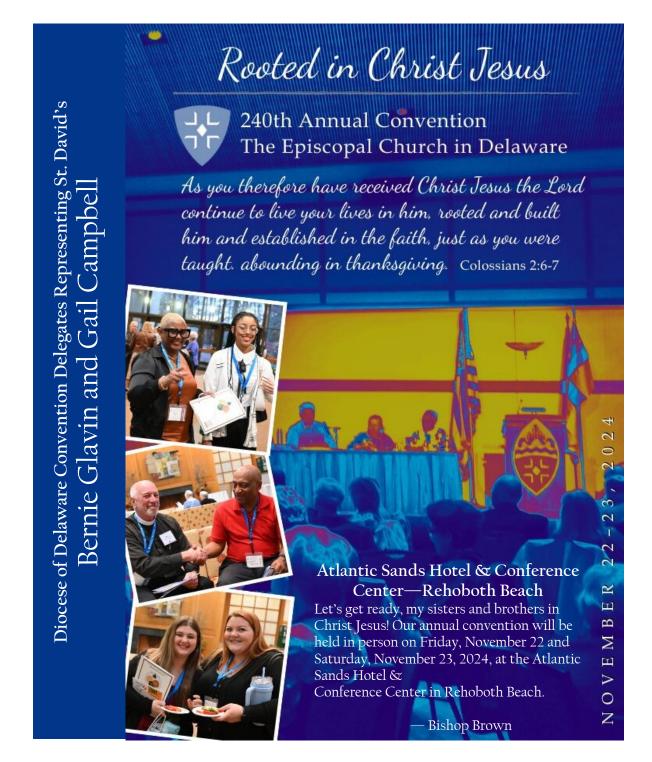


Way of Love Wallet Cards

Presiding Bishop Curry has invited the whole church to take up The Way of Love, a "rule of life" focused on practices

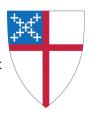
what do we seek?

for a Jesus-Centered Life. These tri-fold wallet cards (3.5" x 2" when folded) are the perfect pocket reminder for disciples following the Way of Love. Includes a listing of the seven practices for a Jesus-centered life: Turn, Pray, Learn, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. These are great to carry yourself—and to share with a friend or neighbor!



Want to Become a Member? Want to Be Confirmed?

In preparation for Bishop Brown's yearly visitation on November 10th, classes will soon begin. If you are interested in taking the next step in your faith walk at St. David's and in the larger Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Pete Nunnally ASAP. Many thanks!





Sunday, October 27, 2024
Set-Up at 3 pm
Go time at 4 pm
Saint David's parking sot
Beware of tooth decay!



Fall Work Day Saturday, November 2, 2024

We only get one chance to make a first impression! Let's join together to spruce up the grounds of St. David's and demonstrate our pride in the campus. Coffee and donuts!





The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th (Thanksgiving Day). Glad Tidings! is published seasonally by St. David's Episcopal Parish 2320 Grubb Road / Wilmington, DE 19810 302-475-4688 / www.stdavidsde.church

The Reverend Pete Nunnally, Interim Rector Steven Weatherman, Publications Editor

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