



## St. David's Episcopal Church

### APRIL DOVETALE

2024

**MISSION STATEMENT:** As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love and serve God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of Scripture.

### **THE EASTER SEASON:**

We rightly put a lot of time and energy into getting ready and then celebrating on Easter morning. It's always a great day. Alleluia, alleluia!

But Easter is more than a single special day. Easter is a season lasting seven weeks. In the Bible, numbers mean different things. Seven is the number of days of creation and therefore is the number of perfection and completion. It is no accident that Easter lasts seven weeks. That is seven sevens—the perfect number twice over!

For all seven weeks, we worship with a little extra joy. We are celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, so we drop the confession of sin. We throw "alleluias" around wherever we can fit them in. The music is upbeat and joyful.

We face plenty of challenges these days. It's easy to get discouraged at the state of the world. Many of us have personal challenges. But the tomb was empty all those centuries ago. Christ is risen. Christ is alive. And that means God wins. Life wins. Love wins.

As it happens, this year the weather seems likely to cooperate with the liturgical calendar. At my house, crocuses are already up. A daffodil bloomed where I park my car on Easter morning! At this very moment, snow is on the ground, but I anticipate that during the Easter season, nature should burst into abundant life all around us!

During the Easter season, I encourage you to take a little time to appreciate God's blessings in your life—the people, places, events, opportunities, and so on that bring you joy. They are little grace moments, glimpses of resurrection life. And the practice of pausing to notice and give thanks may well be the best way to celebrate Easter. Alleluia, alleluia!!

In the name of the One who died and rose again,  
Fr. Harvey

## **NEW TENANT**, by Fr. Harvey

Although the paperwork is not signed as of this writing, it looks like we will have a new tenant joining us: Maranatha Church. They are renting space from us for a couple of hours on Wednesday evenings. But what people are more likely to notice is them using our Sunday School Room on Sunday mornings. Our Sunday School is moving into the nursery. We'll see how this works out, but I am hoping that all will be well, that we can host these brothers and sisters in Christ and also earn a little rental income. But given that we will have new people in our building on Sunday mornings, I also want to remind people of what has always been our Safe Church policy. If you are responsible for a child who needs to use the restroom, please accompany him or her.

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**; by Fr. Harvey

The Daughters of the King is a religious order of laywomen living under a Rule of Life. The local Daughters are hosting an informational session on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 on Zoom. For more information, please see me or check out the notice on our bulletin board. Thanks!

## **PRAYER SHAWLS:**

It is always a good time to make, use, or give someone a prayer shawl. If you have one to be dedicated, let Father Harvey know, and he can include a prayer of dedication as part of our Sunday service. If you would like to pick one up from the Church, please let the office know, and we'll try to make appropriate arrangements. Prayer shawls can be a great comfort to people who need a little boost. Thanks to everyone who participates in this wonderful ministry!!!

## **THE JOHN O'HARE VETERANS LUNCHESES:** by Fr. Harvey

After a couple of misses, I was able to join the meal this month. We had a decent crowd and excellent food, as always. Thanks to the Lions Club and our volunteers for making this possible! Thanks also to several generous donors, especially to Karen Hoppock, Bobby J's, Polish American Club, and E.B.'s for covering the costs! Many of St. David's members contributed also. The next meal be Tuesday, May 7, starting at 11:30.

All veterans eat free. Everyone else is welcome to come help. Please help spread the word! Thanks!

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

I led our March Church without Walls, but Holy Week has about driven it from my memory! We had a decent crowd for the service and the lunches. Afterwards I had an interesting conversation with one of our regulars, who turns out to be interested in biblical archeology!

This month our turn at Church without Walls will be April 7. In addition to our regular stuff, I anticipate that we'll deliver socks from our Blessing Basket. Thanks as always to everyone who makes this ministry possible!



## **COMPLAINT-FREE LENT:**

If you participated in the Complaint Challenge and would like to make your donation through Saint David's, please make out a check to the Church with complaint challenge in the subject line. We'll send any money we gather to Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, a group that supports local farms and the local food system more generally. Thanks!

## **LENT PRAYER PARTNERS:**

If you had a Lent Prayer Partner, don't forget to send your partner an Easter card, offering God's blessing, and telling them that you have been praying for them!

## **TUESDAY CONVERSATIONS:** by Fr. Harvey

A group of us has been meeting roughly every other Tuesday at 4:15 on Zoom to discuss Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. Our next date will be Tuesday, April 9. We're finishing the book now, so please let me know if you would like to join us for our next book. We'd love to have you!

## **THE CHOSEN:** by Fr. Harvey

The Chosen is an ongoing series telling the story of Jesus and his disciples, available for free on YouTube. The series aims to stay close to Scripture as much as possible, while also offering a considerably expanded back-story for the disciples and many of the people healed by Jesus. The result is a fresh telling of the good news. So far the series has run three seasons of something like eight episodes each, with four more seasons to come. We'll finish season one at our next watch party on Tuesday April 9 at 6:00. Please join us!

## **RIVER CLEAN-UP:**

The Connecticut River Conservancy is sponsoring another River Clean-up of the Westfield River around Pynchon Point. The Clean-up is from 9:00-1:00, beginning at Pynchon Point on Saturday, April 27. For more information, please contact Mary Moore.

## **CROP HUNGER WALK,** by Fr. Harvey

The CROP Hunger Walk is an annual event to raise money for hunger. The main local beneficiary is the Parish Cupboard, which also hosts our Church without Walls. The date of the walk is Sunday, April 28, beginning at 1:00 at Feeding Hills Congregational. They have asked that we open Saint David's for a bathroom/water break. Please let me know if you are willing to host the walkers, which basically means greeting them and pointing to the restrooms and the water fountain. Also let me know if you are interested in walking or putting together a team of walkers. Thanks!!

## **FRIDAY EVENTS;** by Fr. Harvey

On Fridays we have a Healing Eucharist at noon, Bible Study at 1:00, and Contemplative Prayer at 2:30. All three are in person, but you can also join the Bible Study and Contemplative Prayer by Zoom. All three will meet every Friday in April, except the 26th. Please join us!

## **GROUNDS AND GARDENS:**

We have a heroic lawn crew and gardeners, who have kept us looking good for many years! But some of our crew are ready to retire. And we continue to expand our Good News Vegetable and Fruit Garden. As a result, we are looking for more help.

If you are interested in cutting the grass, tending a flower plot, or helping with the vegetable garden, please let me know, and I'll put you in contact with the right person. Thanks!!

## **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.

## **SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS:**

I don't know about trainings scheduled for the near future. But please check with Carol Fabrycki, our Safe Church officer, if you think you might need a training. Everyone is encouraged to take the training once every three years, but it's a requirement for people working with children or potentially vulnerable adults. Thanks!!

## **SAINT DAVID'S CALENDAR:** by Fr. Harvey

You can now find every event scheduled at Saint David's, as well as every Saint David's event scheduled other places, on the calendar on our webpage. Take a look at it if you haven't already done so (<https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/calendar.html>). It's impressive! To add something to the calendar, please first check if the space and time you want are open. Then email our calendar keepers at [saintdavidsMA@gmail.com](mailto:saintdavidsMA@gmail.com) to make your request. It will be official when you hear back from them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

ALL OUR APRIL BIRTHDAY

FRIENDS.

Robert Duval 4/21



And congratulations to Scott Seabury on the fortieth anniversary of his ordination—April 1!

## SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRIES:

### CREATION CARE by Mary Moore

Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

While for centuries the above statement from Genesis was cited as evidence for man’s right to be in charge and to exploit nature, it is now interpreted to mean exactly what it says. It is our responsibility to take care of the earth. As such, the Episcopal Church offers this vision and these goal statements for the Creation Care Ministry.

#### **Vision statement:**

The Jesus Movement is the ongoing community of people whose lives are centered on Jesus of Nazareth. We follow him into loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with Creation. (my underlining)

#### **Goals -**

**Loving - Goal #1** - Create and sustain a network of Episcopalians dedicated to the care and protection of the whole Creation, especially by providing grants and cultivating circles for Story Sharing among practitioners in local and regional ministries.

**Liberating - Goal #2** - Stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable victims of the impact of climate change - particularly women, poor people, and people of color - as part of seeking the liberation and flourishing of all God's people.

**Life-Giving - Goal #3** - Set climate change mitigation benchmarks as individuals and as a church, in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the Earth.

How does this play out at Saint David’s? While we have three visible members in our Creation Care Ministry (Jim Shields, Mary Moore, and Pauline Mortenson), in reality this ministry includes many, perhaps even most, of our parishioners. Anyone who takes actions that are designed to help the environment should consider himself/herself to be part of this ministry. Look again at Goal #3: “as individuals and as a church ... live more simply, humbly, and gently. "There are three major ways by which we do this, 1) not over-consuming goods or energy, 2) directly helping plants and animals, and 3) restoring.

Here is a list of examples and how each action helps. (Also the names of some parishioners known by me to take a particular action. I am sure that you could provide many more names.)

- \*Plant a vegetable garden and/or buy local produce - cuts down on transportation distances (i.e. on fuel consumption) and can also provide food for animals such as bees. (Denise, Norma)
- \*Plant a flower garden - helps pollinators and birds. (Pauline, Jean C.) Note: Be careful NOT to buy flowers that have been treated with chemicals that kill bees.
- \*Plant native species instead of non-native species - helps the existing ecosystem.
- \*Plant trees - a restorative action (Norma, Harvey)
- \*Feed birds - directly helps birds & consequently their ecosystems. (Jim)
- \*Consolidate errands to cut down on driving - reduces fuel consumption, means fewer pollutants being spewed out into the atmosphere.
- \*Hang clothes outside to dry when possible - cuts down energy consumption.
- \*Before turning up the thermostat in cold weather, try wearing a sweater first. - cuts down on fuel consumption.
- \*River cleanup - helps plants and animals by removing pollutants. (Marcel, Virginia, Jim, Harvey)
- \*Walk when possible - cuts down on gas consumption; is a way to enjoy nature

The list could go on, but you get the point. Awareness is the key. If we are aware of the consequences of our actions, we can be more intentional about making choices that are good for the environment. Thank you for all you do! Come join us on one of our hikes! And check out our bulletin board.

***WE DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG WE ARE UNTIL  
BEING STRONG IS THE ONLY CHOICE WE HAVE.***

## VESTRY RETREAT, MARCH 2, 2024: by Mary Moore

**Attendance:** Everyone made it for this vestry's first meeting of the year. Let's pray that this is the beginning of a trend.

☺☺ After some brief introductions and socializing, and seeing that our new members had not yet bolted, we settled down to a solemn start with Morning Prayer. 🙏

**Form, Norm, Storm (not so much today), and Perform** = the steps cycled through in any official group 📄📄📄

**FORM: Myers-Briggs** - and the introverts win again! Could it be that the introverts are the ones who end up on vestry because they have a hard time saying "no" when asked? 😞

In any event, the long and short of it is 1) Play nice, 2) Take turns, & 3) Give everyone a chance to speak. 🏈👉👉👄

Share what skills/attributes we bring to the vestry - See if you can guess what mine is! 😊

**NORM:** Approve mission statement, vestry covenant, a bunch of policies (but save the money policy for later), and job descriptions. We're easy to please. With one exception, everything looks hunky-dory. The exception - your lazy clerk 😞 does not want to be responsible for maintaining copies of all the signed lease agreements, so the treasurer will take on this responsibility. It's so hard to find good help nowadays! 😞

**STORM:** Not yet. We don't want to scare the newcomers away so soon. ⚡☁️ 😊☀️

**PERFORM:** The real work begins!

Financials - Helene gave us all an excellent explanation of how to read the financial sheets. After we knew what we were looking at, we approved (accepted) the financials for Jan. & Feb. 💰💰

Helene and Penny (an apt name for an Assistant Treasurer) will look into investing some of our money in cd's. 😊📄

Money policy - Face it. We trust that our senior and junior wardens are not going to take the money and run, so we amended the money policy to empower them to make some decisions without being micromanaged by the vestry. This will be especially useful when emergency situations crop up, say for example a hole in the roof that has to be fixed pronto. Do you really want to wait a month before the vestry gets around to approving the work? !? 🗣️ ⚡

Budget areas - new budget line assignments handed out. Speak now, or forever hold your peace. 😊😞

We ended as we began, in prayer. Amen. 🙏 Mary

## CAREGIVERS: Submitted by Mary Moore (Spotlight on Ministries)

Do you enjoy helping others when they need a hand occasionally? This could mean something as simple as bringing some books to a shut-in to the more elaborate task of providing a few meals for someone who has just come home from a hospital stay. If you are able and willing to help out in any way big or small, please contact Susan Amabile. She is maintaining a list of parishioners who are available to help fellow parishioners.

This ministry aims to meet needs from soups to getting manicures done and rides to appointments. Call Susan (519-7854) if you need anything. Members are Norma Turcotte, Paul Fontaine, Anne Cascio, Carol Fabrycki and Susan Amabile.

We also need to know who might need help. If that is you, or perhaps a fellow parishioner you know of, please let Susan know. We are all Church family.

## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The Women's Book Group will meet Sunday, April 14 at 11:15 to discuss *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the book. Please join us!

## **DEVELOPMENT:** by Jo Joubert

As many parishioner's are aware, the City of Agawam is in need of either repairing the High School or building a new one. There is a lot of discussion on what road to take to make sure that the city children have a acceptable building to reach their potential. May Johnson will be at St. David's on April 18th at 6:00 to present the plans and answer questions regarding the plans. If you are a Agawam resident please attend and hear what is suggested to solve the High school building issues.

May 4th will be the first Spring Fling Bazaar held at St. David's. Hopefully this event is one that we will be able to hold every year. We are in need of donations for our "This & That" table, which is being hosted by Ellen Rendrick. Also, we are in need of baked goods for Dixie's baked goods table. We will be adding a couple new items to Dixie's table....Home Made Baked Beans and Home made Spaghetti Sauce by the quart. Basically this event is in place of Scott's Auction.

Our Centennial celebration will be coming also. Plans are starting to be talked about as to what our St. David's members would like to see happening to celebrate our 100 years. Please, try to make the meetings. I am trying to hold meetings right after the 8:00 service on 4/14, so that our 8:00 members can participate in the events. Also right after the 10:00 service on 4/7 to accommodate those members. Please come with thoughts and ideas. Your help is appreciated.

## **WINE MINISTRY** by Mary Moore

Our Wine Ministry started somewhat by accident. We inherited some equipment and the kit with the ingredients for making a 5 gallon batch of red wine from a group at one of the other area Episcopal churches. Paul Fontaine and Jim Shields were interested in making the wine, and I joined them because I already had more than 20 years of wine-making under my belt. Our first batch of communion wine led to another, then another, and eventually to over 100 bottles from the additional kits that we had bought.

Covid and the ensuing remote Sunday services meant no need for church wine temporarily, turning our surplus into a glut. What to do with all that extra wine? The solution was to have an outdoor wine tasting at a private residence, following all the covid precautions. If anyone wanted a bottle to bring home, there were suggested donations, all of which went to Saint David's. That first wine tasting has now become an annual event, with bottles of various wines available year round too. And we are back to providing all the communion wine.

Our present crew consists of Lin and Dan Paquette and Mary Moore. We make mostly standard wines such as Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, and Riesling. Nothing fancy. Around Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will sometimes make a dessert wine, depending on the availability of the kits. We also handle the cleaning, sanitizing, filling, corking, and labeling of the bottles.

All equipment, labor, and wine kits are provided by the members of this ministry. There is a *suggested* donation for a bottle of wine, but for anyone on a low fixed income, we ask that you donate what you feel comfortable with. 100% of the money we collect goes directly into the church's general fund. If you want wine but can't reach one of us, you can call the church office @ (413) 786-6133. Not all wines are available at all times, but generally speaking, there is at least one type of red, and one type of white wine on hand.

## MARCH 20, 2024 VESTRY MEETING

**Attendance:** All but 2, who were out with good reasons

**Bible Study:** To Philippi we go

**Parishioner's Speak:** No news is good news!

**Rector's Report:** Don't you just love the alliteration?

\*Assessment of: Annual Meeting -AOK 📅

Bishop's Visitation - AOK 🏠

Vestry Retreat - AOK 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

Conclusion: no need to fix it if it ain't broke!

\*Grounds & Gardens: Hire someone? 🛠️ 🌻 🌿 🌱 🌾 ☐Jim? Thoughts? In theory we have enough people to do the work. But they're not spring chickens anymore!

\*Holy Week - if you don't know the necessary information or whom to ask by now, you're probably not interested in participating. But I could be wrong. Ask away or check the church website.

\*Centennial Celebrations - Jo J will run info sessions at church at times convenient to 8 and 10 clockers. If you can't make any of those, get in touch with Jo. 🗣️ 100! 🗣️ 🌸

### **Old Business:**

\*Troublesome neighbor - Hallelujah! One down, one to go. 😊 & 😞

And a BIG round of applause for Bev for all the work she had to put into this! 🙌 🙌 🙌

### **New Business:**

\*Tithe\*ly - Meet our official legal rep, with the Tithe\*ly company, TZ. 🖥️ 🧑 🖥️ 💰

\*Rental Committee - A) Making progress! This work is trickier than it looks.  
B) Possible new tenant? Maranatha Church?

Apologies if this did not make you smile enough. It's been a rough week. 😞 Mary Moore

## BOOK OF NAMES:

Dina is finding that the response for the Book of Names is very slow. Please, E-mail: [Dinajoubert1271@gmail.com](mailto:Dinajoubert1271@gmail.com). Phone #: 413-374-4448 We encourage everyone to contact Dina and let her know if everything is the same or if there is a change. We would really like everyone to add birthdays and anniversaries. A quick e-mail or phone call or see her at Church. Thanks.





**Earth Day!**

The first Earth Day was in April, 1970. It started as a full day of teaching people how to help the planet by showing them how to take care of nature. Probably the most important idea that came out of the first Earth Day was that more people started to see themselves as part of nature instead of separate from it. To put this in everyday terms, think about your house and a neighbor's house. Whose house is your family going to take care of, yours or your neighbor's? Just as you think of the house next door as not your problem, a lot of people used to think that taking care of nature was not their problem. Nature was where plants and animals lived, not where people lived. Now we know better. What if the neighbors house was your cousin's house? Would you be a little more careful about their property than you would if a stranger lived there? Remember: we are "cousins" to every other living thing on the planet.

Things you can do:

- 1) Try not to be wasteful.
- 2) Don't litter.
- 3) Get friends involved too. They can help you with #'s 1 & 2.
- 4) Ask a teacher if your school does anything special for Earth Day. If the answer is "No," ask if kids and teachers could have a cleanup day, some special lessons about taking care of nature, or perhaps some other Earth Day activity. The teachers can find lots of good ideas and information on the internet.

**PLAY DOUGH :** submitted by Jo Joubert

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1/2 Cup Salt
- 2 Teaspoons Cream of Tarter
- 2 Teaspoons of Salad Oil
- 1 Cup Water

Mix all ingredients together. Cook over medium heat, stirring until it sticks together in a large ball. Remove from heat, using your hands squeeze and knead until soft and smooth.

**CREATION CARE CORNER:** submitted by Pauline

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has declared 21 species extinct as of last fall. They were mostly birds and mussels because protection came too late.

34 billion dollars US insurers had to pay out the first half of 2023 because of severe thunderstorms. As you can imagine it is a record amount for that time period.

40 countries have declared climate emergencies as a result of growing intensity of human driven disasters.

0.35% of the Great Lakes covered by ice as of Jan. 1, 2024. This is the smallest amount of ice cover since over 50 years ago when records began.

The first 11 months of 2023 saw one million electric car sales.

The US's first utility-scale offshore wind farm to come online will power 400,000 New England homes.

**COMMUNITY DINNER:**

PASTA DINNER.....SOUP —SALAD — PASTA—MEATBALLS & SAUCE —DESSERT-GARLIC BREAD—

DESSERT (cannoli's) —COFFEE/TEA DOOR PRIZE. SEE OLD FRIENDS ANDMAKE NEW ONES.

Adult's are \$12.00 Children ages 5 -11 \$5.00 Children under 5 free.

Where else can you go for this price and get all homemade food?

**GOOD FRIDAY:** What a great service. I only made it to the 5:30 service, but I am sure the earlier one was just as good. It was wonderful—I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

Who said



Easter is for kids? Linda is that you?

Easter Egg Hun at St. David's .  
Thanks to the Noyes Family for all their  
work on hiding the eggs.



Fun had by all. Easter is always a fun time of year.

Kids and adults look forward to the “Easter Bunny”



## APRIL CALENDAR

### OUR WEEKLY EVENTS:

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

**Sunday School at 10:00 (except 4/28)**

**Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00**

**Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00 (except 4/26)**

**Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom) (except 4/26)**

**Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom) (except 4/26)**

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

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

### OUR SPECIAL EVENTS

**Monday, April 1: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00**

**Tuesday, April 2: Veterans Lunch at 11:30**

**Tuesday, April 2: Veterans Lunch at 11:30**

**Sunday, April 7: Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting at 11:15**

**Sunday, April 7: Church without Walls at 12:00 at the Parish Cupboard**

**Monday, April 8: Community Supper at 6:00**

**Tuesday, April 9: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:30 on Google Meets**

**Tuesday, April 9: The Chosen Watch Party and Conversation at 6:00**

**Sunday, April 14: Women's Book Group at 11:15**

**Monday, April 15: Daughters of the King Information Session at 7:00 on Zoom**

**Wednesday, April 17: Vestry at 7:00**

**Thursday, April 18: Mayor Johnson's presentation**

**Monday, April 22: Earth Day!**

**Monday, April 22: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00**

**Tuesday, April 23: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:30 on Google Meets**

**Tuesday, April 23: The Chosen Watch Party and Conversation at 6:00**

**Saturday, April 27: River Clean-Up, 9:00-1:00 at Pyncheon Point**

**Sunday, April 28: CROP Hunger Walk, leaving Feeding Hills Congo at 1:30**

### REGULAR RENTALS

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

**Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00: Maranatha Church**

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

**Saturdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting**

**Saturdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM: Narcotics Anonymous**

**Sundays from 9:00-1:00: Maranatha Church**

All events are listed on the calendar on our webpage (<https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/calendar.html>). To reserve space for an event, please first check if the space and time you want are open. Then email our calendar keepers at [saintdavidsMA@gmail.com](mailto:saintdavidsMA@gmail.com). It will be official when you hear back from them.



*FAITH MALKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE*

**PHONE:** (413) 786—6133

**FAX:** (413) 786-4682

**EMAIL:** [saintdavids@comcast.net](mailto:saintdavids@comcast.net)

**OR Jo's Cell** 413-374-7756

**E-Mail** [joubertjo77@comcast.net](mailto:joubertjo77@comcast.net)

**St, David's Episcopal Church**  
**699 Springfield Street**