



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

December 2022

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Glory to God in the highest heaven,

And on earth peace among those whom he favors! (Luke 2:14)

Christmas 2022

Dearly Beloved:

What a year we've enjoyed: 2022, our year of gratitude!

This is the time of year we look back and count our blessings.

Remember these milestones? Outdoor worship, gun buyback, *Let There Be Light* backyard exhibit, Seminarian/Priest Donna Lockhart, Deacon Mike Stutso, Expungement Fair, Holy Week Retreat, new outdoor lighting, parking lot repairs, hosting Rabbi Starr and Bishop Bonnie—to name just a few things.

These are all possible—and ONLY possible—through your benevolent support.

I write you each year at this time to thank you for your faithfulness and to lift up the needs of your faith community as the year ends so those last minute donations can be made.

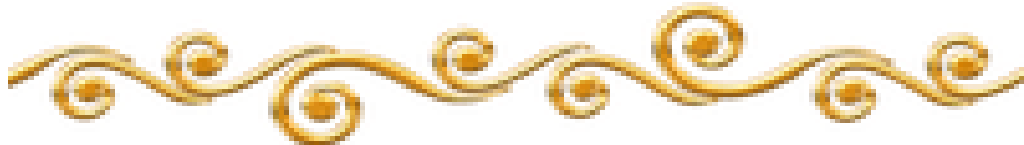
In this newsletter you'll find an envelope for your Christmas donation. Your generosity goes toward providing food for the hungry, coats for the needy, gifts for the homeless, and of course, a place of worship and community that nourishes us and gives us strength to do the work God has called us to do.

Also, remember those who have come up short this year and whose pledge a year ago is difficult to meet. I trust God will help us meet it together—and I will remember in less lean times how I might be more generous.

So, on behalf of your community, thank you for your generosity. And on my behalf, thank you for sharing your love with me!

Peace,

The Rev. Chris Yaw
Rector
St. David's Episcopal Church
Southfield, MI



Christmas at St. David's

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm First Eucharist of Christmas with Children's Pageant
(see below for details)

9:30 pm Special Music

10:00 pm First Choral Eucharist of Christmas

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Choral Eucharist
Annual Christmas Day Feast to follow in Parish Hall

Sunday, January 1

11:30 am Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's Mead



December 18—Cookie Walk

Calling all cookie bakers! Please sign up at the Ministry Hub to bring cookies for our Charity Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 18. The Cookie Walk will be held in the Corner Fellowship Hall immediately following our worship service. Stock up on your Christmas cookies and help support St. David's outreach ministries. For more information contact Janet Ernst at 248-981-8851.

December 18—Crossroads Soup Kitchen

St. David's will be serving dinner at Crossroads Soup Kitchen on Sunday, December 18. Volunteers are needed from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet at the ministry hub. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Gamble at 313-320-1738.

December 24—Children's Christmas Pageant

Join us at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 24 for the annual Christmas pageant put on by our church school students and staff. This year's pageant entitled: "Letters to Mary and Joseph" was written by co-director Alex Rienstra with assistance from co-directors Jeanne Petersen and Maureen Mahar. With Christmas Eve being on a Saturday this year, our dress rehearsal will take place after church at **11:30 am on Sunday, December 18**. The directors will be in touch with parents regarding their roles in this event.



December 25—St. David's Christmas Day Banquet

St. David's is hosting a Christmas Banquet on Christmas Day, from 11 am to 2 pm for anyone who would like to come. **Volunteers are needed!** We can use volunteers to devote about two hours on that day helping with setup, serving or cleanup. We especially need help for setup beginning at **8:00 am**. If you want to share God's love in this way, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the atrium, or see Fr. Steve Bancroft.

Strange, isn't it?

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

When I was a very young priest, two of my buddies and I signed up for a ten day *Self-Guided Economy Class Tour of England and Ireland*. The tour turned out to be more economy than class. We did not have much money so we traveled on the cheap, staying in low-end B&Bs, eating mostly at McDonald's and touring in the smallest of all small Italian cars.

Although we were traveling on the cheap, we decided we would have two luxuries. We would always sample the local beer and we would make a side trip to the Anglican Cathedral in Lincolnshire. One of the guys was pastor of St. Hugh's Parish in Southgate and he wanted to see how his 1960's church measured up to the Cathedral St. Hugh built in 1060.

It was a 945 miles journey from London to Lincoln in that miserable little Italian car on narrow winding roads through picturesque little villages populated by cops just waiting to arrest American tourists for speeding. The trip took much longer than we expected and by the time we got to Lincoln every restaurant had closed and we went to bed hungry, hoping that things would get better. They didn't.

The next day was cold and damp with so much fog that the cathedral looked like a giant gray slug sitting in the middle of the cathedral square. We had been looking forward to Morning Prayer, hoping for the highest of all high Anglican liturgies. What we got was an extremely tall anorexic priest with a post nasal drip.

His congregation consisted of two older ladies, one fat and one thin, two vested but non-singing choir boys, a man with a heavy cough and three hungry, disgruntled Roman Catholic priests from Detroit. The celebrant read the service the best he could, considering the snuffing, coughing and the two choir boys slugging each other. There was nothing high Anglican about it except the celebrant's vestment looked like he had pinched it from the Archbishop's of Canterbury's closet.

We went back to the hotel for breakfast and things got really bad. The English are different. They do not have sugar bowl or salt shakers but large sugar shakers and



Lincoln Cathedral

very small salt bowls. How was I to know? I ordered oatmeal and covered it with an entire bowl of salt. It was not edible.

The waiter kept coming back to see if I had finished. The other priests, in a complete lack of Christian charity, kept loudly encouraging me to eat breakfast, asking me if I wanted more salt. I was too young, too immature to tell the waiter, "I spoiled the dish, would you please replace it."

After dinner we went to Evensong. This liturgy was no better than the other. I did not feel much like praying so I did what I usually do when I am bored in church, I think about something else. So I looked around for something to think about and saw a small altar covered by a tan cloth with a repeated design. I looked at it, took a deep breath, slowed down my heart rate, said ummmm for a bit, calmed down, the anger went away and I felt at peace and a bit closer to God.

When I first came to St. David's I saw a richly embroidered altar cloth draped over all four sides of the altar. It made me think of Lincoln, my two friends—one dead the other in a retirement home—how young we were and how much fun we had. It made me smile and cry and for a few minutes I was at peace and less alienated from God. It was a step in my faith journey. Not a big one but a step. Strange isn't it?



Our Music for Christmas

by Alfred John Eppens

What could be better than the music of Christmas! The unique miracle of the incarnation, the embodiment of the Son of God, is particularly expressed in the songs and carols which we love so much. I think that this is because singing is so very human: a person's voice turned into a musical instrument. And Christmas singing seems to be a personal way of giving back to God, giving praise, in return for his gift of Jesus.

Our Christmas Eve music this year will be a beautiful offering. To help lead the music at the 10:00 service, along with the preludes beginning at 9:30, we will have the assistance of two wonderful instrumentalists. Linda Palmeri will bring her harp to St. David's, to accompany our singing and to present two solo pieces, Vaughan Williams Fantasy on Greensleeves, and Pietro Yon's beloved Jesu Bambino. With her will be flutist Rachel Lucas, playing for both of the solo pieces, and enriching our hymns and carols.

The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will be in full force for Christmas Eve. The bells are playing three pieces, including a beautiful setting of the Polish carol "Still, Still, Still" together with the harp. Our Choir's Offertory Anthem is the lively "Star Carol" by the prolific and inspired British composer John Rutter. In addition, they will be singing Wihla Hutson's popular "Caroling, Caroling," along with the Ukrainian "Ring Christmas Bells" in support of the people of the Ukraine.

In addition, the Christmas services will be filled with your favorite Christmas hymns and carols for you to sing along. Let us all join in the praises of the newborn king.

Mittens, Gloves, and Hats Needed for the Needy!

We're launching our annual Mitten Tree! Bring mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to help us decorate our annual mitten tree located in the Atrium. These items go to the St. David's Food Pantry to be distributed where the need is great. Thanks for your generosity!



Christmas Poinsettia Remembrances

You are invited to make memorial or thanksgiving donations for the Christmas Poinsettias that grace our altar at Christmas. Please write your names clearly, and the names of the people you wish to honor and return your envelope to the office no later than Thursday, December 15.



Altar Flower Sign Up

The 2023 altar flower sign-up sheet can be found next to the office in the atrium. If you would like to honor a loved one, commemorate an occasion, or simply give praise and thanksgiving to God while beautifying our worship space, simply sign up for an available Sunday. You will be contacted by the office when your date is near to finalize your donation and information. Your memorial or celebration will be published in the bulletin for your designated week.

A Book Review

by Karen Robertson Henry

The book *Always We Begin Again* by John McQuiston II is a modern-day interpretation of the ancient Benedictine Way of Living. In the foreword, Phyllis Tickle says, ‘the book is not just a book to be read, but a book be inwardly digested, and lived. It makes the case for the imperative of a basic and God-tuned rhythm in one’s daily life, and that only that set rhythm of prayer and rest and refreshment, hospitality and quiet...effectually tutors and steels the human life. A peek at a part of an Example of a Weekday Schedule in the book is as follows:

Upon rising—reading [prayers] and meditation. Meditate in the same place each day. Be thankful.

Breakfast—share this time with a family member if possible. If not, read something uplifting.

Commute—give thanksgiving. Take this time to center yourself.

Work—slow down when you feel yourself racing. The world does not depend on you.

Mid-morning—say a quiet thanksgiving. Remind yourself to be compassionate.

Work—if you are tense, stop and breathe deeply.

Mid-day—say a quiet thanksgiving. Remind yourself to be compassionate.

Lunch—eat with friends if possible. Take time to share.

Work—if you are racing and skimming the surface, slow down.

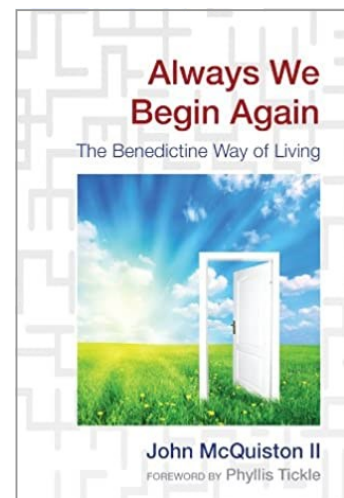
Early afternoon—say a quiet thanksgiving. Remind yourself to be compassionate

Work—you can be efficient without being rushed. Concentrate. Watch your breathing. Find satisfaction in doing the work well.

Commute—say a quiet thanksgiving. Remind yourself to be compassionate.

Evenings—exercise, eat with family if possible, turn off the television and skip the evening news. You will discover that the life you are leading is not full of violence and tragedy. Pray, meditate, give thanksgiving.

Grab a copy of the book this Advent as we continue in our timeless wait and preparation for Christ the King.



2023 Stewardship Ingathering

Our last Stewardship ingathering took place on November 27, and we thank all who supported St. David’s mission and ministry with your pledges.. If you did not receive your 2023 pledge packet in the mail, they are still available on the wall display or back table of the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider your pledge, fill out your pledge sheet, and mail or deliver it to the church office. Again, thanks for your generosity!

A Note from the Finance Committee

2022 donations must be received by Monday January 9, 2023 in order to count towards the 2022 tax year. Thank you for your continued support.

Photo Gallery

By Joanne Sackett



Crossroads Visit

On October 16, St. David's members and friends went to Crossroads Kitchen to prepare and serve meals to those in need.

At left, Heather and Carolyn prepare to serve their guests.

At right are volunteers in the kitchen production line.

The next Crossroads visit is scheduled on Sunday, December 18.



On October 15 a group of students from Oxford High School came to assemble goody bags to hand out during our Gun Buy-Back day.



Gun Buy Back Program October 22

The police chiefs of Southfield and Lathrup Village discuss the day's events. The turnout was so huge the line of cars went all the way down to Greenfield. All guns brought in were checked and recorded. The guns were then boxed up and taken to the police station.



All Saints Day

On All Saints Day we lit candles in memory of loved ones who have died.

The Rev. Susie Schaefer visited us on All Saints Day and gave the sermon.



Sunday, November 20

Food donated for the Thanksgiving baskets is taken to the fellowship hall where our children filled boxes. Turkeys were added to the boxes on the day of delivery. Thanks for a job well done, kids!



**St. Nicholas Visit
December 4**

Fr. Chris told the kids about St. Nicholas. St. Nick then gave the Children's Sermon.



**Pot Luck Dinner with Bingo
December 4**
Photos by July Walsh

Lots of prizes were given out as people won their Bingo games and everyone had lots of fun!



Fr. Chris drew names of various Christmas Carols out of a basket, choir director Al played the first few bars of the song, and folks called out the name of the carol.

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Connections Newsletter Contacts
Fr Chris Yaw
Edna Buday
Lynne Zacharias

Welcome to St. David's Bishop Bonnie

It was a special day at St. David's as we welcomed Bishop Bonnie and we celebrated yesterday's ordination of our Deacon Mike Stutso at the Cathedral on the preceding day.

Pictured below is Deacon Mike reading the Gospel, Senior Warden Darryl Butler presenting a gift from the Vestry to Mike in celebration of his ordination, and Deacon Mike assisting Bishop Bonnie at the altar (Bishop Bonnie likes champagne for communion).

After our worship service, Bishop Bonnie led a discussion about gun safety at our Connection Hour. It's time for action!

