

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

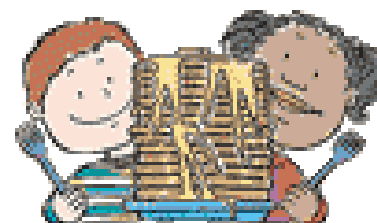
FEBRUARY 2009



Mardi Gras
Sunday, February 22
FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Tuesday, February 24

SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 25

Celebrate!

St. David's Day!
Sunday, March 1

ALL THE DETAILS ARE INSIDE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



From the Rector The Point of Religion

As we eventually wrap up our Epiphany season this month (re-discovering our call to be Light-bearers for Christ), and begin Lent (re-discovering why we are more like dim bulbs), I

thought it would be helpful to offer some ideas about the point of religion. I've mentioned some of this before in a few sermons. Also, I try to make it a point to discuss this with our newcomers when we begin to talk about our commitment to God and each other.

Let's skip even the chase and cut to the rest: the point of religion is union with God. If that sounds high-flown or philosophical, stick with me. The point of being human, the point of being alive is to be one with God who continues to create us, who breathes 20,000 times a day into our nostrils and sustains our life, and who seek our highest joy, pleasure and fulfillment. Who wouldn't want that!

Well, all of us, it turns out. It's the craziest thing, but what we call "sin" is this universal human tendency to reject union with God, the one who made us and knows us inside and out, who seeks only our highest good. Sin is whatever makes us neglect-if not reject-that ultimate life and choose instead our own puny, self-serving life.

In fact, religion is a universal phenomenon because it offers a remedy for this universal human condition - namely, that in our most natural state we behave much estranged from God, from each other and from our own lives. See what I mean? Left to our own devices, we just seem to walk away from all that is precious and eternal, and choose instead a shallow life or false smiles and hollow promises.

You know what I am talking about. *Why am I not happy-since I have everything I want?* We look at people who live destructive lives, hurting others -the very people they say they love- and ultimately doing things that are self-destructive. No one can say why we do this. That metaphysical question has always called forth religion-a word that come from *re* and *ligio*, meaning "to bind again" - to bring humanity back into wholeness, fulfillment and unity.

Because men and women have wrestled with this challenge for centuries, there has developed a classic three-fold path that has been the historic foundation of western Christianity.

The three parts are purging of the ego, illumination of the heart and union with God, self and others. I'll not go into detail here about each one. By our very existence we already know a bit about these.

To make us right with God, we need to practice the daily disciplines of purging our egos and illumining our hearts. We need to be accountable to other pilgrims in a community of faith and action. That kind of spiritual practice, day in and day out, year after year, will gradually conform our wills to the will of God. In spite of our old selves, and without knowing quite how we got there, we find ourselves walking in union with God. That is the point of religion.

Together with you in Christ's ministry,

David+

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

Paul Sansone, our Biblical Scholar-in-Residence, will be returning during Lent. His lecture series will continue the study of Mark's Gospel that was begun during Advent. Appropriate for Lent and Easter, the program will focus on Christ's passion, crucifixion and resurrection.

The series will be held on the five Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning on March 4. The schedule is as follows:

6:15 pm - Simple Soup Supper - Parish Hall

7:00 pm - The Holy Eucharist - Library

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm - Library

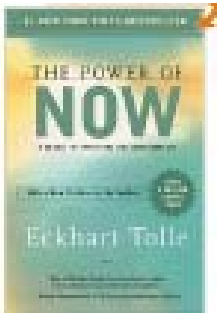
Please register by e-mailing or calling the church office. Registrants are invited to offer a soup, salad, bread or beverage for a specific session when registering. Thank you.

FAMILY COMMUNION PROGRAM

During Lent the Rector will lead a four-session communion program for children and their parents. Each session will be held on Sunday after the second service for 45 minutes, beginning March 8. Since there will be some reading involved, children in grades 2 and older are invited to participate. Each session will cover a specific portion of our Holy Communion service. Special recognition for the children involved will be offered on April 19, the Sunday after Easter Day.

Please register by e-mailing or calling the church office.

READERS CIRCLE BOOK GROUP



Deep within every being is our innermost, invisible and indestructible essence, our true nature. Eckhart Tolle, the author of *THE POWER OF NOW*, gives a simple message: living in the *now* is the truest path to happiness and enlightenment. What does this mean? Tolle takes readers on an inspiring spiritual journey to find their true and deepest self and reach the ultimate in personal growth and spirituality. Join the Readers Circle on March 2nd, to explore Tolle's message about what "living in the now" means in your life. The Circle meets every month on the first Monday, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, in the large skylight room.

We Need YOU as additional acolytes for all the worship teams - any age from grade 5 to adult. Acolytes serve at the altar during Communion and some training is required. Interested? Contact the rector or any team captain (Pat Crane, Kathy Kent, John Simonelli). A training session will be held on Saturday, February 7, at 11:00 am, in the church. Lunch will be provided. E-mail or call the church whether or not you are attending.

PLANNING RETREAT

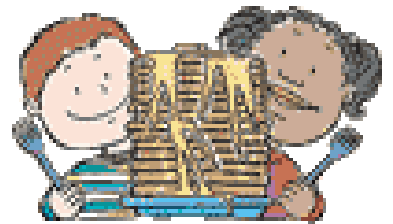
THE ANNUAL RETREAT DAY of the rector, wardens, and vestry will be on Saturday, February 21. Please pray for a fruitful day for your leadership team.



COME ONE, COME ALL to the Fourth Annual Mardi Gras Party on Sunday, the 22nd, at 11:30 am! Food, fun and favors aplenty. Invite your family, neighbors, friends and not so friendly. Jambalaya, Rice n Beans, gumbo and mac and cheese for the less adventurous. We supply both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage. There will be a Piñata for the children. A goodwill offering is encouraged but certainly not required. Volunteers are needed to cook rice and beans at home, bring dessert, decorate Saturday afternoon and clean up following the event. Please sign up in the narthex or use the form in the Sunday bulletins. You may also contact Pat Crane (973-838-5740) or John

Simonelli (973-492-0284) or send an email to martha.ridsdale@stdavidskinnelon.org to sign up. **Sign up deadline is Sunday, February 15th.** Don't be left out!

ONCE AGAIN OUR YOUTH with those from the Reformed Church will host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 24, 5:00-7:00 pm. Cost? \$6 for adults; \$3 for children under 12. Tickets will be on sale after both Sunday Services and in the office. Come and enjoy the fellowship while supporting the youth as they raise money for their R.I.S.E. summer mission trip! Since this is such a special project, there will be donation envelopes in the Sunday bulletins.



ASH WEDNESDAY

THE SERVICES on February 25 will be at 10:00 am and 7:30 pm. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the evening service.

FROM SISTER SHANE

Has it really been a month since Christmas already? So much has happened! For me the highlight was taking the General Ordination Exams January 5-9. The exams cover seven areas: Church History, Theology, Scripture, Contemporary Society, Liturgy, Christian Ethics, and the Theory and Practice of Ministry. I think I did fine, but I'll get the results in early February. Thank you so much for your prayers and notes - I felt very loved and supported. I'll keep you posted!

Immediately after the exams I spend five days in silent retreat. My community does this every year. One of the things that came out of that time for me is a real desire to renew Bible study at St. David's and to spend more time with all of you. So hear ye, hear ye:

Come to the table, all you who are hungry and thirsty! Come for Eucharist, come for lunch, come for nourishing conversation. Starting on **Wednesday, January 28**, I will be at St. David's on Wednesdays from 10 to 3. I'll make soup in our kitchen. At 11:30 am we will have a simple Eucharist, followed by a simple lunch and reflection on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. But don't think "study"; think "experience." Come chew on the word of God. Or if you can't make lunch, but want to stop by for coffee, I'll be around.

I also want to start the Women's Group again. Last year Monday seemed to work, but I couldn't be there. This year I can. So I hereby call a meeting for **Monday, February 9, at 7:30 pm**, to see if others share my desire. Bring a snack or a soda.

And don't forget - the holidays are over, but the need continues! Think of your neighbors when you shop. A bag of beans or dried soup mix go a long way. Whatever you like for lunch is likely to please someone else as well. Thanks!

YOUTH GROUP

THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP is up and running again! They will meet in the Youth Room every other Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. All of our church youth and friends from grades 9 -12 are invited to join. Youth who are 16 years or older will be able to be confirmed in June if they participate regularly in Youth Group. Contact David DeSmith for further details.

Men's Group



The Men's Group met on January 19th to hear Jessica Chipkin speak on human organ transplantation. Jessica is a young Kinnelon resident who, during her fourth year of college, became ill. Thanks to immediate intervention by local doctors and Chilton Memorial, she made the tortuous and arduous journey to receiving a liver transplant. Today, three years after the occurrence, she is a college graduate who is pursuing a Masters Degree in the social work area to aide others as she was aided by others.

Caroline Mossip provided guidance on how each of us can volunteer to be an organ donor. It is as simple as checking off a box during renewal of a driver's licence or obtaining registration forms from <http://www.sharenj.org/>. A donor can save up to nine lives and enhance the lives of fifty people through donation of organs and tissues! See Caroline if you have any questions.

Next month's program will deal with interesting areas of Outreach. Stay tuned for announcements.

CELEBRATE

IS WHAT WE WILL DO on Sunday, March 1 (the official day!), when we observe St. David's Day at both services! Our liturgy will be that of The Church in Wales, our dragon flag will be carried in procession, and we will enjoy special Welsh "goodies" at the coffee hour.

ALTAR FLOWERS

THE BRAND NEW 2009 flower calendar is posted at the foot of the balcony stairs - the early bird gets first choice! The weekly altar arrangements can be given as memorials or thank-offerings. The forms to be used are hanging with the calendar - when completed, they should be put in Martha's mailbox. **REMINDER** - more than one person can sign up for a particular Sunday.



FROM SATHYA STEPHEN

It was such a privilege to meet with the parents of the church school children as a family on January 25. The participation of the parents show their immense love and concern for our children.

It was a bright day to meet in the large skylight room, which was warm enough to lead a good conversation. The goodies around the table served as a break for us and to hear our Pastor, Church School teachers and Parents talk enthusiastically about our children was a greater treat to us.

The session started with an introduction and discussion led by Rev. David. He mentioned about the “Children’s Charter of St. David’s” which was formulated and approved by our St. David’s vestry a few years ago. Rev. David continued the discussion about Confirmation and Baptism. Parents responded and took active participation in the discussion to clarify their doubts regarding confirmation and baptism for their children.

The discussion on elementary church school went on well. Mrs. O’Connor shared her ideas about what we are doing and what we need to do in the 45 minutes limited time schedule for teaching the children and affirming the Christian faith.

Mrs. Hammaker spoke about the middle school. One could know through Nancy’s enthusiasm what a good time the children are having in the church school learning about the Bible and Christian faith, through discussion, questioning liberal views of the biblical text, etc. Nancy’s famous sentence “OK! I blew it, lets get though it” tells us how practical Nancy is while handling older kids. She also spoke about the importance of gender education in the Biblical context for children, to learn about interpretation of the Biblical text to the present day values, keeping in mind the traditional concept. I believe such education is necessary for young children to grow up without gender bias or any other discrimination.

The parents are very satisfied with the working of the Church School.

Sister Shane promised a role for the church school children in the outreach program during the Lenten season as the children loved participating in the Alternative Gift Fair projects. It was a big hit among the church school children.

I hope and pray with God’s guiding strength and the love of St. David’s family for their children, the Church School would continue to be a place of fun learning, friendly caring, and loving relationship among the Church School children to affirm the Christian faith in the pure, young and talented minds of our children.



FIRST SPECIAL SUNDAY - JANUARY 4!



Sathya, our seminarian, preached her first sermon at both services.

Her presentation - both content and delivery - was so well done!

Following the sermon, Sathya performed an interpretive dance, using both narrative and music.

We are so fortunate to have this multi-gifted young woman with us!



SECOND SPECIAL SUNDAY - JANUARY 18!



We were honored to have Willing Hands clients Carey Gomez, Jimmy Hauser, Laina Madalino, Kristin Miroddi and Andy Muller join us at the coffee hour, served by Jody Muller and Kathy Miroddi. Director Eve Perini gave a presentation on this vitally important program.



St. David's has a long-standing and deep commitment to Willing Hands. Harry Barker, Dick Foster, Herb and June Grieshaber, Jim and Emily Mason and Judy Walker are volunteers. On the Board of Directors are Bob Ward (president), Herb Grieshaber (vice president), Julie Dolci and Caroline Mossip.



January 09, 09

Your Members of St. Davids

Willing Hands thanks you
for your Christmas Outreach
Contribution.

We are so happy to know
that we have your support
and belief in our cause.

Sincerely,
Eric Penix
Director, Willing Hands

ANNUAL MEETING

THE 37TH ANNUAL MEETING was held on Sunday, January 11. Kudos to all those who braved the ice/snow storm! Heartfelt thanks go to retiring vestry members Mary-Esther Arther, John Hitchings and Mike Odian. Caroline Mossip was elected junior warden, Brian Bussey to a two-year term, Steve Kent and Christine Rudolphi to three-year terms. Congratulations to them all!

Vestry Meeting

From the meeting of January 15:

- * Vestry orientation was conducted.
- * Three appointments were made: Mary-Esther Arther - treasurer; Brian Bussey - assistant treasurer; Nancy Ward - clerk.
- * It was decided to keep the worship teams, with discussion of further fine-tuning.

ATTENDANCE

January 2008
83

January 2009
67

There was two winter storms in January 2009.

PARISH REGISTER

Funeral and Interment in Memorial Garden - EDWARD V. QUINN, January 4, 2009
Memorial Service - JIM ANDERSON, January 24, 2009

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	4 EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour	2 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Book Group	3 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	4 11:30 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Service Lunch Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	5 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	6	7 11:00 am Acolyte & Crucifer Training
8	5 EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Merry Heart 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 6:30 pm Youth Group	9 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Women's Group	10 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	11 11:30 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Service Lunch Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	12 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	13	14
15	6 EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour	16 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 pm Men's Group	17 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 5:00 pm St. Paul's Shelter	18 11:30 am Holy Eucharist with Healing Service Lunch Bible Study 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	19 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	20	21 Vestry Retreat 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
22	LAST EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Mardi Gras 6:30 pm Youth Group	23 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	24 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 5:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	25 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:00 am Service 7:30 pm Service	26 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	27	28

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*
Senior Warden: *Linda O'Connor*
Junior Warden: *Caroline Mossip*
Vestry: *Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer)*
Nancy Ward (Clerk)
Brian Bussey
Nancy Hammaker
Robert Hengeveld
Steve Kent
Christine Rudolphi
Marty Stanton

Staff: *Martha Ridsdale*
Dr. Susan McAdoo
Sister Shane Margaret Phelan
Deborah Sathya Stephens
Terry Armstrong
Mary-Esther Arther

Parish Administrator
Music Director
Ministry Assistant
Seminarian
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.*

