



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

April 2022

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This Changes Everything

A few years ago a guy in Texas won the Powerball lottery.

A trucker. An instant millionaire.

He'd bought the morning paper, took it home, and matched his ticket to the winning numbers while sitting at the kitchen table.

That's where he stayed. All morning. Speechless. Thinking: 'This changes everything' because no aspect of his life would be unaffected. Work. Family. Friends. Home. Possessions: 'This changes everything.'

Of course, his worries melted. No more mortgage, car leases, college loans.

And possibilities emerged, Mom's retirement center, a vacation home, kids' braces, dream car, invitations to the Governor's Ball: 'This changes everything.'

On Easter Sunday, you and I are invited into the very same euphoria.

We will witness this among the first to discover Jesus' empty tomb—as we too will stare into the wonder and mystery of the resurrection. After all Easter is simply God's assurance that we will never be alone, forgotten, or uncared for. Easter is the Almighty's writ large



statement that all things are possible through Christ. God can do it. Things will work out. We will be strengthened for our victories and comforted in our losses. Easter is better than any lottery win (after all, a somewhat substantial percentage of these folk eventually lose their money, marriages, and their souls as a result).

Easter is the day that God declares the depth of his love for us.

This is how much we're worth.

This is how much we're loved.

So this is how much we can love others.

On Easter, love wins.

Humanity wins.

Come to church, be with your family as we contemplate that supercharged notion that 'this changes everything.'

†Fr. Chris

Holy Week Schedule



April 10

Palm Sunday 8 am and 10 am

April 12

Holy Tuesday 8 am

April 14

Maundy Thursday 7 pm

April 15

Good Friday Prayer and Cross Giveaway 7 am –6 pm

Good Friday 12 noon and 7 pm

Good Friday for Children 3 pm

April 16

Holy Saturday 10 am

Easter Vigil 8 pm

April 17

Easter Sunday 8 am and 10 am

Holy Week with a Mini-Retreat

Holy Week Through Artists' Eyes

Saturday, April 9, 9 am–Noon

Join Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ for an inspiring and contemplative journey through Holy Week through the eyes of well known, and not so well-known artists. The retreat will feature visuals as well as explanatory and theological lectures. Fr. Fennessy is a Jesuit and experienced retreat leader from Manresa Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills.

The retreat is free and seats are limited. A \$10 donation would be appreciated. [Click here to sign up.](#) It will be held on Saturday, April 9, the day before Holy Week begins, from 9 am to noon in St. David's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 16200 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI.



Easter Egg Hunt, April 17

A joyful tradition, the Egg Hunt, is planned for our youngsters following our Easter morning worship service. In the spirit of the season, they will scour our lawn in search of the bright, colorful treasures. Be sure to join in the fun

Book Review

By Karen Robertson Henry

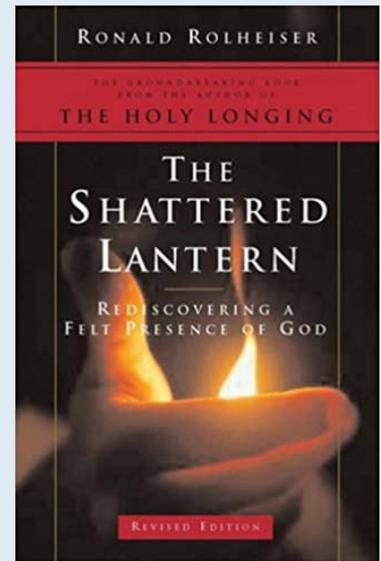
In his book *The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God*- Ronald Rolheiser talks about receptivity and gratitude—very pertinent to Our Year of Gratitude here at St; David’s. This is some of what he says-

To be a saint is to be motivated by gratitude, nothing more and nothing less... Gratitude is the root of all virtue. And we ask how do we live that in our daily lives? He recounts a true story of man in Africa on a hunting excursion who leaves camp on his own early one morning and unexpectedly bags several wild cranes. On his return to camp he is very uneasy, sensing that he is being followed and eventually stops and sees in the distance behind him a young boy, obviously starving. In response to the young boy’s need, he puts down the cranes and beckons for him to pick them up. The young boy runs up to the birds but inexplicably does not pick them up, seeming to be asking for something. The man keeps unsuccessfully trying to make him understand that he should pick up the birds. Eventually, the boy backs away from the birds and stretches out his hands waiting, until the man realizes what’s going on and places the birds in his hands. The boy, despite hunger, fear and intense need, refused to take the birds; he waited until they were given to him. (The moral of the tale?) To be a saint is never to take anything as owed, but to receive everything as a gift.

Rolheiser goes on to say that gratitude, like all virtues, is the result of discipline. It could be expressed thus—count your blessings. To become grateful he says, one must practice the “asceticism” of joy. The greatest compliment one can offer the giver of a gift is to thoroughly delight in [the] gift. We owe it to our creator to delight in the gift of life and creation. The first exercise we must do...is to work at receiving everything—life, food, drink, sexuality, beauty (everything) as a gift. Becoming a more grateful person is the first and the most important step in overcoming the practical atheism that besets our everyday lives. To the extent that we take life for granted we will never see the Giver behind the gift. But once we stop taking life for granted we will begin to feel it as a gift from God.

*Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.*

~Psalm 95:2



Happenings in Haiti

By Janet Ernst

March 2022



**Water
Purification System**



**Back courtyard of clinic.
Patients wait here for their
medications or to see the
dentist in /dental clinic at right.**



**Front entrance
and waiting area.**

The atmosphere in Haiti is still very troubling. The government, what remains, is not stable, inflation skyrockets, civil unrest, robbery and kidnappings are still occurring much too frequently. Our brothers and sisters in Mirebalais need our help more than ever!

Haiti Outreach Mission, the parent organization of our Haiti Outreach, has not been able to travel to Mirebalais since 2018 but we are keeping in touch with Fr. Jean Alphonse of St. Pierre Anglican Church and Fr. Romel Eustache of St. Louis Catholic church in Mirebalais.

Maintaining the water purification system that supplies clean drinking water at a fraction of the cost of other suppliers is imperative for the health of the people of Mirebalais. This month HOM sent \$1,687 for water system testing and repairs. We also sent \$3,000 to Fr. Romel for his Food and Rent programs,

The Medical/Dental Clinic notified us that the compressor of the dental instruments was no longer working which meant that our dentist was only able to do extractions. The generator for the clinic was also breaking down frequently. The clinic is dependent on the generator because consistent electrical power is nonexistent. The interior and exterior of the building was also in desperate need of painting. HOM sent \$8,500 to replace the generator and compressor, which they were able to obtain locally, and to paint the clinic.

We have been trying to find a way to get medications delivered to the clinic. The only shipping arrangements available are for the priest and physician to go to the customs office at the Port-au-Prince Airport. This is not a safe trip. They found a source of medications locally and were able to purchase them, at a much higher price than we would have paid in the US. HOM will send \$6,000 this month to pay for the medication.

Lastly, we mourn the death of Dr. Paul Farmer, (see photo on next page) founder of Partners in Health in Haiti. His work with the impoverished around the world cannot be overestimated. His untimely passing leaves a huge hole in the worlds of medicine and public health. I urge you to watch *Bending the Arc* (available on Netflix) a beautiful film about his work with people around the world.

Thank you for supporting St. David's work in Haiti.

Janet Ernst

Physician
Anthropologist
Humanitarian
Co-founder of
Partners in Health



In Memoriam

Dr. Paul Farmer

October 26, 1959 –
 February 21, 2022

Outreach for the Homeless

By Janet Ernst

We are starting a new project that will help the homeless AND help our environment at the same time! I hope that you can help us.

We are collecting clean, used plastic bags—the kind you get at the grocery store, Target etc. We then fold and cut the bags into loops, slip knot the loops together and wind it into a large ball—we have just created a ball of PLARN (plastic yarn).

We will give our plarn balls to a Women’s Group at St. John Armenian Church who are also working on this project. They will then be delivered to Motor City Mitten Mission where the plarn will be crocheted into sleeping mats for the homeless. The mats provide a bit of comfort for those who are sleeping on the streets, and it gives a secondary use for those plastic bags.

We are looking for help in making the plarn. Each plarn ball is 20 bags and each mat requires about 38 balls —that’s 720 bags!!

I have the bags and I have scissors plus directions. This is a simple project that can be done at home in front of the TV and benefit the homeless and our environment at the same time (it also keeps my hands busy and out of the M & M’s)!

I am starting a group which will meet at church, share a cup of coffee and fellowship while we create PLARN.

Would you help us? I can deliver materials to your home and give you a demonstration if you would like. I will also have materials available at church.

I hope to hear from you! For further information, please contact me at jernst1998@gmail.com or at 248-981-8851.

From trash to . . . sleeping mats for the homeless



Photo Gallery

By Joanne Sackett



Greeting each other on the first Sunday of Lent..



Dedicating our newly formed Healing Prayer Ministry.



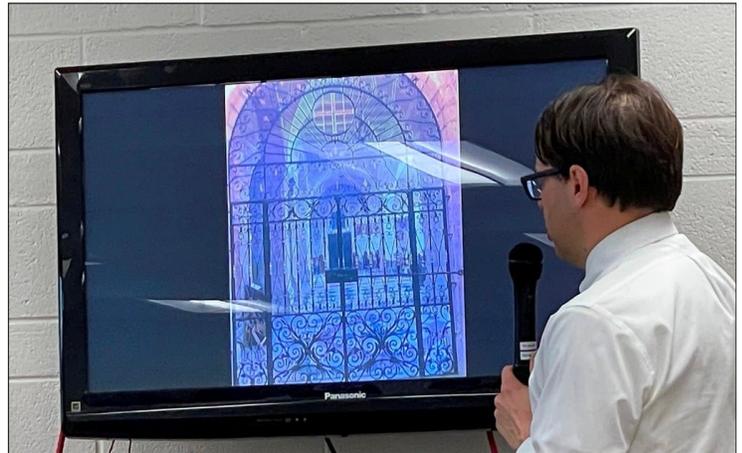
The cross is draped in purple for Lent.



Who better to listen to the sermon with than Grandpa?



Coffee hour is back!



A presentation on the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Easter Flowers

Help decorate our church for Easter. You may use the envelopes included in the Sunday bulletins to make your donations and designations for those you would like to remember. Your special remembrances will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Envelopes must be returned by Palm Sunday, April 10. Thank you.



Are You Interested in Joining Our New Healing Ministry?

Come Pray with Those Seeking Healing

Fr. Steve Bancroft is heading up a new ministry to pray for healing during our 10 am worship service. Parishioners who desire healing prayer proceed to the narthex following Communion where trained healing prayer team members will pray with you.

Are you interested in being on this prayer team? Contact the church office to sign up.

Ukrainian Fundraising Dinner April 29

We're Raising Money for Ukraine with an Authentic Meal in the Parish Hall

Come one, come all from 5-8pm on Friday, April 29 to the newly refurbished St. David's Parish Hall to raise money for Ukrainian refugees. Eat in or take out.

At present, we're looking for volunteers to help us plan and execute. Can you help?

Contact Mary Bensmiller at mary.bensmiller@gmail.com or Judy Walsh at judycwalsh@gmail.com

Help Us Make a Mother's Day Video!

We Want Your Pictures To Honor Mom
We're thanking God for moms this spring and want you to help.

Please email your favorite photo of mom (or someone who's been a mom to you) along with their name (and yours!) and one word you would use to describe them so we can put a video montage together for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8.

Email photos to Fr. Chris at:
chris@stdavidssf.org

New Ministry St. David's Kid's Club After School Tutoring

Can You Tutor a Student at St. David's This Spring?



We're launching a new ministry! Can you tutor an elementary student one day a week (Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 pm) beginning mid-April. in St. David's Parish Hall?

Our friends at Vandenburg Elementary say there's a huge need for one-on-one help as COVID really set lots of students behind. Vandenburg wants to begin mid-April. Can you help until June?

Contact Judy Walsh asap at judycwalsh@gmail.com or 248-837-5358.