



# St. David's Episcopal Church

## FEBRUARY 2023 DOVETALE

### STEWARDSHIP OF WORKS AND WISDOM (by Ted Zern)

*More Than Enough*, the theme for this year's pledge campaign, calls us to remember that when we share what we have, good things happen. Our theology of giving focuses on the three-legged stool of Time, Talent and Treasure, or *Wealth, Works, and Wisdom*. All three components of the stool are ways in which we share our gifts with the world as thanks for the blessings God has bestowed.

The stewardship campaign at St. David's is configured as two phases, first our Treasure or Wealth which has recently been gratefully pledged. As we approach the Lenten season, we turn to gifts of Time and Talent or Works and Wisdom. All three point to our life and calling as Christians, as St. James reminds us in his epistle. It is not enough to simply believe, but we must act on that faith to serve each other, our neighbors and change the world, even for a brief moment.

On Sunday, February 19, St. David's offers a chance to give thanks for the blessings of time granted for works of the heart, and the blessings of talent or wisdom acquired through our unique life experience. On that date, the 2023 stewardship campaign turns from consideration of financial gifts to one of spiritual gifts, i.e. the more intangible **gifts from the heart that perhaps define us as God's children**.

### Time versus Talent?

We often talk about time and talent as if these were one concept. It is true these often go together but there is also a difference. You don't need any special talent to engage in service to others or act from the heart, most often just your presence is needed. Keep this in mind when considering how you might give of your time. So, then what is Talent? It may be some unique ability we have but it is also the life experience that we can share or the wisdom we have acquired through that experience. Most simply, these two components represent the wise and responsible use of the gifts God has entrusted to each of us.

### Why is It Important?

Our lives have real meaning only when we use our gifts and our time in accordance with God's will. As we grow in stewardship, we grow in our relationship with God. It stems from the belief that God has created each of us to act on our faith and share what we can with those around us.

### How Can I Be a Good Steward of My Time and Talent?

Put God at the center of your life. We are given opportunities each day to be good stewards by using the blessings God has given us, by sharing the unique abilities or life experience which we have been granted. Similarly, no gift is greater than time, and yet, nothing is so easy to waste. Time spent in prayer, nurturing relationships or just enjoying the world's beauty is time well spent. No special talent is required.

### What are My Talents?

We often hold back from recognizing our gifts because of a narrow definition of "talent." We think "talented people" are extraordinary achievers or have easily identifiable gifts, such as music or art. Talents can also include being a good listener, being able to organize people, relating well to children or teens, and being patient with others. It can be as simple as a kind word spoken to another or the ability to offer support in a time of crisis. As Christians, we recognize that our gifts are meant to be cultivated and shared with others through family and friends, church, community and with the world.

## How Can I Be a Good Steward of My Talents?

Begin by recognizing the talents or wisdom you have been given. Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let go of preconceived ideas about yourself. Be still and listen with the "ear of the heart." Reflect on your life experience and think about how even a piece of it may have prepared you to share in the life of the church or community.

## What are a Few Practical Ways to Share My Time and Talents?

Be available to your family and friends, maybe a phone call or note to another member of the parish, just to check in.

Be a participant in the life of the church, at worship but also in other activities of the faith community.

Be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities in the greater community and then perhaps act on one that strikes your interest, even if you have no previous experience.

## An Invitation to Action---Thoughts to Consider

Do something for yourself and your relationship with God, perhaps a Bible study or commit to morning prayer or try contemplative prayer or participate in a Lenten Study or any adult formation opportunity.

Make weekly worship a priority and engage at least one person each week in conversation. (after worship of course)

Check in on family and friends whom you may not have seen in a while or those whom you know might be having a difficult time in his or her life.

Stay alert for a call for volunteers and then answer the call by asking, how can I help?

Help to conduct or lead fellowship events at church; get to know your church family.

Seek out potential ways you can share your gifts through the various ministries of the congregation. Most of these are reflected on the commitment form.

**Commitment forms will be included in the Sunday bulletin preceding the 19<sup>th</sup> and can also be found on the table in the Narthex. Offer your time and talent on Sunday, February 19 by completing the declaration form with your commitments marked and send it to the church office, drop in the plate at Sunday worship or simply email the Pledge Secretary, Ted Zern, with your selection(s) to [tzern2010@gmail.com](mailto:tzern2010@gmail.com). Ted will make sure that your commitments are directed in the appropriate manner with thanks and blessings.**

As we anticipate the onset of the Lenten season, perhaps it is not only a time to consider what we might give up, but rather what we can give. May we all seek a deeper relationship with God.

## **DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**, by Father Harvey

This is my regular reminder that I have a small discretionary fund which is intended to give people a little financial boost when necessary. Deacon Terry does too. If you get in a bind, please talk to one of us. I should add those conversations and any help people receive from either discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

## **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**, by Fr. Harvey

Our February Church without Walls comes on February 5. As always, a group of us will head to the Parish Cupboard at noon to lead a short service and then distribute lunches prepared by another group of us. Anyone is welcome to join us at the Cupboard. This month, our CWW service falls on Food for the Poor Sunday, which seems particularly appropriate!

I have never been involved in preparing the meals, for which both I and the people we serve are grateful! Most months, a handful of faithful people make it happen magically, as best I can tell. But it is helpful if volunteers can sign-up ahead of time on the sheets in the narthex so that those who have graciously accepted the responsibility of making sure the magic happens can know exactly where things stand at least a few days before our Sunday. Thanks!!

## **THE JOHN O'HARE VETERAN'S MINISTRY**

Our meal this month is Tuesday, February 7, beginning at 11:30. As always, all Veterans eat free. And everybody is welcome to come help out. Thanks!!

## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

The Women's Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 26 at 11:15 to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt. All women are welcome!!

## **CONVERSATIONS ON THE MYSTERIES OF FAITH**, by Fr. Harvey

Our Luke *Discussion Group* has a new topic for the new year. We are reading *Mysteries of Faith* by Mark McIntosh, a book in the Church's New Teaching Series and chatting about it on Tuesdays at 4:15 on Zoom. We've had one session so far, but it's definitely not too late to join us! Our next session will probably be February 21 (Shrove Tuesday!). Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions.

## **GRANDPARENTS PLAYGROUP DISCONTINUED**

The Grandparents Playgroup is discontinuing for now. Thanks to Virginia for running it all these years!

# **CREATION CARE**

## **CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER**, by Mary Moore

In case you have cabin fever (a grownup can tell you what that is), here is a scavenger hunt to keep you busy. Look for these:

1. a snowman
2. a cardinal (male bird is bright red, female is reddish)
3. two squirrels together
4. a robin
5. an icicle
6. a constellation that you recognize (Orion? The Big Dipper?)
7. a constellation (basically a giant dot to dot picture in the night sky) that you make up and name. Use your imagination!
8. at least two different kinds of snow, for example dry and powdery or wet and heavy
9. a crescent moon
10. a sunset that makes part of the sky pink

## **CARE OF THE ATMOSPHERE:** By Pauline Mortenson

The Interior Department is proposing to lease to wind-energy producers 373,268 acres off the California coast. This is the first lease of its kind in the Pacific Ocean.

Greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 40% (below 2005 levels) by 2030. This is the result of the Inflation Reduction Act according to the USA Department of Energy.

35% increase in monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico last winter compared to the previous year. Hoorah!!

Concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which was measured in May, 2022 was 421 parts per million. Unfortunately for Earth it's 50% higher than levels before the Industrial Revolution ... and ... a level Earth hasn't seen in millions of years!

6,200 new union jobs created by Ford and the United Auto Workers in their goal to manufacture electric vehicles.

100 environmental organizations urging the government to use its authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Avi Kwa' Ame (Mojave name for Nevada's Spirit Mountain) as a national monument.

## **LENT FORMATION PROGRAM**

As I write this article, our Lent formation program is very much a work in progress. But we plan to again team up with area Churches to offer something, probably on Wednesdays at 6:00 on Zoom, beginning March 1 (Saint David's Day!!). Be on the lookout for more information!

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Beginning on Friday, February 24, we'll walk the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 11:30. The service takes about twenty minutes, and is a wonderful way to focus your Lenten journey. Please join us!

## **LENT PRAYER PARTNERS**

Participants pray for their partner every day during Lent, and then send an Easter Card to their partner offering God's blessings on that person. This is a great way to support each other as a community of faith. If you would like to participate, sign up in the narthex, ideally by February 19. (If you would like to join in a bit later, just let Fr. Harvey know.) On Shrove Tuesday, we'll put all the names in a hat and then draw names. Please join us!

## **COMPLAINT-FREE LENT**

This is another wonderful Lent option. The basic idea is to wear a purple bracelet that reminds us not to complain. Every time we do complain despite the reminder, we put aside a little money. At the end of Lent, we donate the collected money to a good cause. Those who have participated in past years will remember how helpful this practice can be. But I warn anyone who hasn't participated before: don't commit to putting aside much money for each complaint. It can really add up!! The purple bracelets will be available in the narthex beginning on Sunday, February 19 and continuing throughout Lent (while supplies last). Please join the "fun"!

## **SHROVE TUESDAY**

On Ash Wednesday Eve (aka Shrove Tuesday), we'll have our traditional Pancake Supper, complete with King Cake! It's February 21. Join us at 6:00. Mardi Gras beads optional!

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Our Ash Wednesday Service is tentatively scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22. I strongly encourage everyone to join us or watch the service from home. Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn and holy services of the entire Christian year, and the best way to kick off a holy Lent. We may also offer "Ashes to Go" from 6:00-7:00 PM for those who can't join us in person for the service.

## **Lent Madness**

Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout the penitential season of Lent. Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, beginning on February 23, information is posted at [www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org) about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

I invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." BCP, 265)

## **REPLACING THE RUG IN THE SANCTUARY**, by Fr. Harvey

It may happen this month! In the sanctuary, we'll carpet the altar area and have carpet running up the center aisle of the sanctuary. On either side of the center aisle in the sanctuary, we'll have floor tiling to match what we currently have in the narthex. The rooms on the office side of the building will be carpeted to match the carpet in the sanctuary.

Thanks to the Development Team for all their work on this project, to everyone who was part of the fundraising efforts, to the vestry for their wisdom and faithfulness, and to all our parishioners for your patience!!

## **NEW TOILETS!** By Fr. Harvey

They're in! We replaced all the toilets in both restrooms. Each restroom now has at least one high toilet. Best of all, none of the toilets run! In the long run, this upgrade will pay for itself and help us to live a little more lightly on the land. Thanks, as always, to Bob Rendrick, who is making this happen!

## **BEMENT WATERFIELD EDUCATIONAL GRANTS**

Our Diocese offers a small College Scholarship for students who are active in an Episcopal Church in the Diocese. If you know someone who is qualified, please make them aware of this excellent opportunity. For more information, see <https://www.diocesewma.org/grant-opportunities/bement-grants-bement-waterfield-educational-grants/>.

## **PRAYER CYCLES**, by Fr. Harvey

The full set of 2023 prayer cycles is available in the narthex near the mail slots. We have a cycle that lists all the nations of the world, another for every Diocese in the Anglican Communion, one for our own Diocese, and one for our parish. The Parish Prayer Cycle is supposed to list every member and every ministry at Saint David's. Please let me know if you notice missing people or ministries!

The prayer cycles have become part of our Prayers of the People at Sunday services. They are also a wonderful part of my prayer life. It takes just a few minutes each day, and over the course of a month, I pray for every nation in the world and every member and ministry here at Saint David's. If you are not already doing so, I encourage you to give them a try. We can all use more prayers on our behalf!!!

## **SNOW POLICY**

Now that winter is here, you will see this article for the next few months. The Church will always be closed if Agawam High School closes for the day because of snow. On Sunday mornings, we have to make that call ourselves. When the Church is closed, notice will appear on our webpage and on television stations 3, 6, 40, and 22. All meetings are presumed to be cancelled, including any meetings by outside groups that rent the Church property. Our full snow policy is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks!

## **PRISON BIBLE STUDY**, by Fr. Harvey

We have begun! On Monday, January 9, members of our team, including Deacon Terry, got us off to an excellent start.

Mary Moore and I will head in on Monday, January 30 (before you read this, but after I write it). Beginning this month, we'll settle into a routine, with Saint David's covering the fourth Mondays of the month.

Other Episcopal priests and deacons, as well as a UCC pastor, a Jewish Rabbi, and a Jewish Cantor, will cover the other Mondays.

## **PARISH LIFE AND CALENDAR KEEPING**, by Fr. Harvey

Susan Amabile has served as our Parish Life Coordinator for well over a decade, beginning before I came to Saint David's in 2011. We all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for her years of talent and dedication!

But the needs of the parish have changed, particularly with our growing number of tenants. What we need now is not so much a coordinator of Parish Life as a single person to pay attention to all areas of Church life, including rentals, to avoid scheduling conflicts and/or burnout. We have therefore eliminated the position of Coordinator of Parish Life, and created a new position of Keeper of the Calendar. Carol Fabrycki and Janessa Piteo have agreed to serve as our inaugural Calendar Keepers. I am grateful to both!!

On our webpage, you can find the calendar of all our events, along with the space in the building or grounds that will be used for that event, where relevant. You can also see our events that are offsite.

If you would like to schedule an event, please first check the calendar to see if the space you need is available. If so, please contact the Calendar Keepers at [saint-davidsMA@gmail.com](mailto:saint-davidsMA@gmail.com) (a dedicated email address) to request the space. It will be reserved when you receive confirmation that the space is indeed available.

In my head, it's a beautifully simple system. In practice, there will surely be bugs to work out. Please be patient, and share your thoughts with me, the wardens, or Carol and Janessa. Thanks!!

“You are the light of the world....  
Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good  
works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:14, 16)

## **FOOD FOR THE POOR SUNDAY**, by Fr. Harvey

Please join us the weekend of February 4 to hear The Rev. Canon Dr. Howard K. Williams speak at both services about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Canon Williams will share personal witness about Food For The Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. Canon Williams was ordained deacon in 1974, a priest in 1975, became Canon in 2004 and Archdeacon in 2006. He was a teacher and Rector of churches in the islands of Jamaica, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and here in the USA. He has initiated and spear headed many groups that aid women and children. The list of his involvement is far too long to note, but include him as Archdeacon overseeing thirty-Three Episcopal Churches in New York.

## **SAFE CHURCH TRAINING**

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Church Trainings on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 7.....	9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Clergy & Lay Leaders
Saturday, February 18.....	9 a.m. to Noon	Volunteers
Tues/Thursday. March 28 & 30.....	5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Clergy and Lay Leaders
Sunday, April 16.....	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Volunteers
Thursday, April 27.....	9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Clergy and Lay Leaders
Thursday, May 18.....	5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Volunteers

To register, contact Fr. Harvey. The parish will be billed for your registration.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Meeting! We elected new vestry members, had a budget presentation, and shared information from a few of the reports. Continuing on the vestry are Bev Lawson (Senior Warden); Bob Rendrick (Junior Warden); Mary Moore (Clerk); Helene Robbins (Treasurer); Penny Miller (Assistant Treasurer); Linda Seabury; Renee Sprinthall; and Jo Joubert. Carol Fabrycki will complete the remaining two years of Luis Torres' term, and Denise Noyes and David Wolos are joining the vestry for three-year terms. The minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin board on the office side of the building, as are the 2022 Financials and the 2023 Budget. Thanks to Jo Joubert, the full set of annual reports are available in the narthex. We can also mail a copy to people on request.

“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.”

(1 Corinthians 1:10)

## **COMMUNITY DINNERS** by Bob and Jo

2023 has started out busy for the Kitchen Crew, especially Bob. I would like give an short overall view of what is involved with putting on our Community Dinners.

First step is of course choosing a menu,

Second picking a date that will not interfere with Church events.

Make flyers, tickets and sign-up sheets for volunteers

Making a shopping list. Do the shopping usually a couple days before dinner.

Prepping food (usually day before dinner)

Moving chairs and setting up tables. (difficult need 3-4 people)

Bob has to determine when he can turn the room so as not to interfere with renters.

Setting up place mats, steam tables, serving tables.

Now to the kitchen: If the gas has been shut off, then the pilot lights have to be relit.

(I believe there are a total of 14 lights, all the surface burners, grill and 2 ovens )

Making sure pans are available and CLEAN to getting food ready for cooking.

Estimate the time to start each course so as to be ready for serving at 6:00.

Setting up for the Take Out orders. Thanks Virginia!!

Now that everyone has been served , it is time to reverse the procedure. CLEAN UP!

Bob has to make sure the room is now back to a Church.

However, it is usually the same people each time. Yes, we have lots of laughs, especially at the beginning of the process, but by 8:00 p.m. everyone is ready for home.

What I am observing, is that before the Pandemic we usually had 60 –70 guests for each dinner. Now we are averaging around 40 –45. What has happened? Our members are getting older and not going out as much. We have had to increase our ticket prices to cover supplies. Our younger families that used to come to church and dinners, now have Children engaging in school sports.

Advertising costs a lot, so how do we get word out to the public?

If anyone has any suggestions, PLEASE feel free to come to our next meeting. We will post date and time soon.

### **DEVELOPMENT:** Submitted by Jo Joubert

We made a profit of about \$200.00 on the Meatloaf Dinner. Several guests said the food was good and plentiful. According to the ticket count we served 40 guests.

We wish to thank everyone that helped put this event on. Your help is certainly appreciated. Hope to see you all on February 10, for the Valentine dinner and dance.

Eat, drink, and be merry!!  
(Ecclesiastes 8:15)



**FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**STUFFED PORK ROAST DINNER**

**ST. DAVID'S CHURCH**

**699 SPRINGFIELD STREET**

**MENU**

**SOUP**

**Salad**

**VEGETABLE**

**MASHED POTATO & GRAVY**

**Rolls & Butter**

**Dessert**

**Coffee, tea, water, lemon aid**

ADULTS: \$15.00

CHILDREN AGE 5-12 \$5.00 CHILDREN UNDER 5

FREE

SERVING AT 6:00 P.M

For Reservations: 413 - 786 - 6133

e-mail: [joubertjo77@comcast.net](mailto:joubertjo77@comcast.net)

DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE

Take outs by reservation ONLY

**ENTERTAINMENT BY RUST**

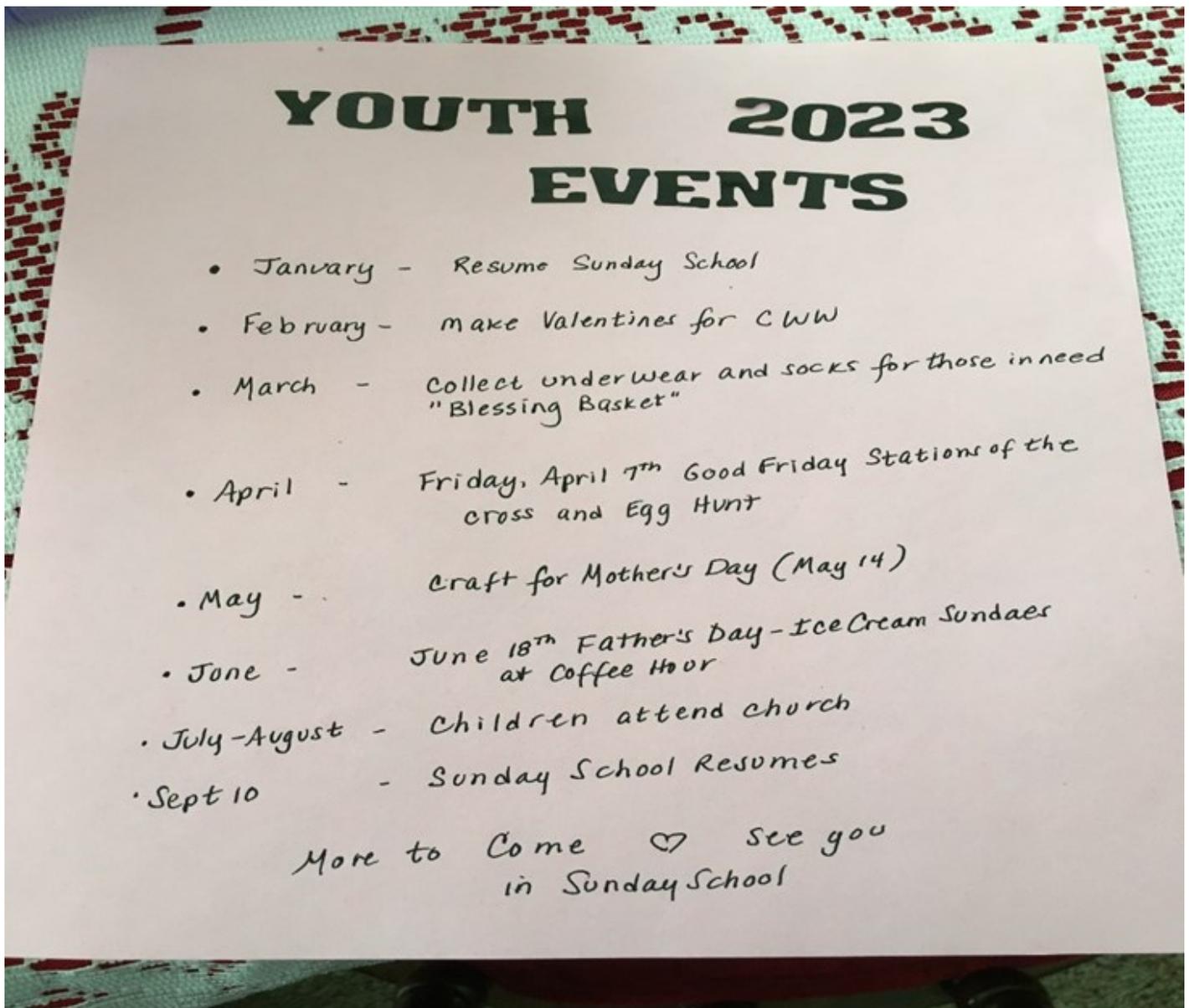
## Blessing Basket Sunday School Outreach Submitted by Norma Turcotte

Dear Friends,

During the month of March our Sunday school class will collect items to create a Blessing Basket as part of our Community Outreach theme. A Blessing Basket will be given to our friends who need a "hand up." As we learn how God blesses us, we will talk about tangible ways we can bless others through simple gifts, such as a blessing basket. We are asking our church community to participate in this event as well. We will focus on collecting underwear and socks for men, women and children. As we create the blessing basket, children will explore how simple everyday items we may take for granted are actually treasured blessings. Thank you for your participation in blessing others.

Thank you from The Sunday School Staff

## 2023 YOUTH EVENTS Submitted by Norma Turcotte



## **FEBRUARY CALENDAR:**

### **Our Weekly Events**

**Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00**

**Sunday School at 10:00**

**Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00 (in person)**

**Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00**

**Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom)**

**Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom)**

**M-F: Morning Prayer at 8:00 AM (on Facebook)**

**M-F: Compline at 8:00 PM (on Zoom)**

### **Special Events**

**Sunday, February 5: Food for the Poor Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00**

**Sunday, February 5: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard**

**Tuesday, February 7: Veterans Lunch at 11:30**

**Saturday, February 10: Valentines Dinner (pot roast) at 6:00**

**Tuesday, February 21: Conversation on Faith at 4:15 (Zoom)**

**Wednesday, February 15: Vestry at 7:00**

**Tuesday February 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6:00**

**Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday Service at 5:00**

**Friday, February 24 (and every Friday in Lent): Stations of the Cross at 11:30**

**Monday, February 27: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC**

**Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00: Lent Formation Program Begins (Zoom)**

### **Regular Rentals**

**Sundays from 1:15 to 4:45 PM: Spanish Church**

**Sundays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**

**Mondays from 6:30-8:30 PM: OA**

**Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**

**Wednesdays from 6:00 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)**

**Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 AM: OA**

**Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 PM: Church of the Last Harvest**

**Fridays from 6:30 to 10:00 PM: Church of the Last Harvest (first Friday)**

**Saturdays from 2:00-4:00: Mercy Church**

**Saturdays at 7:00-9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting**

### **BIRTHDAY WISHES:**

**February 10      Very Happy Birthday to Carrie Baker**

### **Coming Up**

**Monday, March 6 at 6:00: Community Supper: Chicken Parmesan,**

**Community Supper: Turkey, Monday, March 27 at 6:00**

**Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday**

**Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday**

**Friday, April 7: Good Friday**

**Sunday, April 9: Easter Sunday!!**