

# St David's Episcopal Church

## A Lenten meditation from Covered Bridge Road, Lent 2005

Dear members and friends of St. David's,

After worship this morning, a parishioner spoke about her struggle to help her dying sister. Home less than ½ hour, Deborah and I got into a stupid argument about nothing. This afternoon, rather than face my work, I stared at a TV movie I'd already seen.

Now, as I sit down to write, I've just learned that my mother has been readmitted to the hospital with unexplained symptoms. Nearly everyone is floundering in one way or another, or trying to be brave, or feeling ashamed...sometimes justifiably so. All around us we've got kids in trouble, a hit list in our local school. We've got cops on probation and pop stars in court. We've got the tragedy of war and the devastation of waves.

It must be Lent again. It's not that such things tend to happen only in Lent...it's just that when they *do*, we experience them more starkly, more intensely. We are attuned more closely to the turmoil of our inner response; the helplessness of unchosen circumstance, the frustration of impossible decisions, the prickliness of loving spouses, the self-censure of regret, the resentment of yet more bad news. All these and more are magnified by the penitential, reflective spirit of the season.

Jesus says "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

For better or worse, these events that emerge or befall us, our reactions to them, and the spiritual growth that lies within them are our Lenten discipline, our journey with Christ.

### *The Pruning*

No conscious thought, no word of protest rises.  
Strong practiced hands grasp and part  
those limbs which gnarl and turn upon themselves,  
going nowhere, blocking flow of light and air,  
chafing bark open to disease.

No scream of pain, no shrinking back as sharp steel  
slices through both rough and tender skin,  
the dry and brittle barren branch,  
the soft and wildly sprouting, too,  
and redirects the upward surge of life.  
No cheap grace here, no easy way is offered.  
The gardener's ruthless loving touch  
comes whether we will or no  
and we can only choose to wither  
or reach down, draw up sustenance and grow

J. Hutchison 3/13/03 Lenten Quiet Day

All the blessings of the season, with my love,  
*Jonathan*

## St. David's Bishop Committee Members

Introducing our 2005 Bishop's Committee:

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At our next regular Bishop's Committee meeting we'll be discussing commission liaison assignments. Look for upcoming announcements concerning these assignments. Remember that these servant leaders represent the concerns of our membership. Please do not hesitate to address with them matters related to the life and mission of St. David's. And don't forget to thank them for their ministry of leadership

### Some Useful Information About the Lenten Season

**Lent:** The season of the church year that runs for forty weekdays and six Sundays between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Its tone is penitential and the liturgical colors are purple or natural unbleached linen. Many Christians observe Lent by undertaking special programs of study and by practicing self-denial as a way of concentrating on fundamental values and priorities in preparation for Easter. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and other days during Lent an appropriate time for the spiritual discipline of *fasting*. Those whose health permits it are encouraged to abstain from food for one or more meals during the day. Some may wish to engage in a modified fast, in which fruit or fruit juices are consumed. Fasting shifts our awareness from the needs of the body to the promptings of the Spirit. As an additional discipline, some choose to contribute the money which would normally go for food to a charity which serves the needs of the world's hungry. For information about such charities, contact the pastor.

**Mardi Gras** (French for "Fat Tuesday") Traditionally, this is the last day for Christians to indulge themselves before the more sober weeks of fasting which begin with Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras has long been a time of extravagant fun for European Christians.

**Ash Wednesday:** The beginning of Lent. The observances of this day set the seasonal tone of penitence and preparation through appropriate prayers and the imposition of ashes (made from the palms of the previous Palm Sunday) in the sign of the cross on worshipper's foreheads. It is especially appropriate to fast on this day.

**Palm (or Passion) Sunday:** The beginning of Holy Week, this service commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as foreshadowing his death on the cross through the reading of the Gospel narrative of his crucifixion.

**Holy Week:** The last week of Lent and the week before Easter in which the events in the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry are remembered. It begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday, includes the services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and culminates with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services.

**Maundy Thursday:** This Holy Week service commemorates Christ's institution of the Holy Eucharist. It takes its name from the Latin *mandatum novum*, or "new commandment", referring to the new commandment given by Jesus at the Last Supper, that his disciples should love one another as he loved them. The service includes the ceremony of footwashing, patterned after Jesus' own action, and concludes with the stripping of the altar and shrouding of the cross in preparation for Good Friday.

**Prayer Vigil:** An opportunity for personal and private devotion between the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The church remains open during this time and devotional materials are provided for those who wish to "watch with Christ" in the garden of Gethsemane during the night before his crucifixion.

**Good Friday:** The day on which the crucifixion of Christ is remembered. The Good Friday service includes the reading of the passion narrative from John's Gospel, intercessory prayer, and a time of special devotion before the cross. Again, it is especially appropriate to fast on this day.

**The Easter Vigil:** The earliest and most important worship service of the early Church, the Vigil has been rediscovered in our time. The service is rich in symbolism. Taking place at any time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter, it begins in darkness with the lighting of the new fire from which the Pascal candle is lighted. This is followed by the chanting of the Exsultet, an ancient hymn of praise and thanksgiving for the central acts of God in the history of God's people. These saving acts are then outlined in a series of readings from the Old Testament. Baptism, or the renewal of baptismal vows, then follows, culminating in a joyful celebration of the resurrection of Christ in the first Eucharist of Easter.

**Easter:** The oldest and greatest feast of the church year, celebrating the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The liturgical color is white. It is the culmination of Holy Week and its observances begin with the Great Vigil and continue with the Eucharist on Easter Day. The Easter Season runs for fifty days until the Feast of Pentecost.

## **Worship Traditions during Lent**

The season of Lent marks a major shift in tone and focus for the worshipping community. At St. David's, we mark that shift by varying our approach to worship. Those attending services throughout Lent will notice a number of changes, beginning – appropriately enough – with the way we begin.

Entering the worship space, we are reminded by signs on the entry door that this penitential season calls us into deeper and more frequent silence. The altar is bare of flowers. The service begins in silence, following the ringing of the steeple bell. Longer periods of silence will recur throughout our worship.

We return again in Lent to Eucharistic Prayer C. This prayer expresses our desire to live as the image of God, mourns our failure to do so, and gives thanks for Christ's redeeming incarnation

that opened "for us the way of freedom and peace". This year, we will observe silence during the distribution of Holy Communion, ending with a post-communion hymn.

Our service music changes as well. The *Trisagion* (Greek for "Thrice Holy"), in the contemporary blues setting of Carl Haywood, replaces the *Gloria*. An *agnus dei* (Latin for "Lamb of God") becomes the *fraction anthem*. Both the *Trisagion* and the *agnus dei* focus on our need for God's mercy and God's desire to grant it.

Beyond these changes in our regular Sunday worship, are a number of opportunities during Lent and Holy Week to worship in unusual and evocative ways – our Ash Wednesday services, the Palm Sunday experience of the Passion Gospel, Maundy Thursday with its foot washing, Good Friday services and the wondrous mystery of the Easter Vigil. Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, let's enrich our interior lives and strengthen our relationship with Christ by taking on the discipline of being present for the entire story as it unfolds from February 9<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Reconciliation of a Penitent – "Confession" by Another Name**

*We confess our sins together every Sunday and receive common assurance of God's forgiveness. But, did you know that our Book of Common Prayer provides two rites for "private confession"? (The Reconciliation of a Penitent, pages 446-452) While the Episcopal Church does not require regular private confession, it has always recognized its great potential of for healing and comfort. The practice is particularly appropriate in this season of self-examination, repentance and renewal. Both forms of The Reconciliation of a Penitent feature honest conversation, spiritual counsel, prayer and the assurance of God's loving pardon, all held in the strictest confidence. The rites are designed to be led by lay persons as well as clergy. Your pastors commend this spiritual discipline to all and welcome inquiries during the season of Lent or at any time.*

### **A Special Lenten Opportunity for Outreach**

For many years, Episcopalians in the United States have made special financial offerings to support the work of our affiliated Anglican churches in Jerusalem and the Middle East. In the birthplace of our faith, Christian communities struggle against difficult odds to proclaim the Good News. They remain faithful to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation, despite their status as a religious minority and despite the atmosphere of intense political and religious conflict. Many Anglican Churches serve Palestinian communities in the occupied territories and are subject to all of the hardships and hazards there. Those in Israel face increased competition with their Jewish neighbors over access to certain holy sites, threatening disruption of historic Christian communities dating back to the earliest days of the Church.

*Each year, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church asks that each Episcopal congregation dedicate the financial offering at the Good Friday services to the mission of the Church in the Holy Land. Here, at St. David's, it is our practice to go the Presiding Bishop one better, combining all the offerings from three separate Lenten services; Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A basket will be placed in the back of the church for your love offerings. Please come prepared to give generously.*

## **One Woman's Lenten Offering**

Throughout her life Judy Miller has collected stones, pods, shells and other natural objects, on beaches in California and in Oregon (where her dad lived) and on family trips. She collects things that are lovely to look at, and each one has a story attached. For the past several years, she has shared some of these objects with us, creating beautiful arrangements for the altar during the season of Lent. Pamela Smith, our presumptive (*not* presumptuous!) new Worship and Music Commissioner observes, "This is something special at Saint David's, liturgical art that appears here and only here. The objects remind me of Ezekiel's vision of dry bones - they speak about the regenerative power of God." Right you are, Pamela...and thanks, Judy.

## **Under One Roof ~ Deepening Our Faith, Widening Our Embrace**

On Saturday, March 5, the diocesan community will gather from 10 am to 4 pm for "Under One Roof", our annual diocesan ministry fair. The event features exhibits from various parish and diocesan ministries, a keynote address by The Rev. Jim Lemler (National Director of Missions for the Episcopal Church), and over 30 workshops.

The event will take place at Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. in Indianapolis. Further information can be found at <http://indydio.org> or from the Vicar.

## **Deanery Service of Confirmation and Reception**

The next Deanery service of Confirmation and Reception (the formal rites of membership in the Episcopal Church) will take place on Saturday, April 17, beginning at 11 am. Bishop Cate will confirm adult Episcopalians and receive individuals from other denominations. The service will include candidates from Episcopal parishes throughout southeastern Indiana, accompanied by their clergy, sponsors and fellow parishioners. A reception will follow in the parish hall. There is still time for members of St. David's to prepare themselves for Confirmation or Reception. Please contact Jonathan Hutchison at 812-988-7672 or [chesed2@msn.com](mailto:chesed2@msn.com) without delay.

*Pre-Confirmation/Reception Conversation With Bishop Cate will take place at "Under One Roof", Saturday, March 5. Those interested in Confirmation or Reception are invited to attend. See Jonathan*

## **Report of Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of St. David's Episcopal Church, chaired by outgoing Senior Tom Hensel, was held after worship on Sunday, January 30. Treasurer Sandy Ridenour presented the year-end financial report and was commended for her outstanding work.

Stewardship/Finance Chairperson Tom Hensel then presented and proposed the 2005 Operating Budget on behalf of the Bishop's Committee. In the absence of discussion, the budget was adopted. Phyllis Sindlinger, Jim Huber and Pamela Smith were nominated and elected to three-year terms as new members of the Bishop's Committee. Jim Huber, Phyllis Sindlinger and Mike Day will continue as our delegates to Diocesan Convention. Outgoing members Sydney Kelly, Jenny Johnson and Tom Hensel were commended for their faithful service. The members adjourned to the Parish Hall for fellowship and a delicious pitch-in meal.

## **The Flower Cross**

A St. David's tradition. Each year, on Easter Sunday morning, a special cross is displayed, designed to hold spring flowers from our yards and gardens. As you prepare for church, bring a few flowers with you to place on the cross.

## **The Little Blue Box**

The little blue box United Thank Offerings were a great success. They totaled \$455.22. This money, combined along with over one million dollars from other Episcopal Churches, will be used to fund worthwhile projects in the United States and overseas. Loose change counts!--*Jim Simms*

## **Letter from our senior warden--Tom Hensel**

At this time three years ago I was elected to join the Bishop's Committee here at St. David's. I was pretty new to St David's and really new to leadership. Just prior to attending my first regular meeting, Desiree said to me 'Well they better put you on Stewardship and Finance because I not sure what else you can do.' Really this was not a derogatory statement, merely the truth. Thanks to Jim Huber's willingness to relinquish this commission Christian Education and Worship and Music were spared.

Then last year when Jean Brown completed her term as Sr. Warden, Jonathan asked me if I would be willing to fulfill that role. After praying about it and discussing it with my family I agreed to accept. I had one reservation. Viewing myself as a worker bee the concept of leader was rather daunting. However Jonathan deftly assured me that as a member of the Bishops Committee I was already a leader. So I would merely be a leader of leaders. I set out cautiously sort of learning on the job. The position offered me opportunities to get out of my comfort zone, learn new skills and tap new strengths. However when my own inner strengths still seemed inadequate, I prayed. I believe prayer led me to retrieve the original packet of information Jonathan gave me to read when I first joined the Bishop's Committee three years ago. Tucked back in the pages of vestry guidelines was this page regarding leadership in a community of equals. I would like to share it with you now.

"The ministry of leadership is not an exercise of domination, nor the imposition of a single point of view. Flowing from the original inspiration, monastic leadership is Christ-like service, whose purpose is to foster the unity and mission of community. In such ministry of unity, all of the members are valued and respected; all are encouraged to freely offer their unique perspectives; and all are challenged to freely cast their lot in with their brothers and sisters, in a shared vision and in acting for the common good. "

Upon reflection, I believe that if the returning members, the new appointees and all future Bishop's Committee members reflect this spirit of "leadership" in the conduct of vestry business then all the ministries of St. David's will continue to strengthen and grow accordingly.

Finally I want to thank each one of you for entrusting me with the responsibilities associated with serving my term on the Bishop's Committee. I will miss no longer being involved. I look forward to continuing to faithfully serve at St. David's in any way that I am called to do. We may be small church but I come from a really small family. So, St David's looks like a big family to me. I love each one of you.

--*Tom Hensel*

## **St. David's Annual Congregational Study**

At Diocesan Convention last fall a resolution was passed requiring every congregation "engage in annual study and review of its common life." Furthermore, every congregation is to share a report of its answers in a Deanery meeting and submit the report with its 2004 parochial report for review and reporting to the national church. Our own Bishop's Committee member, Marge Steiner was charged with important task of answering the questions posed by this study. See her responses below:

### **Who are we? Who are we called to be?**

The St. David's community is diverse with regard to age, background, and political/theological outlook, but we are strongly committed to sharing Christ's love with one another and with our neighbors. We are called, with God's help, to become ever more loving and ever more generous.

### **What is our mission in this place? What ought it to be?**

Our mission is to share God's love through worship, fellowship, and outreach, and we are constantly seeking to widen the scope of that outreach (see below.)

### **Who is our neighbor? How are we meeting and learning about our neighbor?**

Our neighbors are residents of Brown County, Indiana, and surrounding counties. Brown County is a place of wealth disparity, being, at the same time, an idyllic vacation and retirement spot and home to tremendous poverty. In an attempt to address pressing needs in the community, we donate both money and time to local social service agencies and help individual families in need. We learn about our neighbors as congregants bring family, friends, and neighbors to church and in our contacts with social service agencies.

### **How is this community and congregation different from a year ago? How would we like our congregation to be different in a year from now? Three years from now?**

Our church community is different from a year ago in that the congregation has lost some members due to death, re-location, and disaffection, but these losses have been more than offset by the infusion of "new blood." New members have helped to invigorate a choir which had sung only occasionally but which is now an integral part of weekly worship. Last Epiphany, with the help of some new members, we adopted a Eucharistic rite with inclusive language and had generally favorable response. The Sunday-school curriculum has been completely re-vamped, and we will soon launch a parish website. Our outreach efforts continue to grow, with some congregants now participating in the "just Friends" letter-writing program to prisoners, for example: our outreach budget has increased by \$1,000.00 as well.

With regard to where we'd like to be in the next one-to-three years, a constant frustration has been our limited physical facilities: we have outgrown our parish hall and are in desperate need of office and classroom space, and a nursery. Our physical expansion will be contingent upon the resolution of septic/sewer issues and whether or not we can purchase some land adjacent to our site. We hope to have a viable building plan should these problems be resolved in a timely fashion.

### **How are people being equipped for Christ's ministry of reconciliation?**

Our congregation is being equipped for Christ's ministry of reconciliation through services of Holy Communion which are held on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings,

and a pool of lay Eucharistic ministers takes communion to those who cannot attend church. Pastoral counseling and care are readily available, and individual congregants participate in organizations dedicated to peace and healing.

### **How is leadership recognized, affirmed and shared here?**

If a congregant is known to possess a particular talent or practice a profession that will be of particular benefit to the community, he or she will be asked to give prayerful consideration to serving in an appropriate and compatible capacity. Our pastor and our leadership are forthright about bringing our needs before the congregation, and congregants are eager to answer the call. Relations among our Bishop's Committee members are cordial and there is no political rancor. Meetings are characterized by prayerful listening and mutual support, and leaders are publicly recognized for their contributions.

### **How are lives and communities being transformed?**

Lives and communities are transformed through the warmth and acceptance of pastor and congregants: many have found St. David's to be a place of healing and transformation on a personal level. In addition, we are committed to outreach--whether through distributing Christmas baskets to families in need, writing letters to prisoners, or sending children to camp.

## **Christian Healing--the Order of St. Luke**

St. David's parishioner Becky Morrison attended the June 2004 Order of St. Luke North American Conference in Glorieta, NM and brought back the following inspirational notes:

So often, we deceive ourselves about our intentions to follow the Lord. We want things on our own terms. Endeavor to live a high, moral life. Worship. Give to the Lord your very best, not your leftovers. Strive to relinquish your will to Him. Stir up His Spirit through song, prayer, praise, and reading the Work of God. Pray for the anointing. Listen in the quiet for your marching orders. Finally, know that obedience is crucial, and doing your part is essential for the unfolding of His plan. "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Healing takes place in a trusting relationship--we need each other. Faith without works is dead! Share your witness. Then, give glory to God first and foremost! Then, give glory to God first and foremost! "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy Name give glory, for the sake of Thy steadfast love and Thy faithfulness!" Psalm 115:1

Becky publishes a regular newsletter with information about the Order of St. Luke, inspirational quotes and stories from the Gospels. See her for a newsletter and a list of regular healing services in Indianapolis. Becky Morrison 317-570-9670

## **Lenten Bible Study Series "Walking With Jesus Through Lent"**

A series of 1 hour forums will explore the Bible texts from the day's worship service, guided by the preacher of the day. This is an opportunity to delve more deeply into the Lenten biblical tradition as part of our Lenten journey with Christ. Gain background information, develop Bible study skills, engage in dialogue with the preacher. The forums will take place each Sunday in Lent, commencing immediately following the service. Can't make them all? Come when you can!

## Stewardship and Finance Committee Report for 2005

The Stewardship and Finance Committee's primary activities are planning for the pledge drive and preparing the budget. This process began in October and required a number of meetings. The 2005 budget is a result of that work. I would like to thank Jim Simms, Jim Huber, and Sandy Ridenour for all their time and input they gave to this task.

The following are key points about the budget:

In last year's budget, 2004, pledges increased 14.07%. Pledges actually collected were just \$903 short of the total pledged of \$103840.

Turning to the 2005 Budget:

Pledges increased 1.1% over 2004 to \$105000. (We asked for an increase of 5.92% in October)

Total budgeted expenses increased by 1.9% or \$2221

The Clergy and all staff received a cost of living increase of 3.4% set by Diocesan compensation guidelines.

Designated funds will be credited their pro rata share of investment income so that they may continue to grow for their designated purpose.

The Outreach budget was increased from \$5000 to \$6000. This is a response in part to the emphasis expressed in the recent Parish Vision Statement.

Diocesan support was once again reduced \$500 in accordance with our 8-year plan with Mission Strategy.

Evangelism was reduced by \$700 since freewill offerings received at the Beanblossom Music Series concerts have substantially offset the performance costs.

Since the budget is predicated on the assumption that income=expenses there is a required transfer from savings of \$2500 to balance the 2005 operating budget.

The annual internal audit for the 2003 calendar year was performed by Jim Simms and Tom Hensel. The audit was performed in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs. First of all no irregularities or required adjustments were found. Secondly, the Audit Committee wishes to express their appreciation to our Treasurer, Sandy Ridenour, for the remarkably organized and professional manner in which St. David's books and financial records are maintained thereby expediting the entire process. Our thanks to her for her dedicated service in a job that is an ongoing year round commitment.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to each parishioner at St. David's for their financial gifts offered to help meet the financial challenge presented in the 2005 stewardship pledge drive.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hensel

## **“A Word to the Church” The House of Bishops Responds to the Windsor Report**

In the several months since the publication of the Windsor Report, there has been much conversation about its recommendations and the appropriate response of the Episcopal Church. In January, the House of Bishops met in Salt Lake City to discuss the implications of the report and to make an initial response. A copy of this letter is posted in the entryway of the church and can be found online at [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577\\_56787\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_56787_ENG_HTML.htm)

### **Nostalgic Fool**

*Barbara Eacret Moberly (Marylin Day's Mother), March 16, 1966*

If I wave at the trees  
Blow back at the breeze  
Or wink at the sky and grin,  
And sing with the birds  
And tell them the words  
Of a song for a mood that I'm in.

If I roll down a hill  
Then laugh at the thrill  
Of “tickley” grass ‘neath my chin,  
And break every rule  
(‘cept those for a fool)

Then you'll know I'm back in Brown County again!

*This poem has always reminded me of Spring when the grass is soft, the flowers begin blooming, and the leaves start to bud out on the trees. Each Spring is a reminder of how to enjoy life and remembering that new possibilities come each and every day!--Marylin Day*

### **St. David's Goes Online!**

More than a year in the making, our parish web site is now online! You can access it at its temporary URL: <http://www.stdavidsbeanblossom.org>. Please check it out and see what's there. More to the point, see what is missing or in need of improvement. If you have any good photos, ideas, details or suggestions for additional features, please contact Pamela Smith at [narthex@baba-yaga.org](mailto:narthex@baba-yaga.org). Want to become a web writer? Submit a paragraph about our parish mission statement; “to be and to do the Gospel”. What does this mean to you as a member of St. David's? Thanks to Jan Drum, Jane Herr, Jim Huber and Pamela Smith for their hard work on this project.--Jonathan Hutchison

### **Calling all readers and armchair critics!**

St. David's Book Discussion Group is ready to begin again on February 13, 2005. The group meets each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall for one hour to have a discussion about a current book we are all reading. Some of the book choices in the past have been: “The Five People You Meet In Heaven” and “If Grace Is True”, etc. Each week a different individual facilitates the discussion. The first book is *After the Ecstasy, The Laundry: How the Heart Grows Wise on the Spiritual Path* by Jack Kornfield. Marilyn Day will be the discussion leader for the first session. Interested in participating? Call Sandy Ridenour: 597-0135 or Mike Day at 988-7130.

## **A Note from the Treasurer:**

A bit of a problem developed when some last-minute year-end pledge payments were mailed to my home address. I was out-of-town from Dec. 29 until Jan. 8. I counted them as 2004 donations, although that's a bit long for a deposit to be "in transit"! As a general rule, please mail all checks to St. David's post office box: P.O. Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448. As Joe and I are able to travel more frequently, this will assure the checks being deposited in a more timely manner.

And, speaking of checks, a word about special offerings. The question usually is asked, "Do I make the check out to St. David's or to the organization receiving the money?" Either way is acceptable. However, if the check is made out to an organization, i.e. Episcopal Relief & Development, I send the check on without its going through the church books. It is preferable to make the check payable to St. David's with the notation of its purpose in the memo line. This way, it does go through our books and gives us a more accurate accounting of the generosity of our members.

Let me take this opportunity to thank, with all my heart, Tom Hensel, who so graciously counts the money every Sunday, as well as making the deposits and paying the bills in my absence. He has been a joy to work with.

*--Sandy Ridenour*

### **Bach! Bach! Bach!**

The St. David's Choir is preparing Cantata # 4 by J. S. Bach for presentation on **Sunday, April 10 at 7:00 P.M.** The cantata entitled "Christ lag in Todesbanden" (Christ lay in death's dark prison) is an Easter Cantata based upon the hymn by Martin Luther, (# 186 in our hymnal). The hymn tune comes from a collection entitled "Geystlich gesangh Buchleyn" 1524.

As are most of Bach's 225 plus cantatas, Cantata # 4 is based upon a hymn and tune of the church of the Baroque period. In this cantata, Bach composed eight variations of the hymn including a chorale setting for the final stanza during which we believe that the congregation sang along with the choir. Bach's understanding of this Easter Hymn is rather mystical and probes with serenity of the depths of the joy of the risen Christ.

Admittedly, this is a rather challenging endeavor for the choir. For reasons that we don't understand, church music through the last three hundred years has become simpler in composition. Most of the hymns of the church, especially in the gospel song tradition, are very simple harmonically and frankly, easier to sing. Yet the music that most of us in the Episcopal Church associate with worship is what can truly be called the "old hymns". It is often profoundly spiritual and, like the Bible, never becomes out of date or meaningless.

The St. David's choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 8:30 before worship. Anyone with a love and appreciation of music is invited to sing this great piece of music with the choir.

*--Joe Ridenour*

## *Outreach Report – January, 2005*

### **St. David's Outreach: What a Joyous Year of Helping and Serving!**

Thanks to our caring and generous congregation here at St. David's, Outreach has completed another year of sharing in God's love and grace. We have:

**Collected hats, gloves, and scarves for youth in a transition home**

**Provided children's books to be recorded by prisoners on cassette for their children to help them stay connected with their families**

**Shared our food with Mother's Cupboard**

**Provided 39 boxes of household supplies, bibles and vestments, and clothing for our sister diocese in Sudan, Africa**

**Purchased Christmas presents for the many families and shut-ins here in Brown County**

**Sent hurricane relief to our devastated Florida diocese and other disaster areas of the world**

**Supported our Episcopal Fund for Human Need generously**

**Wrote letters of support to the inmates in prison all over the country**

**Offered our donations of time and funds to several charitable agencies here in Brown County (Habitat for Humanity, Brown County Parks and Recreation, Humane Society, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Mother's Cupboard, etc.) and some national/international organizations (Food For the Poor, St. Francis Academy, etc.)**

**Visited and comforted shut-ins and those in nursing homes – presenting them with God's love.**

**Prayed for all those in need of comfort and care**

**Thank you for** your loving presence and offers of time and financial assistance. Have a joyous new year as we look forward to serving those in need for 2005! --*Marylin Day – Outreach*

### **“Read To Me”**

Don't forget that we are still collecting new or slightly used children's books and blank cassette tapes for the “Read To Me” program! Help those lonely inmates and their children remain in contact with a program that puts the parent back in the child's life! Place your books (in bags or boxes, please) in the Parish Hall and label. If you have questions, please call: Marylin Day – 988-7130

### **Team sports with St. David's**

In association with Brown County Parks and Recreation, St. David's is offering to sponsor teams or individuals for Adult Volleyball, Adult Basketball, and Adult Co-Ed Softball (16+). If you are interested in forming a team for any of the above programs, contact Marylin Day – 988-7130. These programs are held seasonally. Have some fun, exercise, and fellowship!

The St. David's volleyball team is currently burning up the gym playing two games each Sunday afternoon at 1 and 3 PM. See team captains Doug and Judy Miller for additional information. 597-1416

# Funny Pages

## Pecans in the Cemetery

On the outskirts of a small town, there was an old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me" said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down by the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down in the cemetery dividing up the souls." The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..." The old man whispered, " Boy, you've been tellin' the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord." Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything.

The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Not let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the boy on the bike!!!  
*--from Gail Hyde*

## The Blessing

Four-year-old Josh and his family were sitting down to dinner with his grandparents when Grandpa asked the youngster if he would like to say the blessing. Everyone bowed heads and Josh started mumbling the blessing so softly that no one could make out a word he said except for a loudly stated "Amen". When grace was over, grandpa said, "Josh, it was very nice of you to say the blessing for us, but I couldn't hear what you said." Josh replied, "Well, I wasn't talking to you."

*--from Jennifer Rekers*

## A Nun's Story

Sitting by the window of her convent, Sister Barbara opened a letter from home one evening. Inside the letter was a \$100 bill her parents had sent.

Sister Barbara smiled at the gesture. As she read the letter by the window, she noticed a shabbily dressed stranger leaning against the lamp post below. Quickly, she wrote, "Don't despair. Sister Barbara," on a piece of paper, wrapped the \$100 bill in it, got the man's attention and tossed it out the window to him. The stranger picked it up, and with a puzzled expression and a tip of his hat, went off down the street.

The next day, Sister Barbara was told that a man was at! her door, insisting on seeing her. She went down, and found the stranger waiting. Without a word, he handed her a huge wad of \$100 bills. "What's this?" she asked. "That's the \$8,000 you have coming Sister," he replied.

"Don't Despair paid 80-to-1." *--from Jennifer Rekers*

# Inspiration

## Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O Life-giving Creator,  
and rattle the door latch  
of my slumbering heart.  
Awaken me as you breathe upon  
a winter-wrapped earth,  
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days  
of Lenten prayer and discipline  
my youthful dream of holiness.  
Call me forth from the prison camp  
of my numerous past defeats  
and my narrow patterns of being  
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,  
through the passion of my love.

Show to me during these Lenten days  
how to take the daily things of life  
and by submerging them in the sacred,  
to infuse them with a great love  
for you, O God, and for others.  
Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,  
the real works of reform and renewal  
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,  
help me not to waste  
these precious Lenten days  
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

Edward Hays

*--from Sandy Ridenour*



Deborah and Jonathan Hutchison will perform at the Figtree Gallery and Coffeehouse in Helmsburg on **Thursday, March 17** and **Thursday, April 14**. Come with friends for an after-dinner coffee or tea (perhaps even a Lent-exempt dessert). The **music starts at 7** and goes until 9.

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## FEBRUARY

- 2 - Sarah Eads
- 3 - Rosemary Pedrey
- 4 - Mike Day
- 4 - Eliot Smith
- 9 - Thomas Smith
- 10 - Tom Hensel
- 11 - Anniversary of Tom & Desiree Hensel
- 15 - Sandy Fittz
- 22 - Jan Baer
- 24 - Shanna Smith
- 26 - Joanne Carpenter
- 26 - Kjestine Woods
- 29 - Anniversary of Marc & Dana Skirvin

## MARCH

- 2 - Anniversary of John & Rosemary Pedrey
- 5 - Desiree Hensel
- 5 - Tracy Green
- 5 - Gail Hyde
- 7 - Allen Pickard
- 11 - Jean Brown
- 14 - Becky Meyer
- 15 - Adrienne Skirvin
- 17 - Bob Nixon
- 19 - Howard Zody
- 24 - Gene Russell
- 28 - Bess Smith
- 29 - Emma Folz

## APRIL

- 3 - Anniversary of Chuck & Sydney Kelly
- 4 - Anniversary of Kay & Kim Selch
- 6 - Sean Cole
- 7 - Chuck Kelly
- 8 - Mary Lou Russell
- 8 - Courtney Von Stein
- 24 - Ian Fleser
- 24 - Marc Skirvin
- 25 - John Green
- 27 - Sarah Goodrich
- 28 - Ian Miller
- 28 - Nickie Curry
- 28 - Charlene Folz

## MAY

- 6 - Coral Hamlin

6 - Dana Skirvin  
7 - Daniel Folz  
10 - Jan Halladay  
12 - Clinton McGinley  
12 - Anniversary of Doug & Judy Miller  
17 - Pam Taylor  
20 - Ray Laffin  
20 - Scott Olive  
20 - Arthur Omberg  
20 - Rebecca Von Stein  
25 - Judy Miller  
26 - Tim Fleck  
27 - Anniversary of James & Judy Huber  
27 - Anniversary of Gene & Donna Neidnagel  
27 - Erica Von Stein  
27 - Lauren Von Stein  
28 - Marjorie Wright  
30 - Joe Ridenour  
31 - Anniversary of Eliot & Pamela Smith

### **Bouncing Around in Cyber space**

With the world and particularly the internet moving along at something greater than the speed of light our e-mail addresses are often in a state of flux. I noticed when I sent out notices about the upcoming newsletter that I got a lot of bounce-backs, i.e. the address I was sending to was no longer viable. If you did not get a notice of the upcoming newsletter a couple weeks ago take a minute and send me an e-mail (it can just be blank) and help me get my list updated. Thanks!  
jane@rjherr.com

### **Newsletter Submissions?**

Please send your news items, stories of spiritual growth, book reviews, jokes, cartoons, etc. to Jane Herr (812)988-7611 or P O Box 609, Nashville, 47448 or (the preferred method!):  
jane@rjherr.com.

Next deadline for submissions: **Sunday, May 1, 2004 for Pentecost**

## **Art Haldeman Computer and Network Consulting**

I am offering computer and technology consulting in Brown and Monroe counties. A few of the services I offer:

**Computer Evaluations** - Upgrade versus Buy, Local versus Online Purchase.

**Broadband Internet** - Information about Cable Modem, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), Satellite and Wireless technologies. Networks - Ethernet, both Wired and Wireless (Wi-Fi).

**Technology Planning** - Strategies for using technology to grow your business.

**Security** - How to protect your business and personal data. Anti-Virus, Backup systems and Firewalls.

The initial evaluation and quote is free. My rates are flexible. I also have local references. If you have business associates, family or friends with business or home technology concerns, I can help them. **Contact Info: e-mail [ahaldeman@insightbb.com](mailto:ahaldeman@insightbb.com) phone 812-320-4546**

## Professional Networking Groups

Are you a professional who is un- or under-employed?? Are you wanting to change careers and don't know how to start?? There are two opportunities to network with other professionals, make contacts and develop related skills.

**Business and Professional Exchange (BPE)** - The Greenwood Chapter meets every Wednesday, 8 a.m. at Greenwood City Building (2 N Madison Av. 2 blocks north of Main St. . To get more info go to [www.bpeindy.org](http://www.bpeindy.org) or call 317-252-9947.

**Professional Networking Group in Bloomington** - This group is meeting in Bloomington on Friday mornings 7:30-9 a.m. in Room 108 of the Johnson Creamery building at 400 W. 7th St. in Bloomington. Contact information:

Voice Mail: (812)331-6000  
ext. 263

Website: [www.bpeindy.org](http://www.bpeindy.org)

Mail: PO Box 3092  
Bloomington, IN  
47402-3092

## Lent and Easter Schedule of Special Services and Parish Events

*Throughout the season of Lent, worshippers are asked to enter the church quietly and remain in prayerful preparation for the service. Thank you for your cooperation.*

Mondays	<b>Yoga</b>	6-7 pm	Parish Hall
2/9	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> [ <i>Lent begins</i> ]	7:00 am	Prayer Service and Imposition of Ashes
2/9	" "	7:00 p	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
2/13	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	9:30 am	Holy Communion
	with Lenten Bible study ( <i>in the church, each Sunday, after worship</i> )		
2/13	<b>St. David's Book Club</b>	6:00 pm	Parish Hall
3/5	<b>Under One Roof</b>	10 am-4 pm	Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis
3/20	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	9:30 am	Liturgy of the Palms, Passion Gospel 3/24
	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7:30 pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper Holy Communion and Footwashing
3/24	<b>Gethsemane Prayer Vigil</b>	9:00 pm ~	"Watch & Pray with Jesus" ( <i>one-hour slots concluding at 11:30 am on Good Friday</i> )
3/25	<b>Good Friday</b>	12:00 noon	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross
3/25	" "	7:00 pm	Prayer and Meditation on the Cross ( <i>The church remains open for private prayer</i> )
3/26	<b>The Great Vigil Of Easter</b>	8:00 pm	Candlelit Readings, Easter Communion
3/27	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	9:30 am	"The Feast of the Resurrection" ~Festival Eucharist with special music
4/10	<b>Easter Cantata</b>	7:00 pm	St. David's
4/17	<b>Confirmation &amp; Reception</b>	11:00 am	
5/1	<b>Deadline for info for Pentecost newsletter</b>		