



# Saint David's News

Opportunities are shown in **bold RED 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 -----Sept. 2011

## Dates for Your Calendar

Sept 11		Rally Day
	9:30 am	Single Service before Rally Brunch
	2:30 pm	<b>Groton Regency</b>
Sept 12	7:00 pm	Hour of Prayer for St. David's
	7:00 pm	<b>Godly Play Story Tellers Meeting</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of the Month)
Sept 13	7:15 pm	Vestry Meeting
Sept 14	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Sept 16	6:00 pm	Emmaus Reunion
Sept 18	9:15 am	First Day of Sunday School
	2:30 pm	<b>Groton Regency</b>
Sept 26	7:00 pm	Outreach Ministry Meeting
Sept 27	4:30 pm	<b>Community Service Dinner</b>
Sept 29	6:00 pm	Diocese Delegate Budget Meeting
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Oct 2	8 & 10:15	Haitain Health Foundation Visits the Services
	2:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals in the Grove
Oct 9		Children's Sabbath
	2:30 pm	<b>Groton Regency</b>
Oct 10		Office Closed for Holiday
	7:00 pm	Hour of prayer for St. David's
Oct 11	7:15 pm	Vestry Meeting
Oct 16	2:30 pm	<b>Groton Regency</b>
Oct 17	7:00 pm	<b>Godly Play Story Tellers Meeting</b>

Women's Group 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
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>

## **What Is Your Reason?**

Have you made plans for tomorrow? I am convinced that much of the blessing you receive on Sunday depends on your preparation you made on Saturday. Unless you are sick or shut-in, your plans for tomorrow should include going to church. But first, I would like to ask you an important question: Why are you going? Out of duty? Habit? Or just because it is Sunday? Your church is undoubtedly one of the most important institutions in your entire community, and it is essential that you have high motives for attending.

I'd like to call your attention to seven important reasons for going to church:

1. To Worship: We meet with God's people on Sunday to primarily to bring our adoration and praise to God.
2. To Fellowship: During the week we meet so few people of like precious faith that on Sunday we come from all over to enjoy the wonderful company of those who are both saints and sinners.
3. To Remember: We come to remember Christ's death and to celebrate His resurrection. As the early reforming fathers once said, "Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection."
4. To Learn: We gather to be instructed for service, comforted in our trials, reminded of our humanness, and encouraged by God's promises.
5. To Witness: We assemble as a body to carry out our Lord's commission to bear witness by our thoughts, words, and deeds, to those who do not know Christ's love for them.
6. To Meet Jesus: We go to church because there we can meet the Savior in a special way.
7. We go to church because we love it!

Is that why you go to Church?

*Peace.*

*Father Blake+*



## **When to Call Your Pastor**

The Pastor has special gifts for ministry to those in the parish. I once saw a listing of when to call your pastor and each of these functions is certainly noteworthy, as a few others I could name. Here are just a few to get started with:

1. When a loved one is seriously ill and facing death.

2. When a loved one continues to be despondent following a death
3. When you are facing a surgical operation.
4. When you are facing adjustment to a physical handicap.
5. When a mother goes into a hospital for the birth of a baby.
6. When you desire to join the church.
7. When you have begun to worry about such things as excessive drinking.
8. When a loved one is drinking excessively or is suspected of drug abuse.
9. When you are having difficulty in your marriage or in your home.
10. When you feel uncertain about your choice of life's work.
11. When you are planning to get married.
12. When, as a parent, you are concerned about your children.
13. When you are discouraged and life has lost its meaning.
14. When a loved one becomes despondent for no apparent reason.
15. When the behavior of a loved one shows marked and rapid change, whether it is towards excessive misbehavior or excessive interest in religion.
16. When you need a trusted friend with whom to talk about personal problems.



*From the Senior Warden*

### **Vestry Highlights from August, 2011**

**NARRATIVE BUDGET** – Fr. Blake reported that formatting of text and photographs has been completed. Space has been allocated for the integration of pie charts and dollar figures. The Narrative Budget will be presented to the congregation during Rally Sunday on September 11.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE** – David Cady provided information on the status of the profile. (It has since been posted on the website.) He also provided information about the upcoming interview process. The committee expects to receive 20 -25 names, screened by the Diocese. The committee will mail a packet of St. David's information to each of the candidates. Each will be asked to respond to two questions. Once the committee receives the responses from the candidates, the committee will decide which of the candidates to interview. Initial interviews will be conducted using Skype. Further interviews will be conducted in person. Once the Search Committee has made a decision, the names of 4 candidates will be presented to the Vestry

to interview further and to make the final decision on the next Rector for St. David's.

**REPLACEMENT VESTRY PERSON** – Brian Green was elected to fill the vacant Vestry position. He will serve until the 2012 Annual Meeting.

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY** – St. David's will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2012. Fr Blake noted several ways in which to celebrate this milestone. He expressed his desire for heavy Vestry involvement and asked that any interested individual contact him through email or in person.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Mimi Peck-Llewellyn reported that utilization of the web calendar has begun. She requested that a description of the event be included whenever an item for the calendar is submitted to her.

**DEANERY** – Jill Foster reported that the mission trip to Ecuador has been postponed due to internal unrest in that area. The trip has been tentatively been rescheduled for either December, 2011 or January, 2012.

**FINANCE/LEGACY** – A Finance/Legacy Committee has been formed. Members are: Pat Anderson, Bill Day, Ed Fialkosky, Steve Forbes, Paula Jackson, Keith Ripley, and Chris Curcio.

**FUNDRAISER** – The date of the fundraiser has been changed to May, 4 and 5, 2012. A nationwide search is being developed to seek the donation of items for the silent and live auctions.

**OUTREACH** – The Vestry approved the release of \$1,000 to the Kateri Medical Clinic. This is year 5 of a 6 year commitment. Sandi Brown also announced that Marilyn Lowney of the Haitian Health Foundation will be visiting St. David's on you Oct 2, 2011.

*Steve Forbes,*

Senior Warden



### Interesting church blurbs:

Miss Charlene Mason sang: "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The Rector will preach his farewell message this Sunday, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth in Joy!"



## I Just Wanted To Say:

Two persons were shipwrecked on a desert island. One had given up hope of ever being found. The other person however, was quite cheerful. "Don't worry," he said, "they'll track us down. My church will soon be starting its reminders of the need for all of its members to give of their time, talents and treasures!"

Congratulations, your congregation has found you! And soon we will, boldly in faith, have the joy of reminding you **that we live to give, .....and in giving we live abundantly**. We are all partners in the work of the Lord.

This year we will embark on many bold programs, bible studies, new activities in the life of the congregation, and of course the centers of our giving **in Outreach and in Adult formation** with the start of Godly Play, and we thank God for you, and we encourage to become excited in this ministry that is ours as you read all about this in your **2011 Narrative Budget**, which will be shared with the congregation on September 11.

We thank God for you, because you have a stake in God's work. Whatever you do, wherever you do it, when it is done in love, it becomes a part of the action of God to care for the world, inside this congregation and out, in your words of family and work. So you already have an active share in God's business.

This opportunity for you to give is truly an opportunity for you to join with others as instruments of God's peace and love.

What you and I cannot do alone, we can do together to make a positive difference in the lives of children, our own and others, youth and adults in church and community which the programs that are planned, clearly reflect. Giving is the way we plan together to get God's work done in the year ahead. When we fill our commitments of time talent and treasure you claim your share of the work of the Kingdom through this congregation and the wider Church. You also claim your share of the work out there, beyond these walls, where you live out your special calling, and your special plans for the world.

We thank God for you!



*A Mission Trip to Bolivia by Jeanine Weeks (a report she sent to her Tennessee church)*

## The Many Blessings of Giving in Far-Off Lands

I am writing this while still at my summer home in Connecticut and away from my fellow Ascension mission travelers. I am thankful everyone arrived back safe from the trip.

First I want to thank Carla , her sister and family, and Fr. Brett for organizing these yearly trips. It is no easy task to plan all of the events and schedules for sixteen people and have things move smoothly while they also are taking care of their small children: Bella (who was sick for a couple of days) and Haven (who on some days used his favorite word NO a lot). Thanks so much.

Other people that need a special thank you are Martin and his wife Cecelia and their son Sebastian of Santa Cruz. Martin was everyone's GO TO MAN for everything from money changer, interpreter, talking a policeman out of a ticket for our bus driver, to musician, to bus repairmen, and more. He came with us to LaPaz so he could help start a music program for the church in LaPaz and is truly one of God's dedicated people.

Thanks to Deacona Tammy and her husband Rusty and their two children in Cochabamba who were our hostesses and we were their houseguests for the time there. She is truly a visionary who has some ideas for her church and their role in their city. She took us out to a shanty town built on a landfill and told us that on Sunday mornings, la Trinidad church comes there to feed those people and to make them more aware of God and his love for them. I hope she will send us a picture of Ed's cross when it is in the children's area of the church. Their church has made great progress since Ascension visited them last.

We patched walls, mixed mortar, painted and constructed a playset in their surrounding yard. It seemed like there was more for us to do there once our time was up but we had accomplished a lot in a short time there. Once in LaPaz, we worked with Christ the Redeemer church and their Padre Walter by feeding children breakfast at the church and then doing a craft with them. We made bracelets with the children and most children wanted Jesus Loves Me (JESÚS ME AMA) on their bracelets. We ended that session with candy for the children with much joy and noise from the children.

We then painted a room in the church, the outside play walls and some folding chairs that needed paint and repair. Another day, we accompanied Carla's sister Raquel to a woman's prison where we bought much needed school supplies for the children who are there with the mothers, did more painting, grass cutting, rock moving, playground equipment repair, light replacements, and general clean up of the play area of the children.

We were able to observe many parades and marching of children on their Bolivian national holiday and to see the pride they have in their country. We were able to visit where the mudslides happened but every sign of the destruction had been bulldozed or removed. We were able to attend the church service and hear the beautiful music that Martin had put together, complete with sound system and video screen with words. I left there thinking this is a very well off church for Bolivia.

The lasting image I have was the little boy with bloody and crusty nose who as we were leaving the prison took my hand and didn't want to let go of me. He truly wanted to be going with us outside the prison. I squeezed his hand and said in Spanish that God loves you and left him in that courtyard with all the washed clothes hanging all around.

I only hoped that God would give me a sign or let me know his presence while on this trip. I realized as we were in Cochabamba and visiting the huge Jesus Christo statue that I had found his message.

While everyone was busy taking pictures of the statue, I was reading the opened bible in front of the statue. The gospel lesson it was opened to was written in Spanish: I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, etc..... that was the exact message I had written in Spanish on the icons that I wrote for those churches months before I even decided to go on the mission trip. I had no idea about the statue or the writing beforehand at all. Thanks be to God and thanks to everyone on the trip for the memories.



*A new feature in the monthly newsletter, space permitting.*

### **Some Wisdom From Mark Twain**

“I believe that our Heavenly Father invented man because he was disappointed in the monkey”.

Eruption, 372

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Mark once argued the question of polygamy with a Mormon who insisted that polygamy was moral and defied him to cite any passage in the Scriptures that forbids the practice. “Well”, queried the humorist, “how about that passage that tells us no man can serve two masters?”



### **Saint David's Weekly E-pistle to the Parish**

*Epistle* is a poetic form that dates back to ancient Rome and to the Bible. It is a poem written in the form of a letter, sent to a person or group of people. The term epistle comes from the Latin word *epistola*, which means letter. It was used to express love, philosophy, religion and morality. Most people who think of epistles think of the Bible. Many of the books in the New Testament are epistles, especially the Epistles of St. Paul. The poet Robert Burns also frequently wrote epistles, as did Alexander Pope.

Over the past hundred years, as the telephone took over for letter writing, letters became less personal and more formal or business related. The concept of writing letters to relatives, friends, colleagues and lovers went out of fashion.

In the last few years, however, letter writing has had a rebirth of sorts as the Internet grew in prominence and people began to send e-mail to each other. The wonderful quality of an epistle is that it can be such a freeing form. The tone can be formal or use very personalized voices. The poems can be many pages long or as short as a post card. (adapted from PoeWar Writing Center).

In the coming weeks, rather than the weekly email, you will begin receiving the *E-Pistle*. Thank you to Kit Foster for coming up with our new title. Our *E-pistle* will not be many pages long and is intended for brief information, news and announcements. Longer pieces, like this article, will appear in our Monthly Newsletter (new name yet to be determined!) For those not receiving email, news from the *E-Pistle* will also be available at the Sunday services.

*Mimi*



**The Wider Church**  
**Episcopal Diocese**  
**Diocesan Budget Discussions -**

Letter from the Bishops

Budget Discussions are in full swing at our Diocese and, like in most of our households and communities, difficult choices need to be made. Reorganization of the diocesan staff and layoffs already occurred during the summer. Now so that everyone may be well briefed and prepared for budget discussions at Diocesan Convention in October, three meetings will be held around the diocese to review the process and the proposed budget to be considered by Convention. **Saint David's will host one of these meetings on Thursday, September 29th.** The meetings are open to all - consider coming to discuss your budget as the Diocese of Connecticut. No need to register.



**College Boxes:** Do you have a college student living away from home? Outreach will be mailing boxes loaded with goodies at the end of September. Please forward your college student's name and mailing address to Sandi Brown at [rsmbrown89@att.net](mailto:rsmbrown89@att.net).

**Stuffed Back Packs:** Thank you to everyone who helped with the third "giving tree" of 2011. 24 stuffed back packs were delivered to students in residence at New London's Covenant Shelter and Norwich's TVCCA Shelter. Thank you to Andrew Stadnicki, Fiona Green, Sam Campbell, and Kamryn Gurnee for stuffing the bags with the school supplies!

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** A huge thank you to everyone who made the blood drive on Wednesday, August 10th, such a success. Thank you

to our cookie bakers, our hostesses, and to our parishioners who gave blood. The American Red Cross had hoped to collect 45 pints of blood; but were thrilled to collect 54 pints! This potentially will help up to 162 people!!! The left-over cookies were donated to St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich.



## PARISH LIFE Communications

**Note:** Want to make a BRIEF announcement to the parish? Activity, event, etc. Please send your announcements NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAYs at 3:00 PM for the email blast / Sunday bulletin. Remember, the operative word is BRIEF. It would be best for other information to go in the monthly Newsletter.

**Note:** Do you have a gift to give as a communication helper and don't want to attend meetings – photos, writing, advertising, phone calls, publicity, folding, etc.? And did I say NO MEETINGS!!!! Please call or write Mimi 860-917-3891, mimipeckl@aol.com or contact Pam Green in the office.

**Newsletter:** We will be sending out the PDF versions of the monthly newsletter FIRST with your Email blast! It will subsequently be put on the website and produced for distribution to those without email access.

**New:** We are still looking for a new name for our monthly *SAIN'T DAVID'S NEWS*. Have a catchy new title that will “say something” about us as a Parish? Have suggestions about how we can communicate better? Let us know! Drop it in the NEW Communications Suggestions box – or send an email to stdavidsgf@aol.com or call the Parish Office. Remember – Welcome Home to Saint David's – Love, Serve Grow....

**Calendar available on line:** Forget when a Ministry meeting, a rehearsal or a special event at or for Saint David's is occurring? Now you can check it on line – in real time! The calendar published in the hardcopy newsletter is effective as of the date of issue but subsequent changes will be made on the website calendar (<http://www.saintdavidsgf.org/calendar.html>) which people should consult for the latest information. To enter the calendar from the first page on the website, click on “Announcements” on the left and then “Calendar.”

## Fellowship

**Save The Date:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ST. DAVID'S DINNER THEATER will be on Nov 5th. Auditions for speaking parts are currently underway. The Director of this years' production will again be Emma Palzere-Rae, and she will also be looking for people interested in participating as production crew, table servers,

andkitchen staff. Please consider joining in the fun by giving your time and talent for this wonderful production. If you have any questions, please contact Emma Palzere-Rae at [bewell@99main.com](mailto:bewell@99main.com) or 860 405-8180, or the Fellowship Ministry at [circle333@comcast.net](mailto:circle333@comcast.net) or 860 381-5479.

## PASTORAL CARE

**Search Committee:** PARISH PROFILE is on the website. It is one of several pieces of information that candidates for our new Rector will use to learn more about us. If you are unable to access the website or would prefer to receive a print copy, please contact any member of the search committee or call the parish at 860-464-6516.

**Card Ministry:** A new part of our Pastoral Care ministry: Get Well, Thinking of You, Congratulations (new baby and graduations) and Sympathy hand-made cards are a special way we can touch our parishioners. Eve White is heading up this group. If you would like to help her or you know someone who should get a card, please contact Eve during the 10:15 fellowship, email [eve\\_p\\_white@yahoo.com](mailto:eve_p_white@yahoo.com) or call her at 860-495- 5336.

## WORSHIP

Dedications for Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Light: Please look at the sign up board and if you have signed up for a dedication, please fill out and return the card to the office, or you can email the information to the office at [stdavidsgf@aol.com](mailto:stdavidsgf@aol.com). If you email, please include the date that you have chosen in the email along with the dedication.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Rite 13** – Thanks to parishioner generosity, the Heifer International fundraiser (outreach project) by Rite 13 purchased 1 llama, 1 flock of chicks, 1 Hope Basket (rabbits & chicks) and 1 Gardener's Basket (chicks, rabbits, bees, and trees). Well done!

ONE WEB PAGE FOR ALL PICTURES  
FROM THE 16 MOST RECENT NEWSLETTERS!  
<http://michaeljmclane.com/StDavid/Multi-Newsletters.html>

Download or view this month's pictures in  
**color**, from this web site [http://  
gallery.me.com/mmclane#101075](http://gallery.me.com/mmclane#101075)

Aug. Average Sunday attendance	120	
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	September 1, 2011	
	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$159,619	\$165,699
Plate	\$5,635	\$10,260
Total	\$165,254	\$175,959