

St. David's Episcopal Church JULY DOVETALE 2021

Mission Statement

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to love God and community, committing ourselves to lives of joyful worship, prayer, and the teaching of scripture.

Loosening Up, by Fr. Harvey

It's been a long road getting to this point! And we're not entirely out of the woods yet. But as the pandemic numbers improve and the percentage of vaccinated people at Saint David's goes up, we can continue the process of easing restrictions on our gatherings. Thanks be to God!

In the middle of June, I e-mailed a letter to the parish describing some of the details of where we are. Copies of that letter are available in the narthex. But here is a quick summary of the relevant policies.

On Sunday mornings, things are largely, but not quite entirely, back to normal. Masks are no longer required, although we encourage unvaccinated people to wear masks and everyone to maintain social distance as possible. The rows of chairs are again close enough that people can easily kneel. We are singing, and coming to the altar for Eucharist.

The primary pandemic precautions that remain are: no chalice at Communion; we continue to peace in place; and we are leaving the collection plate at the back of the Church.

As of now, there are effectively no restrictions on gatherings outside of Sunday services, although there, too, we encourage unvaccinated people to wear masks and everyone to maintain social distance as possible.

I assume many will greet the easing of restrictions with relief. But others will undoubtedly be anxious. When interacting with others, please respect their boundaries.

We will continue to livestream the 10:00 service on Facebook and then post it on YouTube. We are now also broadcasting that service on the local Agawam television station, channel 12.

There are also two options for participating in the service in-person without coming into contact with many people. You can watch either Sunday service from the narthex through the large windows. There is a speaker in the narthex, so you should be able to hear clearly. That has always been true. What is new is the option of watching the 10:00 service on a large screen in the Community Room. In either case, please make sure an usher knows you are there so that someone can bring communion to you.

I want to end by thanking you all. Everyone at Saint David's has been remarkably faithful and patient as we have made our way through the challenges of this last year. I am profoundly grateful for your gracious support at every step. This truly is a wonderful parish!

God bless you all!

Outreach Ministry: by Deacon Terry

St. David's is expanding its outreach mission!

Jesus teaches us to serve. Serve the less fortunate, those in need, those struggling. We all have so much to be thankful for, and there are so many who are in need.

On the first Sunday every other month, we will offer snacks and attend an outdoor service at court square in Springfield. This service starts at noon and is about 40 minutes. Our participation can be whatever each of us are comfortable with. Some may want to serve, some may simply wish to be present. We hope folks may like to come along, and perhaps help hand out the lunches.

For those who can't or don't feel comfortable, they could bake some cookies, brownies, etc. (individually wrapped). Purchase some clementines, small bags of chips, donate some money to help with the costs. (There are usually about 50 people.) If you do buy or make something – simply drop it off at the church and we will get it there. Dates: July 4; Sept. 5; Nov. 7.

If you'd like to be a part of this in any way, please let us know. Thanks!

CREATION CARE CORNER: Jim Shields.

In a recent issue of Time Magazine, Bill Gates wrote an article on a practical means of determining where we should spend our money on climate innovation to combat harmful climate change. The biggest contributors to global warming are manufacturing (31%), electricity production (27%), farming (19%), transportation (16%), and emissions from heating and cooling buildings. The world uses so much fossil fuel technologies because they are usually the cheapest energy sources available. But Gates maintains that that's because their prices don't reflect the environmental damage they inflict. He says moving from "dirty" carbon-based technologies to ones with zero emissions will cost something. These additional costs are what he calls "Green Premiums". For example, switching from the current jet fuel in use to advanced biofuels would cost 70% more, an increase not likely to be embraced by the jet industry anytime soon. However, changing the U.S. electricity system to zero-carbon sources would cost about 15% more than what most people pay now. That adds up to a green premium of \$18/mo for the average home, and is due to the large drop in cost of solar infrastructure over the past 10 years. I personally went with 100% green energy (wind and solar) sources coming into my home several years ago, and that's just about how much more per month I pay. It was worth it for me to pay that increase to help me do my part to reduce my carbon footprint. Gates goes on to say that green premiums need to be so low that everyone will be able to use them to decarbonize, and that the basis for what zerocarbon options we should be deploying now and into the future are the ones with a low premium or no premium at all. Green Premiums would also help us to determine where we need to focus our R&D spending, our early investors, and best inventors, as well as provide a measurement system to show our progress. Gates' Green Premium approach may not be perfect, but it would seem to be a reasonable starting point and a valuable tool as the U.S. and the world move increasingly forward in this battle against the warming of the Earth.

DAILYPRAYER by Father Harvey

We have shifted to a summer schedule of the online Daily Office. Deacon Terry and I will be taking turns streaming Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 8:00 am. The good people of Saint Mark's will share their livestreamed services of Morning Prayer on our Facebook page on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, also at 8:00. In the evenings, the Diocese offers a zoomed version of Compline on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 8:00. For log-in information, please contact me. And Saint Mark's will be streaming evening prayers on Fridays at 8:00, including on our Facebook page. Please take advantage of these services as you are able. And please spread the word!

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER AND THE DAILY OFFICE:

One the great, and often neglected, resources of our tradition is the Prayerbook. Now more than ever we all need to be cultivating a regular practice of prayer at home, and the Prayerbook can help. Our livestreamed services during the week come from the Prayerbook and are intended at least partly as an opportunity for folks to use these prayer services themselves. We have also put in the narthex copies of a specifically Pentecost version of Morning Prayer, along with the schedule of readings for the summer. We can mail them to anyone on request. Just call the office or send Fr. Harvey an e-mail.

There are lots of other options in the Prayerbook as well. The Prayerbook has a quick service for Noonday (which we were livestreaming last summer), and a slightly longer one for Evening Prayer (a lot like Morning Prayer and with the same readings). If those are still too much, there are shorter and easier "Daily Devotions" (beginning on page. 137), and helpful prayers and thanksgivings at the back of the book (beginning on page 810). The result is something that will work for even the busiest people.

If you need a Prayerbook, let Fr. Harvey know and we can arrange a time for you to pick one up at the Church. You can also order one for yourself, of course. An easy-to-navigate online version is available here: Online BCP.

BELOVED COMMUNITY: Sacred Ground Follow-Up, by Fr. Harvey

Several of us joined with the people of Saint Andrew's to form three "circles" to read, watch videos, and discuss issues of race and faith. We recently finished that program, and there is interest in doing more. Some of what we do will be with Saint Andrew's. It may be that we want to do some things by ourselves. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please be in touch with me. All are welcome!

READING THE GOSPEL OF MARK:

Several of us are reading the Gospel of Mark together this year, guided by a kind of commentary by Michael Casey called *Fully Human*, *Fully Divine*. In July we plan to meet on Zoom at 4:15 on Thursday the 8th and Tuesday, the 27th at 4:15

PRAYER SHAWLS:

This is a great 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!!!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER and LECTIO DIVINA:

"Lectio Divina" is a prayerful reading of a Bible passage, interspersed with short periods of silence. The basic question we ask ourselves is, what is God saying to me through this passage? We continue to offer contemplative prayer on Fridays at 2:30 and, like so much else, we now meet both in person and on Zoom. Please join us!

SPRINGFIELD CHURCH WITOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

Our next turn at the Springfield Church without walls in Court Square will be at noon on July 4. Thanks to the generosity of many people, we are all set for snacks for fifty—our regular contribution. I believe we will be back to offering Communion and perhaps even a chance to eat together (rather than simply handing out food). All are welcome to join us—there is plenty of space!

In related news, I have begun conversations with our partners in Church without Walls at the Parish Cupboard. We are not ready to start back quite yet, but I am hopeful that we'll get back to it sometime soon.

HEALING MINISTRY:

Before the pandemic, we offered prayers for healing each week at the altar after the 10:00 service. During the pandemic, we couldn't continue this ministry, of course. But as of June 27, we are back. If you would like to receive prayers, please go to the altar after the service to meet the designated person offering prayers that week. If you would like to join the rotation of those who offer healing prayers, please let Fr. Harvey know. Thanks!!

FRIDAY NOONTIME HEALING EUCHARIST:

The restoration of this service has been a wonderful addition to our worship life! A small group of us gather for a service of Holy Communion, including a conversational sermon on the saint of the day and an opportunity for people who so choose to receive anointing and special prayers at the altar. All are welcome—please help spread the word!

EUCHARISTIC VISITS AND VISITORS:

This is another ministry which was on hold for much of the pandemic and which is now coming back. We are putting together teams of two people to take Communion to folks who are not able to worship with us in person. As anyone who has made visits can attest, this is a really rewarding ministry. If you are interested in making visits, let Fr. Harvey know. He can give you training, pair you with a partner, and go with you on your first visits if you like. If you would like to receive visits, please also be in contact with Fr. Harvey. Thanks!!

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

This is yet another ministry that is coming back after more than a year. Before the pandemic, Eucharistic Ministers served the chalice at Communion. We are not yet in a position to offer the chalice, but we want more people without clerical collars up front! Our plan is to resume a regular schedule of Eucharistic Ministers who will join Deacon Terry or Father Harvey in offering the consecrated bread, each with a drop of consecrated wine on it. If you would like to be part of the rotation, please let Father Harvey know. Thanks!!

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 1:00

The Friday Bible Study is getting fancy! Several of us are now meeting in person in the Community Room. With snacks! Others join us by Zoom. We have a mounted screen in the Community Room, which allows everyone physically present to see people on Zoom. Thanks to a special camera and microphone, people on Zoom can hear and see better as well. By the time you read this, we should be about finished with Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and deciding what to tackle next. Please join us! And spread the word!

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS: by Father Harvey

This is my regular reminder that I have a small discretionary fun 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 that those conversations and any help people receive from either discretionary fund will be fully confidential.

REIMBURSEMENTS:

Across from the office are forms for receiving reimbursements for expenses people incur on behalf of Saint David's, as well as a list of which vestry member is in charge of which budget line. You can also see who is in charge of which budget area on our webpage at https://www.stdavidsagawam.org/leadership.html. As always, if you need to spend the Church's money, please either complete the form yourself or be in touch with Father Harvey or Treasurer Jude O'Hare so they can fill out the form for you. Please first make sure to get approval from the relevant vestry person. Thanks!!

ALLELUIA, **ALLELUIA**!!, by Fr. Harvey

After many years of faithful and outstanding service, Ellen Scott is retiring from her role coordinating our children's ministries. We should all be grateful to her for the incredible work she has done with our children, including providing lessons straight through the pandemic. Ellen will continue to help out in Sunday School one day a month.

I am thrilled to announce that Valerie Smart has agreed to take over coordinating our children's ministry. We are truly blessed! She has all kinds of great ideas for teaching our children and having fun while doing it. Please join me in thanking Valerie for his willingness to share her gifts!

We are also blessed to have a nearly complete roster of Sunday school teachers and assistants for the fall, when Sunday School resumes. At this point, we are looking for one more teacher. If you are interested, please be in touch with Valerie. Thanks!!

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Michael Curry, Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubled Times, 2020

This charming book, by our Presiding Bishop, combines his personal story with an insightful and inspiring meditation on love. He ends with this claim: "When God, who is love, becomes our spiritual center of gravity, and love our moral compass, we live differently, regardless of what the world around us does. The world changes for the better, one life at a time" (248). In an appendix, he offers practical tips for creating a personal rule of life to help each of us live the way of love a little better.

MAINTAINING OUR FLOWER GARDENS: by Fr. Harvey

Our grounds are looking great once again. I confess, I am not sure how it happens. Jim Shields and a crew of mowers keep the grass under control. The Duttons work tirelessly in the back lot, particularly around the labyrinth. Carol Fabrycki continues to improve the garden area on the street side of our building. Ellen and Lenny Scott are seen watering and weeding. Other work is clearly happening, too, but I am not sure who is doing it. All I can say is thank you to everyone involved!!

EXPANDING OUR VEGETABLE GARDENS:

As many of you know, we created a small vegetable garden in our back lot a couple of years ago. This year we won a grant from the Diocese to upgrade our efforts by, among other things, putting a spigot on that side of the parking lot to make watering easier. We have also relocated the garden into the fenced area with the retaining pond. (The Agawam Building Inspector assures us this is OK.) Hopefully this will keep at least a few critters out, ensure that our vegetable garden doesn't complicate mowing the grass, and allow us to expand the garden itself. Assuming we raise a decent amount of produce, we plan to make it available to parishioners and perhaps neighbors, as well as donating some of it to food pantries in the area. If you are interested in helping with the garden, please be in touch with Denise Noyes or Father Harvey. We are particularly looking for people who are willing to take a turn at watering the garden. Thanks!!

WE'RE GOING ON TELEVISION:

It really is going to happen! All going well, the Agawam Television Station will begin carrying our 10:00 Sunday services on channel twelve as of July 4. I am excited about this new way of reaching out and grateful to Les Tingley and the people at Agawam Media for making it possible, as well as to Kathy Glista who has done so much work getting us ready on our end.

OUTDOOR CRAFT FAIR:

We have rented our grounds to the organizer of an Outdoor Craft Fair. By the time you read this, the first Fair will be behind us, but there will be two more later this year: on August 8 and October 9. Thanks to the tireless John O'Hare, we plan to offer food for sale at both. Other than offering concessions, we don't have any role in putting on the Fairs, but we wanted to make sure everyone knew about them.

CHURCH DIRECTORY:

The new print version of the Book of Names is now available. Thanks to Penny Miller, Sue O'Hare, and others for making this happen!! Copies are available in the narthex. If you would like us to mail you one, please contact the Church office. Please also remember that we have a password-protected online directory on our webpage. (Contact Father Harvey if you need the password.) If your information changes, let Fr. Harvey and/or Laurie Littlefield know so that we can keep that current. Thanks!!

HAPPY FOURTH STAY SAFE

And Congratulations to All Graduates!!

YOUTH MINISTRY: by Valerie Smart

Now that we can finally be together IN PERSON and play, let's celebrate this summer with We've Missed You Wednesdays! We're looking forward to gathering our youth to make some special summer memories. We'll meet on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in the church yard. Please come prepared to get wet and messy -- we'll have water play and crafts each night. All youth are invited -- whether you can make one session or all of them. Severe weather cancels. Email writevalerie@comcast.net with any questions. Hope to see you there!

July 14 - Paint-a-palooza July 21 - Christmas in July July 28 - Let's Be Olympians August 4 - Tie-Dye Night August 11 - We Are Superheroes August 18 - LEGO Challenge

Thanks.

Valerie 413-789-8128

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER: Summer Scavenger Hunt by Mary Moore

Here are some things to look for when you are outside this summer. Since you may not find everything in one day, why not keep track by writing down what you did see? Some examples of what you might see are in parentheses. Enjoy!

- 1. A bird with some red or orange feathers (robin)
- 2. A bird with blue feathers (blue jay)
- 3. A leaf that is dark red (Japanese maple)
- 4. A flower on a tree or bush (rose)
- 5. A fruit on a tree or bush (cherries)
- 6. A mammal with 2 or more different colors of fur (cow)
- 7. An insect that flies (butterfly, bee)
- 8. An insect that lives in a colony (bee or ant)
- 9. A worm
- 10. A spider web

YOUNG SCHHOLARS PROGRAM: by Fr. Harvey

This is a request for contributions of time, not money! The Young Scholars Program offers college scholar-ships to elementary school students. You read that right—elementary students. The idea is that at-risk children benefit from early interventions. The children come from the MLK Charter School and the White Street School, both in Springfield. The schools nominate promising children. The Young Scholars Program promises money if/when the children actually go to college. In the meantime, the schools and the program combine to offer enrichment and support.

If you would like to join this effort, please talk to me. I have served on the Board of the Program for the last few years, and I strongly recommend their work. You can also check them out online at www.youngscholarsfund.org. The Program can always use money, but the real need at this point is for "scholar partners." Each partner tracks one or more students. At a minimum, that means getting their report card each summer. That has been my own practice. For people with more time, partners are invited to get more engaged in the lives of their scholars. For most supporters, this is the most rewarding part of the work since it means getting to know the children and their families.

ST. DAVID'S HAS EXCITING NEWS

THE AUCTION IS ON! By Fr. Harvey

As you may recall, we had scheduled an auction to raise money for the Development Team, with the ultimate goal of replacing the rug in the sanctuary of the Church. Everything was more or less set, and then a global pandemic intervened. But Scott Seabury and his intrepid crew of auction volunteers is once again moving forward. The tentative plan is to have the auction itself on Saturday, October 23, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., with a viewing of items to be auctioned from 12:00-1:00. Be on the lookout for more information about ways to help and/or to donate.

OUTDOOR CONCERT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH:

Our Parish Life Team is planning an Outdoor Concert on the afternoon of Saturday, August 14. Many of the details are still to be determined, but the idea is to have live music (hopefully by our very own team of Rene Sprinthall and Jim Shields), food and drinks available for sale (including baked goods!), a fifty/fifty raffle, and more. For more information, please contact Susan Amabile. And please plan to join us for some fun!

VETERAN'S LUNCHES CONTINUE!

Thanks to John O'Hare and the Lion's Club, our Veterans' Lunches have resumed! In June we had our first in-door meal since the pandemic began, and it was a great success. Our July meal will be Tuesday, July 6, beginning at 11:30. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, please be in touch with John.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: by Jo Joubert

The Development Committee was created to function as a fundraising group to raise funds for LARGE projects such as the replacement of the floors, parking lot, or any project that might come up.. We have run tag sales, dinners and other functions to be used for such projects. Currently we are planning an Auction headed by Scott Seabury. Jude O'Hare has an line item assigned to Development in the Budget.

The Committee will meet on Friday, July 16th at 3:30, at Church. Anyone wishing to participate, please feel free to attend. WELCOME!

If you do not wish to join, but would like to suggest an fundraising event PLEASE feel free to give me a shout at 414-821-0444 or 413-374-7756 or joubertjo77@comcast.net.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10)

All Things Beautiful All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful— The Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings-He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings. The purple-headed mountain, The river running by, The morning and the sunset That lighteth up the sky; The tall trees in the greenwood, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden-He made them every one.

I welcome any suggestions, adds, birthdays, food dishes or ANY news item that anyone would like to share with everyone.

He gave us eyes to see them,

And lips, that we might tell How great is God Almighty,

Who doeth all things well.

Happy Birthday to:

Crystal Brooks, July 2nd Linda Birk, July 5th Linda Seabury, July 13th Luis Torres, July 17th Barbara Lefebvre, July 23rd Bob Rendrick, July 23rd

JULY 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7	1 8:00 Prayer 10—11:30 OA	2 12:00 Healing Eucharist 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 p.m. Prayers	3 7:15 –8:30 AL -Anon
8:00 Service 10:00 Service 12:00SPCWW	8: p.m. Prayer	8:00 Prayer 11:30 Vets Lunch 8 p.m. Prayer	8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	8:00 Prayer 10—11:30 OA 4:45 Mark	12:00 Healing Eucharist 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 p.m. Prayers	7:15 -8:30 AL -Anon
8:00 Service 10:00 Service	7:00 Men's Bible 8: p.m. Prayer	8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	14 8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	15 8:00 Prayer 10—11:30 OA	161 2:00 Healing Eucharist 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Contemplative Prayer 3:30 Development 8:00 p.m. Prayers	17 7:15 –8:30 AL -Anon
18 8:00 Service 10:00 Service	7:00 Men's Bible 8: p.m. Prayer	20 8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	21 8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	22 8:00 Prayer 10—11:30 OA	23 12:00 Healing Eucharist 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 p.m. Prayers	24 7:15 –8:30 AL -Anon
25 8:00 Service 10:00 Service	26 7:00 Men's Bible 8: p.m. Prayer	27 8:00 Prayer 4:15 Mark 8 p.m. Prayer	28 8:00 Prayer 8 p.m. Prayer	29 8:00 Prayer 10—11:30 OA	30 12:00 Healing Eucharist 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Contemplative Prayer 8:00 p.m. Prayers	31 7:15 –8:30 AL -Anon

Confirmation Classes, by Fr. Harvey

Chrissy Turcotte White and I are currently running confirmation classes with four young women: Lexi Barna; Eden Berry; Madeleine Soukup; and Emmerson White. Please say a prayer for them as they learn more about their faith and prepare to make a mature and public commitment to it!

Summer Vacation, by Fr. Harvey

My vacation plans are not yet finalized, but will mostly happen in August. In July, our Friday schedule will continue as normal, and I'll be at all Sunday services. But I will be slipping away for mini-retreats in the early part of the week a few times. You can still reach me by text, phone, or email. But please be patient if I am slow to respond. Thanks!!

A Note on Bible Translations, by Fr. Harvey

People sometimes ask me about which translation of the Bible to use. There certainly are plenty to choose from! The short answer is, you are not likely to go far wrong with any of them, so you should feel free to use whichever one works for you. The Episcopal Church specifically authorizes fourteen different ones for use in worship, and doesn't prohibit any as far as I know.

But four translations seem to be most common among Episcopalians. The most famous is the King James Bible (KJV), originally produced in 1611 and universally regarded as a master-piece of literature. But early biblical manuscripts discovered since its publication demonstrate that it was inaccurate in places. The KJV has been updated, so contemporary versions of the King James Bible are more accurate. But the language strikes some people as dated. To others, it will always be the Bible as God intended it to be!

The single most popular translation, as far as I know, is now the New International Version. It's roots go back to the King James Bible, but the language is more contemporary, which makes this version more accessible. Odds are, it's the one on your shelf.

Every Church I have attended with any regularity—and that's a pretty big number at this point—uses the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The NRSV is also based on the King James Bible, but, as the words "new" and "revised" suggest, it was revised, and then revised again. This is the version we use at Sunday services and in our Friday Bible Study. It's my favorite, but if you join me for Morning Prayer online you'll hear the earlier version of it—the (not new) Revised Standard Version.

The last one I'll mention is the Message. It's independent of the KJV and a very contemporary translation, which can really help you see familiar passages in a new way. I find parts of it beautiful, most of it helpful, and bits of it a little bizarre.

But here's the take-away, as far as I am concerned. If you find a Bible you enjoy reading, stick with it. And, if you want to go a little deeper, mix it up with other translations.

"The word of God is living and active!" (Hebrews 4:12)



"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." \sim Proverbs 17:22

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