



St. David's  
Episcopal Church  
Southfield

**Staying in Touch**

# Connections

August 2023

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## St David's: A Place of Joy and Encouragement!

What a joy it is to tell you about all of the fabulous things going on at our parish!

This fall issue of our newsletter, painstakingly put together by Edna, John, Amy, and the team, outlines the wonderful offerings on tap for the next couple of months. Our aim is to provide opportunities to more deeply connect with God and one another.

I'm very excited about the variety of adult formation offerings on Sunday mornings after our main 10am service. We have a wonderful mix of educational and social events planned to bring us together, helping us grow in Christ and in love for one another.

Our amazing staff has put together some wonderful programming as well. Al, our Parish Musician, has some terrific plans for our music this fall, bringing together bells, soloists, instrumentalists, as well as our choirs to help inspire us and point us to God. Jeanne and her wonderful group of volunteers have Sunday school plans for our young ones, and for the first time ever, we will host our Christmas pageants in the third week of Advent, and not on Christmas Eve!

Our Parish Administrator, Amy, is helping us more deeply connect digitally, with our electronic offerings, as well as with our publications. She has taken on the role of food pantry coordinator as well.

I'm particularly excited about the return of our First Friday Feasts! These are big dinners hosted at homes of parishioners. We have a long history of these dinners—they are great ways to meet and grow in friendship with our church members. This fall will also bring us a variety show in the Parish Hall!

In October I will celebrate 16 years with you all as my parish family and am more joyed than ever to walk together more deeply into God's wondrous plans for us. Thank you for the privilege of serving you!

*Fr. Chris*

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

*Psalm 5:11*

## Senior Warden's Update

The last couple of months have been great for our church. Our attendance has been steady with new people visiting every week. There have been some highlights during this time from our Racial Equity team as well as our own Bishop.

Our ice cream social that was sponsored by Bishop Bonnie was a success even though it was on a rain-out Sunday. Nice to see the smiling faces as they ate the delicious ice cream from Oberweis Dairy.

Our Racial Equity team put together two successful events. The first one was our first "Cultural Dinner Experience". This was held at "Cornbread" in Southfield. Here we dined on authentic soul food. It was well attended and very well received. This was the first of many more cultural dinners to come. We are already gathering suggestions for our next meal. Some have expressed dining at an Asian restaurant. We will let everyone know as soon as we have plans for our next meal.

The Racial Equity team also put together an evening of jazz. We had a good turnout for the "Kimmie Horn Jazz Festival" in Southfield this past week. This was our first time going as a group to attend a concert. Everyone had a good time listening to good jazz music as well as dining on food provided by the many food trucks there. This event is something that we will look into possibly doing annually. For pictures of any of these events check out our St. David's Facebook page.

## Junior Warden's Update

Hey there friends!

We are continuing to do 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.

- ◆ We received a new refrigerator to help with the large amounts of food we are handling through the Lighthouse Program. It is located in the Kitchen Storage Room. We will be receiving a new freezer for the Lighthouse program. It will be housed in the Kitchen Storage Room as well. Because of this we are cleaning out and rearranging where things are stored like extra poster boards, carpet tiles, and shelving. As part of organizing storage space, we are looking at better utilizing the shed. It will be tidied up too.
- ◆ Hats off to one of our parishioners, Jason Lozon, who attends the 8 am service. Jason continues to refinish the wood doors in the main hallway.
- ◆ Another one of our parishioners is Ben Epstein, who attends the 10 am service. Ben along with helper Jason Lozon and Rocco Romano have carpeted the Main Office. It looks great so stop by and take a peek. Our next carpet tile project is Al Epens Music Director Office. We plan to use the leftover carpet from the Main Office project. If we have enough tile, the install time will be sooner and there won't be material cost. A big THANK YOU to Jason and Ben for their service to St. David's.
- ◆ Ray Litwinowicz has changed out the Conference Room lights and east ceiling fixture in the Sacristy with new LED lights. This completes the change over to LED lights for the entire church. Thank you Ray.



**Darryl Butler**  
Senior Warden



**Rocco Romano**  
Junior Warden

- ◆ We received a grant for a new defibrillator and cabinet. Thank you, Mary Bensmiller. We installed the cabinet in the small hallway between the kitchen and the main hallway. Thanks again, Ray.
- ◆ Thanks also to Jeanne Peterson and a faithful crew, including Howard and Cindy Rush who have been planting and maintaining the memorial garden area so beautifully all summer long.

We had damage to our shingle roof from the heavy winds and storm a couple months ago. The damage was on the steep roof above the Sanctuary. The roofing has been repaired and the new shingles blend perfectly with the existing roof.

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. Look for new patching this fall.

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

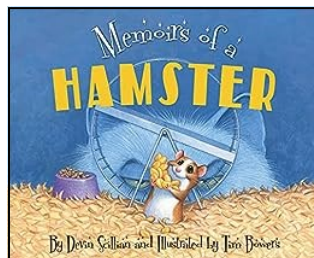
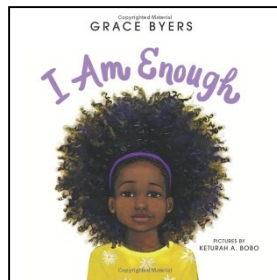
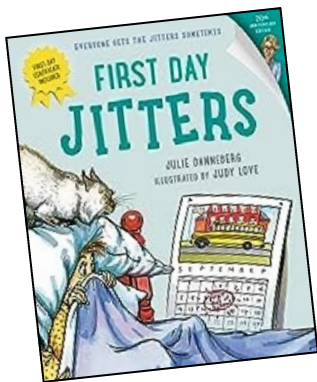
## Kiddos Reading Room Returns

Calling all kids and kids at heart! Our resident reader, retired teacher Judy Walsh will kick off a new season of read-aloud videos on September 15, 2023 in the Kiddos Reading Room.

Videos can be accessed on our website under the YouTube Channel or Kiddos Reading Room tab. Please join us each week for a new picture book (ages 5-12) focusing on friendship, kindness, humor and understanding. Grab a pillow, stuffed animal or bowl of popcorn and settle in for some well-loved stories. Hope to see you there.



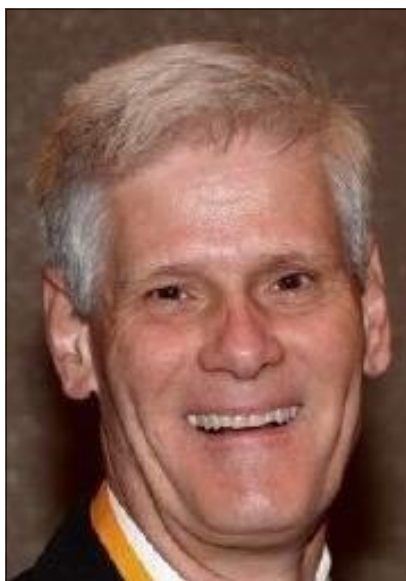
Judy Walsh



## Spotlight on Newcomers

by John Hawkes

If you were required to write an article to your younger self about the accomplishments you've achieved in life, would you be able to do it? That was a mission that newcomer Greg DuRoss completed recently. He admitted that it was one of his most challenging writing assignments.



Greg DuRoss

Greg is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity. Entitled "Letter to my Younger Self," the article provided an opportunity to share insights and lessons he has experienced during fifty plus years of adulthood, with other fraternity members. He suggested that they use the lyrics to the Frank Sinatra song, "My Way," as a pathway for their

lives. He also shared some examples of wisdom. Among them: "Seize the moment, seize the opportunity; Don't live a life that leads to regrets; Find a way to say YES instead of NO."

Greg was born and raised on the east side of Detroit. At age 20, he took a position in financial management in the School of Business at Wayne State University. In 1976, he left Michigan and moved away from family and friends to Charlottesville, Virginia. In 1979, he participated with thousands of people in a huge march and rally demanding equal rights for gay people. This experience convinced him that he should live in a big city environment.

He moved to Washington, DC and began to work in the non-profit sector with multiple trade associations and social service organizations. Six years later, he relocated to the greater Los Angeles area before returning to Washington, DC five years afterwards.

Greg took a job at the University of Virginia, again in financial management, running the day-to-day business operations. In the last ten years of his professional career, he worked for FEMA.

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### ...find a way to say YES instead of NO

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In 2018, Greg retired and moved to Lewes, Delaware, nicknamed "The First Town in The First State." Family brought him back to Michigan earlier this year. He is the youngest of four brothers, one of them is his twin.

In conducting two church searches in two different cities, each involving four churches, Greg said that he felt very welcomed by the members of our Welcoming committee and by Father Chris after deciding to attend St. David's.

"I have to say that by far, St. David's has done the best job of welcoming me. And I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Father Chris. When I was in Delaware, the rector at the church I attended knew Father Chris and recommended him to me," Greg said. "I enjoy his sermons and am attracted to the diversity that exists here. I have attended some of the Coffee with Clergy meetings, so I've gotten to know him more than any other rector at churches I had previously attended."

In his spare time, Greg spends two hours a day exercising to keep healthy so that he can choose physical therapy and chiropractic care over surgery for issues with a herniated disk. He was also recently appointed to the Mayor's Academy on Services and Budgets by Berkley Mayor Bridget Dean to address the city's financial challenges.

Greg describes himself as a "recovering Roman" having been brought up in the Catholic faith. He doesn't consider himself a deeply religious person. "However, I notice a spiritual component appears in me when attending worship services."

We welcome Greg DuRoss to St. David's.

## Meet the Rev. Carol Taylor

by John Hawkes

The Reverend Carol Taylor is a retired Chaplain who has experienced a broad spectrum of worship styles, having ministered to Christians in denominations such as Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Pentecostal. She has a passion for issues such as poverty and gun violence that exist in our community. When looking for a church, Carol looked for a progressive one that was close to home with outreach opportunities that matched her interests. St. David’s is her initial experience attending an Episcopal church.

“I really didn’t have a church before coming here,” Carol began. “As a Chaplain, I served in retirement homes, hospitals, and hospices. The outreach opportunities here are generally the kind of work that I want to do. I’m still getting used to the style of worship here. Meanwhile, the parishioners and staff at St. David’s have been very welcoming to me. I have met people that I want to get to know better and be able to spend time with.”

Carol has attended St. David’s since January and has worked with the Prayer team and served at the altar with Deborah Davis. She has also joined Deborah on the ministry outreach at the Detroit Rescue Mission.

“My faith journey is about seeking signs of God’s presence,” Carol said. “I am better able to find the presence of God in plain spaces. When accompanying Deborah to the Rescue Mission, I felt His presence in a plain and simple setting. That’s where I want God to be.”

Carol is single and lives at the Jewish Senior Life retirement community in Oak Park. She has a rescue dog named Scruffy, a 13-year-old Terrier mix that she rescued from the Humane Society seven years ago. Her niece Stacy, and Stacy’s wife, D’Anne live with their son Gavin in Southfield.

Carol was born and raised in rural Saginaw County and earned her bachelor’s degree in social science from Michigan State University. After graduation, she took accounting courses and became a CPA. She moved to the Kansas City area and worked for 25 years in public accounting, mostly in estate planning and personal financial management.

“At age 50, I decided I wanted to change careers and enrolled at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary,” Carol said. “After getting my Master of Divinity degree, I determined that the United Church of Christ was a better fit for me and so I was ordained in that faith.”

In her spare time, Carol is learning how to crochet, enjoys reading and she belongs to a book club. She volunteers at an assisted living facility, and loves to dog walk to different parks in the area. She receives inspiration from nature.

“I spend time with nature every day,” Carol said. “It’s good for my physical and mental health to be among greenery and trees and nature.”

We welcome the Reverend Carol Taylor to St. David’s.



The Rev. Carol Taylor

## Ministry Fair September 17

Learn about all of our ministries while enjoying ice cream and fellowship during our Connection Hour immediately following our 10am worship service.



Be sure to pick up your copy of the *Happenings* booklet to see a complete list of learning, outreach and fellowship opportunities planned for the program year.

## Why They Tried to Kill Me

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

Back in the nineteen nineties, I was doing training for a number of newly minted social workers. My presentation was as usual, half education, half standup comedy. Given my name and ethnic background, all my jokes were about Irish Catholics, and I was always well received, until I wasn't. Something went wrong. Nobody laughed. I had no idea of what was happening until a young woman stood up took over the session and said, "I resent what you are saying. Don't you know it is inappropriate to make fun of an ethnic group."

I explained that I was Irish and Vice President of the Irish American Cultural Association, and the Irish are not offended by Irish jokes. We consider them an important part of our cultural heritage. The young lady did not agree nor did the sponsor of the training and I was soon out of a job.

It was not a big problem. The income from the training was very small, the contract was about up anyway, and I had other contracts to keep me busy. I did make a rather halfhearted effort to reform, but I soon went back to Irish jokes, and everything was back to normal again until the dream.

I dreamed of an angry crowd gathered under my bedroom window screaming and hollering AND THE RIOTERS WERE YOU. All the parishioners of St. David' were standing outside my house screaming, "Death, death to Maloney!" They were throwing stones through the windows and setting fire to the trees and bushes. I had no idea what was going on except a group of Episcopalians wanted to lynch me, rather unusual behavior for Episcopalians.

But what did I do to deserve this? Sing off key? Come late? Leave early? Fall behind on my pledge? Eat too many donuts at coffee hour? Sure, but everybody does that. I had no idea of why you, my neighbors, my fellow parishioners, my friends wanted to kill me.

Just as you were debating whether to hang or burn me, Fr. Chris appeared and calmed things down. It turned out that you were angry because I tell lots of Irish Catholic [jokes](#), but I have never told even a single American Episcopalian joke. This was **THE REASON**

people wanted to kill me? Definitely not Episcopalian thinking and I never knew Episcopalians could be so touchy.

Finally, Fr. Chris brokered an agreement that met everyone's needs, especially my need not to be burned or hung. I could continue with the Irish jokes if I would tell one Episcopalian joke for every twenty-five Irish Catholic jokes.

This sounded more than fair until I realized that Episcopalians, indeed the entire Anglican Community, are not noted for humor. Honest, patriotic, good neighbors, fine Christians, you could fill an entire book with a list of positive Episcopal character traits, but funny? Not so much, at least not in comparison to Irish Catholics.

And then there are not that many Episcopalian jokes. I personally know millions of Pat and Mike jokes but only one Episcopalian [joke](#) and that one could not be told from the pulpit and is not very funny. What could I do? Then I woke up and realized it was just a stupid dream, silly but hold on. The Bible is filled with stories of dreams that come true. Maybe it will happen to me. So, I have decided to be on the safe side and solve the problem before it happens. I have a two-prong approach—

One: I am asking each one of you to send me copies of all the Episcopalian jokes you know. You can just drop them in the collection basket.

Two: After eleven years, I was officially accepted as a member of the Episcopal Church on June 3, 2023 So if worse comes to worse and people are outside of my house throwing stones and cursing, as an official Episcopalian I will go right out, join them and make a fool out of myself like the rest of you.

All kidding aside, I am pleased that after eleven years, that it is now official. I was received with several newly confirmed and other new members. It was a good ceremony, a combination of Anglican ritual, wrapped in outgoing friendliness and spontaneity that I have only seen in the Episcopal Church.

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## Welcome Seminarian: Felicity Thompson

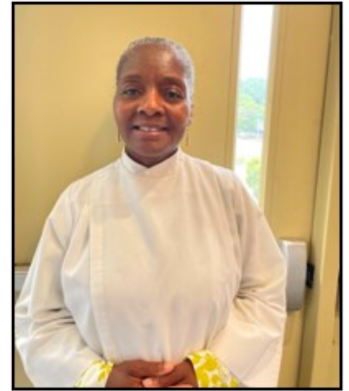
by John Hawkes

Felicity Thompson is the new Seminarian at St. David's. She has a deep background in social activism. This work started with the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance, an organization of physician spouses and partners, working together for the benefit of their communities, families, and the profession of medicine. Her team went into schools, shelters, and faith communities to discuss and find solutions to battle the culture of bullying and its relationship to suicide.

Using her interior design skills, she transformed spaces for unhoused youth and young mothers with children. While working at her husband's medical clinic, Felicity shared information about nutritious food in the clinic and in surrounding communities. She has served at Church of the Messiah in Detroit, St. Andrew's Episcopal church, and Church of the Incarnation, both in Ann Arbor. After several years of formation, Felicity will be attending the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, as she finds herself on the same path as her father and grandfather, discerning a call to the priesthood.

Felicity lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, Joseph. They have three adult children: Justin, Kris and Luke. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, and various forms of design.

We welcome Felicity Thompson to St. David's.



Felicity Thompson  
Photo by J. Sackett

### Why They Tried... continued

I also had a chance to witness our new bishop celebrating Liturgy and preaching, the two most important tasks of her job. And I was impressed.

When I have seen women priests in the past, they often appear that they are performing a man's job and often doing it better than many if not most male priests, but it still was a woman doing a man's job. But Bishop Bonny was different. She was a woman performing a woman's job and as such she is a great asset to the diocese and the entire church. I cannot explain this difference. I just know it is there.

But one last thought. I was a bit uncomfortable during the entire service, frightened that in becoming a member of the Episcopal Church I might be required to give up my sense of humor. I was happy to learn that contrary to popular belief, Episcopalians are not forbidden to be funny.

*Gerald Patrick Maloney*

*Hold the Date!*

### Help for Haiti

Tuesday, October 24, 5:30-9:00 pm  
Comedy Castle, 310 South Troy, Royal Oak

St. David's *Help for Haiti* Comedy Castle fundraising event is just around the corner. Don't miss this opportunity for a fun evening to help support the St. Pierre Medical Clinic in Mirebalais, Haiti. The clinic is staffed by Haitian medical personnel and is open year round.

This fun-filled evening includes dinner, a silent auction, 50/50 drawing, and comedy by Crystal P. A cash bar is available. Tickets are \$60 and are available from:

Lise Pauline Barnett (248) 712-6999  
Janny Milton (248) 827-4638 and  
Janet Ernst (248) 981-8851

St. David's is a supporting member of Haiti Outreach Mission, <http://haitioutreachmission.org>.

Please watch your bulletins for further updates and information on how you can help.

# Photo Gallery

by Joanne Sackett



**June 6—Mass on the Grass**  
Fr Chris leading worship service outside on this beautiful day. Darryl at the grill making hamburgers and hotdogs for the parish picnic.



**June 17—Peace March**  
Gathering for Peace March, and artisan displays.



“Get the guns off the streets!”  
Using blacksmithing skills, guns are transformed into works of art.





Welcomed into the household of God!



Brooklyn is baptized



Genevieve sang a beautiful and moving spiritual for the prelude.



Ellen added her lovely voice to the service.



Thanks to the Rev. Dr. Sue Carter who filled in for Fr Chris while he was away.



A new acolyte holds the Gospel Book.



Manju introduced his cousins from Nigeria.



Jim and Liz enjoyed getting popsicles on a warm summer morning

*Congratulations and best wishes to the newlyweds!*



The happy couple, Jasmine and Dennis, celebrated in the Corner Fellowship Hall.



It's really good ice cream!




**Ice Cream Social**  
Enjoying the ice cream provided by Bishop Bonnie!



Darryl says, "Thanks for the treat Bishop Bonnie!"



# Celebrating the Class of 2023




*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**BEN CLOUS**

GRADUATING FROM BERKLEY HIGH SCHOOL, HE WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND THE GROSSMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.  
Son of Megan and Adam Clous



*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**MEGHAN CLOUTIER**

GRADUATING FROM WALLED LAKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WILL BE ATTENDING AMERICAN MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ACADEMY IN NEW YORK CITY. SHE WILL BE PURSUING A DEGREE IN FINE ARTS.  
Daughter of Doug and Laura. Granddaughter of Jim and Judy Cloutier




*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**ELEANOR ANN TUPPER**

GRADUATING FROM BLOOMFIELD HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAJORING IN CHEMISTRY  
Granddaughter of Edna and Gene Buday




# Celebrating Promotions




*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**ALANA LEE**

GRADUATING FROM PRE-SCHOOL AND WILL BE MOVING ON TO KINDERGARTEN AT PARADISE HONORS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.  
Granddaughter of Barbara and Gregg Morton




*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**MARY LYNNE RIHERD**

GRADUATING FROM KINDERGARTEN AT NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Daughter of Megan and Mark Riherd



*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**AIDEN ZUREK**

GRADUATING FROM CLARKSTON ELEMENTARY MOVING ON TO SASHABAW MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Grandson of Barbara and Gregg Morton



*Celebrating the Advancement of*  
**JACKSON ZUREK**

GRADUATING FROM PRE-SCHOOL AND WILL BE MOVING ON TO YOUNG 28 AT CLARKSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL  
Grandson of Barbara and Gregg Morton

## St. David's Episcopal Church

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Connections Newsletter Contacts  
Fr Chris Yaw  
Edna Buday  
Amy Prather

## Outdoor Worship—Sunday September 3 Blessing of the Backpacks, Dedication of Children's Garden

Join us for our last (of 4) outdoor worship services this summer.

Occurring on the first Sundays of June, July, August, and September, this is a great opportunity to bring friends and neighbors as well. The 8 am service will be indoors, as usual. Bring your briefcase or backpack and we'll bless it for the new school year!



## New Building Projects Coming: Support Loose Change Sundays! September 10

*They're Back: Once a Quarter, Bring Your Loose Change!* In keeping with a long-time (albeit pre-COVID) tradition, we're inviting you to bring your loose change to church once a quarter as we continue to build for the future. Remaining 2023 dates are **Sept. 10 and Dec. 10**. We'll put these funds into our building fund as we continue to care for our campus in life-giving ways. Thank you for being such generous people!



### Notebooks, Pens, Etc. Are Needed

Next time you're out shopping pick up a couple of needed items for our neighbors! As you know, many of our Southfield Public School children are in need of essential school supplies. In keeping with previous years' school supply drives, parishioner Judy Walsh has compiled this list above. Please bring items in to church in August and early September and we'll get them where they need to go!

## Pet Parade & Blessing

St. Anne's Mead & St. David's Episcopal Church  
present

# PET PARADE & BLESSING

With Father Chris Yaw

Saturday, October 7, 2023

1:30 p.m.

### WE ASK THAT YOUR PET:

- ✓ Is well-behaved around other cats and dogs
- ✓ Is Up to Date on Vaccines
- ✓ Won't Mind Showing Off: Costumes Optional
- ✓ Will Woo Our Residents
- ✓ Dogs on leashes
- ✓ Cats in Kitty Carrier or Leash

### Advance Registration Required

Please register at [stannesmead.org](http://stannesmead.org)  
or call

Peggy Goodwin at 248.557.1221

Location: 16106 W. 12 Mile, Southfield, MI 48076  
(will start outside weather permitting)

Deadline: Sept. 29, 2023



## 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](http://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](mailto:amy@stdavidssf.org).