



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

August 2022

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Welcome to Fall 2022 at St. David's!

I am so thankful for the ways our community is coming back together—even as the COVID threat, though lessened, has not yet disappeared :(

In this month's newsletter you'll get a preview of what's coming—along with the invitation to grow in Christ through worship, outreach, and love for all. Look for copies of our annual 'Getting Involved' and 'Happenings' booklets in upcoming days that will detail more.

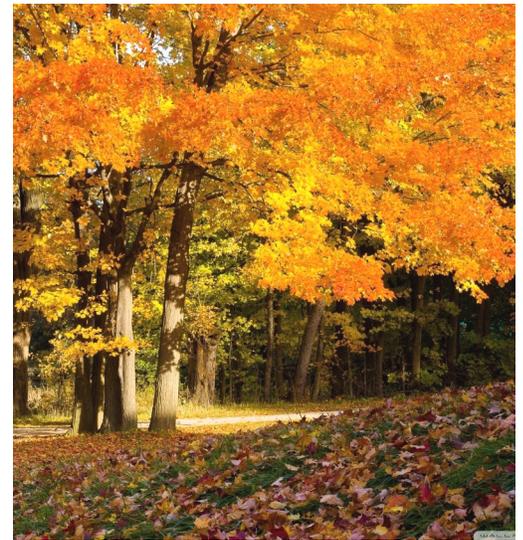
I am particularly excited about Jeanne Petersen and Maureen Mahar who have taken the reins of Church School Directors (please notice it took two people to replace Kitty Kenning. . .). They bring a wealth of experience and innovation to our program, which we are calling Saints in Action and will challenge our young people to get involved in actively helping those in need every Sunday through hands-on outreach activities.

You're also invited to brush up on our faith—by examining the Episcopal lens which we take to Christianity, by attending a six-week class called The Way of Love, from 9 to 9:45 am each

Sunday morning, beginning September 11.

I could go on with these offerings, but you can read them well enough. What you do need to know is how valuable you are—how much you mean to our community and to me, no matter how involved you may be. God is working through St. David's to guide, comfort, equip, and lead. May this program year be our best yet!

†Fr. Chris



The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

~ Isaiah 40:8

Just Around the Corner



September 4: Outdoor Worship, Gun Violence Exhibit Dedicated, and Backpacks Blessed

Join us on Sunday, September 4, when we will dedicate our Let There Be Light: An Interactive Exhibit on Gun Violence in Oakland County. We will be using our back lawn to help us visualize the breadth of gun violence in our county as we clothe this issue in prayer and contemplation. Also, on this day, we will have our final outdoor worship service of the year which will feature our always popular blessing of the backpacks.



September 4: Field Trip to the Motown Museum

Join us as we visit the newly refurbished tribute to Motown for an afternoon of informative fellowship and fun. Meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 pm, and we'll share rides and follow each other downtown Detroit. You can sign up by contacting the Church Office. Contact Audrey Humphrey for details 248-250-4048 for details.

September 9: St. Anne's Mead Family Fun Day

All are welcome to attend St. Mead's Family Fun Day happening Friday, September 9 from 5 to 7:00 pm. Event will include BBQ, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, inflatables and entertainment



September 11: Church School "Saints in Action" Kicks Off with an Ice Cream Social

Join us on Sunday, September 11 when we will officially kick off our church school for the year, Saints in Action. All young people in the church are invited to get to know each other over ice cream and all the toppings. So bring kids, grandkids, and your sweet tooth.

Kiddos' Reading Room Returns



Calling all kids and kids at heart! Our resident reader, Judy Walsh will kick off a new season of read aloud videos on **September 23, 2022** in the Kiddos' Reading Room. Videos can be accessed on our website under YouTube Channel or Kiddos' Reading Room tab. Please join us each week for a new picture book (ages 5-10) focusing on friendship, kindness, humor and understanding. Grab a pillow, stuffed animal or bowl of popcorn and settle in for some well-loved stories. Hope to see you there.



Congratulations 2022 Graduates



Dr. Ashley Renee Humphrey received her Ph.D. in Music from the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation title is: Take me Brown Girl. A Study of the Subjugation and Liberation of Black Women in Capoeira Song. Ashley just left a position as Assistant Dean of Admissions and International Student Recruiting at Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA. to accept a position at Syracuse University, in Syracuse, NY in International Admissions. Her career aspiration is to become a Provost or College President.



Nathan Nix in his own words: "I really enjoyed my 7 year career as an LPN. It was not easy but I learned plenty about helping others in very different ways. Now that I'm an RN, I plan to work at Beaumont Hospital as well as further my education. My ultimate goal is to become a DNP. I will be applying to an ADN-DNP program by next January with God's help."



David Awurum graduated from Walled Lake Central high school and will be attending the University of Michigan Dearborn this fall.

Dylan Smiley graduated from Oakland Early College, He will be entering the RN Nursing program at OCC.



Robin Rienstra, shown here in Fiddler on the Roof costume, is graduating from high school. Robin is taking a gap year and then planning to attend Arizona State University.

A Plea from Haiti

by Janet Ernst



Life has never been easy in Haiti but now it is dangerous to walk the streets in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas. Stories of violence, murder, fires, looting and violence against women and the most vulnerable are in the international news. Mirebalais, the town where our clinic is located and our church partners, Fr. Romel from St. Louis Catholic and Fr. Alphonse from St. Pierre Episcopal have their ministries, is seeing an influx of refugees seeking safety from the violence in Port-au-Prince.

Fr. Romel sent the email below asking for Haiti Outreach Mission's help in assisting these families with food, shelter and a means to become self-sufficient.

During the war of the gangs in Port au Prince that still makes people fear and where people are dying day after day, we keep receiving people in Mirebalais. I received the money HOM sent me to support some of them. However it was very difficult for me because of the quantity of people in need and who asked for support. I took time to choose the more vulnerable. Finally, at the end of June I made the decision to pay rent for 5 families and I gave money to 6 families who are welcoming other families from Croix-des-Bouquets to support them.

Now I am having great concern with a large family I am supporting. This family is a merged family with 3 heads. One head with 4 people, another one with 4 people and the third one with 6 people. That gives a total of 14 people. I give them some money from time to time but I cannot keep it. I took their kids to my schools. I am looking for tuition for them. I am trying to see how I can give them some money for little businesses. The husband of one family wants to raise chickens as a business. I am wondering how HOM could help me with this large family for renting, for tuition, for business and for chicken coop. I would like to make them independent. I have a lot of requests. Help me to take them case by case.

The situation is chaotic in Haiti. People are coming to the rectory to ask me as a priest to help them. It is a great suffering when I see the need for these people who are forced to leave their homes and sometimes even their jobs in Port au Prince and that I cannot help them. Please help me to open some doors for them.

Have a good night.

*Fr Romel Eustache, Pastor of Saint Louis
Mirebalais*

Haiti Outreach Mission has sent \$2,000 for immediate assistance.
If you feel that you can help, please make a donation at:

stdavidssf.org (select Haiti fund)

or directly to

Haiti Outreach Mission haitioutreachmission.com

HOM is a 501c3 organization.

Questions? Contact Janet Ernst, jernst1998@gmail.com,
248 981-8851

Haiti Outreach Mission Fundraiser

Please join Haiti Outreach Mission in their Second Annual Detroit River Dinner Cruise on the Detroit Diamond Belle to be held on September 24. The cruise will depart from the dock at Stroh's River Place (free parking) promptly at 6:30 pm. Your \$75 ticket includes a 2.5 hour river cruise, full buffet dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar for all beverages.

Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews will give an update on current conditions in Haiti and the work of HOM and answer your questions. Tickets are on sale now and payment must be received by **September 8**. If you can't attend, donations to Haiti Outreach Mission are always gratefully accepted. Please contact Mary Davis with any questions at 313-506-7049 or mary.davis@corpuschristi-detroit.org

A Memorial Reflection

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

IN MEMORIAM



As a young woman, my mother, a fervent Roman Catholic, worked as a maid for a wealthy Protestant family. The family believed in a severe unforgiving God, hard work and good behavior at all times, especially at funerals. Touching the corner of an eye with a handkerchief to dry away a tear, was considered excessive, inappropriate and non-Christian. Although my mother remained a fervent Catholic, she adopted the funeral customs of her betters, believing that they were more refined, more middle-class than our own.

My father was also a Catholic but not a very good one. His father died at thirty-eight, leaving his wife with a half cleared, almost sustainable farm, nine semi-civilized sons and a pile of bills. Three of my father's brothers died in childhood and so my father understood death and dying more than most young men. But for him and his buddies, a wake and a funeral was an opportunity to eat, drink whiskey and play poker for free, with only the occasional interruption for crying, keening and saying the rosary.

I find these two remarkably different standards confusing and I never know how to behave at a funeral and I am terrified that I will somehow blow this one. As we celebrate this most important funeral of my life, I would like to have the refinement and dignity of that wealthy Protestant family but I would like even more to keen and cry, drink whiskey and play poker with my friends and family.

Because of our Christian education, both Pam and I believe in the resurrection of the dead and the infinite mercy of a loving God. Because of this I am filled with hope and joy but at the same time I am overcome with grief and sorrow at the death of my wife.

All I know for sure is that when we had finished our goodbyes, I went to the nursing station and told them we were ready. Then they removed the tubes, bandages and machines that had so invaded my wife's body and the swelling receded, the planes of her face began to fall back into their proper place and she began to look like herself again. Then as the doctor announced the time of death, 7:05, I looked out the window and all at once I saw the most amazing sunlight, shining through the window and covering my wife's body in brightness.

Of course that part of the story is not true. The sun had been up for quite some time. I just never raised my head to see it. I like this version of the story better, for my wife had died in sunlight and not alone or with strangers but with me holding her hand and I am grateful for these small mercies.

I thank you all for coming today and I congratulate each of you for having the opportunity to know my wife. I thank my Godson, Sean, for reading these words that I was unable to speak. And I want to remind you that we are not here to mourn Pam but to celebrate her. And last of all, I forbid everyone, other than myself, to cry.

Gerald Patrick Maloney

Photo Gallery

By Joanne Sackett



Thank You, Kitty!
 In June, we celebrated Kitty's retirement from being our Church School director for over 37 years. Thank you for all your work and devotion!
 Kitty received a relaxation gift basket.



Making "Plarn"

Plarn is made by cutting plastic grocery bags into rings and looping them together in long strands like yarn. The plarn is rolled into balls and delivered to St. John Armenian Church where volunteers there crochet them into sleeping mats for the homeless.



Rita is serving the coffee.

A Day of Service at Crossroads Soup Kitchen



Volunteers preparing meals for the hungry.



The first Sunday of the month and it's time for an outdoor service.



Communion



Jake holds book as Fr Chris reads prayers.



It was so nice to see Delphine at the outdoor service.



The announcements can get a little corny at times, but it's all in fun.



We always enjoy Miles play the musical meditation.



Welcoming a new baby into St. David's family.

St. David's Episcopal Church

16200 W. 12 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48076-2959
248-557-5430

www.stdavidssf.org

*As every man hath received the gift, even
so minister the same one to another, as good
stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

~ I Peter 4:10

Connections Newsletter Contacts:

Fr Chris Yaw
Edna Buday
Lynne Zacharias

Learn and Grow

Join us Wednesday, September 7 for our traditional mid-week **Eucharist**. We used to gather on Tuesdays at 8a, but we are testing a change and inviting you to join us on Wednesdays at noon in the church or on Zoom. Midday Eucharists feature the 'saint of the day' as our themes. All are invited and welcome!

Sundays at 9:00 am: Learn the Episcopal Faith with *The Way of Love.*

Please join us in the Conference Room for our book study on *The Way of Love*. Ever been asked: "Hey sister, do you know Jesus?" Yes, Episcopalians do, and we do so through a wonderful lens. Beginning on September 11, join us for a this six-week book study of this practical and powerful book that examines the heart of our belief in Christ and the way we express it. Books are \$11 and available at church in August.

Racial Equity Movie Night September 23 at 7 pm: American History X

Can white supremacists change? This highly acclaimed film, starring Edward Norton and Stacey Keach, tells the story of two brothers who become indoctrinated with racist ideologies and the tension when one brother changes and the other does not. Get yourself a bowl of popcorn and join us in the St. David's zoom room at 7 pm on Friday, September 23. The film is rated R. *We'll Watch Together Via Zoom!*

Can You Help?

_____ **Food Pantry Volunteers** are needed right now for Monday and Wednesday morning shifts (9a-12n). Help us distribute food to the hungry in our neighborhood. Please see Mike Stutso or Fr. Chris.

_____ Our **Altar Guild** would love your help tending to sanctuary arrangements and decor. All are welcome, any age or gender. Contact Anne Jeannette LaSovage or Fr. Chris at chris@stdavidssf.org

_____ Make **sleeping mats** for the homeless. We use plastic bags to make Plarn (plastic yarn) which is made into mats (we are still collecting CLEAN plastic bags.) To volunteer or get more information contact: Janet Ernst, 248-981-8851, jernst1998@gmail.com

Join St. David's Handbell Choir this Fall



After a COVID hiatus, the St. David's Bell Choir will reconvene this fall. The Bell Choir is a long-standing St. David's tradition. Everyone is invited to participate, regardless of your level of experience. Contact parish musician George Cullinan for more information.

george@stdavidssf.org