



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

May 2024

Inside this issue

Senior and Junior Warden Reports	2
Springtime Memories (cover story cont'd)	3
Gun Destruction is Compassionate Love	4
New in the Pews	5
What is Truth	6
Music of Pentecost	7
Photo Gallery	8

Springtime Memories

By Cindy Weeder Rush

Petrichor—it's the term coined by scientists in 1964 to describe the unique, earthy smell of rain.

It may have been about that same year that the big kids on the block decided to go catch tadpoles or "pollywogs" at Most Farm. It had rained and I can still remember that wonderful smell and the feel of the dark, overcast spring day. It was the kind of gloomy day that you can just feel adventure hanging in the air.

Most Farm was no longer a farm. Sadly, it had fallen away to progress like so many other family farms in the area. However, it had not yet been developed so in the winter we slid down the small hills and skated on the natural ice ponds. Springtime was good for snake catchin' and pollywoggin'. Don't worry, the snakes were only garter snakes—and that part was left to the boys.

When my older sister announced she was heading off with the group, of course I wanted to go too. She quickly informed me I was not going because I was too little. "We'll see about that," I thought. I went to mom who was doing her work

as a beautician in the basement. Mom had always taught us that we were not to interrupt her when she was working but if we had to we were to 1) say excuse me, 2) say hello to Mrs. so and so, and 3) ask our question briefly and be gone. I told mom what the plan was and asked if I could go too. "Yes, you can go," she said. And so instructed my sister.



To say my sister was not pleased about being the only one who had to bring a younger sibling would definitely be an understatement. Looking back, I can't say that I blame her. But at the time I didn't see what all the fuss was about. She huffed about looking for an empty coffee can which she readily found. But just one.

"Where's mine?" I asked.

"There's only one. You can share mine." she said still huffing and puffing about the kitchen.

"I don't want to SHARE! I want my OWN" I demanded. So she grabbed the next best thing, according to her ten year old mind—an empty oatmeal box.

(continued on page 3)



Maureen Mahar
Senior Warden

Senior Warden's Report

The vestry has been focusing on our annual strategic plan during the first quarter of 2024. We have been working on creating a volunteer appreciation program for the parish and the team is almost finished. Any volunteer groups that have not provided volunteer lists are strongly encouraged to send these to Amy as soon as possible. We are looking forward to getting this program up and running as soon as possible.

Father Chris has also been working very hard to get the gun buyback and destruction operation underway. It is a complicated process to make sure every concern is addressed and an effective program is created. Look for the next buyback in June.

The Property commission has been working on getting the parking lot patched as well as revisiting our capital needs. Based on the surveys received, we are still focused on the kitchen, air conditioning and the parking lot as our first orders of business. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

As we approach our summer months, please stay tuned for more activities and feel free to approach any vestry member with questions or concerns. We are here to serve.

Thank you,
Maureen Mahar

Junior Warden's Report



Hampton Hanable, Jr.
Junior Warden

- For the last three weeks, the Vestry has requested our congregation to complete a survey concerning the completion of Capital Campaign remaining open projects. These were the remaining projects that could not be completed initially due to budget restraints. Some of the open projects are the kitchen remodel/overhaul, air conditioning, and parking lot repair/replacement. The survey's intention is to define the priority of these remaining capital property improvements. To date, the vestry has received 8 completed surveys not counting The Buzz eBulletin surveys.
- Just this week, the rear parking lot wooded area completed clean-up/clearing of the overgrowth and debris of fallen trees. This was in conjunction with St. Anne's Mead, who also had their area cleared. Costs will be split accordingly.
- The parking lot pothole repair bids are complete, and a contractor is selected. Repairs are scheduled for June unless St. Anne's permit is obtained sooner. The contractor will repave St. Anne's circular drive and, at the same time, fill the between-the-buildings potholes for a one-time construction trip. Costs will be split accordingly.
- Kitchen ovens, range, and overhead vent completed cleaning on April 14, 2024. The range appears to have a visible tilt to the left-hand side, but measurements show a 1-degree tilt. We are working to correct this issue.
- Kudos to Leonard Sackett for repair of the Altar Guild Closet PVC pipe hangers and for turning on the lawn sprinkler system.

Hampton Hanable, Jr.

Springtime Memories *(cont'd from pg 1)*

I went about getting myself dressed to go, putting on my raincoat and galoshes. Remember galoshes? Rubber boots that went over your shoes that had an elastic strap and button to hold them on. They were always rather clunky, especially when you're five years old with skinny bird legs.

Meeting up with the other kids, I had to run to keep up with the pack, my knees knocking as I tripped over my big boots. My face was very freckled then and I probably had my hair in pigtails—my coif of choice at the time. I can imagine I looked very Pippi Longstocking-esque as we headed up toward Main Street.

When we got to the pond I watched to see how this pollywogging was done. Everyone was concerned about getting their own catch, until one of the older girls took

pity on me and showed me what to do—and I got my very own pollywogs in my oatmeal box.

Before too long we headed back for home. As we walked I could feel the oatmeal box getting soggy and soggy. I started screaming that the water was disappearing and my box was falling apart until inevitably the bottom fell out and there went my 'wogs' all over the sidewalk. There I was with nothing but my empty oatmeal...tube. What made matters worse, was the older boys all laughed and laughed at my foreseeable predicament.

Little did I know at my young age that this incident would be a metaphor for future life "adventures." Yes, I've had the bottom fall out a few times since then. But thankfully, God was there tugging on my pigtails beckoning me to turn my gaze through the empty tube to the sky. And though I've been foolish again and again, he never laughed. Well....maybe just a little.

Happy Spring,
Cindy Weeder Rush

Rector's Message

Gun Destruction is Compassionate Love

We are planning this summer, a six-city tour of Metro Detroit, in which members of, and volunteers for, St. David's will be receiving and destroying firearms in church parking lots! It's an extension of the gun buybacks we've been doing for the last two years

These weapons are from our neighbors who don't want their guns anymore and don't know where to take them. We will be following all federal, state, and local laws—best practices in safety and liability. Our bishop has put us through a very stringent vetting process—and we're not doing something stupid—but the hope is to bless our community with peace of mind, friendship-making, and a touch of God's love through these actions.

So allow me to share with you why I think that gun destruction is an act of compassionate love—why what we are doing with unwanted weapons, is a way for us to love our neighbors.

As we all know the United States makes up 5% of the world's population, however it possesses 42% of the world's firearms. The U.S. manufactures one gun every

three seconds. Not only do Americans have a lot of guns, but we are acquiring them at a staggering rate. According to data from the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention (IFIP), U.S. citizens had approximately 200 million guns in the 1990s. Today, in 2024, that number is approximately 450 million guns. There are estimates that this count will leap to more than 520 million firearms by 2034. Ready access to firearms increases not only the suicide rate (Stanford University has found that female gun owners, for example, are 37 times more likely to take their lives with firearms than non-fire arm owners), but has helped firearms become the leading cause of death for children in the U.S. (of all the children killed in the world's 23 developed countries, 87% are American children). Also, criminals are always out to steal firearms as 52% of weapons used in crimes are stolen.

While there are no firm numbers on how many unwanted guns are in the U.S., UofM cites research indicating this is well into the millions, as guns are extremely durable items that tend to be passed along or gifted to people who may not want or care about weapons. This is the world we want to help. And this is why we help—

(continued on next page)

Rector's Message *(continued from page 3)*

Gun Destruction as an Act of Compassionate Love takes on three forms—

**First—the Love for our neighbor * We understand that when our neighbor can't sleep at night because they have a gun in the house they don't want—and they don't know who's going to take it— it causes them pain, worry, mental anguish. When these owners don't want their guns in circulation at all— what do you do? If they take it to a police department, Michigan state law says the police can do three things with unwanted weapons: keep them, sell them, or get them to the State Police for destruction. Our experience tells us that there are a lot of people who simply want their weapons destroyed, and that's who we're working to help. Gun destruction is an act of charity toward your neighbor who is anxious, worried, and concerned that they have no place to get rid of their unwanted weapon.*

**Second—our actions help us demonstrate our Love for community* When Jesus walked among us he shared a vision of a world of shalom—of peace. He told us to pray that God's world, would become our world—thy kingdom come, thy will be done—that the world that is, is not the world that ought to be. The world that ought to be does not have the amount of gun violence in it that we have. The world that ought to be does not have the amount of gun injury and death in it that we have. When we work for the world that ought to be, we do so not just for our benefit, but for the benefit of others— whose anxiety we lessen—and then whose peacefulness extends beyond them, making a more peaceful community. We bring down the anxiety of one, and we bring down the anxiety of the whole.*

**And third—our actions around gun destruction help us embody our Love for God* The fearful culture you and I inhabit tempts us greatly, to find our security, control, and protection in things other than God. It's why we obsess over having enough money, turn to drugs and alcohol, and—sadly— turn to guns. But the Bible is clear—in Psalm 20:7— 'Some put trust in chariots, and some in horses, but our trust is in the name of the LORD our God.' When we receive donated guns and destroy them, we push back against the idolatry of guns. We make a bold declaration that we trust not*

in firearms—not in money, politicians, power— or any human enterprise for our safety, provision, and protection, but we trust in God. This was the case for MLK Jr— this was the case for Jesus— this becomes our case too.

As you all know, we are a parish that, for years, has embraced our gifts of charity that have pointed us to hunger, homelessness, and Haiti—but after deadly shootings in Oxford, then Michigan State, we have followed the leading of the Spirit and our bishop—and been directed in new ways. We are being challenged to love others in this unique new way—by working toward gun safety in this unique, small corner of God's vineyard.

In years past it was easy for us to develop compassion for the victims of hunger, homelessness, and Haiti because we had, and still have, the hungry and homeless knocking on our doors. We still have parish members from Haiti—and remain invested in our partners at Haiti Outreach Mission—of which we are a charter member.

So how do we develop compassion for those who are victims of gun violence? To do so, we want to invite you to visit our new Compassion Corner for Gun Violence. It's in the Narthex, awaiting Your Prayer and Contemplation. We want to invite you to pay a visit there. It's been established to help mold us into more compassionate Christ followers we want to be. It's a small prayer corner in the Narthex, complete with a bulletin board giving us recent opportunities to pray for those affected by gun violence. Just as Jesus was moved by compassion to take action, we are looking to remind ourselves of the plights of the suffering to spur us to action.

Friends, the scripture is clear—our faith is clear—we are to be a people and a place of love. We are to help make the world that is, into the world that ought to be. Where no one who is hungry is without a meal. Where every homeless person can find a home. Where every elderly person has clean, safe, and proper care. Where no one who is sick is without health care. Where no one who wants to be educated, would be denied. Where our LBGTQ brothers and sisters can feel safe, accepted, and not discriminated. Let God's love inspire our love. Let us redeem love from dilution, kitschiness, and commodification. Let us follow Jesus' example of selfless, sacrificial, and servant-oriented love, for this is his command—that we love one another. †Fr . Chris

New in the Pews

by John Hawkes

According to newcomer Pat Hardy, “St. David’s is like a family gathering. Everybody feels like family.”

Pat discovered our church after she attended a memorial service for a resident from St. Anne’s Mead. She was impressed with the eulogy delivered by our rector. That motivated her to do some research and she was surprised at the result.

“I looked online and discovered that I knew Father Chris and the Yaw family,” Pat said. “My daughter Lisa went to the Academy of Sacred Heart for grade school and was the same age as Father Chris who went there as well.” (Father Chris then moved to Brother Rice for high school).

Pat began attending our 10am worship service in March. One of the first parishioners she met was Donald Walker and he had nothing but praise for our church.

“Everything Don said about St. David’s was true,” Pat said. “He spoke highly of its people, the welcoming spirit, and the whole atmosphere. I was warmly greeted by Father Chris as well.” She added, “I am very impressed with the activities and the outreach such as the food pantry and the support for Haiti that exists here. It is truly a welcoming parish.”

Pat has been married to her husband Tom, for 63 years. They were married at Mariner’s Church in Detroit. For five years, Pat was a junior high English teacher in the Southfield school district before becoming a stay-at-home mom. The Hardys have four daughters, Lisa, Lanie, Leslie and Liz and five grand-children, all of whom live locally. After living, first in Lathrup Village, then in Bloomfield Hills for 49 years, the couple moved to Birmingham in 2021. Earlier this year, Tom became a resident at St. Anne’s Mead, as he faces the challenges associated with Alzheimer’s disease. He is a retired attorney from the Birmingham based firm of Hardy, Lewis and Page.

Pat and Tom met when they were undergraduates at Eastern Michigan University. They were enrolled in the same philosophy class although Pat said that she sat in the front row, while Tom was in the back row. “One of his friends approached me to say that he was

interested in meeting me,” Pat recalled. “I told him to have Tom ask me himself.”



Pat and Tom Hardy

Pat described herself as being a community activist her entire life. She was involved in politics and fundraising for former U.S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg. For many years, she served as one of five members on the Bloomfield Hills City Commission. She was also a freelance writer for Bloomfield Living, a monthly publication.

Pat was baptized in the Catholic faith and received her first communion at ten years old. She was confirmed when she was 40 years of age. Pat admitted to being a non-practitioner for quite a while. However, a visit to St. David’s appears to have changed that.

“I like Father Steve and his sermons, too,” Pat said. “I also find the music to be very enriching and uplifting. A choir of about 10 people sounds like 150!” She added, “for people looking for a church, I tell them is that St. David’s is perfect for introspection and reflection.”

For now, Pat said that the number one priority in her life is in taking care of her husband. “His situation is filling a need in my life,” she said. “It’s time to be outside of myself and be present for whatever challenges we have. This church is helping me get through the most challenging time in my life. St. David’s came into my life at the right time.”

We welcome Pat Hardy to St. David’s.

“What is Truth?”

John 18:38

by Gerald Maloney

I am in my eighty-fifth year and in that long period of time I have done a bit of sinning. Now if you are expecting that I am ready to give you a list, you will be highly disappointed. Partially because it is none of your business and partially because at my age I do not remember where I put my car keys, much less my bad behavior during eight decades plus.

I have worked out an agreement with God. If I do not remember my sins then He won't either. I should be using my time preparing to go to heaven and enjoy what mystics call the Beatific Vision. (Frankly it doesn't sound all that exciting but as the Pope said, “Who am I am I to judge”.)

There is, however, a sin that I do remember well. It is the sin of a somewhat older man who never thought of committing such a sin until he was into his dotage and, of course, the sinner is me. I should not be thinking of such things but preparing myself to enter heaven and enjoy what mystics call the Beatific Vision. (Frankly, it does not sound all that interesting but as the Pope said “Who am I to judge”). It is the sin of vanity.

When I was younger, I had nothing to be vain about. (Perhaps I should say “...nothing about which to be vain.”). My wicked older sister told me that as a baby I was so fat that I was as tall laying down as standing

up. As an adolescent I was renowned for my pimples and blackheads, and I walked like a fat kid with flat feet. As an adult and a priest, I was admired by older religious women for the obvious humility of my appearance. People walking toward me would often cross themselves and than cross the street



Before I was in my middle aged years, I had three spinal surgeries, two broken knees, a broken clavicle, two other surgeries I cannot quite remember, two cancer surgeries, chemotherapy, two or three other therapies for something or another and I wore glasses as thick as the bottom of a coke bottle.

Then all at once everything changed. My whole world turned upside down. I was no longer the object of pity or scorn. Dare I say it, but I was now an object of envy, jealousy and even hate. People attempted to emulate me but knew they could never measure up.

And what was it? It was my hair! A long pure-white, full, thick healthy head of hair. Both men and women were overcome with jealousy. My hair is so luxuriant that it might be prudent to shave it all off for fear that God, Himself may become jealous and strike me dead.

I am somewhat saddened that Fred McEvoy, Paul Frendo, Ray Hillen, and the other guys in the class of 1957 cannot see me now. Then there was Annette, Janette and Paulette whom I could never have had the nerve to approach. But if anyone of them is still alive, they would certainly be admiring me now.

Last week as I was reading the paper, I came upon the obituary of a high school classmate, the most popular boy in the school. He was captain of the football team, lettered in all three sports, homecoming king, graduated with a 4.0, won a football scholarship and there he was in the obits, dead as a doornail.

Not only is the poor guy dead but even worse, his picture is in the paper. Bald as a billiard ball. Looks like he weighs 350 pounds easy, no teeth, and it seems he has spent his golden years as a burger flipper at McDonalds. Now it is not overly Christian to rejoice at the misfortunes of others. However, he used to call me lard ass, pimple face and a few other names I would just as soon not mention, and he loudly discussed my personal hygiene in front of the whole class. I think I should be able to gloat a bit, especially because he is dead and I am alive.

But hold on—things might not be as good as I think. Significant changes are taking place even as I write. I am noticing some white strands of hair in my hairbrush. There is a slightly yellowish tint to my hair and it may not be quite as thick and full as it was last week. Why is this happening? Are my glory days coming to an end? The best answer I can come up with is what we used to say in the 1960s, “That’s the way the cookie crumbles.” Or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say, “*Sic transit gloria mundi.*”¹ And if that is not true, nothing is.

Gerald Patrick Maloney
St. Mary’s of Redford . Class of 1957

¹*Thus passes the glory of the world.* From the ritual for a papal coronation.

Note: Most of you are unaware that I am Irish and I consider it my duty to inform you about one of the quirks common to Irish people. When we have the opportunity to tell a true story or an interesting one, we will inevitably select the interesting one. If the interesting story happens to be funny, there will not even be a pause.

Having a whole group of people whose stories might be true or might not be true can be a disadvantage. This deficit, however, is more than covered by our charm and wit. It is up to you the listener to decide what is true and what is false. I would like you to know that any negatives about me in this story are totally false. The good things, however, are true.

A Reflection for Pentecost

Attributed to St. Teresa of Avila



Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks
to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He
blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but
yours.

The Music of Pentecost at the Connection Hour—May 26

The feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, is an important occasion, and is considered to be the birthday of the Christian Church. At that time, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, endowing them with special gifts, to enable them to spread the Gospel. From that time forward, each Christian has, at the time of Confirmation, received the Holy Spirit, to enable us to live, think and believe with the mind of Christ.



How do we recognize the Holy Spirit in our lives? How can we express what the Spirit’s gifts have made possible in us?

Throughout the ages, one answer has been through the Church’s Music of Pentecost. Using both sound and language, believers have expressed their experience of the Holy Spirit, in both practical and, sometimes, mystical forms. Come join us after the 10:00 am service on Sunday, May 26, to explore and experience the Music of Pentecost.

Alfred Eppens

Photo Gallery—A Look Back

by Joanne Sackett

Connection Hour Programming



Guest speaker, Angela Verges, explains the many activities and programs available to seniors through the City of Southfield, Parks and Recreation Dept.

Hilton Napoleon, a former Detroit Police Officer and Chief of Police in Highland Park and Inkster tells us about his experiences and his book, *A Badge, A Gun, But No God*.



Our own Lisa Smoots tells us about her work helping students get the encouragement they need to excel in school



Janet brought in a loom to weave a plarn sleeping mat for the homeless. All of the planners took a turn at weaving and after a few weeks, a mat was completed.



Planning has begun again to get the kitchen remodeled. Joanne and Janet are checking out the plans



Some of our quilters completed lap quilts. Fr. Chris blessed them and they were delivered to a few of our shut-ins.



Hampton and Debra spent some worship time with folks at the Detroit Rescue Mission.



Fr. Chris is planning more gun chop events and is getting national attention. A crew from the Daily Show including Desi Lydic came to the Sackett's garage to film a practice chopping session. Keep your eye out to see it on Comedy Central.





Sean, Jennifer and Cindy helped collect suggestions for ways to make Fr Chris' sabbatical an extra positive event for all of us.



It was so nice to see Norma Yuille in church today



A few St. David's parishioners gathered on the back lawn for eclipse watching and everyone had a front row seat. As the sky darkened, the church's spot lights came on..



Several parishioners enjoyed supper and dueling pianos at one of "Ladies' Night Out" events



Confirmation candidates had salt sprinkled on their tongues.

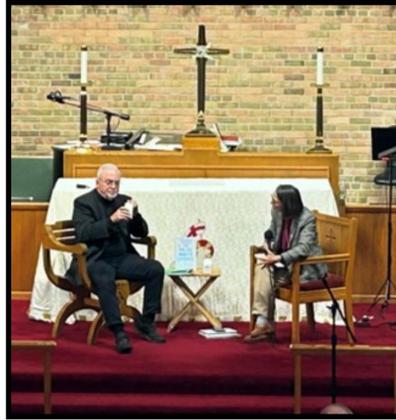


Katie sings a beautiful hymn for the prelude.



**Meet Author
Jim Wallis**

On May 9, a sold-out crowd enjoyed a traditional Haitian dinner in support of the Haiti Outreach Mission. They then moved into the Sanctuary to hear American theologian, teacher and writer, Jim Wallis interviewed by Bishop Bonnie Perry about his latest book *The False White Gospel*.



photos by Felicity Thompson



Bishop Perry's Visitation—May 12, 2024

It was a glorious Sunday morning when Bishop Bonnie Perry came to St. David's to confirm and to receive: Confirmed were Jared Barnett, Nathan Rienstra, Ben Epstein, Kelly Bennet, Ethan Oliver, and Jeremy Smiley. Received into this communion were Steve Rienstra and Jessica Rienstra. Reaffirming her baptismal vows was Samantha Whitehouse.



Pentecost Sunday—May 19

Hearing of the Gift of the Holy Spirit at our Pentecost Pageant.



Arts Alive—May 19

Enjoying the fellowship and beautiful displays of artwork brought to us by our talented artists—woodworkers, painters, quilters, photographers, needleworkers and more. Thanks to all who shared and attended.



St. David's Episcopal Church

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

www.stdavidssf.org

Connections Newsletter Contacts

Fr Chris Yaw

Edna Buday

Amy Prather

Berkley Pride Block Party Sunday June 23, 1-5pm

St. David's will be setting up a tent at the Berkley Pride Block Party this summer! Our goal is to welcome those to our St. David's Community.

If you feel called to join us and share our welcoming spirit, please contact Fr Chris or Amy in the church office.



Our Prayer Team Is Here for You *Your Church Seeks Your Petitions*

Let us take our prayer requests to the Lord and let your faith family help. Contact the church office with your prayer request or take it to our Prayer Team, which meets in the Narthex during the 10am Sunday service and is available following Holy Communion. The Team can pray for you or others. They can write down your petition, it will go on our online prayer list as well. Prayer changes things!

Serving at Crossroads! June 9

Save the date! We will need volunteers to help feed the hungry at Crossroads.

Watch for a signup sheet at the Ministry Hub as the date nears. Contact Gamble (313) 320-1738 if you have any questions about this ministry.

It's Summer— Outdoor Worship is Back

Our 10am worship services will be held outdoors on our back lawn on the first Sunday of the month in June, July, August and September.



Bring your lawn chairs and join us for the worship service on **June 2**, and the Annual Parish Picnic immediately following the service. Meat will be provided—please sign up at the Ministry Hub to bring a side dish to share.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Join Us for Fellowship and Spiritual Conversation

All men of the church are invited to join in the fellowship of our monthly Men's Breakfast! It's at **9am on Saturday, June 1** at the Country Oven on 12 Mile (just east of Greenfield). Come meet new and old friends. You can sign up at the Ministry Hub in the Atrium or by contacting the church office.



New Building Projects Coming: Support Loose Change Sunday! June 30

Bring Your Loose Change! In keeping with a long-time tradition, we're inviting you to bring your loose change to church once a quarter as we continue to build for the future. We'll put these funds into our building fund as we continue to care for our campus in life-giving ways. Thank you for being such generous people!

Newsletter Delivery

Connections is published on a quarterly basis with digital copies of the newsletter e-mailed to you in February, May, August and November. It is also available online at St. David's website: www.stdavidssf.org (select Media, then Newsletters.) Paper copies will be mailed **ONLY** to parishioners who request them. To request a mailed paper copy, please contact Amy Prather at (248) 557-5430 or amy@stdavidssf.org.