



St. David's Episcopal Church ■ Minnetonka, MN ■ www.stdavidsparish.org ■ Volume 5 ■ Spring ■ 2016

Pass the Baby

Recently I heard the story from one of you about another parishioner's newsletter article entitled, "Pass the Baby". The gist, as I understood it, was the observation that St. David's babies are vied for on Sunday mornings and other times at church, passed from one loving set of arms to another. I love it. And I believe it's one of gifts of this congregation: the enthusiastic support of the children who grow up in this congregation.

I saw the same thing—"passing the baby", figuratively speaking—at the wildly successful (and incredibly fun) talent show in January: adults taking children and youth under their wings and collaborating with

them to perform their acts. I see it, too, during informal conversation at the dinner table in the undercroft on Wednesday evening. It happens, too, when adults work more formally as confirmation mentors to our youth, helping them engage questions of faith. We are a community that knows our children and cares about them and carries them along with us in the faith.

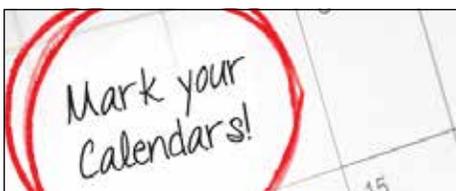
It's interesting: we've tried, unsuccessfully, for multiple years to raise funds to hire a children's and youth minister for St. David's. And even with that "failure", we are thriving in our ability and willingness to "pass the baby", to love and know and care for the little ones in our midst.

And, remember, even each of who is an adults is also a "Child" of God, needing to be carried, especially at certain critical times of challenge and need in our lives.

So, keep passing the babies. Keep allowing others to carry you in the grace of Christ. Continuing to practice our faith here means we know even better how to do the same thing out in the world with children and adult who so desperately need to be carried.

Thank you for being beautiful you, beautiful, loving passers of the babies.

— Katherine



Important Dates

Youth Sunday/Mother's Day
Sunday, May 8

Safeguarding God's Children
Tuesday, May 10

Safeguarding God's People
Wednesday, May 11

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, May 15

Wear Fire Colors: Reds, Oranges, and Yellows/Choir Appreciation Sunday/Baptism/Gospel Read in Different Languages/Bake Sale

Couple's Workshop

Wednesday, May 18

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, May 22

Celebrating Middle School Students and Graduates/Kid's Choir/Picnic

Monthly ICA Collection

Sunday, June 5

Theme: Picnic-Everything but the Ants!

Monthly ICA Collection

Sunday, July 3

Theme: That's Fishy!

Minnehaha Creek Clean-up

Sunday, July 24

(One Service Only)

Monthly ICA Collection

Sunday, August 7

Theme: For the Vegetarian

Baptisms by the Creek

Sunday, August 21

(One Service Only)

Building year-round stewardship

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of our longtime St. David's members said to me recently, "You sure have a tough act to follow." Meaning what a wonderful Senior Warden we had with Carol Johnson last year, a sentiment with which I couldn't agree more. My reply was that we are going to be building on many of the good things that we started and create sustainability for the future.

In 2016, the Vestry and Wardens are building on our focus on year-round stewardship. Gratitude knows no season and we are called to the right use of all the resources that God has given us. In other words, stewardship is not defined as the annual pledge campaign. Instead, it is the driving force behind our hospitality, leadership, environmental stewardship, growth in faithfulness, giftedness, financial health, life and faith priorities, strategic planning, ministries, outreach to the community, and more.

As a result, we have restructured our Stewardship Team to include six major functional areas of

St. David's — Worship, Pastoral Care, Mission, Lifespan Formation, Community, and Operations. Each area has clergy, warden, vestry and lay leadership represented to oversee that "bucket" of teams and activities represented.

Some of the steps we are taking:

- The Vestry will be planning for the 2017 program year in July so that we can align and cascade our efforts and message across all teams.
- The formation of a short, memorable mission statement.
- The Communications Team which will coordinate our communication internally and our message externally through our website, social media and other vehicles. Thanks to the many people who volunteered and gave input at our forum on March 13 and Paul Smejkal (Jr. Warden) for his leadership with this team.
- The Mission Team is analyzing our involvement, passion and capacity for the ministries we support.

- A commitment to radical hospitality. This includes our Safe Church team which has been building an infrastructure to make St. David's a safe church hub in the West Metro Mission Area and ECMN.
- A focus on leadership development. This is and will be an on-going process — not a short-term project and you will be hearing much more about this coming up.
- We will discuss our plan and more at our State of the Parish Meeting on May 1.

One of the things you might not know about the Vestry, is that we begin every meeting with Gospel Based Discipleship. This establishes our context for every decision and discussion — "What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling us to do?" That is at the very center of leadership in our community and why I am excited to work with this engaged and energetic team.

Peace,
Nan Drake, Senior Warden

Thank you from Rev. Debbie Dehler

I want to express my deep thanks to the people of St. David's. These past months have been a great learning experience for me. I appreciate the invitations to participate in the life of this vibrant faith community. I am thankful for the prayers and encouragement along the way, yes, but also for supporting me in my future ministry.

I invite you to contact me if you are passing through Indianapolis. The people at St. Alban's will welcome you with open arms and Jeff and I will offer hospitality, too.

You can keep up with our journey by reading my blog: nourishmentforthejourney.blogspot.com or via email at revdebbied@gmail.com. When we have an address, I'll be sure to send it along.

With thanks for our time together,

Rev. Debbie



Safe Church Training Initiative

At St. David's we provide a safe and welcoming environment for all who participate in our worship, programs, ministries and any other church supported activities. We especially strive to maintain a safe place for children, youth and vulnerable adults with an awareness that everyone can be vulnerable at certain times.

In accordance with our mission and the direction of Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Safe Church Training is required by:

- Clergy & All St. David's paid employees
- Vestry
- Youth leaders, teachers & volunteers
- Lay leaders
- Ministry leaders
- Volunteers involved with vulnerable adults
- All key holders

If you fall into one or more of these roles and you have not taken Safe Church training in the past five years, then it's time to sign up! Guy Drake and Karin Lindquist have become certified trainers and are committed to providing Safe Church Training quarterly for St. David's and other Episcopal churches in our area.

The first session will be held in the ICA Jones Room for two consecutive evenings:

Safeguarding God's Children:

Tuesday, May 10th: 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Safeguarding God's People:

Wednesday, May 11th 5:30 – 8:30 PM

3 ways to sign up:

- Contact: Beth Harvey
- Email: bharvey@stdavidsparish.org
- Sign-up sheet in the undercroft

If you cannot make this upcoming session, or you have questions, please contact us at:

- bharvey@stdavidsparish.org
- Karin Lindquist: 612.251.2259
lindquist.karin@hotmail.com
- Guy Drake: 952-938-0444
gadrake@comcast.net

We pride ourselves in being an open and welcoming community at St. David's Church. Safe Church training increases your awareness of this responsibility and further offers each person a safe environment to worship, learn and seek support.



Transportation to St. David's

St. David's Pastoral Care Team 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.

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.

Cornerstone Endowment Fund News

by Robby Stokes

You've probably been hearing and seeing a lot about the St. David's Cornerstone Endowment Fund lately. If not, we - the endowment committee - aren't doing our jobs! But we still get a lot of questions at each event, so hopefully this article will answer some of those and provide an update of the endowment fund's progress.

Who's who?

Cornerstone Endowment Fund? Legacy Society? Founding Members? Who's on first? If you've missed the explanations of some of these, hopefully this section will clear things up.

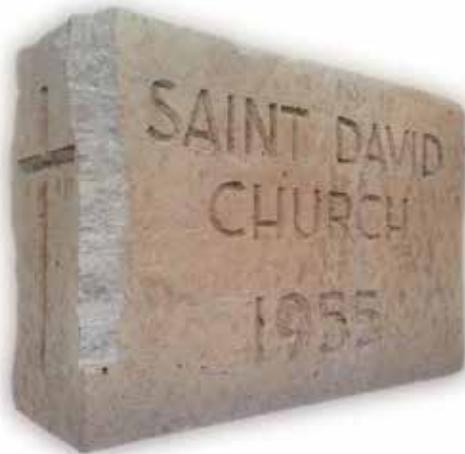
The St. David's Cornerstone Endowment Fund is the name of the separate fund established to act as the church's endowment. Money contributed to this fund is subject to the restrictions set forth in the endowment fund's enabling resolution. The name is important to keep in mind, because specifying this name helps us know whether a gift is intended for the endowment fund or the church's general funds.

The Legacy Society is the name we've given to describe those who have donated to the Cornerstone Endowment fund. Anyone who has made a gift or pledged to do so is a member of the Legacy Society.

The Founding Members of the Legacy Society are a special group within the Legacy Society. Founding Members are those who have made a gift, or pledged to make a gift, before Ascension Day 2016 (May 5th, 2016). These donors have helped get the endowment fund 'off the ground' and will be recognized as such.

Financial Update

We're very excited to announce that the Fund has surpassed \$60,000 in gifts received, from 15 separate gifts!



And as of the end of last year we have also received five pledges for future gifts, putting participation at 20 total families. The five pledges represent those who have already included the Endowment Fund in their will, trust, or other future gift method, or have committed to give future gifts to the fund.

The Fund's balance at year-end was about equal to the total gifts received, as we've had minimal expenses but also roughly flat investment performance over the life of the Fund (not surprising if you watch the markets, though our investments with the Episcopal Foundation have slightly outperformed some benchmarks).

How can I take part?

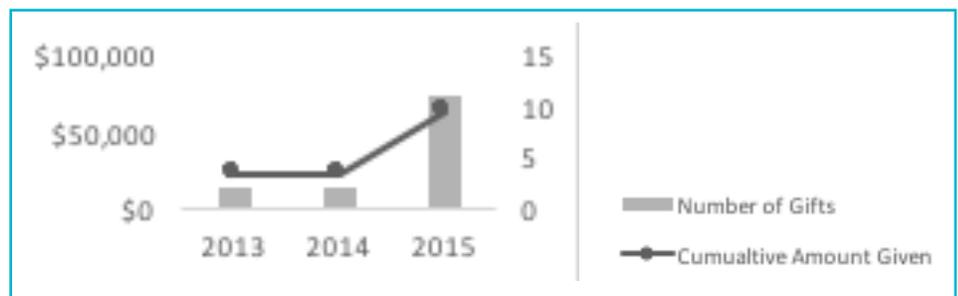
As you can see, we are making great progress to get the Fund off to a running start, but we want this to continue! The deadline to become one of the Founding Members of the Legacy society is rapidly approaching.

Does this mean we are asking for money right now? No (but maybe yes...if that's your preference). The Endowment Fund is a long-term project intended to support outreach ministries, and will take years to make a significant impact. It is not meant to replace, and should not replace your regular pledge contributions. Nor are we asking for 'extra' contributions to be made regularly.

Our desired source of contributions are from assets that parishioners have accumulated over time and no longer need for their daily needs. Common examples are appreciated investments, bequests in a will or trust, insurance policies, or other assets. Many of these also carry tax advantages when used for charitable contributions.

We of course accept cash gifts if that works best for you. And although we report on current funds received since that is a known figure, we appreciate just as much pledges for future gifts. Given the long-term nature and goals for the Fund, it's the combination of current Fund assets and pledges for future gifts (even if unknown) that represent the future full potential for the Fund.

If you have any questions about how to make a pledge or gift to the Cornerstone Endowment Fund, or about pledge forms or the general questions about the Endowment Fund, do not hesitate to talk to any Endowment Committee member.



St. David's Service Helpers Wanted

We are looking for members of the parish who would be interested in serving at the altar on Sundays as an acolyte reader, chalice bearer, or server. If you have a strong voice and enjoy reading, consider reading a lesson or the Prayers of the People at a service on Sundays.

If you would appreciate carrying the cross or torch at the head of the processional, and to assist at the altar with the setting of the table, consider learning how to be an acolyte or server. If you would like to take an even more active role in the sacraments, learn how to be chalice bearer during communion.

Please contact Beth Harvey at bharvey@stdavidsparish.org or 952-235-3336 if you are interested in any of these roles in our Sunday service!

A special thank-you to St. David's family from Frank Tucker's family

Dying can be very personal and private or a public journey to be shared with others. Our journey started when Frank entered the North Memorial hospice program. We chose to ask for your help and support. And you answered. God is good. Even in the darkness He is there. And there were dark times for us. But you helped shine light in those places. You came and sat with Frank. You brought not only bread and wine but lasagna and brownies. You brought music and carols. You fed the spirit as well as the body. And in the end Katherine brought the holy oil and comfort through prayer. Then we took time to honor Frank's life and again you were there with us and we will always love you for that.

God bless you all.

Launa, Joe & DaNell, Stephanie & Rob, David & Melissa

St. David's Pastoral Ministries



At St. David's, we seek to be Christ to one another, celebrating with others the joys of life as well as walking alongside those who are hurting and suffering.

Love and caring abound at St. David's and many acts of kindness take place quietly, without most of us even knowing about them.

Our Pastoral Care Team is in place to provide a framework for and oversee some of St. David's pastoral care ministries. Members of the team include: the Rev. Katherine Lewis, Martha Hatcher, Eileen Bezat, Julie Morehouse, Bill Jacobs, Joanne Allan, Norma Walton and Pam Whitmore. We look for others who might be called to this ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Contact: Kathryn Zirbes 952-0944-3887

Transportation—to worship, church events, medical appointments

Contact: Tom Edmond 952-936-0968

Medical Equipment Loan Program

Contact: Norma Walton 952-930-1242

Meals for Parishioners Program

Contact: Sue List 952-935-3923

Pastoral Visitors

Contact: Norma Walton 952-930-1242

Lake Minnetonka Care Center

Contact: Sarah Kelsey 952-475-3711

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Contact: Steve Johnson 952-935-5043

Prayers of the People

Contact: Beth Harvey or Katherine Lewis 952-935-3336



NOTES from Meg

Choir Appreciation Sunday is May 15th

May 15th is Choir Appreciation Sunday during the 9:30 service, both our chapel choir and bell choir will be providing you with our favorite anthems

from the past church year. Have you hugged a Choir member today?

Kids Choir Sings on Trinity Sunday

We will be performing on May 22nd, Trinity Sunday. All kids through 5th grade are welcome – Solo/duet parts available for brave souls. Rehearsals on

Sunday mornings at the start of Godly Play from until May 15. Hope to see you!



Annual Kenya Dinner

On March 19th we had our annual Kenyan Dinner to celebrate and support the Mama Ada Foundation. It was a lovely time together sharing stories over ugali and stew, catching up and remembering visits, and praying for our friends. Through the course of the evening we raised \$1,450! Thank you so much for your prayers, involvement, and encouragement. It is making a tangible difference in the lives of our students, farmers, entrepreneurs, as well as their whole families and communities. Asante sana!

MUSIC SERIES AT ST. DAVID'S **You Betcha'**

Final Concert of the Season
Sunday, June 5th

3:00 PM

St. David's Sanctuary



Come celebrate three of Minnesota's own composers Abbie Bettinis, Gene Gutchè, and Kevin Puts! We are thrilled to announce that we have commissioned a brand new string quartet from Abbie Bettinis! She is a composition teacher as well as the host of Schubert Club's Courtroom Concerts. You will get a chance to be part of music history!

Talent Night 2016

A Great Time Was Had By All



Episcopal Creative Arts Day Camp



July 25-29, 2016 • 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis

- Childcare available 7:30-9:00 am & 3-5 pm
- For children 4 years through entering 6th grade
- Fee: \$100 per child for the week with optional before (\$5/child/day) and after (\$10/child/day) care.
- Adults & youth older than 6th grade are welcome to join the fun as leaders!

We'll sing, dance, make art, tinker, tell stories, and play indoors and out and experience God along the way, finding the Holy in everyday moments.

We connect this imagination-sparking, active fun to our relationship with the Holy and with one another. Campers are given time all week to deeply explore their friendship with God using their own prayers and spiritual style.

Registration forms & further information:
ourcathedral.org/ecad2016

Questions?
Contact Mary McKelvey
ecad@OurCathedral.org

ECAD is a collaboration of 12 Episcopal churches.

All are welcome!



Celebration Peace Garden



There is a space on the north side of the church that many may not have seen. It began as a lovely play area for the children of St David's school. A few years after the school left, the play equipment was removed and was soon replaced by thistles and other noxious weeds. And so began a journey of creation. The weeds were cleared and soil placed upon the sand and then Alan Brittle's words; "Your palette awaits!" Indeed it did. With the help of the 50th Celebration committee there was a drive to have a paved area surrounded by flowers and greenery. It was to be a place for contemplation of the wonders around us. And so the space has evolved since then. There are flowers and shrubs, and in the center a beautiful Celtic Cross. Maybe someday an altar to celebrate with bread and wine all that

we see from here. The paving stones give thanks to loved ones and all of God's creation. And soon a small space for the little ones in our midst, a special place in remembrance of John Hepperlen. In this place there will be boulders to climb on, stepping stones to walk and plants to sniff. Come visit and if you like bring your gloves for there are always weeds to pull and flowers to plant!

The space is still there and has bloomed and flourished. Unfortunately some of the blooming and flourishing is unwanted. So I am looking for some folks who would like to help "control" all this greenery! Give me a call and we can meet and plan and plant and weed and smell and..... enjoy the wonders of God's creation!

Launa Tucker
952-935-1294



Love flowers and digging in the dirt?

Gardening season is fast approaching. If you love flowers and digging in the dirt, please join the "Garden Gnomes", as named by Amelia Kroeger, will meet again on Mondays from 9:30- 11:30 am.

Also if you are dividing your flowers and would like a happy place to replant them the Peace Garden has room! I am especially looking for some perennial geraniums/cranesbill, Baby's Breath, Bee Balm, coreopsis, bell flower, Oriental poppy or any other perennial you like or have on hand!

– Launa Tucker, 952-935-1294

Around St. David's





Couples Workshop

May 18th

An evening of tool talk for couples

Bishop Brian Prior and his wife Staci will be at St. David's on Wednesday evening, May 18th, to lead a workshop on marriage and the keys to making relationships work.

This has been a ministry that the two of them have embraced and offered to others over the years.

Who: Couples (both must attend)

When: Wednesday, May 18th

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM (following dinner which begins at 5:45 PM)

Where: St. David's Episcopal Church

13000 St Davids Road, Minnetonka

Undercroft



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