



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

August 2021

Where's Your Spot?

Whenever I bought a house—and I've purchased several over the years—my mother would always ask me: where's your favorite spot? She was referring to that 6' x 6' space to which I most found myself returning. Sometimes it was a favorite chair next to the fireplace, a couch that overlooked a backyard, or a pile of pillows in a bay window that was perfect for an afternoon nap.

This relates to our spiritual lives: where's your spot? Where is your favorite 6' x 6' spot to spend time with God?

What are we going to do for these moments?



....Read the Bible.

....Read the Prayer Book.

....Sit in silent meditation.

You be the judge.

But we all suspect that the one, and perhaps, only investment that we can make that can have a consistently positive impact on our lives is spending time with God—intentionally stepping out of the daily grind, and studying about and listening to God. We know this makes us better people, our families better families, and our congregation a better congregation.

Where's your spot?

How are you going to carve out or reevaluate your time with God?

What are you going to do?

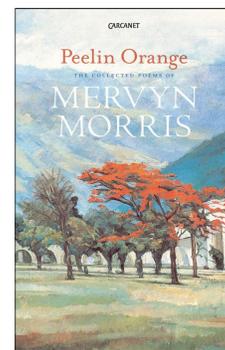
Just off the presses we have our semi-annual 'Happenings' and annual 'Getting Involved at St. David's' booklets included with this letter--I hope you'll be able to find something you're drawn to there as we find our new post-COVID rhythm. You will notice that our Sundays @ 9 sessions are now called Sundays 9 am Learning Fellowship and that our Adult Forum hour is now called the Connection Hour.

I'm so excited to be going through it with you..

†Fr. Chris

Poem by Mervyn Morris

From his book *Pellin Orange* Mervyn Morris was a former poet laureate of Jamaica and is a professor emeritus at the University of the West Indies.



COMMUNION

eyes no longer
altar-focused
light upon
a ragged stranger
peering through
a window at the side

and monitor
what we perceive
as a potential threat

a robber maybe
or a man unhinged
who probably
will crash the service
and disturb the peace

unless he is an angel

Submitted by Karen Henry

Update on Haiti

by Jan Ernst

On August 14th the southern peninsula of Haiti was rocked with a devastating 7.2 earthquake leaving the area devastated. We have heard from one of our partner priests in Mirebalais that although the quake was felt in the area (which is roughly 125 miles from the epicenter and is located on the Central Plateau) he knows of no injuries and only minimal structural damage. He asks for our prayers for the people of Haiti.

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, in an email from Dr. Michelson Padovany, a cross-site surgical coordinator with Partners in Health (Zanmi Lasanti as it is known in Haiti) stated, “ he saw suffering families, collapsed buildings, and debris-filled roads everywhere he went on the country’s southern peninsula, and said help is direly needed.....“You can tell that people are suffering from Les Cayes to Jeremie,” he said. “You can see that every single building collapsed. I think what we need now is help for our people. We need help for children, help for adults, help for families. They need water. They need food. They need somewhere to stay at night.”

International news reports Friday reported more than 2,100 killed and 12,000 injured, with both numbers still rising. The earthquake destroyed more than 50,000 homes and damaged nearly 80,000 more, leaving tens of thousands of people displaced or without homes.

Another doctor involved in the response cited widespread structural damage, including to health centers. Most health care centers in that region were destroyed or heavily damaged.

**“So, if I have one message to the world. it is:
We need your help.”**

Padovany continues, “University Hospital in Mirebalais is a vital center of care for patients affected by last weekend’s disaster, reflecting the crucial importance of health system strengthening and the vital difference that world-class facilities and resources can make during a crisis.

Padovany said Tropical Storm Grace, which struck Haiti two days after the earthquake, has compounded

the destruction and challenged relief efforts in the region.

How can we help? Here are some suggestions:

Episcopal Relief and Development

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/where-we-work/country/haiti/>

Partners in Health

<https://www.pih.org/country/haiti?form=Haiti-Earthquake&ms=lb>

Haiti Outreach Mission – Contributions to HOM will remain in Mirebalais supporting our clinic and humanitarian efforts of our sister parishes, St. Pierre Anglican Church and St. Louis Catholic Church as they deal with the increasing need for food, healthcare and shelter. <https://haitioutreachmission.org/>

Haitian Network Group of Detroit (HNGD) – has identified several reliable charities that are able to get assistance to the people of Haiti.

<https://www.haitiannetworkdetroit.org/>

The Kiddo’s Reading Room

Do you enjoy great children’s picture books and stories? Please join us each week on the St. David’s YouTube



Channel for a read aloud with retired teacher, Judy Walsh. We’ll experience a book geared to readers and listeners between 5 and 12 years old-and all kids at heart! Themes such as friendship, kindness, humor and

inclusion will be explored. Settle into a comfy chair with your pillow, stuffed animal or PJ’s and get ready for some fabulous new stories. Videos can be accessed on the St. David’s website, by clicking on YouTube Channel or Kiddo’s Reading Room. Our new season of reading begins Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. See you then!
