



St. David's Episcopal Church ■ Minnetonka, MN ■ stdavidsparish.org ■ Volume 6 ■ June-August ■ 2017

# God Blessed the Seventh Day and Hallowed it...

After seven years of service, the Episcopal Church encourages and supports a rector to take a sabbatical—a time to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life in order to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. The notion of “sabbatical” is rooted first and foremost in scripture, and patterned after God’s own rhythm of life in creation: “And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had been doing, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because God rested from all the work that he had done in creation” (Genesis 2: 2-3). And from the 10 Commandments: “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy”. This is a pattern of life all followers of the God of the Hebrew scriptures are called to emulate—and in a busy world with many demands, that’s certainly a challenge!

It is with great gratitude that I have received your blessing to step away for a four month sabbatical period. Thank you. It is no small thing to be allowed this intentional time for renewal.

I have worked closely with a team of leaders from St. David’s (The Nehemiah Group, the Vestry, the Wardens) for over a year to plan and prepare for this time. Together, we envisioned this sabbatical and received a grant from the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program to make it possible. Many of the details are spelled out in greater detail in this issue of *DoveTales*, on page 4.

But beyond the details, I hope to convey the VISION that your lay leaders and I have for this sabbatical. This sabbatical is not just about me, your rector, stepping away. No—this sabbatical is about all of us stepping into new patterns of life together, finding ways that all of us are called to be ministers, through the fact of our baptism. To quote from our Lilly Grant application:

“...St. David’s is a healthy and thriving congregation, growing in ministry and membership, grounded in love. This vitality comes from God’s abiding presence...It is time for Katherine to have the space for deep renewal, reflection, delight, joy and play—to abide in God’s love. In a paral-

lel way, the congregation—a place that manifests God’s love so well—is ready to explore and adopt new forms of congregational leadership that allows us new growth...Katherine’s sabbatical planning dovetails with our own congregational call to newness in our ministry and leadership.”

Because of this vision, we’re not just hiring a priest to step in for a period to take on all of the tasks of a rector. Instead, we’ve crafted a plan to use the gifts of priests, our deacon and laity in a collaborative ministry. Our hope is that this pattern is deepened and will continue beyond these mere four months.

Again, more of the details are spelled out further in this edition of *DoveTales*. Please know that your Wardens want to hear from you as you have questions, concerns, ideas.

I give thanks for God’s abiding love which is made manifest in and through you, the people of St. David’s.

Love,  
Katherine

# St. David's, the "Just Do" Community that DOES!

Paul Smejkal, Senior Warden

St. David's has always been a community where people step up and "just do". We follow our callings and our passions and it is a part of what I have always loved about being a part of St. David's.

Several years ago, we, as a community were at a crossroads. Unable to gather the resources to hire a part-time person to support our growing and vibrant ministries, we needed to consider alternatives. The concept of year-round stewardship, marshalling our time, talents and treasure was initiated to bring a more intentional focus to, and more direct lay leadership of, our ministries. We wanted to be careful not to burden our ministries with administrative tasks so that the "just do" spirit would flourish.

- The Stewardship Teams were the result of our effort. Six teams, led by clergy and laity, that span the ministries of our community. Focusing the passion of our community into our various ministries.
- Worship focusing liturgical services, music, prayer groups and more has a host of clergy and lay leaders that bring our worship life alive not only on Sundays, but during the week as well.

- Lifespan formation looking to bring spiritual growth and opportunity to ALL of our community, young and old alike. Adult forums, confirmation, Godly Play, youth groups, bible study, day camps and special programs, the list goes on and on.
- Pastoral care feeding our community with Community of Hope, LEV, Prayer Shawl, meals, transportation, columbarium and more.
- Mission/Outreach connecting us to the world through Epiphany baby shower, homeless initiatives, Lake Minnetonka Care Center, Kenya partnership, Loaves & Fishes and so many more fantastic programs.
- Community connecting us to each other with programs such as progressive dinners, newcomer team, Radical Hospitality, caroling, bridge, biking, boy scouts, talent night and so many more!
- Sustainability team (formerly known as operations) working to make sure we, as a community, can communicate and support all the parish activities through initiatives such as the *DoveTales*, safe church team, annual pledge drive, buildings and grounds, Cornerstone Endowment, Peace Garden & Labyrinth, fund raising events, finance, administration and information technology.

It has been a wonderful to see these teams develop. What we knew at the time was that we were developing a leadership and operational model that was not dependent on a single person or small group of people. Instead, we involved a lot of people. Giving every person in our community the opportunity to follow their calling and their passion inside and outside of our community. Focusing our resources, without dampening the "Just Do" spirit.

That brings us to today and what is in our immediate future. The Reverend Katherine Lewis will be on sabbatical for four months. We are so thankful that Katherine has this opportunity. We are so blessed as a community that we can help enable this sabbatical. So, what does St. David's do while our Rector is away? Does everything stop? Is there lots of drama? No. Not even close. We continue to take steps forward. We grow. We, St. David's Episcopal Church "just do". The Stewardship Team model has given us the foundation to not just muddle during this sabbatical period, but continue to move forward. To engage God's love in this world. We at St. David's will "Just Do".



If you have suggestions for items to be covered in *DoveTales*, or photos that we might use, please send them to Gervaye Parent at [GJP1963@yahoo.com](mailto:GJP1963@yahoo.com). Thank you.





## JUNE

### **Pentecost Sunday – 1 Service** **Sunday, June 4**

#### **ICA Collection**

#### **Picnic-Everything but the ants!**

9:30 am Holy Eucharist with Music and Kids' Choir  
10:45 am Annual Picnic  
3:00 pm Music at St. David's Concert: Quintessential Quartets

### **Trinity Sunday**

**Sunday, June 11**

### **Father's Day**

**Sunday, June 18**

10:45 am Bike Ride

### **Vestry Retreat**

**Saturday, June 24**

## JULY

**Sunday, July 2**

#### **ICA Collection**

#### **That's Fishy!**

### **Office Closed for** **Independence Day**

**Monday, July 3**

**Tuesday, July 4**

### **Minnehaha Creek Clean-up –** **1 Service**

**Sunday, July 23**

8:00 am Morning Prayer

## AUGUST

**Sunday, August 5**

#### **ICA Collection**

#### **For the Vegetarian**

### **Baptisms by the Creek –** **1 Service**

**Sunday, August 20**

9:30 am Holy Eucharist with Music

10:45 am Social Time

### **Loaves & Fishes**

**Tuesday, August 29**

3:00 pm Loaves & Fishes –  
St. Gabriel's, Hopkins

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Kick-Off Sunday**  
**September 10th!**



# Pentecost

## Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

## **One Service Only at 9:30 AM**

ICA InGathering – Picnic Food Theme  
Kids Choir Sings

## **St. David's Annual PICNIC**

Following 9:30 AM Service • Rain or shine

St. David's will provide the grilling ingredients and beverages and hope for potluck contributions of salads and desserts.

BOUNCY HOUSE FOR ALL BOUNCERS!

The Grand Finale Prosperity Prize Picks will be drawn.

## **Music @ St. David's Concert:**

## **Quintessential Quartets**

**3:00 PM • Church**

Concert by the Mill City String Quartet! They will play three pieces that are real powerhouses in the chamber music world:

Claude Debussy's 'String Quartet in g minor', Erwin Schuloff's 'Five Pieces for String Quartet' and Ludwig von Beethoven's 'String Quartet in f minor, Op. 95 (Serioso).'



# Sabbatical: A Time of Spiritual Renewal

**When is the sabbatical? When will Katherine be gone and will we have any contact with her while she's away?**

The sabbatical runs from August 1 through November 30. Her last Sunday with us will be July 30 and her first Sunday back with us will be December 3 (First Sunday of Advent). Katherine will not be available or in touch with parishioners during this time. The Senior Warden will contact her in the case of a death or other extreme emergency but she will be fully away during these four months and not generally available to be present, to respond pastorally or otherwise.

**Who's going to cover services on Sundays?**

The Rev. Nick Mezacapa, recently retired rector at Calvary Church in Rochester, MN, will be our primary Sunday preacher and celebrant. Other priests will celebrate and preach as well, including Len and Lindsay Freeman and Benjamin Thomas. Guy Drake will be on the schedule as a preacher, as he usually is.

We'll welcome the Rev. Mezacapa and his wife Edna on their first Sunday with us: August 6.

**What about pastoral care coverage? What about when someone gets sick or even dies?**

The Community of Hope Lay Pastoral Care Team and the Rev. Guy Drake will be the primary pastoral coverage. The Revs. Len Freeman, Lindsay Freeman, Basil Owen and Benjamin Thomas will be available as needed for backup emergency needs. Rev. Mezacapa can be available after Sunday services when he is in town and as needs arise.

**Who's going to cover all the other stuff that needs tending besides Sundays and pastoral care?**

We've hired Carol Stender as our Lay Coordinator, beginning July 10 and continuing until December 15. She'll work an average of 15 hours per week, attending staff meetings, coordinating with the clergy, overseeing things so that our various ministries run smoothly. See the article on page 5 to learn more about this!

**Who's done all of this planning? And what IS the Nehemiah Group?**

A group of 7 parishioners with Katherine was commissioned by the vestry to write the grant application for the Lilly Foundation early in 2016. This effort evolved into a longer range vision for leadership at St. David's. The group, renamed "Nehemiah", planned for last fall's Crossroads discernment program and continues to support leadership and sabbatical activities. Those on the Nehemiah team include: Tom Edmond, Carol Johnson, Paul Smejkal, Kay Turner, Carol Stender, Diane Curley and Patti Jurkovich.

**Tell me more about this Lilly Grant.**

We received a grant for \$50,000 to be spent in specific ways in support of this sabbatical (not to be used, for instance, for general budget needs). \$35,000 is for Katherine's use; \$15,000 is for the congregation's use (Sunday supply clergy, the Lay Coordinator position, etc.).

**What will Katherine be doing while she's away?**

The Lilly Foundation specifies that funding is to be used for "renewal". She's put together an itinerary that includes: launching daughter Eva to

college, some local activities including bicycling and cultural events, travel abroad, organized retreats (Jerusalem, New Mexico, for instance). She also has a reading list and a pattern for meditation and prayer. Some of the Lilly monies can be used in the year following the sabbatical—so she'll have resources for retreats, a gym membership, things such as that.

We'll plan a community reunion in January 2018 for the congregation and Katherine to share stories of this time apart.

**What's expected of parishioners during this time?**

Our vision is that every member of our congregation continues to ask God for direction to know how to use the gifts each of us has been given and to lead and serve in Christ's name. Our hope is that we deepen our commitments to our ministries as people loved by God and called to serve others in love.

**I hear that sabbaticals are when rectors decide to leave their congregation and plan for their next job. Is this really what's happening?**

Actually, Lilly is quite clear about this: if a grant recipient leaves his/her position prior to a year post sabbatical, all sabbatical monies must be returned. Katherine is not using this time to search for new employment.

**What if I have other questions that aren't answered here?**

Please speak with Katherine, one of your Wardens or Vestry members. We want to hear from you!



# Phil and Carol: A Lifelong partnership

By Gervaye Parent

## Parallel Lives

Carol Stender and Phil Grave's lives marched along in parallel with each other from the very beginning. And today, they continue to happily hike down life's path, arm in arm, "finding the fun along the way."

They both grew up in Wayzata not 2 miles apart. Their families both attended Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wayzata. Both families had cabins in the Leach Lake area. Carol went to kindergarten and was in Girl Scouts with Phil's sister, and graduated high school with her as well. Before they were married, when Carol's dad, Al, was away in the war fighting in Europe and North Africa, her mom, Elaine, a school teacher, boarded with Al's family in their home.

When Al came home from the war, a svelte and handsome soldier, they were married. They moved into a second floor cold-water flat in Wayzata where Carol's two older siblings, Tom and Kay, were born. They bought their first and only house in Wayzata when Carol was born.

Phil's father, Dale, missed the war but did a tour of duty in the Pacific. When he came back, he and Phil's mother, Marion, were married in a double wedding and settled in a little house right underneath the water tower in Wayzata. This is where Phil and his sisters Gina and Ginger were born and just before his brother Peter was born they moved just across the border into Plymouth.

Dale started a carpet cleaning business, Dale Services, Inc., where he worked all his professional life. At Dale's, he invented a carpet cleaning machine which he patented and then found a manufacturing company to produce the machine. About the same time, Al started to work at The Minnetonka Boat Works as a



dock worker and stayed there for 40 years retiring as an Executive VP. But it was Phil's father Dale who bought a boat and sailed the Caribbean.

When Phil's mom died, his father remarried a woman who was a member of the Red Cliff Band of Ojibwa in Wisconsin. Today both sets of parents are gone.

So growing up, Phil and Carol were seeing each other frequently in school, church and around the neighborhood. After high school, Phil went into his father and uncle's business and thrived there his whole career. Carol attended a liberal arts college in Lake Forest, IL and majored in English and Communications. Upon graduation she went to Magnolia, a small town in southwestern Minnesota to teach and boy did she teach!! She was their ONLY English teacher. She taught 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade English. With no prior training or experience, she had to direct two plays and coach the speech and declamation students. She was

terrified at first, but she did it. She was there for a year and then went to Lester Prairie where she taught Senior High, 10th, 11th and 12th grade a variety of classes. She was there six years when she became restless and became a Claims Adjuster. Phil says that Carol is so good at this job because of her tremendous empathy for these people who have suffered such losses plus she is especially good at defusing really keyed up people.

As a young career woman, Carol lived with friends in a house and as would usually happen in these days they threw a house party and invited their friends. One of Carol's roommates invited Phil and they clicked immediately. They dated and as Phil says, "I was ready to go." He was a man looking for a mate, but Carol was not quite so ready to go. She played on two softball teams, a volleyball team, played golf and was just plain busy. So they took a break for about four or five years.

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## Phil and Carol: A Lifelong partnership

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Then one day, Carol was watching a football game in T Wright's and Phil was also in the restaurant and they paged Carol to the phone. They reconnected.

They started dating right away and about 1.5 years later were married. Obviously meeting the in-laws was no big deal since they had known each other for years. Soon, they heard the tick-tock of her biological clock and so, had what Phil fondly refers to as a set of "Irish Twins." Ben born in 1988 and Martha in 1989, one year and 5 days apart. And they are "as different as two people can be."

Martha is an "Old Soul" as demonstrated in this story: Phil has this fascination with tractors and he always likes to look at tractors. Martha at 3 years old says to Dad, "But Dad, we don't need a tractor." But eventually Phil did get a tractor and it is in the garage. A John Deere Model B. He needs to have the engine rebuilt—just in case there is someone out there who can do this.

Ben has a big heart and an amazing characteristic in that he gets into things in real depth. For example, he met someone who tied flies for fishing. The friend showed Ben how to do it, and Ben did a lot of research online and really got proficient, even artistic in the art of Fly Tying. "He takes an avocation and goes into it in depth... headlong. It lasts for a couple of years and then he finds a new connection."

Ben recently married his sweetheart Abbie, and Martha is engaged to be married. Ben is the General Manager at Dale Services, the company his grandfather started and his father Phil worked at for their careers. He has worked there for 15 years and knows a lot about the

company and is really good with people. This may not be his dream job, but until it comes along this works very nicely to have the third generation of Graves in the company.

During college at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, Martha worked part time at the Girls and Boys Clubs and this convinced her that this is the population that she wants to serve. She now works at Interfaith Outreach (IOCP) where she develops programs. She is a neighborhood coordinator who starts and maintains many programs such as the Homework Club where two days a week elementary school kids come and get privately tutored in their need area. There is a food shelf and clothing center. She coordinates community dinners. Recently she headed an initiative where a restaurant gave over their establishment and its profits to their chosen charity for an entire evening. The middle school kids worked at the restaurant and served the customers food donated by the restaurant. I guess the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree.

### Spiritual life

Growing up, both of their families attended Redeemer Lutheran, a very conservative Missouri Synod church. Phil and Carol left and went to Mount Olive in Minneapolis which was a very open, affirming and welcoming church. The population of this church was very diverse and had a lot of poor people and had a wonderful preacher and music program.

Then, when Ben and Martha were about 3- and 4-years-old they decided to find a church closer to home for all the driving that they knew would be necessary for their spiritual development in a church. They went to three or four Lutheran churches but they just didn't resonate with Carol and Phil and then

they saw that St. David's was practically in their own back yard. So Carol says to Phil, "Episcopalian ... what do you know about the Episcopalians?" Phil replies, "Well, let's see weren't they the ones with Henry the 8th and beheading wives so he could marry a new one or something like that?"

So they decided to try St. David's. On a Sunday they went into the hallway and there they met Carol Johnson who gave them the warm St. David's hug that folks get when they first come to St. David's. They talked with her about the programs for children, which was Carol and Phil's main area of concern and of course they found a wonderful children's program there, so they tried it and never left. Thank goodness.

One of the first things Phil did at St. David's was to work with Gladys Quist to set up the program where the kids go downstairs and have their own little service. During their time at St. David's Phil was part of the original Safe Church initiative, Both Carol and Phil were Sunday school teachers for 4-6 years, Carol has been on the Vestry two times Carol was senior warden 1.5 times taking over for when Barbara Pitcher was Senior warden and she moved out of town. Ben has a very good singing voice and so they urged him to join the St. David's choir and Phil joined with him to encourage him. Phil has continued through to the present in the choir. Carol was responsible for acolyte training for a period of time. She and Phil have worked on the Pledge Drive, The Catch-Up Campaign, the Book Club and Families Moving Forward where Phil is now the food coordinator. They are also working on replacing the sign at church which will demonstrate our commitment to Radical Hospitality. It seems there is hardly an area their loving efforts have not touched.



## But now THEY ARE LEAVING!!!! What about us?!!!!

Carol says "Deal with it!" We don't want you to leave us (whining). Maybe they are leaving to get away from all this work they do at St. David's. But somehow I don't think so. They already are invested in the church in Grand Marais. Their church community there sounds just like the next place God is sending them to do His work. Their faith community there is a mission church from the Episcopal Church in Duluth. It is a parish of about 20 to 30 people, started up when someone in Grand Marais put an ad in the local paper, saying, "Anyone in Grand Marais want to start an Episcopal church?" Love this. They meet in a wonderful historic church on Maple Hill. Mary Ellen Ashcroft, who was the Deacon at Trinity, is their Vicar. They have a retired priest and at least two retired deacons in the parish.

We here at St. David's can thank God that their home builder has delayed their home's completion date because Carol, with Phil's support, as always, will be taking on the job of Lay Coordinator at St. David's when Katherine goes on her Sabbatical in August.

## Katherine's Sabbatical

After seven years a priest can apply for a grant to take a well-earned sabbatical. The Rector's job is truly a demanding job which keeps the occupant of the position almost constantly on duty. And much of the work of providing spiritual guidance and support, to people in need, is difficult. The purpose of the sabbatical is to provide renewal to the priest. We will miss Katherine so much, but we know she needs this time to rest and learn.

A group of people, who became the Nehemiah Group, together wrote the grant application to the Lilly Foundation for the funds to

support Katherine's sabbatical. Katherine has been at St. David's for nine years and is overdue for this hiatus. During this time Katherine will attend a retreat center in the southwest where she has had previous rewarding retreats. She will have the opportunity to do some hiking and biking, to spend some time getting Eva settled in college and importantly she will get time to read, relax and rest. Katherine will be gone from August 1 till November 30. When she returns she will be full to the brim of wonderful learnings to pass on to all of us.

## The Lay Coordinator position

In the grant application, the Nehemiah group included the funds for the Lay Coordinator position, which Carol will assume. Carol will provide oversight of the various ministries at St David's before and during Katherine's sabbatical, communicating regularly with staff, supply clergy, lay leaders and the congregation. Carol is perfect for this job because she is a skilled communicator and is knowledgeable about the parish, its ministries and members.

This is a part-time position beginning July 10 and ending December 15, averaging about 15 hours a week. She will publish times when she will be open to phone calls and responding to emails. The rest of us at St. David's will be relying on Carol heavily during this time, but we need to remember to respect Carol's worship time at church.

Norma Walton will be the point person for pastoral care, for people who are in need of immediate or long term care such as Eucharist visits and other spiritual needs. During Katherine's absence when decisions have to be made, such as the one on 9-11, Paul Smejkal and Carol will be responsible for this

and Bill Jacobs will back up if Paul is not around.

It is important that the parish recognize that the sabbatical will offer an opportunity to all to become more involved at St David's. We need to recognize and fill in any gaps so that the community continues to operate smoothly. Most important is to realize that it is our responsibility to maintain and grow the missions that make St David's vital. AND we need to continue this work after Katherine returns.

## Q & A

### Of what are you most proud?

The thing that Carol is most proud of is that she always tries to bring joy to every situation. She is optimistic in nature and positive and joyful in her communications always. She looks for the fun in every situation.

Phil is most proud of their family. These are their biggest contribution to the world. Their kids have good and talented hearts and he attributes a lot of that to St. David's. He believes, as does Carol, that it really does take a village and St. David's has served as a big part of that village for their family.

### What advice would you give to people in today's contentious world?

We all need to listen to opposing points of view respectfully, not limiting our information sources to just the ones that agree with you. Listen to opposing points of view. City people should really think about how it is to live in the country where there are limited jobs and resources and country people should think about how it is to live in the city where there are many immigrants and others who have been disadvantaged for a long time.

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## Phil and Carol: A Lifelong partnership

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### Do you ever experience faith doubts?

Faith doubts are a given part of any faith journey. In fact it is at these times that one sometimes has the biggest growth in their relationship with God. Both Carol and Phil think many “coincidences” are really God doing His thing.

### If you could have any wish what would it be?

If Carol had any wish in the world granted to her she would ask for the whole world to accept the precepts of Christianity and live their life accordingly. Phil would wish that everyone would only take what they need so that everyone would have enough. These wishes speak volumes.

### What is your future new home like?

When they went on vacations, they would say to the kids, where shall we go? And always they said lets go to Grand Marais. So that is where they planned to build for their retirement. When they found the second highest peak in the area they bought it and on that rock they are building their new life. Their builder will break ground this summer, though in this case that is just a figure of speech because their new site is literally on a rock. It has views to marvel at. It's on 8.5 acres of land with an almost 360 degree view all around. 180 degrees of it is a panorama of Lake Superior. They think they will be able to move in, in February or March.



## Caring for Our Church Family Home

St. David's, our church home, needs loving attention—cleaning and repairs just like the one we sleep in at night. On Saturday, May 20, an ambitious group, 19 of our brothers and sisters cleaned and repaired many things at our church family home. The rest of us just get to enjoy it.

This group performed so many tasks:

- In the kitchen, refrigerators and freezers were cleaned; sinks and all stainless steel were cleaned and polished; and the utensil drawers were cleaned.
- The cloth chairs in the conference room were shampooed.
- All hand railings were tightened.
- The lock on the undercroft outside door was repaired.
- The smoke detectors were vacuumed.
- 10 furnace filters were replaced.
- All the blinds in the church were cleaned.
- All railings and chair arms were treated with Murphy's oil.
- The door by the nursery was taped and painted.
- A lot of brush like tree trimmings, flour bed refuse and the Christmas tree was hauled away.

I list the tasks that they performed because many of them surprised me. I would never have volunteered for the Clean-up day because I thought it involved things like hammering and digging and other “manly” stuff. But many of these are tasks that even a one-legged woman like me could do. And so could many others.

BIG THANKS to our family who showed up on Saturday and did the work, but also to the many people who maintain things throughout the year that no one even knows about, like running the nursery toys through the dishwasher. A special thankyou goes to Bob Triebenbach who provided a tasty lunch for all the volunteers.

For all of you who missed out on the fun, there are still many tasks that need to be done. There is a list of the remaining tasks in the undercroft. You can sign up to do any of these on your own schedule. There is something there for everyone!!

Call David Pearson at 952-412-7678 or Beth Harvey at 952-935-3336 to arrange access to the church to do the task for which you signed up. You can also email David at [mary.mann625@gmail.com](mailto:mary.mann625@gmail.com).





# CORNERSTONE ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

By Robby Stokes

The St. David's Cornerstone Endowment Fund marked an important event on March 12th. Following the 9:30 service that Sunday, a ceremony and prayer service was held as we unveiled the plaque commemorating the Fund and those who have contributed financially to it.

Designed by Beth Harvey and built by Ken Ferguson, the main plaque memorializes the Endowment itself as well as the 36 Founding Members of the Legacy Society.

The Legacy Society is the term for all those who initially contributed to the Endowment. Additional plaques on either side will be used for new members of the legacy society.

This event is significant for a number of reasons. Firstly, it signifies the end of the "launch" period of the Endowment. Now you might be thinking that the Endowment has been around for a while, so how can it just now be launching? Starting with an initial gift in 2013, and a dedicated group of people putting

the structure in place by early 2014, St. David's Endowment has been active for a couple of years. However, the tasks of gathering a group of founding members, memorializing their gifts and memorializing the Fund itself have been goals of the Endowment Committee from day one.

An endowment is by its nature a long-term endeavor. Taking three years to fully launch is just a product of this trait. Endowments can take years to launch, still more years to mature to giving gifts, and those gifts will ideally show their rewards for decades into the future. As the Endowment itself aspires to on the plaque: "like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season" (Psalm 1:3)

In addition to marking a new phase in the Endowment, the plaque honors the important gifts given by all members of the Legacy Society, including special recognition for the Founding Members. The generosity shown by this group has helped the Endowment reach milestones much sooner than we thought possible.

Although I am a relative newcomer to St. David's, I've heard numerous times that the church has been talking about and aspiring to have an Endowment for many years. The time of those serving on the committees to launch the Endowment and the

gifts of those who seeded it deserve recognition for accomplishing a long-term goal for St. David's.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the dedication of plaque helps establish connections between the Endowment and St. David's itself. The cross on the plaque is positioned overlooking the All Saints Chapel, and the plaque was designed to complement the Chapel and the columbarium located there. The Endowment Committee took very seriously the proposal to place the plaque in such a prominent and sacred place.

We hope all who enter St. David's will see the plaque as a fitting memorial, an important part of our Church, and honoring important gifts that will show their impact for generations.

## Financial update

As you may have heard, the Endowment Fund is off to a fantastic start! Starting from one initial gift three and a half years ago, there have been around 40 separate gifts and the Fund's balance has exceeded \$90,000! As we enter the next phase of the Fund's history, we hope we can continue this level of success.

As always, if you have any questions about the Fund or how to make a pledge or gift, do not hesitate to talk to any member of the Endowment Fund Committee.



# A call to action!

## Serving on Sundays at St. David's

Every week at the Sunday services a group of people are on hand to make the Eucharist a meaningful and powerful experience for the whole congregation. These include ushers who greet and welcome parishioners each Sunday, and Servers and Acolytes who lead the procession and perform many func-

tions during the service. We are always looking for more folks who would like to be part of the service team on Sundays, both adults and youth. Please contact the Rev. Guy Drake if you or a member of your family is interested in taking a greater role in our Sunday worship.



## Shall we gather at the river...

Mark your calendars for our annual service at Minnehaha Creek, just down the hill from the church. We'll be baptizing and renewing our own baptismal promises at the creek!

**When: Sunday, August 20, 9:30 AM**

**Note: One service only that day**

Bring a lawn chair or a blanket if you're able. We'll also have some chairs set up.

This is one of our highlights of the year--join us and invite your friends!



## Columbarium News

You may not be aware that during the planning of the new columbarium unit, the Rev. Katherine Lewis, Maryann Witkop and committee members made the decision to provide a "communal area" for ashes to be interred for family members or friends who could not afford the cost of a single columbarium niche or would want, for other reasons, to be interred communally. These larger niches are at the base of the new, central

unit. If you or someone in your life is interested in having ashes placed in our columbarium, we have a place available. There is a large plaque on the wall adjacent to the columbarium area where their name can be inscribed. This is a generous offering to St. David's members, a perfect example of the charism of our community!

Please contact the Rev. Katherine Lewis or Sharon Garland if you are interested.



# A Book Recommendation: *Your Faith Your Life – An Invitation to the Episcopal Church*

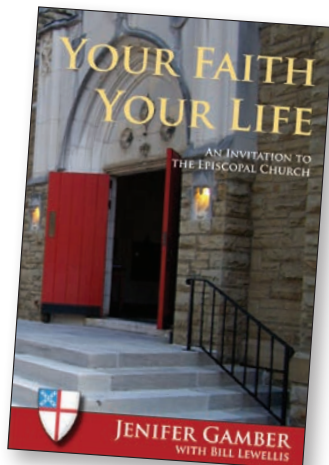
By Gervaye Parent

On Sunday, April 30th, along with Cathy and Randy Schwichtenberg I was received into the Episcopal Church at the same time as Julia Handley was confirmed. What a powerful day this was. Though I have been attending St. David's for some time, there was, and still is, I guess, so much I don't know.

To help fill this hole in my Episcopal knowledge bank Katherine recommended the book "Your Faith Your Life – An Invitation to the Episcopal Church," written by Jennifer Gamber with Bill Lewellis.

I was raised Catholic and the similarities between the Catholic and Episcopal Churches, but the areas where they do differ are to me just GREAT! The book addresses some of these.

The book covers some of the history of the Episcopal Church, which I found very interesting. For example,

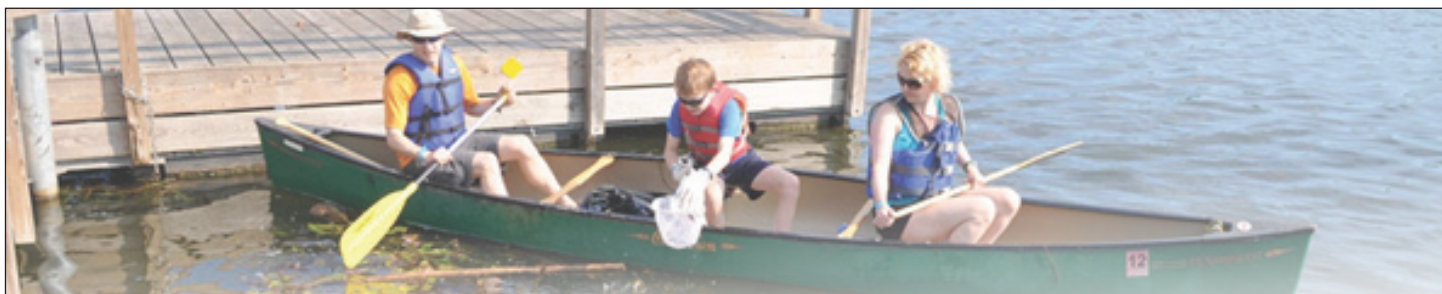


Phil Grave and I always thought that the Episcopal Church was the Church that was founded when Henry VIII wanted to get rid of his current wife. Not so, says the book. You will need to read it to learn more about that.

It also says most Episcopalians did not grow up in the Episcopal Church. Amazing!!

The book seeks to lead us to authenticity and integrity and uses 5 transforming questions at the end of each chapter. They relate to Being Attentive, Being Intelligent, Being Reasonable, Being Responsible, and the final question is around Being in Love Transformed.

This book is the adult version of the one that our youth use in their classes at St. David's and is an excellent resource for newbies like me. I think it would also be a good book for a life-long Episcopalian because it is just full of little known facts. The book is available on Amazon for \$12.88. Happy Reading.



## Jump In & Make A Splash!

**WHAT:** Greenway Cleanup

**WHEN:** 10 AM to noon - Sunday,  
July 23

**WHERE:** Knollwood Super Target,  
8900 Highway 7,  
St. Louis Park

Volunteers will clean along Minnehaha Creek outside the Target store and will be bused to other nearby locations including Cottageville Park in Hopkins and

the Minnehaha Creek Preserve in St. Louis Park.

Gloves, trash bags and refreshments will be provided.

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes and clothing they don't mind getting dirty.

The event is part of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's "Jump In & Make a Splash!" 50th anniversary event series. Learn more and

register at [www.minnehahacreek.org/50](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/50).

The Greenway Cleanup is sponsored by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Target in partnership with Freshwater Society, Metro Blooms, REI, Wilderness Inquiry, 1-800-GOT-JUNK? and Berne Scale.



# The Graduation Experience



There is no “right” way or “wrong” way for our graduates to move forward in their life’s journey. Some go right to work somewhere, some go to a local community college and some go to a 4 year program. What they should all know is that their St. David’s family loves them and will support them whatever they decide to do. And, we hope you will always feel at home at St. David’s.

**I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me.**

**As Dr. Seuss says, “You have  
feet in your shoes ... Oh the  
places you’ll go!”**

One reason why people fear to embark upon great enterprises is that they see all the difficulties at once. It may just look insurmountable. Mountains viewed from a distance can seem to be unscalable. But they can be climbed, and the way to begin is to take the first upward step. From that moment the mountains are less high. Moreover the surmounting of the first barrier gives strength and ingenuity for the harder ones beyond.

## It Couldn’t Be Done

By Edgar A. Guest

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That “maybe it couldn’t,” but he would be one  
Who wouldn’t say so till he’d tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you’ll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it”;  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he’d begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn’t be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That “cannot be done,” and you’ll do it.

# One of Last Year's High School Graduates Reflects on the Year After High School

By Maddie Harvala

I think I was subpar at taking advice coming into college. But after my first year experience, I don't really regret it. Ironically, I would advise graduating seniors to not put too much weight into the advice they're getting. Everyone experiences this transition out of high school differently! And as it turns out, it was quite hard for me at first! Moving away from home isn't necessarily always easy or pleasant. But I soon realized just how great of a place Concordia was for me to be. Since I've started school, I have learned more than I can even articulate here. Not just in my textbooks, though I have done an obscene amount of reading. The culture that is created by a smaller liberal

arts school like Concordia is truly something special. Though I've attended more Lutheran services than I ever thought I would (though I realized I really like the Holden Evening Prayer) and feel weird saying the Lord's Prayer without the "trespasses," I've learned so much about the intersecting nature of life through this inherently interdisciplinary experience. Although the people who I go to school with study all different things and come from a variety of (mostly suburban mid-western) places, we have a shared academically focused experience and communal space that creates an atmosphere that fosters deep relationships and thought.

So here I am giving advice to seniors, when I just told you I

wouldn't have even listened to the advice that I'm giving. But what I'm saying is, don't expect what you experience to be all that similar to what you've heard. Maybe you'll miss your family a crippling amount and that will be your biggest struggle. Maybe you'll realize it's annoying to sleep in the same room with someone else, especially lofted a few feet off the ground. Or maybe it will feel so perfectly right that you will have no complaints at all. No matter, the world is beautiful, and you have a small army of people who care so immensely about how you're doing back at St. David's thinking about you constantly. So maybe that will supply you a little bit of comfort.

## A Parent of a High School Graduate From This Year Reflects

Some people get another job, some get a dog but Kimberle has subscribed to MORE VEGIES in her life to help her deal with Aprille's departure into her exciting future.

They have moved into a new home and so that is a good distraction. But in June, Aprille will go to Texas, to Fort Sam Houston for Advanced Individual Training

(AIT). This is the second part of her Army National Guard training that she started last summer. Her field of study is Combat Medic. She will decide where she goes next after her return to Minnesota in the fall.

So, Kimberle will be getting a weekly vegetable delivery from Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) to fill the time that she used to spend with Aprille... Trying new

recipes and eating healthy. She says she will of course miss sharing them with Aprille.

When Kimberle reflects back on her life with Aprille she says, "I am glad I kept a promise to myself that I made when Aprille was a baby. That promise was to hug her every day; someday she will move away and I will not get as many chances!"

## Parents of a High School Graduate From This Year Reflects

By Paul and Kristin Smejkal

We are thrilled and excited! Rachel is a wonderful young woman and we are so proud of her. We know she is ready for the next step in her life. Remembering back to our own high school graduation and

leaving for college brings back such fond memories. We are so excited to see Rachel step out on-her-own and be her own independent person. Rachel is and

will always be a central part of our lives. This transition means that we need to let go and we will let go... while shedding a tear for sure but also in love and joy in our hearts.





## Kenya Dinner a Big Hit Again!

What a wonderful night our annual Kenya Dinner Fundraiser turned out to be. It wasn't just the delicious Kenyan food, which we've come to expect from Rebecca Kipchumba and a host of St David helpers, but the African artifacts and decor, some Kenyan singing and interactions around the table and food. In addition we were encouraged by remarks from Julie and Evan Keller, and Humphrey Institute student Anthony Maiku. The best part of all was the very generous response from the St. David's community in the amount of nearly \$3000 raised for the farmers and students in Ziwa. The Coins for Kenya campaign alone raised nearly \$200, enough to send a boarding secondary school student to school for one semester. Well done good and faithful servants.

Hats off to a very energetic kitchen crew who pulled together to serve up another memorable evening. The spirit of generosity and cooperation was rampant and we can only say Thanks be to God. Asante sana.

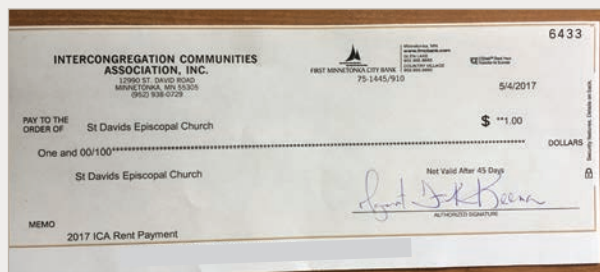


## Holy Week and Easter Once again Brings Anticipation followed by Joy!

The Children play a big role in many of the activities at St. David's. On Palm Sunday following the 9:30 Service the children honored the Stations of the Cross. And on Easter Sunday Morning they placed daffodils in the cross at the altar.

He is Risen Indeed!! Hallelujah.

## St. David's and ICA a Symbiotic Relationship



Our parish community of St. David's has a loyal and heart-felt relationship with the work done by the Intercongregation Communities Association, Inc., better known to us as ICA. Periodically we collect items which ICA distributes to people who need it more than we do. And we get the pleasure of sharing our

abundant resources with people in need. They get the pleasure of receiving our generosity and sharing it with others.

We also lease the neighboring building to them for which they pay an astounding sum. This is a copy of their rent check for the year.



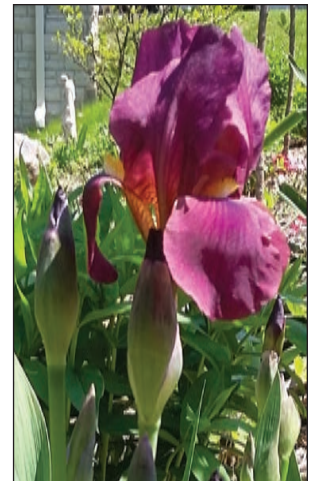
# It's Spring in St. David's Gardens!!

By Launa Tucker

Its spring at last but since this is Minnesota it is snowing right now. But that won't stop us from planning for summer gardens! The magnolias, daffodils and tulips have bloomed as well as the hellebores also known as the "Lenten Flower" because of its late winter, early spring bloom time. In June the iris, bleeding heart and peonies should be showing off their splendid colors. Soon after the daisies, delphiniums, marigold, creeping phlox and alyssum will follow. We have echinacea, rudbeckia, liatris, phlox, yucca to name a few more. There are Jacob's ladder, parsley, thyme, lamb's ear, white clips, sedum. We have made space for some plants that you might like to donate also! We are looking for Annabelle hydrangea, fall mums, allium, cranesbill and ??? what would you like to see?!

Another project we would like to explore is the Peace Pole Project. A Peace Pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer: May Peace Prevail on Earth in the language of that country and often several other languages as well. There are thousands of Peace Poles in 180 countries all over the world. They serve to remind us to visualize and pray for world peace. And isn't that what Jesus asks of us? If this interests you please let me know. Right now it is just an idea!

And of course there is always room for more folks who like to play in the dirt so please call, 952-935-1294, there is plenty of space for you.





# It Could Happen to You: The rewards of Teaching

Next to Jesus and the original 12, I think we must have some of the best teachers ever in our Godly Play, Middle and High School programs. We hear over and over again that it takes a village to raise our children and St. David's children's programs have been a huge part of that village for countless families. The faith and values instilled in our children in these programs is priceless.

The volunteers, who do this important work for all of us, keep our parish and families vital, but they also derive great benefits themselves ... Benefits that they probably could not obtain in any other way.

Just listen with your heart to this letter from one of our seriously dedicated teachers to the families of the children she has taught for 14 years.

I'm writing to let you know that this will be my last year serving in a leadership position with the youth ministry at St. David (don't worry, I'm not going anywhere, just realizing it's the right time for me to step back). It's hard to believe that I've been a part of youth ministry at

St. David for the past 14 years! Can that really be right?!

I want to thank all of you for loving me so well. Working with you has been a rich and fulfilling experience. I'm so thankful for all the ways you challenge me to stretch myself... to rethink many of my inherited beliefs and to actively work to be the presence of God in my small corner of the world. I would not be the person I am today without your influence in my life. And I very much want to continue to be active and present in your lives going forward. You mean so much to me and you always will.

When I look back, it's ironic the thing that makes youth ministry so rewarding is also the thing that makes it so hard. It's watching you all grow up... and then spreading your wings and moving on... and maybe, just maybe you come back. The relationships I've built with all of you are long-term relationships and the story of our lives together continues to move forward.

I'm excited about the possibility

for someone new to breathe life and energy into this wonderful life-giving ministry. I've spoken with Katherine about stepping away and I have full faith that she, working with the wardens and other Sr. High leaders, will ensure a bright future for the Sr. High youth program going forward.

Finally, I ask you to hold me in prayer as I discern where God is calling me to serve in this next chapter of my life. As always, I will hold you all close to my heart and in my prayers.

With love,  
Ann Carda

*The entire community of St. David's is so grateful for the selfless contributions Ann Carda has made to the spiritual development of our youth. She has approached this important work with love and dedication and the families will definitely miss her.*

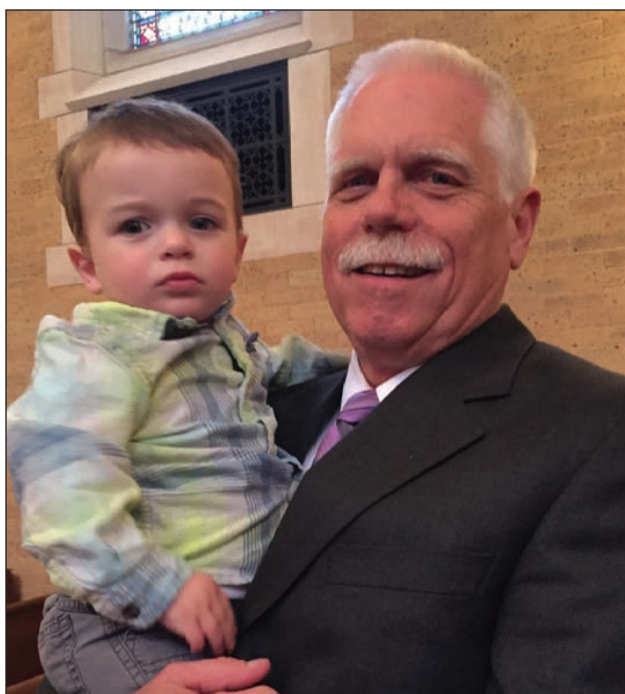
## Monday Morning Contemplative Prayer

No experience necessary to join others for Contemplative Prayer Monday mornings from 9:00-9:30AM. We meet in the Conference Room/Oratory, opening with a reflective reading,

meditating for twenty minutes and then closing with prayer. For more information, contact the Rev. Katherine Lewis at [klewis@stdavidsparish.org](mailto:kewis@stdavidsparish.org).



# Confirmation and Receptions St. Mark's Cathedral – April 30<sup>th</sup>







# St. David's Commitment to Homes for Working Families Shows Results

For the last two years a group of St. David's parishioners has been actively involved with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, our Families Moving Forward partners, in bringing more affordable housing to the west metro. In addition to attending many organizational meetings, very impressive tours have been conducted of Creekside Commons, which is Beacon's site near Mayflower Church in Minneapolis.

After all the preliminary effort, a site has been chosen in Plymouth and given the name Cranberry Ridge. It is located at Highway 55 and Old Rockford Road. More than 45 working families will have housing in new apartments with on-site staffing and other support services. Most of the families make between \$16,000 and \$45,000 per year, and there will be many 3-bedroom units available.

There is still much more effort needed to bring Cranberry Ridge from vision to reality, including the recruitment of more congregations to add to the 80 parishes of all different faiths already working to end homelessness in the western suburbs. To find out how you can contribute to this effort, contact The Rev. Guy Drake, [gadrake@comcast.net](mailto:gadrake@comcast.net), or Carol Johnson, [twokat@centurylink.net](mailto:twokat@centurylink.net).

## Transportation to St. David's

St. David's helps coordinate rides for parishioners who cannot drive themselves. If you would like to help provide transportation for parishioners from time to time or, if you have a transportation need, please contact Tom Edmond at 952-936-0968.







**St. David's Bike Club  
First Ride of the Year  
Sunday, June 18th  
After the 9:30 service**

# Welcome To St. David's!

Next time you see these new faces at St. David's, tell them "Hi" and introduce yourself. Welcome Tim and Sheila Gothmann and Nancy Marks.





# St. David's Episcopal Church

13000 St Davids Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Office: 952-935-3336  
[www.stdavidsparish.org](http://www.stdavidsparish.org)

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## St. David's Welcomes You

St. David's Episcopal Church is committed to following Jesus' example of practicing radical hospitality, seeking to find God in all people because they are of sacred worth. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community of faith.