



St. David's Episcopal Church

NOVEMBER DOVETALE

2023

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.



Journey into Stewardship (by Ted Zern)

Jeremiah's words introduce us to this year's stewardship ingathering when he says:

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:8

The theme seems especially fitting as St. David's approaches its centennial year in 2025. Before we get there, however, the St. David's faith community is invited to consider a financial pledge for 2024. Our theme this year, Rooted in Abundance, focuses our attention on all of the gifts that God gives us. Just like the tree with its roots giving rise to growth and vitality, we are empowered by our gifts to do the same. Rooted in Abundance reminds us that we are indeed a collection of trees each one contributing gifts, according to our means, to a world in need.

To be rooted in abundance suggests that gratitude and generosity are a natural consequence of a loving environment, a space where possibility, generosity, and abundance thrive. Rooted in abundance calls to mind a metaphor represented by the tree of life, remembering that God sent his own beloved son as the author of our salvation. What an abundant gift that was and continues to be. We are called in this context to reflect on the cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, in the humanity of Jesus, and in our own faith journey. Moreover, as we share our gifts through the Eucharist and through our service and caring, we participate in the ongoing creation of abundance. When we share in the abundance and become financial stewards, we empower the ministries of St. David's to deepen its roots and transform the wider community. Everything we have received, from worship to fellowship to outreach ministry, is then transformed by our generosity and love, again the abundance that we share through our treasure.

Rooted in Abundance invites yet another perspective which can be found in the notion that *we can transform what generosity looks like*. We can define generosity as the way we live our lives and the way our church works to enrich us and hence our community. Yes, we are called to be generous financially, recognizing that we are simply returning to God a portion of that with which we have been blessed. But we are also called to be generous in the way we welcome newcomers, care for the planet, respond to those who are hurting physically or spiritually, forgive those who have offended us, and care for our facilities. Each time we live our lives with love, compassion, forgiveness, and stewardship, we are enabling a series of abundant gifts.

This year's pledge drive is about more than our parish budget, albeit a very important piece. It is about how we further strengthen the roots of St. David's. I know our lives and the lives of others can be changed through this work. The seeds of our generosity may not grow overnight, but if we care for and nurture them, these communities will thrive and plant deep roots. The roots will be interconnected in a community of love of God and neighbor where there is always enough for everyone.

I hope each one of us will prayerfully review reflections distributed in the bulletin during our pledge campaign and at the same time consider the letters of appeal you may receive in the mail. We begin with the first reflection included in this issue of the Dovetale.

Commitment Sunday is November 26 when our treasure is gathered and blessed at the altar. I hope you'll join me as we work together to demonstrate abundant generosity in our church, and thus enrich the lives of those within our faith community and beyond.

Thank you for your faithfulness and in the words of Dickens, "*God Bless Us Every One!*"

DIOCESAN CONVENTION: by Fr. Harvey

Our Diocese gathered in Convention on Saturday, October 28. Thanks to our Saint David's delegation for your participation! They were Penny Miller, Kathy Glista, and Terry Hurlbut. Lainey Hurlbut was also there as part of the Bishop's staff, and I was one of the chaplains, so we were well represented!

The day began with Eucharist, which you can watch [here](#). It picks up in the Gospel reading, and includes the Bishop's address, with a brief shout out to our prison Bible Study. During Eucharist itself, notice the spiffy frontal on the altar and the standing cross next to it—they are from Saint David's!

The most difficult thing to do was to elect delegates to General Convention. It took multiple ballots over four and a half hours! The challenge was election technicalities. All was done in good spirits. In addition to elections, we heard a budget presentation (all looks good there), saw several ministry videos, turned in our United Thank Offering, and passed the resolution about racial healing. My personal favorite moment was when we elected Mary Magdalene the patron saint of our Diocese! I'm not sure exactly what that means, but it was fun!

For more details about what happened at Convention, feel free to talk to me or any of our delegates.

A Conversation between The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III and the Rev. Sheleta Fomby

I am blessed to be able to have individuals in my life who are willing to discuss their faith lives. Over the course of my years in ministry, I have met some wonderful people. Recently, I have become acquainted with a powerful preaching sister from Washington, D.C., the Rev. Sheleta E. Fomby. She has become both a friend and a spiritual guide in my life.

In a recent conversation, Rev. Fomby and I were discussing how blessed we were in our individual and collective lives. And in a quiet moment, she stated that she lives a great life because she has experienced God’s abundance. “If it were not for that, how could she be generous to others.”

I was intrigued by her comments and asked for her to explain further. She stated that for her there is a distinct difference between abundance and generosity. “Abundance is what God has made available. And generosity is what we do with what God has made available.”

When God created the earth, God deposited upon the earth and gave to its inhabitants all that they would need for survival. God provides more than enough for all to live fully and completely.

Rev. Fomby blessed me with sharing this simple lesson. The more she reflected upon her own life and the lives of those who have poured into her own ministry, I had a moment of understanding the distinction. She was generous in her sharing because of all that others had given to her out of their own abundance. And now the cycle continues because now I can share with others out of the abundance of love, care and prayers that others have showered upon me.



Question for Reflection:

How has God’s abundance formed your generosity?



The Rev. Sheleta Fomby is the Pastor at New Life AME Church in Laurel, Maryland and is fully committed to liberating lives, encouraging hearts, and inspiring hope through the faithful proclamation of God’s word.

SACRED GROUND OPPORTUNITY: by Fr. Harvey

Sacred Ground is a film and book-based discussion series around issues of racism and Beloved Community. A couple of years ago, we teamed up with Saint Andrew's, Longmeadow to participate in a couple of Sacred Ground Circles, and I believe all those who participated would agree that it was a powerful and illuminating experience. The Beloved Community Commission of our Diocese is setting up a Zoom circle for interested people. There will also be supplementary sessions for those who have already participated in the 10-session series. Please see me for more information about either.

NEW ALTAR!, by Fr. Harvey

Our new altar has arrived! It is in loving memory of Ted Kopyscinski, Herb Carpenter, and Bob Hudson. We'll dedicate it at both services on Sunday, November 12. I believe the Kopyscinski, Carpenter, and Hudson families will worship at 8:00, which should be particularly special.

TUESDAY CONVERSATIONS: by Fr. Harvey

A group of us meet roughly every other Tuesday at 4:15 on Zoom to discuss a chapter of Richard Rohr's *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. It's a great book, and it's not too late to join us! As I write this article, the first November date will be Tuesday the 7th, when we'll finish chapter six and begin chapter seven. Please talk to me if you would like more information about the book or our sessions. 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. By the time you read this, a group of us will have gathered to watch the first two episodes together and then talked about them. We'll keep it going as long as there is interest. We'll next gather on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 in the Community Room to watch and discuss episode three of the first season.

SAFE CHURCH TRAININGS

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be leading Safe Church trainings on the following dates via Zoom. You can *register by clicking on the date* of your choice below. There is no cost to you; Saint David's will be billed. Thank you for helping to keep our churches safe!

Tuesday, November 7 - 5:00-8:00 p.m. - Volunteers

Tues/Thurs, November 28 & 30 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. - Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Sunday, December 10 - 2:00-5:00 p.m. - Volunteers

Tues/Thurs, January 16 & 18 - 5:30-8:00 p.m., Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

Wednesday, January 31 - 5:00-8:00 p.m., Volunteers

Saturday, February 10 - 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Clergy, Staff, Lay leaders

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: by Fr. Harvey

Our October Church without Walls service didn't happen! A group of us tried to get to the Parish Cupboard, but traffic from the Big E was too much. Sitting in a long line of cars, we realized we wouldn't arrive anywhere near 12:00. Thankfully we were able to reach Bob at the Cupboard to let people know. The next day, we delivered the prepared lunches to the Cupboard so that Cupboard clients could still enjoy them. Our November service and meal will be Sunday the 5th. We're counting on making it this month!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: by Fr. Harvey

We're trying something a little different this year. Our practice has been to rotate teachers each week, which has worked well but sometimes been a little disjointed. This year, the teachers have agreed to lead Sunday School for three weeks in a row in order to give the kids some continuity. On the remaining Sundays in each month (the 4th and, when relevant, 5th), the kids will stay in Church. For more information, please see Deacon Terry.

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

We were back at it in October, after taking September off. Thanks to the Lions, it was another great meal. Our volunteers helped make it happen. And a good group of veterans enjoyed a free meal and time for conversation with each other. Our November meal will be Tuesday, the seventh, beginning at 11:30. All veterans eat free. Everyone else is welcome to come help. Thanks!

HEALING PRAYERS: by Fr. Harvey

We continue offering individual healing prayers after the 10:00 service most Sundays, but our format has changed. Instead of appointing a particular person to offer healing prayers each Sunday, any member of the healing team is potentially available any week. The current members are Sue O'Hare, Jim Shields, and Deacon Terry. If you are interested in receiving healing prayers, please let one of them know. Please let me know if you are interested in possibly joining the Team. If so, we can offer training. I believe the members of the Team would agree that offering healing prayers for someone is a powerful, spiritual experience.

ALL SAINTS DAY: by Fr. Harvey

All Saints Day is one of the main holy days of the Christian year. Technically it is always November first, but we traditionally celebrate it the next Sunday. This year, that means the 5th. Among the things that make All Saints special, we always read out the names of people who have died since the last All Saints Day. We have the names of everyone who had a service at Saint David's. But if you would like to include anyone else in our prayers, please contact the Church office or let me know. Thanks!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: by Fr. Harvey

The Men's Bible Study continues to meet in person virtually every Monday at 7:00, now with a zoom option. If you would like to join them, please contact me and I'll give you the Zoom link. Thanks!

FIRE BOWL/WINE TASTING

When: Saturday November 4 from noon - 5 PM

Where: Mary Moore's house - see or email her for directions.* (If you know how to get to Yankee Candle, then you are in the neighborhood.) Be prepared to spend time outside.

What: Besides being a good time, this event is a fundraiser for the church. Sample some reds, whites, and dessert wines while enjoying some good munchies, including chicken wings hot off the grill. Meet Roxy, the Wonder Dog! There is a suggested donation for bottles of wine. **All** proceeds go directly to Saint David's to help support its various ministries.

No rain date - if the case of inclement weather, the event (minus the fire bowl ☺) will be moved inside.

*email <burrenmead@gmail.com>

FLOWERS AND THE ALTAR CANDLE: by Fr. Harvey

Most weeks, the flowers and/or the altar candles are given to the glory of God and in honor of someone important to us. If you would like to remember, honor, or give thanks for someone, please complete the form (available in the narthex), attach a check for the relevant amount, and return it to the office or put it in the collection plate.

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 to make your request. It will be official when you hear back from them.

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 last two by Zoom. All three will meet every Friday in November except the day after Thanksgiving (11/24). Please join us!

CLEAN UP SATURDAY: by Bob Rendrick, Jr. Warden

Rain, Rain go away. Thank you to all the brave individuals that ventured out to help with our fall clean up.

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group met on Sunday, October 22, at 11:15 in the Community Room to discuss *Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Thank you for an enjoyable Book Club meeting. Your support was much appreciated!

We will be reading the following book, "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Bachman. We will meet on November 19, in the community Room at 11:15.

Please let me know if you will need this book to read. I will be glad to order it for you and get it to you very soon.

Blessings

Linda

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

11/18 Jamie Bouchard
11/21 Dixie
11/25 Pat Reece
11/25 Traci-Ann Iwanowski



Happy Anniversary to all November couples!!

BOOKS BY SAINT DAVID'S AUTHORS, by Fr. Harvey

Three people from Saint David's recently published books(!): Domenic Ciannella, *To Dance with Grief: Following the Rhythms and Motions of Mourning*; Scott Seabury, *She Keeled Over into the Liver Pate! And Other True Humorous Stories in the Life of an Episcopal Priest*; and Megan Amrich, *Show Up and Bring Coffee: How to Support Your Friends with Disabled Children*. Please join me in congratulating all three authors! I have read and recommend all three books. You can borrow any of them from me. I also plan to put copies of them in our library soon.

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ST. DAVID'S PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY by Beth Kronlund

The knitters and crocheters of St. David's Prayer Shawl Ministry gather twice a month in the Community room. Our meetings are a time for fellowship and an opportunity to work on projects. We are currently working on two projects: one outreach and one for our congregation. The outreach project involves making hats for the homeless, which will be given out at the December Church Without Walls. Beyond this, hats can also be made for distribution by the Diocese's Big Blue Van, over the course of the winter months. The second project is creating prayer shawls for members of our congregation. With the help of Pastor Harvey and Norma Turcotte, we now have a dedication prayer and blessing to accompany a shawl when it is given. If you know of someone who would like to have a prayer shawl, please let us know. Our next meeting is Sunday, November 5, right after the family service, at 11:15. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome. Don't know how to knit or crochet, but are willing to learn? Come and join us! Any questions, please reach out to Beth Kronlund, kronlundbc@gmail.com

CREATION CARE CORNER: CORAL REEFS, Jim Shields.

Coral reefs look like interesting rocks, but they are actually made up of sea animals called coral polyps. As polyps die, they become hard and new polyps grow on top of them causing the reef to grow. Corals are related to sea anemones and jellyfish. Most reef-forming polyps feed on an algae called zooxanthellae. In this symbiotic relationship, the algae live inside the polyp and the polyp uses the algae's waste as a food source.

Reefs provide food and a place to live for many marine plants and animals, including starfish, sea turtles, seahorses, eels, and many types of fish. Coral reefs are some of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems on the planet.

Coral reefs are very sensitive to changes in their environment. Boat anchors, overfishing, excessive fertilization and warming oceans are damaging, and in some cases, killing reefs around the world. When coral reefs are stressed by changes in conditions like temperature, light, or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white (bleached), and vulnerable to disease.

The body of a coral polyp is cylindrical in shape, with a mouth surrounded by tiny tentacles on top. Each polyp attaches itself to another living polyp or the limestone exoskeleton of a dead polyp. Reefs grow as new polyps mature and develop their limestone exoskeletons. The polyp does this by taking calcium from the sea water and depositing calcium carbonate (limestone) around the base of its body.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN: by Kim Kozik

If you are able to donate **Massachusetts Scratch Lottery Tickets** (or for money to be used to purchase them) for the **Lottery Ticket Tree** we will be raffling off at our **Holiday Bazaar** on November 18th, it would be *Greatly Appreciated!* Our goal is \$200.00 (or more) worth of scratch tickets to decorate the tree. It has been very popular in the past and helps us raise money for the Church. Please have your donations (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20.00 or any denomination of tickets) in by **November 12th**. You may drop the tickets off in the Church Office Monday through Friday 11:00—1:00 or Sunday at the 8:00 or 10:00 church services, or you can give them to Father Harvey or Kim Kozik.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAN HELP!!!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS: by Kim Kozik

Our **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** will be **Sunday, December 17th** at the 10:00 a. m. service. We need anyone interested in being a cast member to sign up on a sheet that is at the Church (or you can text Kim Kozik at 413-454-3862, call my home 413-568-0394 or e-mail me at: (koz644@verizon.net).

We are asking participants to come to Sunday School Classes at 10:00 service on the first two Sundays of December (**December 3rd and 10th**) for a short lesson with practice for the pageant during the rest of the class time. Please sign up as soon as you can as parts are filling up fast.

Everyone in the pageant will need to be at the church by **9:30 a.m. on December 17th** to get in costume, as the pageant will start right at **10:00 a.m.**

CREATION CARE KIDS' CORNER: NOVEMBER SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

by Mary Moore

At first glance, you might think there's not much to see or hear in nature in November. But of course there is! You just have to pay attention. Here are some things to look and listen for this month.

Birds - 1) Be on the lookout for flocks of cedar waxwings as they migrate south, especially if there are any trees or bushes with berries or other small fleshy fruits on them in your area. The bright red berries on a holly bush or the orange berries on a European ash tree are favorite foods.

2) Listen and look for crows as they gather in big, noisy groups to roost in the trees for the night. Crows are very intelligent birds, and all that cawing and squawking that you hear is them "talking" to each other about what they did and where they went that day, and where they might find some good food tomorrow.

3) Migrating Canada geese can be heard honking away as they fly in their "V" formations overhead.

Mammals - 1) Rabbits (Eastern cottontails) are looking for food such as twigs and buds, or baby oak, maple, or birch trees. You may notice that some people put rabbit wire around the bottom part of the trunks of small trees in their yard. That is to prevent rabbits from eating the bark, twigs, and buds off the trees, thereby hurting the plants. So, if you see rabbit wire around the base of a tree, look for rabbits in the area.

2) Bears are looking for a place to bed down for the winter. However, before they settle down in their dens, they are still eating whatever food they can find. This is so they can fatten up enough to help them make it through until spring. If you hang bird feeders within reach of the bears, they will probably tear them down and destroy them. This is why it is a good idea to wait until there is snow on the ground before putting your feeders up, and to take them down when it starts to warm up in the spring. Don't worry too much about the birds - until the first covering of snow on the ground, they can usually find enough to eat.

Weather - Around the end of the month is when the first measurable amount of snow hits the Pioneer Valley (Connecticut River Valley). In our house, whenever we make Thanksgiving plans with family or friends, we know that those plans might have to be changed at the last minute because a snowstorm could happen any time.

Activities: 1) Pay attention to how the weather from the beginning of the month to the end. Notice how sometimes the clouds look different from what they looked like in the summer. Can you tell when it is going to snow by looking at the sky and feeling the air?

2) Watch what the birds, rabbits, squirrels, etc. are doing.

O Lord, how manifold are your works

In wisdom you have made them all;

The earth is full of your creatures.

Psalm 104:24

DINNER TIME AT ST. DAVIDS CHURCH

699 SPRINGFIELD STREET

FEEDING HILLS, MA

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2023

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

SALAD



POTATO WEDGES

VEGETABLE



DESSERT

Coffee , Tea, Water or Punch

Adults: \$15.00 Children ages 5 – 11 \$7.00

Children under 5 free

Take out orders add \$2.00

Door Prizes

For reservations 786-6133

joubertjo77@comcast.net

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Our Weekly Events

Sunday: Services at 8:00 and 10:00; Sunday School at 10:00 (except 11/26)

Monday: Men's Bible study at 7:00

Wednesday: Choir Practice at 2:00

Friday: Healing Eucharist at 12:00 (except 11/24)

Bible Study at 1:00 (in person and Zoom) (except 11/24)

Contemplative Prayer at 2:30 (in person and Zoom) (except 11/24)

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

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

Our Special Events

Saturday, 11/4: Firebowl and Wine Tasting, 12-5 at Mary Moore's House

Sunday, November 5: Celebration of All Saints Day at both services

Sunday, November 5: Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting at 11:15

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

Monday, November 6: Prison Bible Study at the WCCC at 7:00

Monday, November 6: Community Supper at 6:00 (Chicken Parm; \$15)

Tuesday, November 7: Veterans Lunch at 12:00

Tuesday, November 7: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:15 on Google Meets

Tuesday, November 7: The Chosen Watch Party and Conversation at 6:00

Sunday, November 12: Dedication of new altar at both services

Wednesday, November 15: Prayer Shawl Ministry at 2:00

Wednesday, November 15: Vestry at 7:00

Saturday, November 18: Holiday Bazaar

November 19: Women's Book Group at 11:15 (Book to be announced)

Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving!!

Friday, November 24: Regular Friday events cancelled

Sunday, November 26: Commitment Sunday: blessing of pledges at both services

Monday, November 27: Prison Bible Study at 7:00 at the WCCC

Tuesday, November 28: Tuesday Discussion Group at 4:15 on Google Meets

Tuesday, November 28: The Chosen Watch Party and Conversation at 6:00

Regular Rentals

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

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

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. It will be official when you hear back from them.



It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

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