



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

May 2021

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It's Pentecost: Don't Tiptoe



What makes us tiptoe is fear. And much of our fear is so deeply ingrained we can't begin to name it. But it rules and dominates us in ways we really don't like.

This is why you and I need Pentecost.

This Sunday, in the midst of receding COVID numbers and heightened hopes for the summer, we are celebrating this church feast, which commemorates the coming of God's Spirit to be with us. This is not to say we didn't

It's been said that all around us people are tiptoeing through life.

Staying close to shore. Not taking chances. Allowing their dreams to visit them only when they're sleeping.

However, to tiptoe through life in order to arrive safely at death is not a good recipe for contentment, much less meeting the potential we've been given.

A far better way is to run, hop, skip, dance, create, and imagine our way through life – anything but tiptoe.

have God before, nor that we now have some sort of double-dose. What it does say is that you are beloved by a God who is in you. You are watched over by God. You are not alone. No matter what happens all will be well because you have God and God has you.

In what ways are you tiptoeing through life? In what ways do you need to get more risky? How might you better grab hold of the fact that God is in us and with us and isn't going anywhere?

†Fr. Chris

Junior Warden Update

Construction Update

I'm happy to report that we are done with construction! All the contracted base work and change orders have been completed. The building team walked through the building to identify little things for the "punch list" and those items have all been taken care of. Final inspections by the fire marshal and building department are set for the week of 5/17. Following that the city will issue certificate of occupancy, or "C of O" in building lingo, which means we can once again fully utilize the refurbished parts our building. Let's recap what's been accomplished since the last update.

- The last remaining windows have been installed, including the window in the west boiler room and an obscured pane to replace the unintended clear pane in the restroom.
- The restroom accessories, like the mirrors, shelves, soap dispensers, and paper towel dispensers, have all been installed. I moved all our paper supplies into the storage closets in the new restrooms. One of our design goals was to have storage areas located closer to their point of use. So, no more sneaking over to the west boiler room right before service to refill a paper towel dispenser!
- New ceiling grid tiles and new flooring have been installed in the fellowship hall and long corridor. Walk-off carpet squares have been installed in the small vestibules by the exterior doors to the fellowship hall. We will no longer need any floor mats at these locations.
- The LED lights in the classrooms and a few other rooms have all been installed. The lights that are now controlled by sensors have been programmed. Here's how they will work:
 - The fellowship hall lights work in "vacancy" mode. We can turn them on or off manually, but they will turn off on their own after everyone has left the area for a certain period of time.
 - The long corridor and restrooms lights work in "occupancy" mode. They will come on when someone enters and will turn off on their own after a period of vacancy.
- The city required us to install some additional smoke detectors in the sanctuary and the fire alarm system is now complete. A lock box has been installed in the bricks by the front door. It can

only be opened by the fire department and contains our building keys so that the firefighters won't need to break down doors and windows.

- The toilets and sinks have been removed from the room formerly known as the "ladies' room" and the plumbing lines have all been capped off. We're now calling this room the "central storage room" and we've already moved a few things into their new home.
- The classrooms, nursery and rector's office have all been painted. The exterior doors have all been painted red on the outside and painted our tan trim color on the inside. Those stucco panels underneath the stained-glass windows have been power-washed, primed and painted the same tan trim color.
- The electricians installed a new conduit and wiring to get the lights working again in the choir room. The old wires that ran underground had shorted. They also installed a dedicated electrical outlet to provide power to the communications equipment in the boiler room. This equipment had been powered by an extension cord running across the ceiling, so this will be much more secure.
- New carpet tiles were installed in the narthex and the ambulatory/aisleway by the keypad door. They are the same walk-off carpet designed to handle heavy traffic that we installed in the atrium. These are also locations where we will no longer need floor mats.

Thanks to generous donations to the fellowship hall chair fund, we will be purchasing one hundred new chairs. Our plan is to place some of them in the conference room and chapel. The new chairs should be much easier to move around. If we have a big event in the hall, then we can round them all up and use them all in the hall.

Eighty will be armless and twenty will have arms. We will also be getting some new dollies to stack the chairs when they are not in use. The furniture supplier is quoting a lead time of 4-6 weeks, so we won't be sitting in them just yet. In the meantime, here's what they will look like:



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June 6: Renovation Dedication

Mark Your Calendars

June 6, 2021



Dedication of Major Renovation

Please join us for our outdoor 10 am worship service on Sunday, June 6, which will be followed by a service of dedication of St. David's first major renovation in its 69 years of serving God and His people. The vision of expanding our mission for service will be dedicated and celebrated at this special festivities. Planning to undertake this vision resulted in a multi-year construction project which was designed to enhance our ability to serve the needs of our worshipers as well help us better welcome many community groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Parents of Murdered Children, food insecure families, and our homeless guests from the South Oakland Shelter. Following the worship service, we will hear from local dignitaries, our former Senior Wardens, and the debut of our brand new St. David's band.

Bring folding chairs and a tailgate lunch. Brownies and beverages will be provided, along with special commemorative gifts. Tours of the newly renovated facility will be given in small groups.

Special guests will include Canon Jo Ann Hardy; Mayor Ken Siver; Ryan Hertz, President and CEO of Lighthouse; Dave Woodward, Oakland County Board of Commissioners; Jane Collins, Exec Director of St. Anne's Mead, Jim Borland (AA) and our former Senior Wardens.

Construction Update (continued from page 2)

The actual color is what the manufacturer calls "Latte." It's a tannish sort of color, lighter than what's pictured above, which will go nicely with the new flooring in the fellowship hall.

Now to a few building items still in progress that will extend beyond the formal capital campaign project.

- When the ceiling tiles were removed, we found that the ceiling speakers in the fellowship hall were in poor condition. We knew they were old but were hoping to keep using them. Now we will need to investigate some replacements.
- We are researching how to air condition the offices and conference room. We are reluctant to have to take out some of our nice new window panes to install window air conditioner units as before. We are looking into a mini-split system, which consists of a compressor located outside and a small room unit mounted on the wall inside. This is a more expensive proposition, but it would be much quieter and more energy efficient. Most importantly, it would allow us to leave the new windows in place.

- We think we have enough leftover carpet squares to have them installed in either the conference room or the main office. We will get pricing on that and then evaluate the possibility of purchasing enough additional tiles to do both rooms.
- We replaced the exterior light fixture over the southeast vestibule (where the food pantry now operates) with a nice new dawn-to-dusk LED fixture because the electricians were working on lighting in that immediate area. The security light on the northeast corner of the building just plugs into an ordinary outlet and is sometimes left unplugged when that outlet is needed. We will be getting estimates to replace it and install dedicated exterior LED lighting by the north and south atrium entrances.

This is my summary of what we've accomplished and a preview of where we're going in the near future. Overall, we've made some terrific updates to our building. As the capital campaign wraps up, I realize that, in some way, we have improved almost every part of the building.

Ray Litwinowicz 5/16/2021

Meet Rita Spiller *by John Hawkes*

Rita Spiller is a cradle Episcopalian who started following the St. David's Facebook page last summer. Rita lives in Southfield and is on the board of directors for the condo association where she lives. She had driven past the church numerous times and then discovered our website and began to "attend" services via Zoom. Recently, she came to an outdoor service and was impressed with the welcoming spirit that exists at St. David's.

"Father Chris took time to introduce me to other parishioners and I was very impressed with that," Rita said. "I've been to other churches but never had anyone do that before."



In her youth, Rita spent most of her years between Detroit and Chicago. She was born in Detroit and baptized at Grace Episcopal Church. She lived here until age nine when her Mom was transferred to the Windy City. Rita graduated from high school in Chicago but then returned to our state to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She then went back to Illinois to attend grad school. Finally, she was married at Church of the Redeemer in Chicago before returning to the Motor City and has been living in the area since 1985.

In April 2020, Rita retired from her occupation as a Speech Pathologist. An outbreak of Covid-19 affected close to 90% of the residents and staff at the nursing rehabilitation center where she worked. Not wanting to

put her health at risk and nearing retirement age anyway, she decided the time was right to leave.

Rita is active in Delta Sigma Theta, a non-profit organizational sorority whose purpose is to provide support in local communities throughout the world. She is active in the Pontiac chapter and is assisting young men in their preparation for college. In addition, Rita serves on a public service committee affiliated with the organization that recently held an Easter dinner for developmentally disabled participants in the program.

Rita has done a tremendous amount of traveling in her lifetime. Her Mom was once a travel consultant, and they would visit places such as Barbados every year. Her traveling experiences go way beyond that, however.

"I received my first passport when I was four years old and have been traveling ever since," Rita began. "I have visited places in Africa, Europe, Australia and Asia. I was most impressed with South Africa, especially Cape Town."

In 2018, she visited Ireland in the spring and southeast Asia in the fall. While in Hanoi, Rita visited the Vietnam War Memorial that commemorates men and women who have sacrificed themselves to protect independence and freedom. She was moved by information about how U.S. soldiers were treated during that period, along with displays of tanks and bombs used in the conflict.

Rita is currently a volunteer at the Detroit Zoo, acting as a greeter at some of the exhibits and assisting with crowd control during special events. She also finds time to do water exercising at the local YWCA. At St. David's, Rita is interested in service opportunities such as the food pantry and Crossroads.

Other first impressions?

"I like the diversity of the congregation," Rita replied. "The service has a good spirit about it. Father Chris has a great personality and I enjoy his sermons."

We welcome Rita Spiller to St. David's.

Celebrating Our Graduates!



Nathaniel Charter-Harris graduated Cum Laude from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Flight Science and Aviation Management and Operations (double major).

In the Fall, Nathaniel plans to pursue his MBA at Western in addition to being a Flight Instructor. Nathaniel has also been accepted into the United Airlines Aviate Program which is a training program for future airline pilots.



Onyebuchi Amanze graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Michigan State University. After graduating, Onyebuchi plans on attending medical school at MSU college of Osteopathic Medicine where he wishes to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery.



Kwesi Henry completes his senior year of high school and graduates from Woodstock Academy, Woodstock, Connecticut in June. He will continue in their Post-Grad program for the 2021-2022 school year.

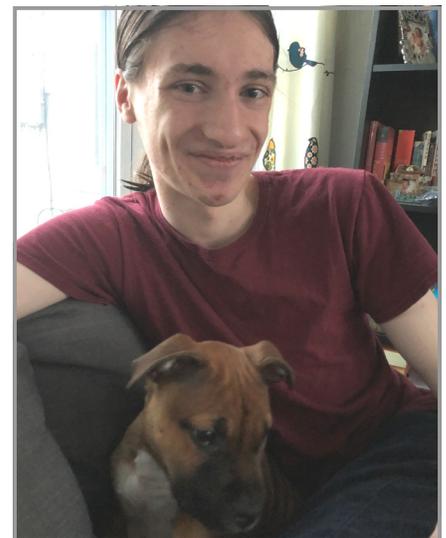


Angel Awurum is graduating from Walled Lake Central High School. She plans to study Criminal Justice/Criminology at UofM Dearborn for one year and transfer to UofM Ann Arbor for the remaining three years. She aspires to be an Intellectual Property Lawyer.



Alex Rienstra will be graduating high school this summer. He has been homeschooled along with taking classes through Oxford Virtual Academy and Renaissance Homeschool Group.

He has loved being in plays and musicals in high school and plans to attend Oakland Community College for his first year of college. He hopes to become a psychologist.



Outreach Activities

Haiti Outreach Mission Update

by Janet Ernst

St. David’s Haiti Outreach Team helped Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM) sponsor Help for Haiti a virtual fundraiser on February 20th. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and a couple very generous donations we were able to raise **\$28,367**. These funds will go a long way to make up for the inability of our member churches to hold their own fundraising events.

The six member churches: St. David’s, St. Blasé (Sterling Heights), Corpus Christi Catholic Community (Detroit), St. Clare Episcopal (Ann Arbor), Our Lady of Victory (Novi), St. Bernard’s (Billings Montana) contribute \$4,000 annually to cover mission costs and each church has fundraising events to supplement this amount. Use of funds includes:

- Clinic support (salaries, routine maintenance) \$3,300 per month.
- Medications purchased and sent from Blessings International \$1,600

- Support for both St. Pierre Episcopal & St. Louis Catholic Food and Humanitarian Projects \$20,000
- Major repairs on attached room housing the clinic generator \$2,500
- Electrical transformer for St. Louis \$2,000

We are proud of the fact that more than 95% of funds go directly to our work in Mirebalais. All jobs within the organization: accounting, website maintenance, etc. are volunteer. Costs in the last fiscal year were less than \$300.

We are deciding if we should have another fundraising event this fall and if so, what it should look like: virtual; in-person; hybrid of virtual/in-person. As always we thank you for your generous support!

If you have any questions please contact Janet Ernst (jernst1998@gmail.com; 248 981-8851)



Classroom converted to an exam area in a one-day mobile clinic near Hinche



A group demonstration of oral hygiene before fluoride treatments.

St David's Food Pantry Update

by Steve Bancroft

The St David's Food Pantry has been operating for almost 15 months, essentially the entire pandemic. So, as it appears that the Covid-19 pandemic (at least in the United States) is winding down, it has become a discussion among the Pantry workers as to how the Pantry should best respond. We believe there are three considerations we need to evaluate.

1. The Pantry's efforts were never about the pandemic per se; it has been about responding to the economic consequences resulting from dealing with the pandemic. Primarily the loss of jobs and parents having to stay home to take care of kids not in school created a financial stress on families that providing some help with free food might help alleviate. We believe we have done that, having served approximately 13,000 persons this past 15 months. Those efforts included a creative way to both provide nice meals and help struggling local restaurants with our meal gift cards at the restaurants for our clients. The congregation has responded very generously to these programs with money and food donations, as well as attracting support from the community.
2. Over the course of the last 15 months the ebb and flow of the intensity of the pandemic has been reflected in the numbers of people seeking our help, causing us to reduce the time we are open and still be able to accommodate the times of higher traffic. We believe our decisions have been effective both in being efficient with our

volunteers' time and being available for our clients. At present, we are seeing a decline in the numbers of people seeking help, especially on Mondays and Wednesdays. Fridays continue very strong. While the pandemic is clearly declining, we remain concerned that we have not seen the end of the economic problems caused by the virus. Issues like moratoriums on rental payments and mortgage payments are unaddressed in the long-term because those moratoriums will, sooner or later, be lifted. There is a high possibility that at that eventuality we could see a need actually greater than what we have seen heretofore. Despite some possible pandemic-caused fatigue of staying focused, we want to remain capable of responding to such a crisis.

3. The Pantry was originally established prior to the pandemic as a community outreach of the church. It expanded due to the needs caused by the pandemic. Presumably, as the needs caused by the pandemic recede, St David's will return to a less robust pantry. The question is; "When should we do that?" For now, the volunteers remain committed to the present arrangement and schedule, awaiting the results in the change in governmental pandemic-inspired programs. However, we are prepared to move quickly, depending on the evolving circumstances.

I and the volunteers want to thank St David's for the vision of a Food Pantry and the commitment it takes to make it an effective outreach ministry to the broader community.



St. David's Episcopal Church

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My Morning Prayer

“O God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute, for another chance to live and serve Thee, I am truly grateful.

Do Thou this day free me
from all fear of the future,
from all anxiety about tomorrow,
from all bitterness towards anyone,
from all cowardice in the face of danger
from all laziness in the face of work
from all failure before opportunity,
from all weakness when Thy power is at hand.

But fill me
with Love that knows no barrier,
with Sympathy that reaches to all,
with Courage that cannot be shaken,
with Faith strong enough for the darkness,
with Strength sufficient for my tasks,
with Loyalty to Thy Kingdom's goal,
with Wisdom to meet life's complexities,
with Power to lift me to Thee.

Be Thou with me for another day, and use me as Thou wilt.
For Christ's sake I pray. Amen.”

~Wallace Friday

Submitted by Karen Henry

Join Bishop Perry for an Upcoming Summer of Fun

Bike, kayak and party
with Bishop Bonnie

register at
edomi.org/summer

The poster features a central yellow sunburst graphic with the text "EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN" above "SUMMER OF FUN!". Below the sunburst is the registration information: "REGISTER AT EDOMI.ORG/SUMMER".

BIKE WITH THE BISHOP
at the Dequindre Cut
10 - 13 yr olds
Monday, 6/21, 4pm

BIKE WITH THE BISHOP
in Lansing
14 - 21yr olds
Thursday, 6/24, 4pm

BISHOP'S SUNSET PADDLE
on Belle Isle
Sunday, 6/27, 6pm

BISHOP'S SUMMER BASH
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit
Sunday 7/18, 2pm