

Visions



Mission Statement: As a visible symbol of God's presence in the world, St. David's Church is a welcoming and diverse community of disciples, actively serving Christ in one another and all those beyond our doors

JANUARY 2009



*When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost
 To heal the broken
 To feed the hungry
 To release the prisoner
 To teach the nations
 To bring Christ to all
 To make music in the heart.
— Howard Thurman*

May we be given the grace to bring the hope of Christmas
alive in the year ahead.

Please continue to be generous to our outreach initiatives by
purchasing grocery cards for the Kinnelon Food Pantry and Neighbor
Outreach Program.

The food pantries in the other towns in which our members live
are also in serious need of non-perishable food items.



From the Rector
January 2008

I remember when my middle sister came home from the hospital after delivering her first child.

My parents, brother and I were waiting for her. When she finally came inside with her newborn son she looked at us rather wearily and blurted out, "Now what do I do with him?"

In this season of Epiphany which begins on January 6 with those Wise Men laying gifts at the Christ Child's feet we might ponder that same question. Actually, as our scriptures will once again inform us Jesus is going to witness to God's light in the midst of the world's darkness. Epiphany is the season of light. The rampant greed and violence all around us these days make this light even more welcome.

The name "Epiphany" is derived from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "appearing." Anglican Prayer Books interpret the word with an alternative title, "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The last phrase, of course, is a reference to the story of those Wise Men from the East.

So what we do with this child is very important as he appears in our midst to bring light and healing. I would suggest we do as those Wise Men did and offer him the precious gift of ourselves and then follow him. If we are faithful to this task then that light of his will rub off onto us and we too can appear in the midst of darkness in order to shed some light on how other's might follow and be healed and made whole.

This is what awaits us if we offer ourselves and follow Jesus. Remember, John's words, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). We keep offering and can follow boldly with glad hearts.

David +

St. David's Selected to Offer "Mission Minute" at Diocesan Convention

Our bishop, Mark Beckwith has asked us to offer a "Mission Minute" at this year's Diocesan Convention. Our Brake the Cycle Hunger Bike Tour will be the subject.

St. David's is one of four parishes in the diocese that have been asked to offer highlights of a significant mission initiative that witnesses to the diocese's vision of "Standing at the Gates of Hope with the Living Christ." Our video clip will focus on the gate of justice/non-violence.

The Diocesan Convention is being held on Saturday, January 31 at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany. We will be represented by Pat Crane, Mary-Stuart Hawk and John Simonelli. Our Mission Minute will be presented by some of our Bike Tour leaders. Hopefully, we will be able to bring this presentation back to show everyone at St. David's.

Brunch for Parents to Focus on Church School

Parents and all interested members are invited to a Church School Brunch in the Library on Sunday, January 25, at 11:45 AM. The purpose of the brunch will be to review the year and make plans for the remaining months of the Church School program.

Much of the success of the program is dependent on parents. So we hope all will be present and able to share the responsibility of carrying out plans for the rest of the year. Parents will receive a special invitation.

NOTICE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**To All Members of St. David's Episcopal Church
Kinnelon, New Jersey**

In accordance with Article 3 of the Bylaws of St. David's Episcopal Church, Kinnelon, New Jersey, **the Annual Meeting of the membership is hereby called by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry** for the election of Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates, and such other business contained on the approved agenda for vote and/or discussion.

Note that Article 3 describes a qualified voter as: *"all persons of sixteen years of age or above belonging to the Parish who have been Baptized and who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors of record to its support for at least six months prior to such annual or special meeting shall be qualified voters thereat, and the presiding officer shall be the judge of their qualifications. Twenty percent of the membership present in person shall constitute a quorum."*

The Annual Meeting will be held

**At St. David's during the Holy Eucharist on
Sunday, January 11, 2008 (one service at 9:30 AM).**

**Special activities for our Church School children
will be offered during the service.**

As usual Coffee Hour will follow the service.

On behalf of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry,



Nancy Ward, Clerk

SNOW DATE: JANUARY 18th



COFFEE HOUR on Sunday, January 18, will be unique! Some of the Willing Hands young people and their parents will be in charge and there will be a power point presentation about their work. Come and learn about one of the St. David's special outreach programs!

UNITED THANK OFFERING

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING will take place at both services on January 25. Bring the boxes you've been filling during 2008, use one of the special envelopes available in the narthex, and take the box home with you to use for another year. You don't have a box? Help yourself! (Boxes are in the tract rack throughout the year.) Thank you for your generosity!

ALTAR FLOWERS

THE BRAND NEW 2009 flower calendar is posted at the foot of the balcony stairs - the early bird gets first choice! The weekly altar arrangements can be given as memorials or thank-offerings. The forms to be used are hanging with the calendar - when completed, they should be put in Martha's mailbox. **REMINDER** - more than one person can sign up for a particular Sunday.



BOOK GROUP

A REMINDER that the Book Group will meet again on Monday, February 2, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, in the library. Anthony Molee will lead the discussion of "Winter's Tale" by Mark Helprin. Everyone is welcome!!



WELCOME

TO PAT HODDE, who joined us last month! She is a previous member of Our Savior but St. David's is much closer. Please add her to your directory - 22 Lafayette Street, West Milford, 07480. Her telephone number is 973-838-5659.

MEN'S GROUP

THE MEN'S GROUP was once again fortunate to have its RAE (Resident Aviation Expert) bring us up to date on the greatest and latest as well as the greatest and oldest exhibits at this year's Experiment Aviation Association show. The show, held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, is the world's largest fly-in.

Harry Barker spoke to the Men's Group on December 15th, giving us a flavor of the show through a thorough slideshow and oral presentation. Harry has been attending since the early 1980s. In fact, he has traveled there in numerous types of aircraft as well as by auto. This year he leaped across the digital divide, switching from his trusted 35mm camera to a digital camera. The Men's Group is indeed fortunate to have Harry as one of its faithful members and contributors.

The Men's Group meets again on January 19th, 7:30 pm, in the library.

FROM SATHYA STEPHEN

I am so blessed by God to be of service at the Church School of St. David's, a great experience, which, no doubt, would enable me to be better equipped in my future ministry with children.

To begin with, on the first few classes I felt that the children were not very comfortable with a new person in the Church School. Even though I considered it to be a natural process with children, to a certain extent, even I had to learn to get accustomed to the new situation. In one of the weeks during the fall, I had the opportunity of handling the class all by myself. I remember one cute little Church School child running back to the Church as soon as he saw me welcoming him into the Church School. Now we have crossed a milestone in the Church School and the children feel a lot comfortable with me as their teacher/facilitator. God's grace alone has worked such a gracious miracle.

Our Sunday session starts with a prayer and a short discussion where the children share something important that happened in their past week. A section from the children's common prayer book is read. The children by now are so much into the process of reading from the prayer book that they choose what they want to read. The Lord's Prayer has become their favorite prayer. This is followed by storytime: a story from the Bible and another story either fictional or factual which asserts Christian faith. Games also form an important part of our learning experience. The children are very happy to learn through games like Bible quiz, Bible jeopardy, "Who is your neighbor" [a game to know about each other], Dum charades, etc. There is usually a prize they win during the game. The children are showing much enthusiasm in learning 'action songs' like "Father Abraham" and "I am happy all the time". By the course of time we have much more fun songs and stories to learn. Our snack time is a big hit with the children.

I thank Sr. Shane for giving the children an opportunity to be a part of the Alternative Gift Fair. The children made collage, paper eggs and pictures of mosquitoes to prevent malaria as a part of advertizing the products for sale at the Alternative Gift Fair. The children were very happy and excited to see their projects on display. The incredible knowledge of our children was very evident from the 'Environmental Sustainability' handout material that the Children distributed in the Church which was their contribution for the creation season. Now the children themselves suggest and ask for what they expect from the Church School which is a great sign of development in the Church School.

I would like to thank Mrs. O'Connor for her constant support and guidance without which it would be hard to function. I also thank Rev. David DeSmith for providing me with this opportunity.

FROM SISTER SHANE

This has been a great fall for giving. St. David's initiated the Holiday Baskets project, which spread across town. All our Food Pantry clients received baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Gift cards and wrapped presents, North Porch donations and items for Strengthen Our Sisters, and gifts for children in Paterson through the PARKS program all made this a powerful season of witness to God's love. Your response to the Alternative Gift Fair was wonderful. I don't know the exact figures, since most of you filled out your forms and sent them in on your own, but I wouldn't be surprised if St. David's contributed \$1000 toward mosquito nets, chickens, health care, and other necessities. Your generosity will make a difference, not only in the lives of those you share with, but in your own life and the lives of those who see you share.

I want to thank the children of our Sunday School especially. For several weeks they made collages and drew pictures to show people what their donations to Episcopal Relief and Development would do. They also collected change at home, and we are sending that in as a further donation from St. David's.

That reminds me. Christmas comes once a year. Need comes every day. You may want to consider a way to keep the giving going in your household. One easy suggestion is a change bowl. When the bowl fills up, bring it to church. You won't miss the change, and someone else will sleep safely and eat decently because of it. Locally, remember that food pantries suffer after the holidays. National and local shortages are expected to increase this year, as more clients come to need help.

If you have more time than money, Gail Flammer needs help organizing the Food Pantry. If you have a spare half hour, call her at 973-838-5403 x211 and see what you can do. You'll have fun, and learn a lot.

Have a blessed New Year. May God grow in our hearts and in the world.



**The King shall come when morning dawns,
And light and beauty brings**

ADVENT WORKSHOP



OUTREACH GATHERING





The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith

Thank you for your contribution of *264⁰⁰* to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.
Your gift will provide resources for ministry in the diocese.

*Thank you for
your hospitality - and
for your visible desire
to live into the Gospel.*

Peace,
+ Mark

VESTRY NOTES

From the meeting of December 18 -

- * *Accepted the report from the worship team leaders.*
- * *Approved the 2009 budget.*
- * *Agreed on the tentative arrangements for a concert series later in the year.*
- * *Approved the agenda for the annual meeting in January.*

ATTENDANCE

December 2007

64

December 2008

73

December 2007 there was five Sundays with two winter storms.

December 2008 there was four Sundays with one winter storm.

PARISH REGISTER

Memorial Service - ROLF HIEBLER, December 27, 2008

JANUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 2 Christmas 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Holy Eucharist All in Church 11:30 am Coffee Hour	5 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	6 EPHANY 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	7 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	8 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	9	10
11 1 Epiphany 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Annual Meeting with Extended Church School 10:00 am Merry Heart 11:00 am Coffee Hour	12 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	13 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	14 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	15 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm Pre-Convention Meeting in Denville	16	17
18 2 Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour & Willing Hands 11:30 am Pastoral Care Team	19 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 7:30 pm Men's Group	20 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	21 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	22 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	23	24
25 3 Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:45 am Church School Parents Brunch	26 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	27 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	28 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	29 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	30	31 Diocesan Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany

St. David's Leadership Team

Empowering all our members to build bridges of hope with the living Christ through worship, spiritual formation, hospitality and outreach.

Bishop:	<i>The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith</i>	
Rector:	<i>The Rev. David J. DeSmith</i>	
Senior Warden:	<i>Linda O'Connor</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
Vestry:	<i>Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer)</i>	<i>Worship & Music, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Finance & Budget</i>
	<i>Nancy Ward (Clerk)</i>	
	<i>Nancy Hammaker</i>	<i>Christian Formation Chair</i>
	<i>Robert Hengeveld</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
	<i>John Hitchings</i>	<i>Finance & Budget, Stewardship, Technology & Systems</i>
	<i>Caroline Mossip</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Willing Hands</i>
	<i>Mike Odian</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Finance & Budget</i>
	<i>Marty Stanton</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
Staff:	<i>Martha Ridsdale</i>	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
	<i>Dr. Susan McAdoo</i>	<i>Music Director</i>
	<i>Sister Shane Margaret Phelan</i>	<i>Ministry Assistant</i>
	<i>Deborah Sathya Stephens</i>	<i>Seminarian</i>
	<i>Terry Armstrong</i>	<i>Sexton</i>
	<i>Mary-Esther Arther</i>	<i>Vision's Editor</i>

St. David's is a sponsoring congregation of The Oasis, the outreach ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Newark to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

*St. David's is a member of Greenfaith:
Interfaith Partner in Action for the Earth.*

