

# 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*

October 2008

## BUILDING BRIDGES OF HOPE WITH THE LIVING CHRIST



**Financial Commitment Card Ingathering November 2**



## From the Rector

My granddaughter, Olivia, makes me laugh. For her second birthday back in August she blew out a single #2 candle on a bowl of ice cream. No birthday cake. That was her choice. I guess the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree!

She smiled and laughed as she blew out the candle. We laughed together. It was so spontaneous, natural and wonderful. Olivia gives out her laugh and smiles without condition. They are so natural. They are a part of her.

St. Paul says that God loves a cheerful giver. (Now you know where this is going!) As we continue our fall commitment program my hope is that we will give cheerfully to Jesus through the generous offering of our treasure for the work and wonders of ministry and mission here at St. David's. May it come as natural to us as a granddaughter's laugh. By the way, we had an excellent Time and Talent Fair at our Reunion Sunday on September 14. Many thanks to all who made that such a wonderful time of renewal and commitment.

I know that the economic downturn hits us all, but some are hit harder than others. Our giving to make real our mission of "Building Bridges of Hope with the Living Christ" is fundamental in keeping hope alive for so many including ourselves.

It seems that hope is based on our innate sense we all possess to give. Each one of us has a desire to give. Whether it is hope of laughter or the hope of making a difference in people's lives, our offering to God matters to us and ultimately to everyone. Most importantly, it matters to God.

Here are some godly standards to ponder when you are prayerfully considering your financial commitment for 2009. Yes, God has standards when it comes to our giving. We should seriously take them to heart. I began taking these to heart about five years ago. I prayed to God to help me and God did exactly that.

Reasons to Tithe: giving 10% back to God. "and of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you." (Genesis 28:22)

1. **Ancient Model:** tithing is our most ancient model for giving. One of the best stories is that of Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22)\*
2. **Trust in God:** tithing helps us worship God more in our lives. It encourages our spiritual growth and trust in God.
3. **Financial Worship:** tithing brings God's wisdom to our finances, exercising a healthy spiritual discipline over them, and helps us to combat the destructive materialism and greed that destroy the lives of many including God's creation.
4. **Ministry Support:** tithing provides the means to keep our mission in optimum service to God.
5. **Congregational Strength:** tithing strengthens the ministry, outreach and health of our congregation, molding us into true Christian communities of faith, love, and grace.

*\*At every General Convention, 1982-2003, bishops and deputies passed resolutions "affirming the tithe as the minimum standard of giving." Thus tithing is the norm for Episcopalians.*

Now, here are some steps to tithing. For most of us it's a process. The important thing is to get started.

1. **Become a First Fruits Giver:** whenever you receive money, give thanks by giving something back to God. Don't worry about how much, just do this FIRST, before all of your other spending.
2. **Become a Percentage Giver:** No matter how large or small, decide what percent of your income you are now giving and increase it when you can. Consider one percentage per year until you reach 10. Remember, 10% is the minimum. So keep going if you can!
3. **Increase As You Are Able:** Pray Often. Talk it over with God so that God can help you decide when to take risks and when to play it safe.

Finally, please pray about our ongoing commitment to the Millennium Development Goals as we join the Episcopal Church in its #1 mission priority, eradicating world poverty by 2015. During our Creation Season (October through November) we will be targeting ways of addressing Goal #7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

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|--|---|
| 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger      | 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children |
| 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women | 4. Reduce Child Mortality                           |
| 5. Improve Maternal Health                   | 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases      |
| 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability       | 8. Create a Global Partnership for Development      |

To learn more:

One Episcopalian: [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)\ONE; Episcopal Relief and Development: [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org); Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation: [www.e4gr.org](http://www.e4gr.org)

Together with you in Christ's ministry

David+



**DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN AT THE BEEFSTEAK DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18! ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS TO ATTEND!**

BIDDING AND SOCIAL HOUR: 5 PM

DINNER: 6 PM

BIDDING ENDS: 7:30 PM

\$40.00 per person (BYOB) (Soft drinks provided)

Children 12 and under:

Beeksteak - \$20 or Pasta Dinner - \$5

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE after both services on Sundays and in the office, Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 1:00. The deadline is October 11!**

We are also looking for donations for the silent auction. Last year we raised over \$12,000 with the auction alone. Just think what we can do this year!

## **Silent Auction Donations Needed**

Here is a list of ideas for items:

- Use of a vacation home for a period of time
- Tickets to sporting events
- Wine or Liquor baskets
- Food baskets
- Family entertainment baskets - movies, gift cards, popcorn, etc.
- Family game basket - Popular family games
- Book basket - some bestsellers, a curl-up blanket, a booklight
- Certificate for a service - For example - Do you have a pool? Offer a pool party for 4 kids in your home. Are you a financial planner - offer a one hour consultation.
- High quality antiques or collectibles
- Gourmet meal or catering services
- Candle basket
- Your own clever idea - use your imagination!

Please make sure all items are first quality and unused, unless it is an antique or otherwise specified.

**All donations must be received no later than October 11!**

There is a sign-up in the narthex.

Watch for a sneak preview of donated items coming soon!

**THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR! We need everyone to participate in some way. Please consider donating an auction item, attending the dinner and bidding or making a monetary donation if you can't be there. THANK YOU!**

## Financial Commitment Program Continues Mission of Building Bridges of Hope with the Living Christ

From our visioning process our mission has become clear: to build bridges of hope with the living Christ through worship, spiritual formation, hospitality and outreach. The cross on the front page of this newsletter represents exactly that.

During our financial commitment program this fall everyone will be briefly visited by a Vestry member and given a replica of this cross along with printed material to consider when making our money pledge to St. David's for 2009. Everyone is invited to display the cross in their home as a visible sign of commitment to our mission.

Included in our financial commitment program this year will be "stewardship moments" during our Sunday worship services culminating in our Commitment Sunday celebration on All Saints' Sunday, November 2. On this day we will offer our commitment cards at the altar. A parish potluck brunch after the second worship service will end our program.

Below are important dates to remember. We urge you to prayerfully consider your financial giving for this year and its importance to our mission and ministry here at St. David's. In giving thanks to God for all of our blessings we return a portion of our financial blessings in order to continue the work God gives us to do.

<b>October 12, 19 &amp; 26</b>	Stewardship Moments reflecting on our mission and ministry
<b>October 19 &amp; 26</b>	Brief Vestry home visits to deliver financial commitment materials
<b>November 2</b>	All Saints' & Commitment Celebration followed by a parish potluck brunch

*- David -*

On Sunday, September 21, we welcomed our seminarian, Deborah Sathya Steven. Sathya, as she prefers to be called, is a second year Master of Divinity student at Drew University. She will be with us for this academic year (September through May). With her interest and expertise in children's spiritual formation she will begin her time with us by assisting with our elementary church school program.

This field education experience requires practical and theological supervision by the rector and monthly meetings with a parish teaching committee. We look forward to having Sathya with us. We look forward to learning from each other. She will be the speaker at the Adult Forum on October 26.



## HIKERS MASS

**IT'S B-A-A-C-K!** The fall Hikers Mass will take place on Saturday, October 4. Participants will have two trails to choose from (easy or moderate) at Wildcat Ridge Hawk Watch off Route 153. Departure is 1:00 pm from the church. There will be a potluck supper at 6:00 pm - you don't have to have hiked earlier (just "hike" from home to the rectory!). Sign up in the narthex or call the office, indicating the number attending and the food contribution.



**CREATION SESSION** will begin on Sunday, October 5, with The Blessing of the Animals during the 10:15 am Service. All "worship friendly" (or photos in lieu of) pets are welcome as are stuffed ones.

## READERS CIRCLE

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON** will be on Monday, October 6, at 7:30 pm in the large skylight room, to discuss "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao."

**ATONEMENT**, Ian McEwen's long-running best-seller, is set in England in 1935. It is an enthralling depiction of childhood, love and war, England and class. It is a profound and moving exploration of shame and forgiveness, of atonement and the difficulty of absolution. All are welcome on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for discussion of this psychological and emotional study of human nature which promises to be interesting and thought-provoking.

The Readers Circle meets on the first Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9 PM. It's not too early to begin reading the December selection, **THE THIRTEENTH TALE**, by Diane Setterfield. You can find a listing of the book selections for the entire year by clicking on "Fellowship Programs" on the St. David's website [www.stdavidskinnelon.org](http://www.stdavidskinnelon.org)

## NEW MEMBERS

**ONE OF THE MOST ENJOYABLE** traditions is welcoming new members and we will do that on Sunday, October 19, during the coffee hour following the 10:15 Service. Don't miss this special time to celebrate our parish life!

## ROOT, ROOT, ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM

That's what the Men's Group did at their meeting on September 15th. We had an opportunity to revisit the ten magical years in the history of baseball in New York City when its' **THREE** teams dominated the game. Mike Odian took us back in time to a period in which a New York City team won the World Series in nine out of ten consecutive years. Each year was reviewed as well as various key players, the announcers, sponsors, executives and stadiums. To top it off, we celebrated with hot dogs and (getcha cold) beer (here). We were also pleased to have noted baseball fan Nancy Ward join us for the evening.

The next meeting takes place on Monday, October 20th - Topic to be announced.

## MEMORIAL

**EVERYONE IS INVITED** on Saturday, October 25, at 4:00 pm, for the dedication of the tree given in memory of Richard Schaupp by his family.

## Average Attendance

September 2007  
85

September 2008  
78

## NOTES FROM SISTER SHANE

As you may know, I'm spending this fall studying at General Theological Seminary in New York City. From Sunday evening through Wednesday, I live with two of my CSJB Sisters at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin on 46th St. I have a room on the fourth floor. I have the use of a public bathroom, or I can go up a flight to where my Sisters live. My situation is precarious, but it's great compared to that of some of the people I share my life with.

Last Monday, I shared my home with Howard. Or, I shared a bit of my home. Howard sleeps on the steps of the Mission House where we live. He sleeps on a cardboard box. While he sleeps, some people leave change. He awakens to coins around him, but no people. When people begin to arrive at 7 am., he has to leave. I met Howard when I left the building at 6:55. Each night I have to step over someone to get in, and if I leave early I have to step over someone to get out. Most times, the person on the step is asleep, or pretends to be. Who wants to acknowledge that they are sleeping on the step when someone else can go in? I don't blame them.

This morning, Howard was awake. We talked a bit, and I shared my granola bars. There's not much else I can do. I'm sure he knows the soup kitchens and shelters better than I do. But I can introduce myself and ask after him. I can share what I have. I can pray for him. I can remind him – and myself – that we are both beloved children of God.

Please pray for Howard, and for all the men, women, and children who face another winter on the streets. Pray for those in Morris County who live among us, hidden but present. Pray for the wisdom, compassion, and courage to end homelessness. We are neighbors.

And speaking of neighbors, the Food Pantry is asking this month for breakfast goods, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, and hot drinks. It's getting cold outside – help your neighbors stay warm and ready to study and work! Thank you for your support.

Thanks to all of you who filled out the Outreach Skills Directory form. With this information, we will be able to really take the love of St. David's out into the world. If you haven't received a form, call the office and we'll send you one.

The Women's Group is on hiatus. Attendance was wobbly on Thursday nights. I cannot attend Mondays in the fall, so we await your energy. If you would like to convene the Women's Group, please call me and I'll be glad to work with you and pray for you.

See you in church!

## ATTENTION!!

**THE FOYERS** formation meeting on October 11 has been cancelled. Please continue to sign up in the narthex! Ginny Bussey will put the groups together and notify everyone ASAP.

**ALL SAINTS' DAY** will be observed on Sunday, November 2. If there is anyone you would like to have included in the necrology (those who have died since last All Saints' Day), please have their names to the office by October 29.

## REUNION SUNDAY



From the coffee hour through the Time and Talent Fair and the worship service to the food-filled potluck brunch, September 14 was indeed special! Conversations buzzed with catching-up, Sister Shane and Mike Odian “modeled” clothing from Cameroon, there were almost 50 time and talent sign-ups, and the almost record heat couldn’t deter the fellowship at the brunch - quite a day!

There was a mixed blessing to the day because we had to say farewell to Jayne Verondik. We will miss her energy and committed presence. She goes with our prayers and best wishes for her and her husband in their new endeavor.





Almost 50 members and friends braved Hanna's high winds and heavy rain to attend St. David's first "tasting" fundraiser event on Saturday, September 6th.

A delicious four-course dinner was served, and a selection of seven wines and several 'imported' (yes, really!) non-alcoholic beverages were sampled. Local wine specialist Dave Brenneman provided a lively description of each of the vintages that were tasted and cheerfully took orders from those folks wanting to bring home some of the evening's offerings.

Set up was provided by Brian and Linda O'Connor, John and Tina Hitchings, and David DeSmith. Cooking and serving the meal were the Hitchings, the O'Connors, David DeSmith, John Simonelli and Christine Rudolphi. Included in the clean-up crew were Steve and Kathy Kent, Brian Bussey, Nancy Hammaker, the O'Connors, the Hitchings, Christine Rudolphi, Tom and Chris Snyder, John Simonelli, and Irene Williams and Dick Foster, who made short work of scores of dirty glasses on Sunday morning.

- John Simonelli





# OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	2 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	3	4 1:00 pm Hikers Mass 6:00 pm Potluck Supper at Rectory
5 <b>Pentecost 21</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am All in Church/ Blessing of Animals 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Pastoral Care Team 5:00 pm "Joy Reigns"	6 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  7:30 pm Book Group	7 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	8 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	9 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  7:00 pm Prayer Chain	10	11
12 <b>Pentecost 22</b> 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	13 <b>Columbus Day (Office Closed)</b>	14 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	15 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	16 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  7:30 pm Vestry Mtg.	17	18 Beefsteak & Silent Auction 5:00 pm Social Hour 6:00 pm Dinner 7:30 pm Bidding ends
19 <b>Pentecost 23</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am New Members Recognition/ Coffee Hour 11:45 am Adult Forum	20 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  6:30 pm District 2 Potluck at Rectory  7:30 pm Men's Group	21 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  St. Paul's Shelter	22 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	23 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	24	25 9 am – 2 pm Mutual Ministry Review  4 pm Richard Schaupp Tree Dedication
26 <b>Pentecost 24</b> 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 11:45 am Adult Forum	27 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	28 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	29 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer  4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih 7:30 pm Healing Service	30 10:00 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	31	

# 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.

<b>Bishop:</b>	<i>The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith</i>	
<b>Rector:</b>	<i>The Rev. David J. DeSmith</i>	
<b>Senior Warden:</b>	<i>Linda O'Connor</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
<b>Vestry:</b>	<i>Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer)</i>	<i>Worship &amp; Music, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Finance &amp; Budget</i>
	<i>Nancy Ward (Clerk)</i>	
	<i>Nancy Hammaker</i>	<i>Christian Formation Chair</i>
	<i>Robert Hengeveld</i>	
	<i>John Hitchings</i>	<i>Finance &amp; Budget, Stewardship, Technology &amp; Systems</i>
	<i>Caroline Mossip</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Willing Hands</i>
	<i>Mike Odian</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Finance &amp; Budget</i>
	<i>Marty Stanton</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
<b>Staff:</b>	<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<i>Martha Ridsdale</i>
	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Dr. Susan McAdoo</i>
	<i>Sister Shane Margaret Phelan</i>	<i>Ministry Assistant</i>
	<i>Deborah Sathya Steven</i>	<i>Seminarian</i>
	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>Terry Armstrong</i>
	<i>Vision's Editor</i>	<i>Mary-Esther Arther</i>

*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.*

