



Saint David's News

Opportunities are shown in *bold italics* in this issue

<http://www.saintdavidsgf.org/>

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284 Stoddard's Wharf Rd. Gales Ferry, Ct. 06335

Gales Ferry, Connecticut-----An Episcopal Church founded in 1963 -----Aug. 2011

Dates for Your Calendar

| | | |
|---------|-----------|---|
| Aug 16 | 7 p.m. | Summer Bells |
| Aug 17 | 6 p.m. | Burgers and Bibles |
| Aug 18 | 7 p.m. | Godly Play Meeting/Training |
| Aug 19 | 9 a.m. | Communications meeting |
| Aug 21 | 2:30 p.m. | <i>Groton Regency</i> |
| Aug 23 | 7 p.m. | Summer Bells |
| Aug 24 | 6 p.m. | Bibles & Burgers |
| Aug 26 | 7 p.m. | NOOMA Friday Video |
| Aug 29 | 7 p.m. | <i>Outreach Team</i> |
| Aug 30 | 4:30 p.m. | <i>Community Service Dinner</i> |
| Aug 30 | 7 p.m. | Summer Bells |
| Aug 31 | 7 p.m. | Regular Bible Study Resumes |
| Sept 5 | | Office Closed for holiday |
| Sept 7 | 7 p.m. | NOOMA Friday Video |
| Sept 11 | | Rally Day |
| Sept 11 | 2:30 p.m. | <i>Groton Regency</i> |
| Sept 12 | 7 p.m. | Hour of Prayer for St. David's |
| Sept 12 | 7 p.m. | Godly Play Story Tellers Meeting (2 nd Mon of the Month) |
| Sept 13 | 7:15 p.m. | Vestry Meeting |

Women's Group 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays (1st & 3rd)
Men's Group 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays
Women's Study 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays

ONE WEB PAGE FOR ALL PICTURES
FROM THE 16 MOST RECENT NEWSLETTERS!

<http://michaeljmclane.com/StDavid/Multi-Newsletters.html>

On Rocket Science

What does it mean to understand something better? What does it mean to manage your life better? What does it mean to do something you've never done before, and now found out that it is really simple – so simple in fact you say, “Hey, this isn't rocket science?” For example:

Grab a pencil and paper. Think back to the time you started school, all the way back to kindergarten. One of the first things you did was to identify shapes. Next, you learned to draw them. On a sheet of paper do something very simple. Draw one triangle. That was simple, wasn't it? Now, draw as many triangles as you can in 20 seconds. Stop. Count how many you were able to draw. Write that number down. Ask yourself is there another, easier way to accomplish this task. Yes, it will take understanding, but there must be a better way to do this and draw more in less time.

Now, start at one side of the paper and draw connected W's all the way across the page. Now, put a line on the top and bottom of the W's. See how many triangles you can now draw in 20 seconds using this method. Stop. How many were you able to draw? In fact you probably drew four or five times as many triangles this way. No, it's NOT rocket science, but it is a new way of looking at things, some of which are eternal in nature.

Here's a new way of looking at things:

Many years ago Chinese farmers went on the theory that they could eat all their big potatoes and keep the small potatoes for seed. They did this for some time. They ate the big potatoes, they planted small potatoes. A new understanding of the laws of life came to them when, through the years in which they kept up the practice, nature reduced all their potatoes to the size of marbles.

These farmers learned through bitter experience that they could not keep the best things of life they had been given, for themselves and then just use the leftovers. The law of life decreed that **THE HARVEST WOULD REFLECT THE PLANTING**. Still today planting “small potatoes” in life, even church life for God's kingdom is still common practice. We still take the big things of life for ourselves and plant the leftovers. We expect that by some crazy twist of the laws of nature our selfishness will reward us with unselfishness. We cannot eat the “big potatoes” and still keep having them year after year.

Planting small potatoes in all of life means just this: That is what we are aiming for. What have you been planting? What we do for, and give to God, reaches into every phase of our Christian life. What we have been given we are to take care of for the glory of God. A steward is the guardian of the interests of another. Faithfulness in serving, faithfulness in tithing, means that we see that this is not rocket science at all. It means anyone that presents the interests of

God's kingdom to us is helping us to be who we have been called to be by a Father who blesses us daily. Life, then is good, whatever follows.

Father Blake+



From Hilda Zeigler

A DIVINE INVITATION

You have been invited to meet
The Friend
No one can resist a Divine
Invitation
That narrows down all our choices
To just two:
We can come to God
Dressed for Dancing,
OR
Be carried in a stretcher
To God's Ward.

by Hafiz, Sufi
poet (c.1320-1389)



WANTED!! RINGERS AND SINGERS

HANDBELLS

We are looking for young people in grades 3 and up interested in learning to play handbells. Being able to read music is nice, but not a requirement. We will teach you the basics of music reading as you learn to play handbells. Rehearsals will be once a week (day and time to be determined), and we will play for worship occasionally. Schedules will be provided so families are able to plan, and we know who will be available for rehearsals and playing for worship.

SENIOR CHOIR

We have a number of unused choir robes in the closet and would love to see them used. Choir rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 1st at 7:00 P.M.

and we will begin singing for the 10:15 worship service on Sunday, September 11th. Please consider joining us. All parts welcome: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. We have some wonderful voices in the congregation. I can hear them! It would be very nice if you would be willing to share your talent with us in the choir.

If either or both of these opportunities interest you, please contact me at church or at work 860-464-6516. Signup sheets will also be available on the bulletin board in "the gathering space" at church

Jane Nolan



Stewardship and Going Green

The Almighty and Loving Creator has blessed us with a world full of beauty and wonder. Practicing stewardship of the environment is an outward and visible expression of gratitude for this glorious gift. Not only is each person called to care for God's creation in some way, as members of St. David's faith community, we are corporately called to practice good stewardship. Eliminating the use of plastic and paper products during coffee fellowship and other events is definitely a feasible change we can make to improve our practice of stewardship and is a step toward becoming a Green Parish. Consequently everyone is encouraged to use the new white Corelle cups and luncheon plates, as well as the flatware (metal eating utensils).

A load of cups, plates, or flatware can be washed in 1 minute and 10 seconds by the sanitizing equipment in our commercial grade kitchen. If you are not already familiar with its use, you may want to read the instructions prior to using the equipment for the first time. The operating instructions are printed in the kitchen manual (white three ring binder) usually located to the right of the coffee machines. Remember to turn the sanitizer on at least 20 minutes before using it. This provides adequate time for the sanitizer to fill with water and to heat it to the proper temperature. Then you just turn on the fan and close the unit to start the very quick dishwashing cycle. Using the blue rubber mitt, located on the bottom shelf to the right of the sanitizer, is recommended when unloading because everything will be extremely hot to the touch.

In addition, it has been proposed a savings of approximately \$700 per year will be realized when disposable dining products are no longer purchased. Perhaps the money saved could help pay for a garbage collection service that includes recycling, which we do not currently have at St. David's or acrylic-type small juice glasses could be purchased. I hope these first small initial steps towards becoming a Green Parish will inspire others to brain storm,

implement their ideas, and help us all, as a faith community, practice good stewardship in caring for planet earth, "our island home."

In gratitude,

Fellowship Team

Leslie Aiken, Dave Cady, & Hilda Zeigler



Women of the Bible

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunity: What is Noah's wife's name? Was Leah jealous of Rachel...or was it the other way around? Did Bathsheba have any options? If there is interest, a "Women of the Bible" class will start on Sunday, September 18th, at 9:15 am in a room to be named by our Christian Formation Director, Christie.

If I hear from a few people, I will sketch out a schedule to study a different woman every Sunday and that schedule will be available the first class. You could come to all the classes or just a few. If you are interested or have any questions, please email me, Sandi Brown, at rsmbrown89@att.net.



Bibles & Burgers

Our six-week Bibles & Burgers events are continuing in August. The first four sessions covered Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Some Christian Denominations. The last two sessions will be held on **Wednesday, August 17th (Islam) and Wednesday, August 24th (Nicene Creed)**.

If you haven't had a chance to participate in the presentation and discussion, please join us for the last two meetings: supper & Fellowship (6:00-6:50); presentation & discussion (6:50-7:50); service of Compline (7:50-8:00). All are welcome! If you have any questions call Pete Landolt (860-536-6487).



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

from Christie Stadnicki, Director

A Most Precious Gift

Donating our time and talent is a most precious gift and is a key to any successful ministry. As we all know, the work of ministry becomes much more enjoyable when the task is shared with others. There are still a number of

open teaching positions that need your support. We have classes for all ages: the Godly Play program (Pre-K to Grade 3), the Grapple class (Grades 4-5), the J2A program (Grades 6-12), and 3-4 offerings of adult classes and discussion groups. Please consider sharing some of your time with our children and youth. If you have any questions, please contact Christie Stadnicki. “It takes a village” . . .

Cans/Bottles for Godly Play

Thank you for your continuing supply of cans and bottles that we are redeeming to defray the cost of supplies for our Godly Play program. To date we have redeemed nearly 4,000 cans/bottles – nearly \$200.00! We have started to set up the Godly Play room (the double classroom) in preparation for our fall classes and will need to purchase a few of the items that cannot be made, so your continuing support is greatly appreciated!

Let’s Rally! – September 11th

September 11th is an opportunity for us to reconnect with one another from both our 8 and 10:15 services after the relaxed summer schedule. This year, there will be one service at 9:30 am including a commemorative ceremony recognizing the tenth anniversary of 9/11 followed by a potluck brunch in the parish hall. You will also get a chance to “meet and greet” the people involved in the many various ministries that serve our church and our community and an opportunity to share your gifts with your parish family. Registration for Christian Formation classes will be available as well as an “Open House” for the new Godly Play room. Welcome back, come see what we have to offer, and get involved!

Godly Play Open House – September 11th

There will be an “Open House” on Rally Day for the Godly Play program. All are welcome to come see how we have set up the space for this new program, to view the materials that have been made by our dedicated, talented volunteers, and get an overview of how the classes are presented.

Godly Play Training

The second Godly Play Training/Information meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18th from 7:00-9:00 pm. The meeting will include a walk-through of a Godly Play class, followed by a discussion period to answer questions concerning the roles of Storytellers/Doorkeepers and the purpose and methods behind how the program works. If you are interested in coming to this meeting, please contact Christie Stadnicki. As it is difficult to present all the material from a 3-day seminar in a 2-hour timeframe, I also recommend that you sign up to get the Teaching Godly Play handbook, which fully describes all that you would need to know to be successful in your Godly Play role.

Our first Godly Play training meeting, held on July 26th, was well attended by 13 individuals. Teaching Godly Play handbooks have been ordered and

should be in within a week. Please follow-up with a response for a teaching date if you have not yet done so. Once the lesson schedule has been filled out, a date will be set for the “support group” meeting, which will give you the opportunity to practice presenting your lesson to your peers and receive helpful feedback.

J2A Program Meeting – Rite-13 and J2A

A J2A Parent Meeting is tentatively set for Monday, August 15th, at 7:00 pm. At this meeting, we will be discussing how parental involvement will be an important element in seeing that the groups operate successfully. We will be determining what roles need to be covered as well as planning to set a schedule for events. If you have any questions, please contact Christie Stadnicki. Final confirmation of the meeting date should be set by Sunday, August 7th.



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| July Average Sunday attendance 118 | | |
| ===== | | |
| August 1, 2011 | | |
| | Actual | Budget |
| Pledges | \$144,603 | \$151,740 |
| Plate | \$5,337 | \$9,396 |
| Total | \$149,940 | \$161,136 |

Summer Bells Tuesday evenings
7:00-8:00 P.M. beginning July 19th.
This is an opportunity for you to try playing handbells with no pressure just fun!
Try ityou might like it!
Sign up sheet posted in the gathering space.

Download or view August pictures in **color**, from this web site
<http://gallery.me.com/mmclane#101065>