

St. David's Episcopal Church

Bean Blossom - Advent 2008

Dear Ones,

ADVENT

THE DAMP GRAY SHROUD
THAT PASSES FOR WINTER IN THESE PARTS
HAS SETTLED OVER WOODS
AND RIDGES AND FIELDS. THE LAST
OF THE SUMMER BIRDS HAVE FLED.
I CHARGE THROUGH BUSY DAYS, HEAD DOWN,
ARMS FULL, BRAIN TRAINED ON
THE NEXT THING, AND ALL SEEMS
COLORLESS, COLD AND BLEAK.

THEN SOMETHING
BRINGS ME UP SHORT. I STOP,
LIFT UP MY HEAD, OPEN MY EYES
AND LOOK. THIS IS WHAT I SEE.

WOODSTOVE FIRE PULSES RED
AND LICKING BLUE. ACROSS
THE WINTER DRAB OF GOLDFINCH
WINGS, A SINGLE YELLOW BAR
LIKE A GLEAM OF SUNLIGHT.
THE WHITE ARMS OF SYCAMORES
DELINEATE CREEK BEDS AND WATER
COURSES. RED DOGWOOD BERRIES
SURROUND THE SILVER BUDS
OF NEXT YEAR'S BLOSSOMS
LIKE EXCLAMATION POINTS.

THE SLOW WINTER HEARTBEAT
OF THE SLEEPING EARTH SAYS GOD
WAS ALREADY THERE:
AN EXPECTANT MANGER
IN THE SHADOWED CAVE.

Peace,

Deborah

St. David's Bishop's Committee Members

Congregational Life - *"Promotes building of church community"* - Carol Ruffin

Outreach Commission - *"Promotes ministries of charities...local and general"* - Judy Laffin

Pastoral Care Commission - *"Promote Ministries of spiritual growth"* - Marge Grimm

Education Commission - *"Promotes transmission of the faith"* - Dave Richards

Property Commission - *"Promotes necessary improvements and repairs"* Ray Laffin, Jr. Warden

Stewardship Commission - *"Promotes personal and corporate stewardship"* - Ralph Linscott

Bishop's Committee Treasurer - Sandy Ridenour

Evangelism Commission - *"Promotes the spread of the Gospel"* - Gene Niednagel, Sr. Warden

Worship and Music Commission - *"Promotes an empowered community of faith"* - Ed Fleming

Communications Commission - *"Promotes an informed and involved membership"* - Randy Bridges

Clerk - Cheryl Torok Fleming

St. David's Episcopal Church

corner of SR 45 and SR 135

Pastor:

The Rev. Jonathan Hutchison

Choir Director:

The Rev. Joseph Ridenour

Organist:

Jennifer Lawrence

Pastors' office:

812-988-7672

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Church Secretary:

Sandy Richardson

Sunday, November 30 - **The First Sunday of Advent**. This is the traditional beginning of the Church Year, a season of reflection and preparation for the coming of Christ. Don't get sucked into the gaping maw of Christmas. Be stubborn. Be patient. Observe Advent!

Advent Hope

The season of Advent is a time of remembering what has gone before, pondering what is now, and preparing for things to come. How better to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas than to reflect on the scriptures which foretell his coming, both in ancient prophecy

and in the intimate human story of two cousins, Mary and Elizabeth, in their time of gestation? How better to be reminded of the meaning of the Christ event than to envision its fulfillment in his return someday. The Advent season is one of deep mystery, a paradox that encompasses the coming of Christ as newborn potential, elusive present reality, and future promise.

The year was 1988. Newly wed Mary Andersen stood alone in Miami International airport, about to fly to Norway to join her husband, who had gone on ahead to their future home. At the check-in counter, Mary learned there would be a \$103 surcharge for her bags. Mary hadn't counted on this expense and could not meet it. (There were no ATM's in those days.) She explained the situation, but got no sympathy. As Mary started to cry, she heard a friendly voice from the line behind her saying, "That's OK, I'll pay for her."

Mary's benefactor was a first-year law student. She took his name and address and assured him that he would get his money back. "He was my knight in shining armor," Mary remembers, smiling. She sent the money back soon after arriving in Norway.

In the spring of 2006, Mary's parents heard that this same man, then a U.S. Senator, was thinking of running for President. They wrote to remind him of his kindness to their daughter and assured him of their votes, should he decide to run. A letter came in reply: "Thank you for reminding me of what happened at the airport. I'm glad I could help back then, and delighted to hear that your daughter is happy in Norway. Please send her my best wishes. Sincerely, Barack Obama."

I don't share this story to make a partisan point but rather what I hope will be a distinctly *non-partisan* one. The new and better things we wish for are sometimes a long time in coming. They begin small, like a mustard seed, are nourished in good soil and the water of life. In time, they become something much bigger, with the power to move mountains.

To the extent that the Presidency embodies our hopes and dreams for our nation, to the extent that our notions of goodness and wisdom and strength are projected upon the person of the President, there is a sense that many Americans have expressed a longing for a public policy informed by compassion and service. This can be explained by the innate human decency, which is ours as God's children and a recognition that our individual happiness and well being is impossible apart from the happiness and well being of all. Unfortunately, this impulse to compassion is resisted by forces, which encourage selfishness, callousness and heedlessness.

Just as our new President's personal ethic of service has been cultivated over time, emerging gradually in simple, modest ways, so also Christ consciousness (not to be confused with a Christian political agenda) must be nurtured and noticed and spoken of and emulated and continually invoked, if we hope to see its fulfillment in God's good time.

In the season of Advent, we look for signs that this is indeed taking place, that Christ is being born, is fully engaged and will be manifest in new and remarkable ways in the world around us, the communities with which we associate, and the inner world of our hearts and minds and spirits. For some of us, this election is such a sign. For all of us, regardless of our politics, this new beginning for our nation is an opportunity we simply cannot afford to miss.

Jonathan +

Planet Stewardship

Book Review: Hot, Flat, and Crowded by Thomas L. Friedman, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux 2008

This book by Tom Friedman, following his best-seller The World is Flat has been in the top ten Non-Fiction Book lists several times over the last several months. It is available at the Brown County Library and most bookstores and is very interesting and "eye-opening".

In the first third or 50 of this book, Friedman defines the problem: That our island home (Earth) is becoming increasingly hot (global warming), flat (referring to the desire [or perceived need] of all peoples to achieve the standard of living of the U.S.--thereby, placing a severe strain on the earth's finite resources), and crowded (population growth continues to stress the earth's air, water, food, and other resources - - especially among "third world" countries)

In Chapter 6, he uses a biblical reference to highlight the loss of biodiversity as follows: "we may be the first generation in human history that literally has to act like Noah--to save the last pairs of a wide range of species. Or as God commanded in Genesis: "And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with; they shall be male and female." Unlike Noah, though, we--our generation and our civilization are responsible for the flood, and we have the responsibility to build the ark. We are causing the flood, as more and more coral reefs, forests, fisheries, rivers, and fertile soils are spoiled or overwhelmed by commercial development; and only we can build the ark that is needed to preserve them. " Conservation International currently estimates that one species is now going extinct every twenty minutes, which is 1,000 times faster than the norm during most of the earth's history! Friedman points out that clean energy systems of the near future need to optimize three things at once: (1) Produce the cleanest and cheapest electrons; (2) the most efficient and productive use of our natural resources (and electrons) and (3) constant attention to protecting and conserving our natural systems and educating people about their material, spiritual, and aesthetic value.

In Part III, Friedman cites the research of Socolow and Pacala in proposing that, in order to avoid doubling of the CO₂ content of our air by mid-century (which would probably be catastrophic), we need to institute 8 of the following 15 "wedges" very soon. They are:

1. Double fuel efficiency of 2 billion cars from 30 mpg to 60.
2. Drive 2 billion cars only 5,000 miles per year rather than 10,000 at 30 mpg.
3. Raise efficiency at 1,600 large coal-fired plants from 40% to 60%.
4. Replace 1,400 large coal-fired electric plants with natural gas powered facilities.
5. Install carbon capture and sequestration capacity at 800 large coal-fired plants, so that CO₂ can be separated and stored underground (60 Minutes had a discussion of this technology a few weeks ago)
6. Install carbon capture and sequestration at new coal plants that would produce hydrogen for 1.5 billion hydrogen powered vehicles!
7. Install carbon capture and sequestration at 180 coal gasification plants.
8. Add twice today's current global nuclear capacity to replace coal-based electricity.
9. Increase wind power fortyfold to displace all coal-fired power.
10. Increase solar power 700-fold to displace all coal power.
11. Increase wind power 50-fold to make hydrogen for clean cars and trucks.
12. Drive 2 billion cars on ethanol, using 1/6th of the world's cropland to grow the needed corn

(or sugarcane, etc.)

13. Halt all cutting and burning of the earth's forests.
14. Adopt conservation tillage, which emits much less CO₂ from the land, in all agricultural soils worldwide.
15. Cut electricity use in homes, offices, and stores by 25%, and cut carbon emissions by the same amount .

WHICH EIGHT WOULD YOU PICK? Note: some of these are risky and/or difficult or impossible to achieve!

One very powerful speech presented at the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro by a 12 year Canadian girl named Severn Suzuki was quoted in the book and had Karen and I practically in tears after we had read it. Here is the speech in its entirety:

Hello! I I'm Severn Suzuki, speaking for ECO--The Environmental Children's Organization. We are a group of 12 and 13-year olds trying to make a difference: Vanessa Suttie, Morgan Giesler, Michelle Quigg and me. We raised all the money to come here 5,000 miles to tell you adults you must change your ways. Coming up here today, I have no hidden agenda. I am fighting for my future.

Losing my future is not like losing an election or a few points on the stock market. I am here to speak on behalf of the starving children around the world whose cries go unheard. I am here to speak for the countless animals dying across this planet because they have nowhere left to go. I am afraid to go out in the sun now because of the holes in the ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air because I don't know what chemicals are in it. I used to go fishing in Vancouver, my home, with my dad until just a few years ago we found the fish full of cancers. And now we hear of animals and plants going extinct every day--vanishing forever. In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles, and rain forests full of birds and butterflies, but now I wonder if they will even exist for my children to see. Did you have to worry about these things when you were my age? All this is happening before our eyes and yet we act as if we have all the time we want and all the solutions. I'm only a child and I don't have all the solutions, but I want you to realize, neither to you---you don't know how to bring back an animal now extinct. And you can't bring back the forests that once grew where there is now desert.

If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it! At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us how to behave in the world. You teach us: not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others, to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share--not to be greedy. Then why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do? Do not forget why you're attending these conferences, who you're doing this for--we are your children. You are deciding what kind of world we are growing up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying "everything's going to be all right", or "it's not the end of the world" or "we're doing the best we can". But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities? My dad always says, "You are what you do, not what you say".

Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us, but I challenge you. Please make your actions reflect your words. Thank you!

In conclusion: it must be said that one can only "scratch the surface" as to the content of this

well-written and organized book. One critique of the book might be that it fails to present info that an individual can do to effect change and it does little to bring the need for faith-based organizations and churches to get involved in this form of evangelism.

Book Review: The Green Book by Elizabeth Rogers and Tom Kostigen
Three Rivers Press (division of Random House) 2007

This book is available at The Loft Book - thanks to Marge Grimm for recommending this very interesting and practical "guide book". The book (paperback at a very reasonable price on recycled paper stock)--is a handy guide to support an environmentally responsible life style. Celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Robert Redford, Will Ferrell Dale Earnhardt, Jr., Faith Hill, Tyra Banks, etc. tell you how they do make a difference in their lives. Chapters highlighting such things as the home, entertainment, travel, communications, school, work, shopping, sports, building green, and going carbon neutral provide literally hundreds of practical ways to make your life a little more "green".

Some noteworthy ideas include such things as: recycled greeting cards, reusable water bottles, quality razors with refillable blades, green building materials, hybrid and electric cars, recycling computers and cell phones, reusable shopping bags, recycling yard "waste" and many others. One criticism of the book would be that not enough info was given as to details regarding some of the ideas presented. However, the glossary contained a fairly complete listing of internet sites to get more detailed information regarding many of the tips given.

Some organizations you can join to learn more about environmental problems and solutions:

- Sierra Club (Columbus Chapter)
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Audubon Society (Bloomington Chapter)
- The Wilderness Society
- Nature Conservancy (Nashville office)
- Center for Biological Diversity
- National Wildlife Federation
- Hoosier Environmental Council (Indianapolis)
- Izaak Walton League
- Greenpeace
- World Wildlife Federation

--Dave Richards

Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Capital Campaign Update

In our first meeting, February 23, 2008, the committee decided that its goal was to raise the funds to carry out the Master Plan, that it was not just about money, it was about making the Master Plan's vision possible.

So far our main focus has been on the very successful pledge drive. As of the end of November we had raised \$632,440 in pledges and people had actually donated \$205,820 toward those pledges! We have not only raised money for the building fund but the Tithe Committee is looking into the best ways of distributing \$20,582 (10%) to local and foreign mission projects.

St. David's has received more than just pledges. The proceeds from this fall's rummage sale will go to furnishing the new kitchen, the Capital Campaign raised \$1,000 with a silent auction, and the Capital Campaign has received several gifts from people in the community. Adding these items and interest to the pledges, the total promised funds are \$635,500. The total of all funds received including pledges, fund raisers, gifts, interest, and transfers from special accounts is \$212,140!

The committee has transitioned from organizing a pledge drive to actually funding the building program. The committee is looking at other possible fund raisers, exploring whether St. David's can receive grants for parts of the building project, and arranging construction loans.

None of this would have been possible without help of all of the committee members but I want to single out Jane Beers for special recognition. Jane Beers has left the committee so she can give more time to other committees. Jane was instrumental in finding the consultant, organizing the Kickoff Event, and made numerous calls on members of the congregation. I know that she will be a great asset to those other committees.

—*Jim Huber, Chairman*

Our Building Plans

After church on Sunday, November 16 the Building Committee met with our team from Woollen Molzan to sign a contract. It was a little like getting married - now it's official. We're committed. And there were all the wedding emotions - fear, hope, anxiety, gratitude, joy. How astonishing to be doing this! God is good!

Now Kevin Huse, our principal architect, and Mike Brannen, our project manager, will be meeting with us every couple of weeks for several months. They are good listeners and good thinkers. Our goal with them is to come up with an affordable project for Saint David's that implements our Master Plan. Our challenge is to keep our feet on the ground and our head in the clouds - and to live in that position for several months. As we move through the process of making these plans, we'll be holding after-church forums so you'll know what we are doing and have opportunities to comment.

You are so present in this project, and the knowledge that we are accountable to you is a source of comfort and energy. On your behalf, we'll spend half a million dollars or so in 2009 - on your behalf, on behalf of our brother Jesus, and on behalf of people we don't know, people who may not even be born yet. Thanks for trusting us with this great work. There will be plenty to talk about and plenty to do in the year ahead. Right now, please be with us in this astonishing moment - fear, hope, anxiety, gratitude, joy. — *Pamela Smith, for the Building Committee*

Diocesan Convention Digest

A delegation from St. David's attended the annual Convention of the Diocese of Indianapolis in October. Our delegation included the Vicar, lay delegates Randy Bridges and Carol Ruffin, and alternates Jen Prince and Cheryl Fleming. In legislative business, Convention adopted the 2009 diocesan budget and approved three resolutions. One established the First Sunday of Lent as "Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday", in response to a request by the Presiding Bishop. A second resolution welcomed Exodus as a "Diocesan Cooperating Ministry", giving this long-affiliated refugee resettlement program certain organizational advantages. Finally, it was resolved to empower the newly formed Earth Stewardship Committee to work with Executive Council to provide resources in the 2010 budget to promote environmental sustainability. The balance of Convention involved information sharing, reports from ministry groups, the Bishop's address (posted in our entryway and available at www.indydio.org) and spirited worship.

Thanks to our delegates for their effective representation of our church.

Bishop's Committee Seeks New Members For 2009

The Bishop's Committee is the key leadership body of St. David's. It is responsible for parish finances, the use and maintenance of our buildings, and the provision of pastoral services. Leadership on the Bishop's Committee is not held by a select group, but shared among all members of the congregation. Members serve three-year terms, attending 11 monthly meetings per year. Each member oversees a program area (such as Christian Education, Parish Life, or Evangelism). In fact, these three program areas will need oversight in 2009 as the terms of three Committee members are set to expire.

It is not *required* that prospective members have expertise in any of these areas of ministry, but perhaps naming them will prompt some to say "I can do that!" The 2009 Bishop's Committee seeks three parishioners willing to step up and take their turn in this important work.

Nominations are received by the Bishop's Committee and recommended to the congregation at our Annual Meeting in January. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Gene Niednagel @ 988-6865.

Mother's Cupboard's annual campaign begins in early November. Please consider making a generous contribution to help Mother's Cupboard continue to feed the hungry and give food from the pantry, no questions asked, folks in Brown County who are struggling. The Cupboard provides an average of nearly 90 meals daily. Please give what you are able.

- \$10 will provide groceries and feed a family of 4 for a day;
- \$50 will feed 5 families;
- \$152 keeps the doors open one day;
- \$1,060 keeps them open for a week;
- \$4,600 will support a month.

Please don't let Mother's Cupboard be bare.

Make checks payable to Mother's Cupboard

Mail your tax deductible gift today to:

Mother's Cupboard, PO Box 825, Nashville, IN 47448

St. David's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Calling All Members of St. David's

St. David's is publishing a cookbook in the spring of 2009! Since the holiday season is upon us and you will be searching for special holiday recipes, we would like you to write down your favorites for our 3-ring, vinyl covered cookbook. We hope to have 200 recipes.

Morris Press, our cookbook publisher, has provided forms and directions for us to use. If you have not received a packet of four, there are some blank forms on the nametag table or give a member of this committee a call and we will mail them to you. When you have finished writing your recipes, put them in the basket on the nametag table. Recipes should be submitted no later than December 28. Recipes may also be submitted by e-mail to jane@rjherr.com or Judy@haushuber.com or carolruffin@sbcglobal.net. An e-mail version of the instructions will be available soon, please contact Jane Herr for more details.

These cookbooks will be a 50th year anniversary keepsake of our St. David's community. We will have 200 books selling for approximately \$10.00. Think of friends that would like to receive this cookbook. Profits will go to our new kitchen.

If you have any questions, call Carol Ruffin(988-6053), Jane Herr(988-7611), or Judy Huber(988-4007).

50th Anniversary Year Committee update

The committee has met several times since April and has been busy firming up plans for celebrations during the anniversary. Look for a fun surprise kick-off at the annual meeting on January 25th and special celebratory activities each quarter. Subcommittees and individual members have been working on a St. David's history, an anniversary cookbook, a homecoming weekend celebration (inviting early St. D members and families), a special DVD presentation celebrating 50 years of parish history, and plans to honor Jonathan and Deborah's legacy.

Who would you like to invite to the September Homecoming? Do you have any information (addresses, phone numbers, e-mails) about early St. David's members and their families? Let Phyllis Sindlinger, Marge Grimm, Carol Ruffin, Judy Huber or Jane Herr know.

Upcoming Events

March 1, 2009 St. David's Day celebration

May 2, 2009 Spring Blossom Festival (St. D to host float)

September 26-27, 2009 50th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration

December 5, 2009 Jonathan & Deborah Hutchison Retirement Celebration (tentative)

St. David's Tithe Committee: The Mustard Seed Project

Jesus said, "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
Matthew 17:20

Most of you know that the St. David's community has dedicated a tenth of the money pledged to our Capital Campaign to ministries of local, national and international outreach. The Tithe Committee (Jane Beers, Jan Benham, Marilyn Day, Deborah Hutchison and Judy Laffin, with Jonathan Hutchison and Gene Niednagel as *ex officio* members) was formed by the Bishop's Committee to help the congregation put the Tithe Fund to work.

As the Committee has begun to distribute Tithe funds we've experienced joy and freedom through giving. We've wondered prayerfully together how we might involve as many parishioners as possible in that experience. We have decided to make up to \$100 from the Tithe Fund available to each household in the congregation - a Mustard Seed grant, to be used as you see fit to further the compassionate work of Christ in the world.

Our hearts take flight as we imagine the members of our church prayerfully asking how Christ's work might be done through them, and then using these grants to help accomplish that work. As we share the fruits of our experience with one another, we'll understand more deeply Jesus' teaching that faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. We might be surprised where all this might lead.

There are many ways your household might decide to direct your portion of St. David's Capital Campaign tithe. The money given might fund a one-time need. It might serve as seed money for a new project. It might contribute to an ongoing ministry. In a household where there are multiple interests, the \$100 may be divided. Or, two or more households might decide to pool their Mustard Seed Grants to support a ministry in which they share an interest. All we ask is that you be willing to share your experience with the rest of us.

The Mustard Seed Project Grant Application Process

To obtain a grant, fill in the application form included in this newsletter and give it to Judy Laffin, or any member of the Tithe Committee. The Committee welcomes your proposals.

The Tithe Committee's Mission Statement: to lead our church community in prayerfully discerning and compassionately responding to the needs of creation with the tithe from our Capital Campaign.

Some points to ponder when making a Mustard Seed Grant request:

- What need of creation are you trying to address?
- What really excites you about this choice?
- What do you hope will happen because of this \$100 gift?
- How does this gift widen the embrace of St. David's?
- How will this \$100 help you grow in Christ?
- How could you share your enthusiasm and concern with others?

Tithe Committee makes initial grants and lends a helping hand

From the beginning, our “Building For Mission” Capital Campaign had a dual focus: the renovation and expansion of our facilities, while critical to the development of congregational life and evangelism, was also intended to increase our capacity for compassionate service to our community and beyond. So, it seemed fitting that we would reserve a tithe (10%) of all Capital Campaign pledges for charitable works of mercy.

Pledge payments in hand now total \$213,000, making \$21,300 currently available for this purpose. Since its establishment in June by the Bishop’s Committee, the Tithe Committee has held regular meetings to plan for the wise distribution of the Tithe Fund. A parish conversation generated a set of priorities and specific suggestions for Tithe Fund grants.

Two grants have been made to date. The Brown County Long Term Recovery Committee requested assistance for a local family victimized by the spring floods. The committee granted the family of Gary and Brenda Dewees \$1600 to replace power tools and purchase materials to rebuild **their** home. Gary’s power **tools, stored in an outbuilding, were swept away by flood waters. Typically, outbuildings and their contents are not** covered by flood insurance. Gary reports that the project is moving along fine and says “I think of you good folks every time I pick up my beautiful new nail gun.”

A second grant resulted from Marylin Day’s recent participation in a mission trip to Brazil, where she helped construct two classrooms and a kitchen for the school at the Mission Church of Reconciliation. Brazil’s public schools provide only 3 ½ hours of classes daily and one meal. Normally, the cost for additional schooling, meals, and after-school care **is beyond the reach of poor** families, but Reconciliation church provides these services free of charge. **Construction cost overruns were addressed by members of the mission team, supplemented by a \$900 grant from the St. David’s Tithe Fund.**

The St. David’s Tithe Committee has provided non-monetary assistance as well, coordinating logistical support for flood relief volunteers, in the form of hot meals. And, when it was learned that the Brown County Health Clinic had been displaced by the flood, committee members located and delivered donated exam and instrument tables, office furniture, several computers and file cabinets.

Building for Mission, indeed! If the mission of the Church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ”, and if the Church pursues that mission “as it promotes justice, peace and love”, then clearly the Tithe Committee is on the right track.

--Jonathan Hutchison

Parish News & Notes

Yoga

Yoga at St. David's will return on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 in the parish hall starting on January 8, 2009. (*yah-h-h, ed.*) The sessions will be 8 weeks and a \$20 donation is requested with proceeds to go to the new St. David's kitchen. See Desiree Hensel for details (988-2037).

Games!

Drop-In Game Night December 27

Bring your friends! Bring your relatives! Bring your leftovers! **From 5 PM until ???**, Coral Hamlin and Jane and Van Beers are hosting a Game Night for St. David's folk and all their friends and relations. We hope to do this in the Geode House out at Waycross, but this may change - check later in December for location info & maps. Games of all types: board, card and others. Bring snacks & Christmas leftovers to share, odds & ends for game prizes. For more info contact Van Beers. van_eric_beers@yahoo.com or 597-0728.

Nicholas, A Garland of Tales for the Nights Before Christmas

We tried to take a year off, but we just couldn't help ourselves - Nicholas, our play about giving, will be presented this year in the afternoon of **December 20**. Time information will be available soon. Location: Brown County Public Library meeting rooms. Round up some kids & bring them along!

The story of St. Nicholas has been handed down through many generations in many countries. He has been called Papa Noel, Father Christmas, Sinter Klaas and Santa Claus. These folk tales weave the story of a man who used his entire fortune in God's service to help the needy, sick and suffering. They show how Nicholas reached out to bring justice and mercy to children and families, sailors, and the poor, hungry and homeless.

Epiphany Tree Burning

We are working on putting together an **Epiphany Tree Burning Service** -- date **Jan 6** on Tuesday. Details and location yet to be determined. **SAVE THAT DATE!!! (ALSO SAVE THAT TREE, WREATH, GARLAND . . . You get the idea!**
For more info contact Ed Fleming (812)988-0458 edwardfleming@juno.com

Theatre

On November 21st, St. David's parishioners attended the opera "Love for Three Oranges" at IU. Preceded by a pitch in at the home of Pamela and Eliot Smith in Bloomington, the menu was heavy on recipes with oranges in their ingredients. Judy Huber (aka "The Theatre Lady") schedules several St. David's theatre outings per year of varying types. If you have a suggestion for an outing would like to talk to her about it, she can be reached at 988-4007.

What is Advent?

Advent was the last season to be officially added to the church calendar, in about 600 AD. It was made the first season of the church year because it begins the story of the events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Advent always includes four Sundays before Christmas, this year (2008) beginning on **November 30**. Originally, in the Eastern Church, Advent focused on the Annunciation (when the angels told Mary that she would bear a son); but in the West it came to concern the first Coming at the Nativity, the future Coming at the end of time, and the present coming, through grace, to the hearts of men. Thus the themes of consciousness of the coming judgment and of joyful expectation have shaped our observance of Advent for centuries. Our Advent wreath candles, symbolizing the coming of the Light of the world, are to remind us of these themes. It has often been customary to have one rose-colored candle to symbolize joyful expectation. For more advent facts take a look at: <http://anglicansonline.org/special/advent.html>

The Meaning of Greening

Why in the world do we haul a tree into our homes and hang things on it? And speaking of the stuff that we hang "just so" all over this tree...what does that mean to us? Does the wreath that gets hung on the door mean anything...or is it just "pretty?" If you would like to know the answers to these questions, instead of just going through the motions every Christmas Season, please plan to attend the "greening of the church" on **December 21**. This time is so much more than "just decorating the church" and we should treat it as such. It is truly a time for our church family to be together...all generations...all backgrounds...one family! Just as your individual families cherish the traditions that you have created, so must St David's create and cherish theirs. So, with that in mind, we are encouraging the greening to be a time of young and old (and those in the middle) to stay for a while after Sunday Service and be with family

At St. David's

In ADVENT – November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year. For the four Sundays of Advent we'll have an **Advent wreath** and, before and after the Gospel readings, we'll sing the beautiful and ancient *O Antiphons*.

There will be opportunity again this year to **give a poinsettia** to honor someone, in thanksgiving, or in memory of someone. church on Sunday, December 21 we'll do the **Greening of the Church**, so if you can stick around and help decorate, your help will be welcomed.

At CHRISTMAS – Festival Eucharist with carols, organ, choir and candlelight at 7 PM on Christmas Eve.

Quiet Eucharist with sunlight and guitar at 10 AM on Christmas Day.

More carols and Christmas scriptures on Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4.

—*for more details contact Ed Fleming (812)988-0458 edwardfleming@juno.com*

There must be a new force, the power of love, the power of understanding and human compassion, the strength of selflessness and cooperation, as the creative dynamism of the will to live and to build, and the will to forgive, the will for reconciliation. *Thomas Merton, from Honorable Reader*

A JOURNEY TO CHRIST

By Barbara (Moberly) Faul

Let's imagine we're taking a journey
To a country far over the sea,
Strangers we'll be in an ancient land,
Come, back through the ages with me.

We soon shall be nearing a city
As down from the hills we descend.
There's Bethlehem, city of David,
It lies just ahead 'round the bend.

From whence comes this glorious singing?
We're nearing a jubilant throng.
All singing and shouting Hosanna,
Peace and Good Will is their song.

And from whence comes the light in our pathway?
The sky is all full with this light
When just as we came from the hillside
Our pathway was black with the night.

And why do the shepherds now gather?
Should they with their sheep not abide?
They say it t'was voices of angels we heard
Singing tonight at their side.

Come near to the shepherds and listen,
For they're telling a wonderful thing.
The angels have brought them a message
Of a Child born this night to be King.

And the radiant glow in the heavens
'Tis a star; see they are watching the light.
Now they follow it onward and onward,
Let's hurry; e're lost from our sight.

Perhaps we may enter the palace
The shepherds must know of the road
That leads to the City-State mansion,
So fitting for this King's abode.

Oh, 'tis certain He lies in a palace,
Wrapped in garments of gold, silken hue,
And most likely a gem-studded cradle will rock,
As we silently view.

And He's doubtless surrounded by riches
With inherited titles renowned
While jewels and rarest of treasures,
Enhance the gold lay of His crown.

It seems the whole city now follows!
What joy has been wrought on this night.
Even men of great wisdom have followed the star,
When they saw its great light.

They're bringing rare gifts from each country,
Of Frankincense, Myrrh, and Gold.
Oh, if I but had wealth I'd bestow Him,
With gifts that His Kingdom can't hold.

But why are we nearing the stables?
The star from its course is astray.
We stand amid humblest dwellings
This can't be the place the He lay.

Look, the star hovers over the stables,
The wise men and shepherds now kneel
And there's a babe in a small, lonely manger,
'Tis the Child we've been seeking I feel.

Come closely that we may behold Him
I see no rich crown on His head.
But, there in a symbol of righteousness
A halo hath crowned Him instead.

It seems I recall of this Christ Child,
The prophets have told it before.
The true Son of God is this baby
We've read of His birth o'er and o'er.

But why did we not know this Savior?
We have sought but this earthly reward.
While in humility, born of a virgin,
There is Jesus the Savior, our Lord.

And I wonder how many would know Him,
How many lost sight of the way?
Forgetting the words of the prophets,
How many could find Him today?

How many have wandered in darkness,
Not trusting the Light sent from God.
Forgetting the meaning of Christmas
As through generations we've tried.

Today the whole world seeks a Savior,
For Peace and Good Will among men.
While multitudes search after riches
As we might have done even then.

- continued -

if only we'd heed, it will guide us,
The light of His word is aglow.
It is showing a pathway to Jesus,
The same as the Star long ago.

And today He's that same humble Savior,
He cares not for treasures of earth.
Just the gift of our love he is asking.
We'll find Him as they did at His birth.

--from Marilyn Day

Habitat Dedicates Harden House

About 60 people, 15 from St. David's, gathered on a sunny, warm Saturday afternoon, November 1st, to dedicate the Harden Habitat House. This was Brown County Habitat's 12th house and the first of four to be built in the newly developed subdivision made possible by the generous gift of 11 acres. It was a very special day for Habitat as we welcomed the Harden family (Jason, Britany, Emma, Eli and Isabel) to their beautiful new home. The dedication celebration began with the singing of what has become the Habitat theme song: "Let us build a house where love can dwell, And all can safely live... Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place."

Habitat's mission is to help economically disadvantaged families become homeowners and thus hopefully begin to break the cycle of poverty. With the dedication of the 12th house, we have helped more than 50 people find new hope for the future. This is not a "house give-away" program. Partner families contribute 250 hours of sweat equity, a modest down, and assume responsibility for a mortgage provided by Habitat at no interest. The vision of Habitat is to build more than houses - it is to build lives, to help families responsible, contributing citizens, and thus to build community. This is made possible by the generous support and involvement of many organizations, businesses and individuals.

This home was completed in just under three months with the help of more than 130 who contributed about 3,000 hours of volunteer labor. Sixteen of those volunteers were from St. David's, several of whom received special recognition: Drum who served as the very capable sponsor for the Harden family; Doug Miller and sons who did the concrete work; and Laffin who oversaw record keeping in addition to procuring kitchen cabinets. In addition, Richards and Verne Sindlinger were on the job nearly every week. The 16 St. David's volunteers contributed a total of 762 hours. Add to this those who provided lunches, those who offered financial support, the \$1,000 grant from our Outreach budget, and the three who serve on the Habitat Board, you can begin to see just how important St. David's is to the Habitat mission in Brown County. Given its commitment to mission, it is obvious that Habitat is also important to St. David's. Thank you St. David's for your commitment to mission and to Habitat in particular.

Because Habitat invested nearly \$30,000 in developing the subdivision as well as over \$60,000 in construction costs for the home, we have had to borrow funds to payoff these higher than usual expenses in 2008. We hope to repay the loan by the end of the year. We will then begin to raise the nearly \$50,000 needed to build the next Habitat house in 2009. You can help us toward that goal by sending financial gifts to Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 260, Nashville, IN 47448. And you can explore other ways to get involved by talking to the St. David's folks who serve on the Board of Directors: Verne Sindlinger (President); Ray Laffin (Vice President); or Jim Drum.

Inspiration

Will The Christ Child Come?

Halfway through December we were doing the regular evening things when there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find a small package with a beautiful ceramic lamb inside. We looked at the calendar and realized that the 12 days of Christmas were beginning!! We waited excitedly for the next night's surprise and only then, with the gift of a matching shepherd, did we realize that the lamb was part of a nativity set. Each night we grew more excited to see what piece we would receive. Each was exquisitely beautiful. The kids kept trying to catch the givers as we slowly built the scene at the manger and began to focus on Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, but the baby Jesus. My 12 year-old son really wanted to catch our benefactors and began to devise all kinds of ways to trap them. He ate his dinner in the mini-van watching and waiting, but no one came.

Finally we called him in to go through our family's Christmas Eve traditions. But before the kids went to bed we checked the front step-No Baby Jesus! We began to worry that my son had scared them off. My husband suggested that maybe they dropped the Jesus and there wouldn't be anything coming. Somehow something was missing that Christmas Eve.

There was a feeling that things weren't complete. The kids went to bed and I put out Christmas, but before I went to bed I again checked to see if the Jesus had come-no, the doorstep was empty. In our family the kids can open their stockings when they want to, but they have to wait to open any presents until Dad wakes up. So one by one they woke up very early and I also woke up to watch them.

Even before they opened their stockings, each child checked to see if perhaps during the night the baby Jesus had come. Missing that piece of the set seemed to have an odd effect. At least it changed my focus. I knew there were presents under the tree for me and I was excited to watch the children open their gifts, but first on my mind was the feeling of waiting for the ceramic Christ Child.

We had opened just about all of the presents when one of the children found one more for me buried deep beneath the limbs of the tree. He handed me a small package from my former visiting teaching companion. This sister was somewhat less active in the church. I had learned over time they didn't have much for Christmas, so that their focus was the children. It sounded like she didn't get many gifts to open, so I had always given her a small package - new dish towels, the next year's lesson manual - not much, but something for her to open. I was touched when at Church on the day before Christmas, she had given me this small package, saying it was just a token of her love and appreciation.

As I took off the bow, I remembered my friendship with her and was filled with gratitude for knowing her and for her kindness and sacrifice in this year giving me a gift. But as the paper fell away, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box was the baby Jesus. He had come!

I realized on that Christmas Day that Christ will come into our lives in ways that we don't expect. The spirit of Christ comes into our hearts as we serve one another. We had waited and watched for him to come, expecting the dramatic "knock at the door and scurrying of feet" but he came in a small, simple package that represented service, friendship, gratitude, and love.

This experience taught me that the beginning of the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and actively focus on the Savior. But we will most likely find him in the small and simple acts of love, friendship and service that we give to each other. This Christmas I want to feel again the joy of knowing that Christ is in our home. I want to focus on loving and serving. More than that I want to open my heart to him all year that I may see him again.

By Gaye Willis, "Will The Christ Child Come?" —from *Jennifer Rekers*

How to stay Young

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay "them".
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop". And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.
7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
- 9 Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

—from *Jane Herr*

The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life flow no longer in our souls.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

St. David's Famous Recipes

Donna Stouder shares her favorite cake recipes:

Pistachio Cake

Mix together: 1 pkg. Duncan Hines Golden Butter cake mix
1 pkg. Royal instant Pistachio pudding mix
1 c. sour cream
½ c. oil
4 eggs

Mix together: 1 c. chopped pecans
1 t. cinnamon
1/3 c. sugar

Pour ½ of cake mixture in a Bundt pan. Add a layer of all the nut mixture. Add remaining cake mixture. Bake 350 for 45-50 minutes

Frosting

Combine and bring to a boil (stirring constantly): 1 ½ c. brown sugar
1 stick butter
1/3 c. evaporated milk

Remove from heat as soon as mixture boils. Cook about 15 minutes and drizzle over the cake.

Pineapple Cream Cheese Cake

Mix until blended: 2 c. flour
2 c. sugar
2 t. soda
2 eggs
1 can crushed pineapple (20 oz)

Bake at 350 for 30 minutes in rectangular pan

Icing

Mix until blended and spread while cake is hot: 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
½ stick butter
1 t. vanilla
½ lb. (2 cups) powdered sugar

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops at all.
- Emily Dickinson*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

26 Patrick Hutchison
28 Carol Ruffin
30 Pat Bolinger

DECEMBER

1 Erin Fleser
4 Caleb Miller
4 Stephen Stouder
9 Ray & Judy Laffin _Anniversary
12 Donna Niednagel
16 Karin Richards (Dave & Karen Richards' daughter-in -law)
16 Shelby Rimstedt (Dave & Karen Richards' granddaughter)
16 Belinda Wheeler
27 Jim & Jan Drum -Anniversary
28 Phyllis Sindlinger
29 Deborah Hutchison
29 Ben Hensel
30 Scott & Hazel Olive -Anniversary
30 Stephen & Donna Stouder -Anniversary
30 Mark Niednagel
30 John & Mickie Williams -Anniversary
31 Karen Richards

JANUARY

6 Jeff Stone
7 Cody Woods
9 Christine Beers
8 Abigail Folz
10 Kaitlin Richards (Dave & Karen Richards's granddaughter)
17 Dave Richards
18 Jan Drum
19 Natalie Stant
22 Andy Herr

FEBRUARY

2 Sarah Eads
2 Eric Beers
3 Rosemary Pedry
4 Mike Day
4 Eliot Smith
4 Miranda Smith (Hassett) (Eliot & Pamela Smith's daughter)

9 Tom Smith (Eliot & Pamela Smith's son)
 10 Tom Hensel
 11 Randy Bridges
 11 Tom & Desiree Hensel - Anniversary
 14 Sue & Dan Wheeler -Anniversary
 15 Sandy Fittz
 22 Phyllis Bailey
 24 Shanna Smith (Hazel Olive's granddaughter)
 26 Kjestine Woods

Don't see your birthday or anniversary - drop me a line at jane@rjherr.com

Newsletter Submissions?

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, recipes, etc. to Jane Herr (812)988-7611 or 4923 Stevens Rd., Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!): jane@rjherr.com.

Next deadline for submissions:

Sunday, February 8, 2009 for Lent

Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

Sunday	Nov. 23	Community Hymn Sing	7 PM	St. Agnes
Monday	Nov. 24	Bishop's Committee meeting	6:30 PM	Parish Hall
Sunday	Nov. 30	1st Sunday in Advent	9:30 AM	St. David's
Saturday	Dec. 20	St. Nicholas drama	TBA	BC library
Sunday	Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday in Advent <i>the greening of the Church follows the service</i>	9:30 AM	St. David's
Wednesday	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist	7:00 PM	St. David's
Thursday	Dec. 25	Nativity of Our Lord	10 AM	St. David's
Saturday	Dec. 27	Drop-in Game Night	5 PM	Waycross
Sunday	Dec. 28	cookbook recipe deadline		
Tuesday	Jan. 6	Epiphany Tree burning	TBA	Waycross
Thursday	Jan. 8	Yoga	5:30 PM	Parish Hall
		<i>--classes continue on Thursdays</i>		
Sunday	Jan. 25	St. David's annual meeting <i>pitch-in to follow</i>	after service	St. David's
Sunday	Feb. 8	Lenten newsletter deadline		
Wednesday	Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday (Lenten season begins) Prayer Service and Imposition of Ashes Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	7 AM 7 PM	St. David's