



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

December 2008



CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm - Family Communion with Children's Story and Christmas Tableau

7:30 pm - Candlelight Communion with Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am - Christ Mass with Carols





From the Rector

Timing is everything. In the middle of our global financial crisis we begin to move through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. How much Advent hope will we be able to muster in these hard times? How

much Christmas love will we be able to share?

I invite all of us to ponder these questions as a way of continuing to heighten the importance of setting priorities in our daily lives. Time and time again we are either invited or forced by circumstances to make choices about how we will use our resources: time, energy, shelter, food, money, possessions, talents. We are each doing this right now as we continue to face rising costs in light of a struggling economy.

At the parish we are doing the same. Knowing that this year's income is falling short of our goal and predicting leaner pledges and contributions for next year while expenses continue to rise, we are trying to prepare for what most likely will be a budget shortfall for the coming year. Your parish leaders are considering prayerfully what choices we need to make as stewards appointed to carry on the ministry and mission of St. David's Episcopal Church in Kinnelon. Perhaps we will need to wear our jackets on Sunday or worship in the Parish Hall for awhile in order to save money on heat. Perhaps we will be called to scale back on staff and lose some of their gifted leadership. This is the timing of a moment in our history when God will be born again as always in the best and worst of times. As we enter into our Advent waiting and Christmas celebrating no doubt one way we will know that God will be born again is in the way we will pull together and discern the next best step as the people of God.

As we set priorities in light of our mission and ministry behind and beyond our church doors, I want to state clearly three guidelines that we, as Christians, need to take into consideration. I found them in a review of a book entitled *The Holy Use of Money*. First, we seek singleness of heart. This can be described as Equipose or a spirit that weighs conflicting pulls and does not act compulsively or addictively. Equipose or singleness of heart leads to harmony between what we believe inwardly and the way we live. Second, that our decisions take into account the communal nature of the body of Christ that is made healthier by the common sharing of goods and resources. This is referred to as Brethrenomics by the author and counters the self-centeredness of our culture. Brethrenomics is the use of material and financial resources with a sensitivity to others as one of the constant criteria. Third, that we make a commitment to continue our solidarity with the poor. This requires keeping our eyes open

to the needs of others and not shun the call of our Lord to respond with generosity toward those in need.

I do not know what our future will look like at St. David's. I believe it will be filled with Advent hope, with Christmas love, with Epiphany revelation, with Lenten truth, with Easter life and Pentecost renewal. Given these, we can be sure that it can bear the marks of both the crucified and risen Lord. There is no doubt in my mind that we will weather the storminess of the current troubles and probably draw closer in our care for one another and those who knock on our doors. All of this is Good News as we set our priorities and discern God's call to us at this juncture in time.

In the meantime, let us consider the ways God is being born again in our lives. Let us reclaim the hope and peace of that God in which we live and move and have our being.

With blessings,

David +

FOURTH ANNUAL ADVENT LECTURE SERIES

The Gospel of Mark will be the topic of three lectures during Advent. Paul Sansone, our Biblical Scholar-in-Residence, will again offer his sometimes humorous expertise on this gospel, which we are following in our worship during this new liturgical year beginning on Advent 1, November 30.

All are welcome to attend as many of the lectures as you can. Registration is in the back of the church or call the parish office – 973-838-6696. We meet on three successive Wednesday evenings beginning December 3.

The schedule is as follows:

6:15 PM – Simple Soup Supper - Parish Hall

7:00 PM – Quiet Communion – Large Skylight Room

7:30 to 9:00 PM — Large Skylight Room

Average Attendance

November 2007

79

November 2008

79



NOTES FROM SISTER SHANE

'Tis the season to share! At Christmas we know that giving is as much fun as receiving and brings blessings all its own. Here at St. David's we have lots of opportunities to spread the love of God.

On November 30 and December 7 we will have a table featuring products from Episcopal Relief and Development. What your purchase will be given to a needy child or community. It may be a flock of chickens, it may be a mosquito net, to prevent malaria; it may be vitamins. You choose. You will receive a card to send to your loved one, to let them know that they are part of a larger circle of love. Catalogs will be available at any time in my box at church.

We also continue our outreach to the local community. The North Porch shelter boxes will be in the narthex from November 30 until December 14. Infants are in emergency need of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and formula (Similac with Iron or Isomil with Iron - in liquid or powder)!! Wrapped presents for older siblings should specify size, gender, and age of the recipient.

Hats, mittens, etc., for children through Strengthen Our Sisters, and gifts for children of all ages in Paterson through PARKS Program, should include size and gender and be wrapped. These will be delivered the week of December 14.

We will also have a Giving Tree for Food Pantry families from November 30 through December 7. Purchase a gift card for Target or Wal-Mart, put it in a plain white envelope, and hang it on our tree. Gifts will be accepted after December 7, but they may not make it to families in time for Christmas. Our gift basket program continues - we still need baskets for Christmas.

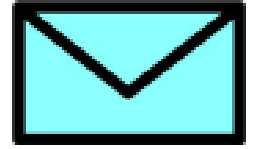
Our final ingathering for all gifts will be on Sunday, December 14. Thank you for sharing!

As you take a turn through the aisles, stop and say a prayer for those who will not be able to provide for themselves or their families. Say a prayer of thanks. Take some time to sit with God, to notice the beautiful world in which we live, and to await the coming of the Christ child. Our quiet day at the convent is December 6 (sign up now!), but if that doesn't work for you find another day to be still and know God. God is with us, now and always.



THE ADVENT WREATH, made by Polly Barker and magnificent as always, is given to The Glory of God and in memory of James and Elua Whitehead and Harry Sr. and Myra Barker. It was hung in place for Advent I, November 30.

AGAIN THIS YEAR the offering collected through the special Christmas envelopes included with pledge envelopes has been designed for our various outreach programs. The Vestry is sending Christmas greetings to those on their lists and included will be a special envelope for those who do not have pledge ones, so everyone will have the opportunity to make a special gift.



THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES for contributions toward the Christmas decorations will be in the pews on November 30, December 7 and 14. This year you can again contribute to special instrumental music on Christmas Eve as well! On the check memo line indicate to which you are giving and the amount. Both memorials and thank offerings are appropriate - just be sure to clearly write the first and last names on the envelopes. They will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. The deadline is December 15!

ATTENTION

CALLING ALL PARENTS!!! Here's your chance for an evening of shopping, dining graciously, whatever! On Saturday, December 13, from 5:30 - 9:00 pm, Sathya Stephen will be holding a Parents Night Out. For a fee of \$20/child (\$35 maximum per family), church school age children and friends will be provided an evening of supper and various activities. Members of the Youth Group will be helping our seminarian. The profits will go toward the Youth Summer Mission Trip. Be the first to sign up - either by phoning the office or using the signup sheet on the office door.

Carol Sing

DO YOU MISS all the beautiful Christmas carols during the church's short Christmas season? Here's your chance! Come to the 10:15 Service on December 28 and the coffee hour afterward, gathering around the piano and singing to your heart's content.

TO ENHANCE your observance of Advent and Christmas, there are seasonal pamphlets in the narthex tract rack. Help yourself!

U.T.O.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING will take place on January 25. If you don't have a box and want one during this special season of giving, they are also in the tract rack.



READERS CIRCLE BOOK GROUP

THE THIRTEENTH TALE, by Diane Setterfield, will be reviewed on December 8th, followed by a winter break. There will be no meeting in January, which will give readers plenty of time to read the February book, **WINTER'S TALE**, a masterpiece by Mark Helprin. This book, spans the twentieth century and is about the beauty and complexity inherent in the human soul, about God, love and justice and the power of dreams, those that take place while we sleep and those that we conceive while awake. Anthony Molee will lead us in exploring the complexities of this amazing book. Join the Readers Circle on December 8th and February 2nd for fascinating discussion of two wonderful books. The Book Group meets every month on the first Monday, 7:30 - 9 pm in the large skylight room.

Dear St. David's Folks,

I'm writing to update you on the status of our Outreach Skills Directory. Some of you filled out a form at our Reunion Sunday, listing your willingness to help others with daily chores and tasks. I have compiled your responses, and Martha and David each now have a copy. If someone at St. David's or in the community reaches out and asks for help, we now have a list of people to call.

For those of you who missed the form, you have another chance to volunteer. A copy is enclosed in this issue. You can email it back to me, or put it in my box in church. I hope by Spring to have every category covered. You never know what people will need, or how helping them will bless you.

Thank you all for your willingness to help. Have a holy Advent!

Sr. Shane

BRAVISSIMO

The final net income from the beefsteak dinner/silent auction was \$9,550!

Treasurer's Report

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN! As in the past the treasurer is counting on all outstanding pledge payments coming in during December so all the outstanding bills can be paid. The treasurer hopes to be smiling on December 31! **PLEASE NOTE:** The boxes of 2009 envelopes will be available by the end of the month.

Vestry Meeting

From the meeting of November 20 -

- * Agreed on the discussion items for the Bishop's visit on the 23rd.
- * Reviewed the proposed 2009 budget and set an adult forum for December 14.
- * Discussed the status of the worship teams.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism - NOAH CHARLES WALTER CHRISTIAN, November 30, 2008



NOVEMBER 1 CLEANUP CREW!

Harry Barker
Julie Dolci and Ron Anderson
Brian O'Connor
Judy Walker

NOVEMBER 9 ADULT FORUM

The Rev. Fletcher Harper spoke on Greenfaith, a national Jersey-based organization that helps religious institutions with environmental issues.



SPECIAL SUNDAY WITH BISHOP BECKWITH!



Thank you coffee hour hosts MIke and Sondra Odian and Joan Carpenter, Julie Dolci, Dina Fanelli, Emily Mason and Judy Walker for the special goodies.



OUTREACH SKILLS DIRECTORY

St. David's is proving we are a people who want to share our good fortune with others. But we are more than our money. We have time and talent to share. If you are willing to be listed, we may call on you for help. An hour with another person can make a huge difference in their life - and yours!

Please check any skills that you are willing to share. If you think of things to add, list them under "other."

This list will not go out to the public. You will be called and asked if you can help; no one else will receive your name and number.

Thanks for your help!

I can:

- Drive to shopping, appointments, library
- Shop for another with a list
- Read to another
- Mow a lawn
- Do yard work
- Do laundry/ housecleaning
- Cook a meal
- Do simple plumbing
- Do home repairs
- Remove snow
- Babysit
- Knit
- Sew
- Help with checkbook balancing
- Paint indoors/outdoors
- Share computer skills
- Help with computer skills
- Help find information and answers
- Tutor _____ (subject, ages)
- Keep someone company
- Other -----

MY NAME IS -----

DECEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	2 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	3 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer Advent Lecture Series 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	4 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	5	6 Advent Quiet Day At CSJB in Mendham
7 Advent 2 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 11:30 am Alternative Gift Fair	8 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Book Group	9 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	10 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer Advent Lecture Series 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	11 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	12	13 5:30 - 9:00 pm Parents' Night Out
14 Advent 3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Merry Heart 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 10:15 am Christmas Outreach Ingathering for North Porch & Strengthen our Sisters 11:30 am Coffee Hour/Budget Forum	15 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Men's Group	16 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	17 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer Advent Lecture Series 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	18 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	19	20
21 Advent 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Alternative Gift Fair 11:30 am Coffee Hour	22 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	23 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 5:00 pm St. Paul's Shelter	24 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 4:30 pm Family Communion with Children's Story & Christmas Tableau 7:30 pm Candlelight Communion w/Choir	25 10:00 am Christ Mass w/Carols CHRISTMAS DAY (Office Closed)	26	27
28 Christmas 1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Carol Sing	29 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	30 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	31 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer			

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>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.

