

SAINT DAVID'S

# *Visions*



*Mission Statement: As a visible symbol of God's presence in the world, St. David's Church is a welcoming and diverse community of disciples, actively serving Christ in one another and all those beyond our doors*

**DECEMBER 2009**

The Right Reverend Mark M. Beckwith  
with great joy

will ordain to  
the Sacred Order of Priests  
The Rev. Dr. Shane Margaret Phelan

Saturday, December 12, 2009  
10:00 am

St. David's Episcopal Church  
91 Kinnelon Road  
Kinnelon, New Jersey

Your prayers and presence are requested  
Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Community Food Bank  
RSVP by December 5

973-838-6696 or [martha.ridsdale@stdavidskinnelon.org](mailto:martha.ridsdale@stdavidskinnelon.org)



# From the Rector

## Signs of Endings All Around Us

*Signs of endings all around us darkness, death and winter days shroud our lives in fear and sadness, numbing mouths that long to praise. Come, O Christ, and dwell among us! Hear our cries, come set us free. Give us hope and faith and gladness. Show us what there yet can be.*

*Can it be that from our endings, new beginnings you create? Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them into hopes for life anew: fading light and dying season sing their Glorias to you.*

*Speak of God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill. Swell our hearts with songs of gladness, terrors calm forebodings still. Let your promised realm of justice blossom now throughout the earth; your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.*

This evocative text by Dean Belson brings that apocalyptic passage from Luke (21:25-36) to life in a new guise by connecting the terror of cosmic signs to the paralysis and despair of our ongoing economic calamities. What makes the text work so well is its psalm-like ability to turn our despair into hope, to turn the lament into the Advent cry of “Come and dwell among us.”

As we enter the season of Advent “coming” may we patiently prepare once again for Christmas “dwelling” - that God is taking our fears and turning them into hopes for life anew; showing us what there yet can be.

Together with you in Christ’s ministry,

David+

## Shane’s Ordination: Our First 50th Anniversary Event

Preparations are moving along for Shane’s priestly ordination at St. David’s on Saturday, December 12, at 10 am. This will be our first event that celebrates our 50th year as a congregation.

I can think of no better way to begin marking our golden year anniversary than to publicly affirm God’s call and the Church’s ordination of Shane Margaret Phelan as a priest in Christ’s church.

I hope you will make every effort to be in attendance. It will be an amazingly solemn celebration, not only of Shane, but of the whole church of which St. David’s has been an integral part for these last 50 years.

## Average Attendance

November 2008

77

November 2009

84

# Notes from Sister Shane

We at St. David's have been blessed in so many ways. In December we extend ourselves to help those who have to work harder to count their blessings.

This year we have a special opportunity to make Christmas possible for a needy family. I have recently met a family in Branchville, NJ, high in Sussex County. The father, Jeffrey Basset, lost his job as a printer in June. In July their 8-year-old son, also Jeffrey, was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. He needs six shots every day to stabilize his blood sugar. Between insurance and the cost of medication, Jeffrey's illness has taxed this family to their limit. But they are not giving up. Jeffrey Jr. walked for diabetes in Sussex County and raised \$1700 for research.

I am asking you all to join me in making Christmas possible for the Bassets. The children have wish lists and I have placed their requests on our Giving Tree. I hope that you will make a wish come true. We have a basket for their gifts by the tree. We will also send them food cards for Christmas dinner.

We have a Giving Tree for Food Pantry families from November 22 through December 6. Purchase a gift card for Target or Wal-Mart, put it in a plain white envelope, and hang it on our tree. Gifts will be accepted after December 6, but they may not make it to families in time for Christmas.

On December 6 we will have a table featuring catalogs from Episcopal Relief and Development. What you purchase will be given to a needy child or community. It may be a flock of chickens; it may be a mosquito net, to prevent malaria; it may be vitamins. You choose. You will receive a card to send to your loved one, to let them know that they are part of the larger circle of love. Catalogs will be available at any time in my box at church.

We also continue our outreach to the local community. The North Porch shelter boxes will be in the narthex until December 13. Infants need baby food, cereal, crib blankets, disposable diapers, baby toiletries, and food coupons. Wrapped presents for older siblings should specify size, gender, and age of the recipient.

Presents for women and children through Strengthen Our Sisters should include size and gender and be wrapped. These will be delivered the week of December 13. Thanks to Stacey Ferraro for taking on our outreach to North Porch and Strengthen Our Sisters.

I know this is a lot. There is so much need in our world. Any bit you can contribute will make such a difference to a child or a family in need.

Our final ingathering for all gifts will be on Sunday, December 13. Thank you for your gifts!



# Celebrate!

Our own Deacon Shane will be ordained and hereafter be known as The Reverend Shane on Saturday, December 12th, AT ST. DAVID'S. Yes, we are honored by two decisions. Shane chose to hold the ordination at St. David's. And, our own Bishop, The Right Reverend Mark Beckwith, will visit us to officiate at the service (which will begin promptly at **10:00 am**).

The service will be attended by many, including numerous clergy from throughout the diocese, friends and associates of Shane as well as members of the congregations of The Church of the Redeemer and St. David's. A standing-room-only crowd is expected, so you are advised to come early to assure yourself of a seat. A reception in the parish hall will follow the service.

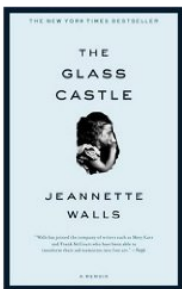
This will be the first time in the nearly fifty year history of St. David's that an ordination service is being celebrated here. We are thankful for the time Sister/Deacon/STB (soon-to-be) Reverend Shane has been with us and most honored that she has chosen our church for the ordination service.

**“An Invitation to Spirituality For the Many Who Don't Think They are Spiritual”: An Advent Book Study with our Bishop and Diocese:** In conjunction with Bishop Mark Beckwith, David, our rector and others in the diocese, you are invited to join an Advent Book Study Group. The St. David's participants will meet on the 4 Sundays of Advent (beginning November 29) from 9:15 am to 10 am in the large skylight room to discuss the book in sections. Discussion online with the bishop and others is an option.

The book is called “Wisdom Distilled From the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today” by Joan Chittister. It is “an invitation to spirituality for the many who don't think they are ‘spiritual’—but far more than an invitation, a lengthy wisdom-filled conversation.” – Eugene Peterson, translator of *The Message*.

The author is a member and former prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie and the founder and current executive director of Benetvision, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality. She has authored forty books.

To register, simply reply to Martha Ridsdale at [martha.ridsdale@stdavidskinnelon.org](mailto:martha.ridsdale@stdavidskinnelon.org) or phone her at the parish office: 973-838-6696. You can order your book from your favorite online book dealer or see David who has four extra copies – cost is \$10. What a deal!



## READERS CIRCLE BOOK GROUP

December 7th Book Selection

**The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls**

**St. David's Skylight Room, 7:30 pm**

Growing up with parents whose non-conformity was a curse and a salvation, four children wandered like nomads through the Southwest. As time went on, dysfunction increased until the children had to learn to fend for themselves and support each other. *THE GLASS CASTLE* is a true story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family with profound flaws. Please join us as Chris Snyder leads the discussion on December 7th. All are welcome. Please note that the Readers Circle will not meet in January. Anthony Molee will lead the discussion of *TIME AND AGAIN*, by Jack Finney, on February 1.



**THE ADVENT WREATH**, made by Polly Barker and magnificent as always, is given in memory of James and Eula Whitehead and Harry Sr. and Myra Barker. It was hung in place for Advent I, November 29.

## Outreach

**AGAIN THIS YEAR** the offering collected through the special Christmas envelopes included with pledge envelopes has been designated for our various outreach programs. The Vestry is sending Christmas greetings to those on their lists and included will be a special envelope for those who do not have pledge ones, so everyone will have the opportunity to make a special gift.

**THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES** for contributions toward the Christmas decorations will be in the pews on November 29, December 6 and 13. This year you can again contribute to special instrumental music on Christmas Eve as well! On the check memo line indicate to which you are giving and the amount. Both memorials and thank offerings are appropriate - just be sure to clearly write the first and last names on the envelopes. They will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. The deadline is December 14!



## *Carol Sing*

**DO YOU MISS** all the beautiful Christmas carols during the church's short Christmas season? Here's your chance! Come to the 10:15 Service on December 27 and the coffee hour afterward, gathering around the piano and singing to your heart's content.

**TO ENHANCE** your observance of Advent and Christmas, there are seasonal pamphlets in the narthex tract rack. Help yourself!

**U.T.O.** **THE UNITED THANK OFFERING INGATHERING** will take place the end of January. If you don't have a box and want one during this special season of giving, they are also in the tract rack.



# DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer	<b>2</b> 11:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Lunch and Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih <b>Advent Lecture Series</b> 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	<b>3</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  7:30 pm Stewardship Commission	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:00 am Chalice Bearer & Acolyte Training with Lunch
<b>6</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Coffee Minute 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am Advent Book Study 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Potluck Brunch/Alternative Gift Fair	<b>7</b> <b>Budget Materials Out to Parish</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  5:15 pm Meditation Group  7:30 pm Book Group	<b>8</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer	<b>9</b> 11:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Lunch and Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 5:00 pm Rector & Wardens Meeting <b>Advent Lecture Series</b> 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	<b>10</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Sister Shane's Ordination
<b>13</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Coffee Minute 9:15 am Advent Book Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Merry Heart 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist/ Christmas Outreach  11:30 am Ingathering Coffee Hour 11:45 am Budget Forum	<b>14</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  5:15 pm Meditation Group  7:30 pm Women's Group	<b>15</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  5:00 pm St. Paul's Shelter	<b>16</b> 11:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Lunch and Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih <b>Advent Lecture Series</b> 6:15 pm Simple Soup Supper 7:00 pm Eucharist 7:30 - 9 pm Lecture	<b>17</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Coffee Minute 9:15 am Advent Book Study 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour Martha's Recognition	<b>21</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  5:15 pm Meditation Group  7:30 pm Men's Group	<b>22</b> 12:15 pm Noontday Prayer  3:00 pm Holy Eucharist Service at Cedar Crest	<b>23</b> 11:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Lunch and Bible Study  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	<b>24</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  4:30 & 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Services	<b>25</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  10:00 am Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Coffee Minute 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Holy Eucharist/ Church 11:30 am Coffee Hour/Carol Sing	<b>28</b> <b>CHRISTMAS - Red Team</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Coffee Minute 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Holy Eucharist/ Church	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Lunch and Bible Study  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	<b>31</b>		

# St. David's Leadership Team

*Empowering all our members to build bridges of hope with the living Christ through worship, spiritual formation, hospitality and outreach.*

**Bishop:** *The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith*  
**Rector:** *The Rev. David J. DeSmith*  
**Deacon:** *The Rev. Shane Margaret Phelan, CSJB*  
**Senior Warden:** *Linda O'Connor*  
**Junior Warden:** *Caroline Mossip*  
**Vestry:** *Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer)*  
*Nancy Ward (Clerk)*  
*Brian Bussey*  
*Nancy Hammaker*  
*Steve Kent*  
*Christine Rudolphi*  
*Marty Stanton*

**Staff:** *Martha Ridsdale*  
*Dr. Susan McAdoo*  
*Terry Armstrong*  
*Mary-Esther Arther*

Parish Administrator  
Music Director  
Sexton  
Vision's Editor

*St. David's is a sponsoring congregation of The Oasis, the outreach ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Newark to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.*

*St. David's is a member of Greenfaith: Interfaith Partner in Action for the Earth.*

