



St. David's  
Episcopal Church  
Southfield

## Staying in Touch

# Connections

August 2024

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### Hanging onto Summer



In these final days of one of our favorite seasons, as we begin to set our sights on the program year ahead, may I suggest that we hold on to the 'rest' summer often brings?

Ya, we're headed into one of the most contentious election seasons many of us have seen, with tensions running high, fueling an anxiety and intensity that is doing real damage to our society.

We're also headed into the start of our program year for students, teachers, and others with its attendant pressures. But have you noticed that God gave us a vehicle to address this—it's a commandment God not only gave us, but also obeyed: taking a break.

As you well know, it's called the Sabbath, one day in seven when we stop working and simply allow ourselves to rest.

And rest is so good for us.

Researchers say that a sizable number of us don't sleep enough, most never use all their vacation time, and weekends are increasingly looked at as opportunities to cultivate a side gig instead of occasions for doing the needful soul work of resting.

I get it, there are vocational and economic constraints we all live under!

But the Sabbath challenges us to name our idols, own up to our priorities, and answer the question: Was God just kidding when God commanded us to once a week, just chill out?

So let's head into this season with hope, faith, and a determination to take care of ourselves—to work when we need to and to rest when we need to.

See you Sunday.

†Fr. Chris

**R**emember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

Exodus 20:8-10



**Maureen Mahar**  
Senior Warden

## Senior Warden's Report

We Hear You!

Recently, there was a survey sent out to our parish, asking you what you think about Father Chris, and we received a wonderful response. There were many questions asked and ratings given and all of you that participated gave thoughtful and informative feedback. We need to know what you think, and this helped us understand how we, the vestry, and Father Chris can better serve you.

As in most organizations, communication is the key to success. While there are many ways to provide and receive information, sometimes we forget that not everyone communicates how we think they do. Though we have announcements printed in the weekly bulletin, and many are read during the service, not everyone hears or reads those. We also provide information on our website that helps to keep everyone informed. We have our quarterly newsletter as well, but some things come about in between that might not make it into the newsletter. In addition to all those avenues of communication, we also have the St. David's Buzz that comes out via email weekly.

It is our goal to make sure that we are letting everyone know what the vestry is doing, so we are going to create a bulletin board where we will post the minutes of our vestry meetings, our strategic plan and our annual goals. If there are any questions or concerns regarding what is posted, please feel free to contact any vestry member. The vestry email contact information will also be on the bulletin board for your convenience.

The financial reports will be available in the office if you wish to review it. We want to be as transparent as possible, so everyone is comfortable with how we are moving forward.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this. If you have any new ideas for how we can improve our communications, please contact any vestry member.

Don't forget that we are always looking for new vestry members each year, and if you are interested in serving, please see any vestry member as well.

Thank you for all you do to support our community! It is always appreciated.

Maureen Mahar



**Hampton Hanable, Jr.**  
Junior Warden

## Junior Warden's Report

- ◆ In the month of July, the vestry approved via a quorum vote by text message/ e-mail the purchase of sanctuary digital wireless microphone equipment. The new equipment, requested by Steve Ernst, is a technical upgrade and will replace the current analog wireless microphone equipment which was installed in CY 2010. It will also add two wireless handheld microphones in the altar area. This upgrade will eliminate the sound system buzz when the current analog mics cannot connect with their receivers because of distance.
- ◆ A special thanks to Ray Litwinowicz for his initiative of procuring four oscillating pedestal fans for the altar area to help cool the area.

- ◆ The non-functional soap dispenser in the lady's restroom closest to the windows has been replaced with a new dispenser. No sooner than it was installed, did the dispenser closet to the entrance door, started leaking. It will be replaced with a new dispenser this month.
- ◆ Reports of water leaks in the shed roof at the rear of the church has been corrected. Ice and snow shields were added as well as new drip moldings. The roofer reported that exposed nails were corrected, and additional calking was added. A ten-year warranty came with the repairs.
- ◆ Woodsman Services was contacted to provide a bid for stump removal along the rear parking lot fence. Also, additional vegetation growth needs removal to give a cleaner look along the fence line.
- ◆ Another shout out to Ray Litwinowicz who recognized a user issue with the kitchen dishwasher. The dishwasher drain access door was left closed, and, therefore, it was not drained. So, the area around the drain was not sanitary. He reported that he refilled the washer and ran the drain bucket through several cycles. Finally, he drained the washer and left the access door open. Ray had operating instructions put on the outside door for all operators to note how to properly operate and drain the machine.
- ◆ Steve Ernst called my attention to the declining health of the two apple trees adjacent to the rear entrance walkway on the west lawn closest to the parking lot. Woodsman Services was contacted and will inspect the trees with their specialist consultants. We will be informed of their inspection results about whether the trees can be saved or if they should be removed. Results will be forthcoming this month.

Hampton Hanable, Jr.

### *from the Editor*

As we enter the beginning of a new program year, and you take a look at all of the opportunities St. David's offers for you to learn more about God, get to know and to serve your neighbors both in and out of church, and to grow in faith, I would like to invite you all to consider the importance of communication. While actions always speaks louder than words, we do need good vehicles through which to convey our thoughts, our hopes, dreams and visions for our church to reach, teach and inspire others.

*Connections* is published four times a year and while I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and finding it informative, I would like to ask for your participation. How might your words help others learn more about God, how to serve Him or your neighbors or inspire others to action? Perhaps you might write a reflection, submit a book review, or share a poem or prayer. If you are so inspired, please contact me or Father Chris. Your feedback is always appreciated.

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## The People You Meet On the Garden Path

by Cindy Weeder Rush

I've been meaning to walk over to St. Anne's to inquire about the lady I've been talking to as I've worked in



the church garden this past year. I haven't seen her as much this spring. Will the mead give me any information, I wondered? I don't even know her last name.

I first saw her sitting on her walker on the side of the church, smoking. Ah! A rebel I thought. Why am I always drawn to them? I live vicariously through them, I imagine. Not brave enough to do it myself.

I found her to be sharp and witty and easy to have a conversation with. She reminds me of my own little mom; both short in stature, dark hair, smart, and a good sense of humor. I couldn't help but think of my mom and all the stories I would bring home after a visit with her in the nursing home. Man, I miss her.

"How'd ya get stuck doing this?" She was referring to my cleaning up some goose droppings on the walkway.

"Oh it's just something that I thought needed to be done before church on Sunday." She gave me a suspicious sideways glance.

"Well I didn't know they were sending me to a farm to live." Referring to the flock of geese sitting not too far away. Mind you, we're in the city of Southfield directly on 12 Mile Road.

"You a city gal, Connie?" I asked, even though I knew she was.

"You bet." she nodded.

She lit her cigarette. "That smells good." I said. I thought about how my mom's cigarettes always smelled good and never nasty.

"You want one?" she offered. "They're from Canada."

"No," I said. "I used to smoke but I quit a long time ago. One drag and I'd be right back at it. I started smoking when I was about fourteen or fifteen years old and didn't quit until I was thirty-three."

"Yeah, I started young too." Connie said. "Maggie O'Brien copped some Salem's. We went up to her bedroom but we forgot to bring an ashtray so we threw the butts out the window onto the neighbor's driveway. He wasn't too happy. That's how we got caught. Maggie O'Brien didn't get in trouble." Her eyes narrowing at the thought of it. "She's still around somewhere."

"My mother made me go to confession," she says with an eye roll that only a sweaty catholic kid can relate to. "One for the smoking, and two, because I participated in a theft." (The copped cigarettes). "Father Boggins. He was Irish. I got three Hail Mary's." She nods her head side to side to indicate she was okay with that penance.

"I don't inhale," she said. Yeah, I thought. You and Bill Clinton. But I didn't say it.

"But don't tell anyone. They already think I'm crazy. I just take the smoke into my mouth then blow it out. Like this." and she proudly demonstrated her skills.

I smiled. "Your secret is safe with me," I assured her.

That exchange last fall left me wanting for more colorful chats with Connie. But winter soon set in and I didn't see her again until this spring. We exchanged hellos and then she took a phone call. That was the last time I saw Connie. Today, a quick google search brought up her obituary. She went to heaven in July. And I was right - she was smart. She graduated college with a double major in Classics (Latin) and Mathematics and was known for her captivating storytelling and sharp wit. She liked to have a pint of Guinness and a grilled cheese at a local Irish Pub and liked to dance. I love that.

It's been amazing what I've found in the church garden. Quarter signs from loved ones, and gals after my own heart. Thanks for the chats, Connie. I'll bring you a Guinness when it's my turn to come to heaven. To make up, you know, for sharing your secret.

## Haiti Outreach Mission Updates

Join us after the 10am service on Sunday, September 8, when the St. David's Haiti Outreach Team will provide breakfast and an information session where we will hear about the work St. David's has been a part of for the last 24 years, current conditions in Haiti and our continuing work in Mirebalais!



On the menu: Scrambled Eggs, French Toast Sticks, Sausage and Fruit and Juice! There is no charge for breakfast but free-will donations are always appreciated.

### SAVE THE DATE Tuesday, October 15

St. David's HOM team once again will host the "Help for Haiti" fundraiser at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

The Comedy Castle event features a Silent Auction, Tasty Buffet Dinner, Great Fellowship and, of course, Great Comedy. Watch your bulletins for more information.

Haiti Fundraisers sponsored by other Haiti Outreach churches—

#### Corpus Christi Parish

Detroit River Dinner Cruise

Saturday, September 14

For more information:

<https://www.corpuschristi-detroit.org/haiti-dinner-cruise>

#### St. Clare's Ann Arbor

Wine Sale

September 27 all orders must be in.

Other Haiti Fundraisers sponsored by other Haiti

For more information: <https://>

[www.saintclareschurch.org/events/](http://www.saintclareschurch.org/events/)

## Social Media Campaign to Launch with YOUR Help!

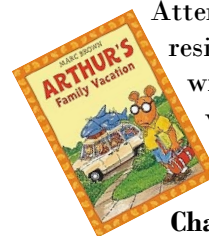
### What We Don't Do at St. David's

Are you attracted to our parish because of what we don't do? For example, we don't turn away people from the food pantry or the communion rail.

Prepare your answers for Sunday, September 8 when we'll talk about this at our 11:30am Connection Hour in the Parish Hall, or you may make a short video of your answer(s) and submit it to us. We're launching a social media campaign called 'What we don't do at St. David's' and are looking for your great answers! See Amy in the front office or Fr. Chris for details.

### Connection Hour September 8

## Kiddos Reading Room Returns



Attention 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 13, 2024 in the Kiddos Reading Room. Videos can be accessed on our website under **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.



## My Sister Marion

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

My sister Marion was four years older than I and a senior at St. Mary's of Redford when I was a Freshman. I would make an educated guess that are neighborhood was eighty per cent Catholic and ninety per cent of the Catholics were Irish. A year's tuition in St. Mary's grade school was thirty dollars a family, forty dollars if there were kids in high school. Needless to say, my mother and many other mothers, scrimped and saved to make sure my brother, sisters and I got a Catholic education.

I have to say that I am grateful for all the years of education in Catholic institutions but there were experiences public school kids had that we did not. Our world view was literally and figuratively parochial. Our experiences in Catholic Schools sheltered us from a larger, tougher world. Although you might get beat up by a nun now and again, by and large it was a gentler milieu.

When my sister finished high school, for the first time in her life she found herself in a nonsectarian lunch room. For some strange reason, many people who worked at the Bell Telephone Company were fixated on religion and it was the main topic during their thirty minute lunch break and the two fifteen minute coffee breaks.

The group was divided into three. About one quarter was Catholic. One quarter was Protestant and the last and largest group did not give a damn. Marion had never really talked to anyone who was not Catholic before, so these work break discussions were both interesting and startling.

There was a young, and according to my sister, very good looking man that she regularly lunched with. Now I hate to disappoint you, but he was neither an atheist nor a libertine attempting to corrupt a nice Catholic girl right out of a parochial school. He was, in fact, Catholic and, as my sister said, more pious than a nun. He was forever coming up with Catholic statements and explaining Catholic doctrine. Now my sister had just finished twelve years of Catholic indoctrination and were it not for his good looks she would have lunched with someone else.

At one lunch break he told half the Michigan Bell work force that "Catholicism is a hard religion to live in but a wonderful religion to die in." Since Marion was not all that interested in dying any time soon and had enough of his piety, she dumped him. Eventually she ended up marrying a Catholic. They met at church after Mass one Sunday, or at least that is what she told my mother. He had served his time in the navy and was a very cool guy with tattoos.

There was only one small problem. He was Polish but Marion was looking back at thirty, so my mother accepted him. In fact she welcomed him. There was more drinking going on at their wedding than I had ever seen at an Irish wake so everything was fine with me. However, I often wonder if my mother would have preferred an Irish Protestant.

Now I was in seminary on my way to becoming a priest, and I would have to agree with the good looking young man, being Catholic was a very hard way to live. It got harder as I grew older. Days of fasting and abstinence, avoiding C- and even B-rated movies, cursing, getting drunk now and again, skipping Mass, divorce, birth control and not to mention impure thoughts and impure touching and dozens of other things you should not do and dozens of things you should do. It was a tough road to walk but if I wanted to make it to Heaven or more importantly to ordination, I had to follow all the rules, both the reasonable ones and the unreasonable ones

As a priest I accepted and even promoted the idea that being heaven-bound is a hard, risky, uncomfortable journey. I no longer believe that now. I have come to a whole different point of view. I now believe that Christians should be comfortable in their religion and not be frightened of God. I had always thought of myself balancing on a razor sharp knife blade surrounded by fault and failure but this is not God or the will of God.

When you believe and trust God you find that there are rules and you have an obligation to observe them but they are not arbitrary. And when life becomes extraordinarily bad, like the death of a child or spouse, it is not God punishing you.

*continued on next page*

For some strange, not understandable reason, God permits things to happen and He knows what He is doing. He could have protected me from all harm but He knows more about what is going on than I do. Indeed he has protected me over and over again and even when I am out on my own I am in the loving hands of someone who knows what He is doing. So I should stop whining and, as my mother said, “get down on my two knees and thank God that it isn’t any worse. “

If you do not like this and think that God spends half of every day making you miserable and you like being miserable, go ahead. Or do what my mother told me to do. “Get down on your knees and thank God for all the blessings he showers down upon you.”

I want to finish with a Pat and Mike joke with the hope that if you have gotten nothing out of this essay, you find the joke extremely funny. It is a very a Irish Catholic joke. Part of it is in Latin

**Pat:** *Pax tecum.*

**Mike:** *No. He was hit by a bus.*

**Note:** For some strange reason I find it almost impossible to write anything serious. I am disappointed because I thought that I was on my way to becoming one of the more important Anglican writers of the twenty-first century. Now, if I am totally wrong and God is punishing me for my sins, they were worth it. Now we will just have to deal with rather dull Irish comedy until God sends an angel from Heaven to kick me in the butt and gets me going in a more serious direction.

By the way, talking about God punishing me for my sins, my computer updated itself and that is why I had such a hard time getting started on this essay. However there is a positive side. It now has the ability to take dictation. I did not know that I talk while I word processed and more than a few of my words are obscene. I did not know I knew so many bad words so my next essay will be peppered with them. Might expand the fan base

Gerald P. Maloney

## Coming This Fall: Joy Dinners!

*Want to Host a Fun Dinner Party? Or Attend One? Want to connect more deeply with your parish family?*



Sign-ups are available for parishioners who would like to host a dinner party at their home this fall. They’re called **Joy Dinners**—and here’s how they work:

Those who want to host a dinner at their home, maximum of eight people, choose a date (this fall), a theme (Irish? Mexican? Hollywood movies, etc.), and a time. Once we have enough hosts, we’ll open it up to parishioners who might want to attend. It’s a great way to get to know your church family.

See Fr. Chris or seminarian Felicity Thompson with any questions.

## Food Drive for the Food Pantry

*Sharing Our Harvest Invites Us to Invite Others to Help*  
Here’s a way to get to know your neighbor—and to tell them about the wonderful things going on at your parish. It’s called Sharing Our Harvest.

During the month of August, parishioners are challenged to take 3-5 shopping bags home, pray about whom to invite to fill them, then asking them to do so! Then, on any September Sunday, bring the filled bags to church, or invite the donor to come to church with you and do so!

Bags, with a shopping list of suggested donations, are available by the altar and in the office. See Fr. Chris or seminarian Felicity Thompson with any questions.



# Photo Gallery

by Joanne Sackett




## Pentecost

The Holy Spirit was with us on Pentecost.

Parishioners presented a skit on Pentecost.



**Arts Alive at St. David's**  
featuring the work of our own parishioners.




## Pen Pal Program

Coordinated by Judy Walsh, the program concluded in May with the Pen Pal Tea!

Pen Pals enjoyed meeting and talking with each other.







### Crossroads Kitchen

Serving meals to neighbors in need

Plarn Mat woven for the Homeless on display at Crossroads.



Fr. Chris welcomed everyone to the Gun Chop event for the Clergy.

**St. David's  
Gun Chop Event  
July 13, 2024**



Southfield Mayor, Ken Siver, spoke about the city's support for gun safety.



Bishop Bonnie speaks passionately about getting unwanted guns out of the reach of children.



County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson added her support to getting rid of unwanted guns.



Len Sackett chopped a long gun. Len and other event participants were interviewed by local news media.



The local Chaldean business group held a luncheon at St. David's to support the gun chop effort.



Special guests, Ted and Nancy Verner, attended. They are parents of murdered MSU student, Alex Verner.



Fr Chris shared a few words with the Chaldean business group.



Southfield Police Chief Barren expressing his support of the gun chopping events.



Thanks to all the volunteers for the July 13th gun chopping event.



Some of the gun choppers!



Checking the serial number on a gun before chopping.



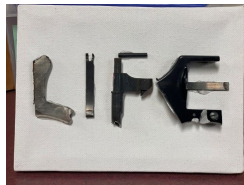
Gun chopping in action.



Francois and Ray disassembled handguns before chopping them



Artist, Mark, displaying one of the pieces of artwork using gun parts.



Guns, too often, the cause of death. . . here, transformed into **LIFE**



Moms Demand Action members distributing information on gun safety.

**Special Recognitions**

On Sunday, August 11, we thanked and prayed for all health care workers especially for those in our congregation.

Earlier this summer, we recognized and offered prayers for those who worked in the field of education.



## St. David's Episcopal Church

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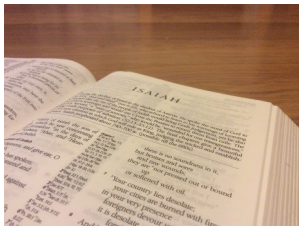
[www.stdavidssf.org](http://www.stdavidssf.org)

Connections Newsletter Contacts  
Fr Chris Yaw  
Edna Buday  
Amy Prather

### Come and Learn with Us

#### A Rabbi, a Priest, and a Prophet Bible Study

Join Fr. Chris and Rabbi Aaron Starr for a Four-Week Bible Study on Isaiah. Of all the Bible books Jesus quoted, Isaiah was the one he turned to most. Join us this fall on Zoom for a Tuesday, Noon foray into this wonderfully inspiring and challenging book attributed to the prophet Isaiah led by our rector Fr. Chris Yaw and Rabbi Aaron Starr from Congregation Shaarey Zedek. Members of both congregations will be in attendance for this four week class. Sign up at the Ministry Hub.



#### Sermon Circles!

Join Fr. Steve Bancroft and Felicity Thompson for Bible Study Around Sermon Topics

Want to take a deep dive into the Bible, specifically the scriptures and sermons we hear on Sundays? Fr. Steve Bancroft and Felicity Thompson are gathering a group of people this Fall to form a Sermon Circle. Learn more about the Bible, how to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it—through the lens of the Sunday sermon. See Fr. Steve or Felicity for details. Sign up at the Ministry Hub or by contacting the church office.

### Labor Day Cookout! September 1

Bring your lawn chairs for our last outdoor service this year and then join us in the Corner Fellowship Hall at 11:30am, after the 10 am service for a fantastic meal with great company.



Menu includes sausage, steaks, grilled potatoes, baked beans and FUN. Please sign up at the Ministry Hub to bring a side dish to share.

### Monthly Men's Breakfast

Join Us for Fellowship and Spiritual Conversation

All men of the church are invited to join in the fellowship of our monthly Men's Breakfast! It's at 9am on Saturday, September 7 at the Country Oven on 12 Mile (just east of Greenfield). Come meet new and old friends. You can sign up at the Ministry Hub in the Atrium or by contacting the church office.



### Support Loose Change Sunday! September 29

Bring Your Loose Change! In keeping with a long-time tradition, we're inviting you to bring your loose change to church once a quarter as we continue to build for the future. 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!

### Newsletter Delivery

Connections is published on a quarterly basis with digital copies of the newsletter e-mailed to you in February, May, August and November. It is also available online on 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).