



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

May 2023

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Pentecost

Pentecost means summer is around the corner! And we have much planned as we move through our annual season of rest and refreshment.

We'll kick things off with four outdoor services, each on the first Sunday of the month: June, July, August, and September with our June outing including our annual parish picnic (bring a dish to pass—we'll provide the dogs and burgers on our brand new grill).

We're launching an event each month for our young people—including Vacation Bible School with All Saints' Pontiac and Mission Possible—a diocesan event of urban ministry for older youth.

For older folk our Racial Equity Group is planning three events as well. We'll co-sponsor our first-ever Metro Detroit March for Peace to highlight gun safety issues. This June 17 event will include food, special speakers, a metal worker from West Michigan who will turn guns into sculptures, the dedication of a new outdoor educational exhibit called 'Swords into Plowshares' which will feature an interactive, multiple

choice quiz on gun related issues, and of course, a march from St. David's to Southfield Road and back.

In addition to the march, look for an invitation to an ethnic food night! We're looking to take a group to a local ethnic restaurant to learn more about other cultures. We'll then gather a group to attend the annual Jazz Festival in Southfield. Look for details to these summer events in your electronic and Sunday bulletins.

Building a strong parish means working hard and playing hard—may your summer bring many moments of renewal as we look to God for guidance and refreshment to do the work we've been called to do.

Praying for you!

†Fr. Chris

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:4

Senior Warden's Update



Darryl Butler
Senior Warden

Hello St. David's.

It is so nice to see everyone returning to the "in person" service. Our attendance seems to be growing back to pre-pandemic levels. With this being said it is nice to know that your Vestry is hard at work improving our church and bringing new things to help grow and maintain our beloved community.

By the time you read this we should have the new bulletin boards installed in the hallway. These will be informational boards for our church and diocese as well as swap and trading boards. There will be a board for shared prayers too. We hope you find these boards useful.

We hope you are in the mood for some entertainment. We will be putting a group together to go and enjoy the Southfield Jazz Festival in the latter part of August. Details will be coming soon. Also we hope you like to try different cuisines. Our Racial Equity group is putting together an evening in June when we will dine at an ethnic restaurant. The first restaurant will be a soul food restaurant. This is something that we hope will be a mainstay as we will visit different ethnic restaurants.

Also tell your friends and neighbors that they are welcome to come and worship with us. We have childcare for those with little ones so parents can feel at ease knowing their little ones are taken care of.

If anyone has any concerns or suggestions feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Darryl Butler

Junior Warden's Update



Rocco Romano
Junior Warden

Hey there friends!

We've been doing a lot of work around the parish in 2023!

Here's a list of items that I've been privileged to be a part of as the Lord continues to equip us for the important work we are doing here in Southfield.

First, there was a water leak in the West Boiler Room—and we finally figured out what was happening! There was a condensate line for the boiler that was freezing in February and causing water to back up and spill over.

It turns out, there is an intake hood below the window in the boiler room that was probably intended to supply make-up air for the **original boiler, hot water heater and organ**. As we have found out, the old louver can let in too much cold air and cause the condensate drain for the new boiler to freeze. As an initial step, we will block off the unnecessary part of the louver and see if this works. After next cold season, if there is still a freezing boiler condensate line pipe issue, we can block off more louver, but we think this will work.

Also, there are two toilet paper holders that were failing, one each in the Men's and Women's rest rooms. The pins on end of spool were stuck. It was an easy fix.

Then there was a kitchen sink problem; so a container of drain cleaner was used, which worked. If it plugs up again we will remove and clean the trap under the sink.

Having been out of the building so long some people are forgetting where to take the trash after a Parish Hall event—so as a reminder: Please take trash bags to the southeast corner of St. Anne's Mead and put the trash bags in their dumpster.

It is one of the many shared agreements we have with St Anne's Mead. If groups are unable to take their trash bags there, please tie the bags up and leave them in the kitchen. Coming soon: "Friendly, but firmly worded" laminated signs in the Kitchen indicating where to put trash.

Special Thanks

- ◆ Hats off to one of our parishioners, Jason Lozon, who attends the 8 am service and owns a one-man construction company "Engineered Enhancements". He has offered to paint all our existing wood hallway doors to match the color of the new metal doors in the hallway. New looking hallway doors would enhance perception of people as they use the church. Also, the lighter color would brighten the hallways. Jason is in the process of painting the doors.
- ◆ Another one of our parishioners, Ben Epstein, attends the 10 am service, is also married and has 2 sons, a 12-year-old and 2-year-old. Ben along with helper Jason plan to carpet our Main Office. It will be a challenge with all the furniture, technology, use of the space and timing since glue down carpet squares will smell for a couple days while the adhesive cures. The carpet squares will be a combination of the left-over carpet squares from the last remodel (Atrium) project along with additional carpet squares needed to complete the work. A big THANK YOU to Jason and Ben for their service to St. David's.
- ◆ A big THANK YOU to Ray Litwinowicz and Steve Ernst for getting our exterior entrance lights in good working order! The sensors weren't working right and Ray and Steve kept at it until they could say, 'Let There Be Light!'

Parking Lot Update: We will continue to patch the asphalt parking lot along with our neighbor St. Anne's Mead since a replacement at this time is not affordable.

Finally, the front lawn sign—well, the lock broke, so we'll replace it.

Thank you so much for your generosity regarding your time, talent, and treasure—we can't do the work without you!

Rocco Romano



Spotlight on Newcomers

by John Hawkes

When Ben and Jess Epstein decided to search for a church home, they didn't have to look far. The Epsteins live within walking distance of St. David's and to them, our beautiful building stood out. When they came inside on their first visit about a year ago, they were also impressed by what was within as well.

"The first time we walked into St. David's, we were warmly welcomed by everyone, especially Father Chris," Jess said. "We had gone to other churches, but we didn't feel that they were as individualized as this one. There is good energy in this building." Ben added, "Father Chris is one of the best speakers and ministers that I have ever encountered. The parishioners are very friendly. I feel like we fit in well here."

Two-and-a-half-year-old Axel was baptized at our Great Easter Vigil service on April 8.

Ben and Jess are transplants to Michigan. Ben grew up in Baltimore and ironically, attended St. David's Episcopal where he sang in the church choir.

"I felt the need to go to church for spiritual direction," Ben began. "Although my mom was Episcopalian and my dad was Jewish, I was not encouraged to attend one over the other."

After his parents separated, Ben went to a non-denominational boarding school in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania where he graduated from high school. By then, his mom lived in Michigan. So, he moved here to attend Oakland Community College to study Applied Sciences, with a focus on HVAC and home remodeling.

Jess grew up in Pacifica, California, a city on the Pacific coast, south of San Francisco. She was baptized Catholic. Her best childhood friend's mother was an Episcopalian minister. Jess said, "Church was a fun place to be. It was fantastic that my best friend's mom was a priest."



Jess, Axel and Ben Epstein

In 2010, Jess decided to move to Michigan and immediately fell in love with our four seasons of weather. Currently, she runs an in-home daycare center for children up to four years of age in which Axel also participates.

Ben has been busy doing light construction work. He just finished remodeling their current home. Recently, the couple purchased an empty lot in Beverly Hills and are looking for a contractor to help build a home on the property.

At St. David's, Jess volunteered for the drive-thru ashes ministry and enjoyed it. Ben has participated with the Bell choir.

"The music inspires me greatly and is very spiritual," Ben said. "It is very enriching to be a part of a dynamic choir. There is nothing else like it." Jess added, "Ben's mom has been the inspiration for me to open my heart to Jesus. She put it in simple terms...the prayer to love...Jesus is love... that was so profound."

In their spare time, the Epsteins enjoy working out at the YMCA as well as bicycling, hiking, and camping. They enjoy traveling around Michigan, especially the Port Austin and Muskegon areas.

We welcome the Epsteins to St. David's.

Dead Boys

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

I was 24 years old when I was ordained a priest and assigned to Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Six Mile and VanDyke. The parish was primarily Polish and held some of the finest people I had ever known.

On the negative side, I was totally unable to pronounce Polish surnames. Whether it was my fat Irish tongue or my thick Irish skull, I could not even come close. Some parishioners were amused, others thought I was really stupid and a few thought I was deliberately mocking them.

I obviously did not speak Polish, so some of my Polish classmates taught me a few phrases. Knowing these guys, priest or no priest, I could not trust that they were not teaching me crude or even obscene phrases so I never tried them. In retrospect I really did not have much to worry about. My pronunciation was so bad that no one would understand me anyway. After a few years I had become a passable name pronouncer but that was as far my attempt to become bilingual went. I am sure that all the Polish speakers in the congregation were grateful when I gave up.

I did hear a confession in Polish now and again. I had no idea what the penitent was saying but I figured that God was better at forgiveness than I was, so I decided to let it go and let Him worry about it.

The best sermon I ever gave was at Holy Name and was also the funniest. It was a scorching hot day with no air conditioning, not much ventilation and my sermon was terrible. Even I was bored. A baby began to scream like they were sticking pins into him and I was saved. I said, "You know they teach baby talk in the seminary. Let's hear what the baby has to say. I translated slowly..." "The baby says it is a very hot day and a very boring sermon and everyone would be just as happy if you would shut up and sit down. I paused for a few seconds, and said, "Well you can't fight the truth." Blessed myself and sat down.

Years later when I was attending mass with my wife at her parish church, a baby started to cry. After a bit, the priest said, "Would one of the ushers please

take that woman and her child to the cry room." I begin to wonder what is the criteria to decide who is a good priest and who is what the Irish call a spoiled priest. But that is just sour grapes, and I am too old to be sitting around making sarcastic remarks about God's judgments.

The parish priest was another problem. He was 74, German and deeply devoted to Kensington Economics. So there was a 50-year age gap between us, the only thing we had in common was that neither of us spoke Polish and we did not often see eye to eye. For his part, the seventy-four year old pastor was confused and appalled and believed that the end times were near. The 24 year old curate believed that this was the age of Aquarius and what could probably be more fun.

As the youngest priest, I was given responsibility for the altar boys, an extremely high-stress, low-status job. One of boys, Joe, and his parents were Irish born and, of course, he was my favorite. His parents were building a new house in Warren and Joe and his Dad would go every other evening to the building site and they would pick up the nails that had fallen to the floor and drive them into the frame. They said they were doing it to strengthen the frame but I think, father and son were pretending that together they were building part of their family's new home.

One day Joe had screwed up and forgot to take care of the trash so he had to stay home and finish his chores and his dad went on without him. Joe was burning the trash in the alley when another boy from down the street found his dad's gun hidden in the garage and wanted to see what would happen if he pulled the trigger. The bullet went into Joe's head and he was dead before he hit the ground.

When I heard what happened, I went directly to his parent's house to console them but when I got there, I was crying so hard that Joe's father had to console me. When I realized I was making a fool of myself, I went back to that huge, ugly, empty priest house and cried alone. I could not have cried harder if Joe were my son and in a way he was for I had often wished he were.

continued on next page

Dead Boys (continued)

But he was not my son so my life was soon back to normal but I have no idea how Joe’s father managed to get out of bed every morning and go off to work.

Two other Holy Name boys were shot in the next few years. One died the other lived but was severely impaired. I do not remember the other boys’ names but if we were at Holy Name church, I could walk you down the streets, past the derelict homes and weed chocked empty lots, to where their homes once stood.

A year or so later so later we buried two other boys, men really, but only barely so. They were brought home from Vietnam in flag draped coffins and I was

asked to officiate at the graveside service for one of them.

After the religious part of the ceremony was over, the honor guard came forward to recognize their fallen brother with the twenty-one gun salute, the highest honor the military can give. Twenty one shots were fired and his mother screamed after each shot. Twenty one shots and twenty one screams. It was as “... Rachel crying for her children and she would not be comforted because her children were no more” (Mt. 2:18). And I became aware for the very first time that being a priest was not as much fun as I thought it would be.

It happened this spring. . .

The planning group gathers to make plans which is then crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless.



Fr. Steve blesses the mats before sending them off to Crossroads.



The planning group celebrates Kathy’s birthday.

Photo Gallery
by Joanne Sackett



Fr. Chris blesses quilts for shut-ins.



Mrs. Jones, here with her daughter-in-law, Janeanne, celebrates her 103rd birthday.



Palm Sunday is filled with the Spirit.



The Easter Sunday altar is always so beautiful.



The day was perfect for our annual Easter egg hunt!

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Connections Newsletter Contacts

Fr Chris Yaw
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Congratulations 2023 Graduates

We would like to honor our graduates! Please send your graduate's photo along with their name, name of school and a sentence of two describing any future plans (schooling, internships, gap years, employment, etc.) Please e-mail your information to parish administrator, Amy Prather, at amy@stdavidssf.org. Check the next issue of *Connections* for your announcement.



Newsletter Delivery

Connections will be published on a quarterly basis with digital copies of the newsletter e-mailed to you in February, May, August and November. It continues to be available online at St. David's website: www.stdavidssf.org (select Media, then Newsletters.)

Paper copies will be mailed ONLY to parishioners who request them. To request a mailed paper copy, please contact Amy Prather at (248) 557-5430 or amy@stdavidssf.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive June 25, 8 am to 2 pm

We are hosting a blood drive here at St. David's and we need your help to make this a success! In order to be put on the books we need to have 45 people signed up to donate. Volunteers do not have to be members, just between the ages of 16 and 99, and in good health. There is a signup sheet at the ministry hub or you can contact Amy in the parish office.



SATURDAY JUNE 17TH

METRO DETROIT DAY OF PEACE

2023

COME JOIN US! THIS IS A PUBLIC EVENT.
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
16200 W. 12 MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

NOON - 1:00
EXHIBIT DEDICATION,
INSPIRATIONAL TALKS
& WEST MICHIGAN
METAL ARTISAN + MORE
MUSIC, GUNS IN TO ARTWORK, HOTDOGS & REFRESHMENTS

1:00 - 3:00
METRO DETROIT
PEACE MARCH

HUNTINGTON WOODS PEACE GROUP

St. David's Episcopal Church Southfield

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

MOMS DEMAND GUN SENSE AND ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Parish Picnic June 4, 2023

Join us for fun and food at the annual parish picnic immediately following our first outdoor service.* Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided—just bring a dish to share.



*Outdoor Services on 1st Sunday of June, July, August and September.