

Jan. 2012

Welcome Home to Saint David's Episcopal Church

THE



JOURNEY

Love • Serve • Grow

284 Stoddard's Wharf Road, Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Website: www.saintdavidsgf.org E-mail: churchoffice@saintdavidsgf.org

860-464-6516

Celebrating 50 years of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known 1962 - 2012

Opportunities are found in *bold italics* throughout *The Journey*

DATES OF IMPORTANCE:

Jan. 16		Office Closed
Jan. 17	7pm	May Fundraiser Meeting
Jan. 24	7pm	Deanery Meeting at Saint David's
Jan. 29		<i>Annual Meeting</i>
Jan. 30	7pm	<i>Outreach Ministry Meeting</i>
Feb. 12		<i>Father Blake's Last Sunday :-)</i>
Feb. 13	7pm	Hour of Prayer

Note: You can find a comprehensive Parish Calendar on our Website
www.saintdavidsgf.org and click on "Announcements"

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Sunday, January 29, 2012

Preceded by One Service at 9 am, followed by coffee
and donuts before the meeting

Nursery and Child Care Provided for the 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 NEWSLETTERS **SINCE JANUARY 2009!**
<http://www.zangzing.com/stdavid>

From the Rector+

Pathways to Epiphany

The Christian church has observed the season of Epiphany since the third century. The Day of Epiphany falls on January 6. As Christmas marks the appearance of God to the human family in the person of Jesus Christ, the presence of foreign Magi is symbolic that the one they sought as “King of the Jews” was “King of the Gentiles as well. The visit of the Wise Men clearly indicates that it was the Gentiles who were also ultimately to receive the gospel.

Little is written in Scripture about the Magi. The only account of their visit can be found in the second chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. However, much tradition has surrounded them. Matthew does not give us their names and does not even specify how many there were. The number three has evolved because they bore three gifts. It took some time for the early church to accept the fact that Jesus was not sent to the Jews exclusively. But, once the church, at Paul’s urging, understood the universal intention of God, it set into motion a mighty missionary effort that reached throughout the Roman Empire. The Good News that was shared with the Magi also extends to all people of every time and space.

As we enter yet another Epiphany season, we are made starkly aware that the missionary task of the church remains unfinished. Despite centuries of history, there are people near and far who still await the bright light, the “Star” of Jesus Christ to break the darkness of their lives. We are given the task to bring it to them.

Peace,

Father Blake+



A Christmas PS

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling: “How could it be so?”
“It came without ribbons! It came without tags!”
“It came without packages, boxes or bags!”
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before!
“Maybe Christmas,” he thought, “doesn’t come from a store.”
“Maybe Christmas- - perhaps- - means a little bit more!”



From the Senior Warden

VESTRY UPDATES

Vestry Meeting Highlights from December, 2011

TREASURER'S REPORT: - Due to current shortfall, spending has been curtailed as much as possible. In order to allow revenue to accumulate, release of Diocesan pledge funds and large Outreach requests will not be made until the end of December.

FACILITIES REPORT: Several projects have been completed by several parishioners:

- During the storms this year several trees on the east side of the parking lot were damaged or blown down. Sprigs and Twigs removed the fallen trees and other detritus and the church insurance covered the majority of the cost.
- Sanctuary sound system has been extended to the library (with independent volume control on the bottom of the speaker.) and the parish hall where 3 speakers have been installed with an independent volume control located above the piano on the southeast side.
- A hardwired internet connection has been installed on the east side of the library
- The hot water heater in the basement developed a leak in November. The vendor provided a replacement but did not cover the costs of installation. We expect the Diocese will reimburse us for this cost.

50th ANNIVERSARY: The first meeting of this team was held on November 4th and the goals and the event ideas being considered for this year-long celebration were reviewed. The committee is *soliciting ideas and suggestions* from parish members.

KITCHEN/FELLOWSHIP: Hilda Zeigler thanked the crew for scrubbing the kitchen from top to bottom in preparation for the Christmas Feast.

OUTREACH: Sandi highlighted the St. Vincent Prep Party held on Dec 12 and the St. Vincent Christmas Party to be held on Dec 15. She also provided a written breakdown of minimum Outreach budgetary requirements for the 2012 Spending Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mimi noted that the committees is still “fine tuning” the format and use of our logo and tags. The old metal highway signs have been removed and will be replaced in 2012 with new signs. The new signs will use the new format that the national Episcopal Church has developed. Our Yellow pages ad has been cancelled as a cost saving measure. The E-Pistle is still undergoing fine tuning, but ministry heads are encouraged to get information in to Tiffany so that it can included in the E-Pistle and Newsletter as appropriate. Additionally, the Newsletter will only be mailed to those specifically requesting a mailing. It will be available on-line and printed copied can be picked up at church as necessary.



DEANERY: The next Deanery meeting will be held at St David’s at 7 PM on Tuesday Jan 24, 2012. The Deanery is currently waiting for permission to resume planning an Ecuador mission trip for summer 2012. The Deanery has come to the conclusion that offering an outdoor Eucharist is too large of an endeavor for the Deanery to handle alone. The Deanery will be seeking assistance from area churches.

2012 SPENDING PLAN: Bill Day introduced the proposed 2012 Ministry Spending Plan and provided information on the rationale for the line item increases and decreases. By making cuts in several areas, primarily Diocesan Pledge and Outreach, projected 2012 income and expenses will balance. He recommended that Vestry sub-committee meetings be held on Dec 20, 27 and Jan 3 to review the budget and to make necessary adjustments prior to the Vestry voting on the Spending Plan at its Jan 10, 2012 meeting. Significant changes in spending plan line items were shown in heating, property liability insurance due to increased value of the property, clergy housing due to the requirement that we cover the cost of utilities for our rector. Additional discussion took place on remembering who we are and the power of the tithe in regards to our Outreach program.

Steve Forbes
Senior Warden



LEAP OF FAITH

Congratulations for your *very* positive, “Leap Of Faith” response to our 2012 Stewardship campaign at St David’s.

Our financial secretary, Pat Fialkosky, reported the following: Pledges for 2012 at \$306,000 were \$36,000 or 13.5%, above those for 2011. Although the number of pledging units in 2012, at 92, dropped from 2011’s total of 98, the average per unit Pledge increased from \$2,790 to \$3,334, an increase of \$544 each or 19.5%.

Blessings to all.



Saint David’s Photo Directory

We are finalizing the new edition of the church Photo Directory. Please look at the draft pages in the Gathering Space and inspect your picture. If it is good, do nothing. If it is out of date or you want another picture, cross out the picture shown and we will take a new photo. If your picture is not shown, we need a new one to put in our database.

We want to complete the new directory soon because it will be a big help to the new Rector in identifying parishioners. Pictures will be taken after each service **during January**. Any questions, call Pete Landolt (860-536-6487).



END-OF-LIFE ISSUES SEMINAR

Our Lady of Lourdes parish will be hosting an End-of-Life Issues seminar that will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall on **January 26**, beginning at 6:30 p.m.. We will have a panel of experts in medicine, law, hospice care, spiritual and funeral concerns making presentations and answering questions.

Fr. Brian Converse invites all from the region to attend this seminar.

ST. DAVID'S DAY & TALENT SHOW SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH.

St. David's Day is being celebrated Sunday March 4th this year and will include a parish-wide Talent Show! This will be the kick-off event for special programs throughout the year *celebrating the 50th Anniversary* of St. David's Church.

Maren Schober and Emma Rae are the Show coordinators. St. David's is blessed with lots of talent...all kinds of talent. Please take a look at what you might have to offer. A monologue? An instrumental solo? A song? A dance?

A short comedy skit with fellow church members? A comedy skit representing a church group you work with?

Leading a preschool group song? Leading "Little Lights" bell ringers? Any ideas of your own?

Please use the sign up posters in the vestibule to sign up and speak with the show coordinators.

We need all kinds of help and we need all members to attend the show with their support.

Thank you! I know this will be one of the best shows ever! Finger food lunch following the 10:15 worship service and the show following the lunch. The show should start around 12:20 p.m.

Maren Schober, 860-848-7066



50th Anniversary Prayer – Pete Landolt (1/7/2012)

Heavenly father, IN THE BEGINNING of 1962 you gave birth and life to Saint David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry, Connecticut. Today we give you special praise and thanksgiving upon the fiftieth anniversary of that event. Over these 50 years we have struggled, grown and flourished with the typical ups and downs of a Christian community as our members pursued our individual and collective journeys toward your heavenly kingdom. The diversity of our Christian population has given strength and vitality to our worship, fellowship and programs. Now, as we embark on the next half-century, we ask your blessing upon this church and all our parish family that we may praise you, find strength in our savior Jesus Christ, and *Love, Serve and Grow* as a community of faith. During these and future times we ask you to give us the wisdom to *Welcome Home to Saint David's* all who walk through our doors. In doing this, please give us strength to do your will: nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. AMEN

Nominating Committee Report for Parish Offices

The Nominating Committee – Chair Steve Forbes, Kim Shukis and Mimi Peck-Llewellyn – proposed a slate of nominees for Parish Offices as required by Article IV, Section 4 of the By-Laws to the Vestry at the January 10, 2012 meeting. The following slate of qualified communicants in good standing was accepted and will be presented to the Parish as candidates for election to the Offices of the Parish at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012:**

1. Officers of the Parish:

- For terms ending January 2013
Senior Warden and Diocesan Delegate: Bill Merrill
Junior Warden: Mimi Peck-Llewellyn
Clerk: Leslie Aiken
Treasurer: Steve Forbes

- For terms ending January 2015
Vestryperson: Nancy Randall
Vestryperson: David Cady
Vestryperson: Jack White

- For term ending January 2014
Vestryperson: Kirk Kirkpatrick (to fill the position vacated by Ed Fialkosky)

- For term ending January 2013
Vestryperson: Pam Najarian (to fill the position vacated by Bryan Green)

2. Other Offices of the Parish:

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Jill Foster (for term ending January 2013)
Seabury Deanery Council Representative: Allan Dierman (for term ending January 2014)

The following persons are currently serving unexpired terms:

Young Adult Vestryperson: Patrick Lang (appointed by Rector – no term)
Vestryperson: Sandi Brown (term expiring 2013)
Vestryperson: Bernadette Moss (term expiring 2013)
Vestryperson: Peg Donahue (term expiring 2014)
Vestryperson: Tom Day (term expiring 2014)
Diocesan Delegate: Hilda Zeigler (term expiring 2013)
Seabury Deanery Council: Jill Foster (term expiring 2013)

Christmas Day Feast Photos:



December Average Sunday attendance

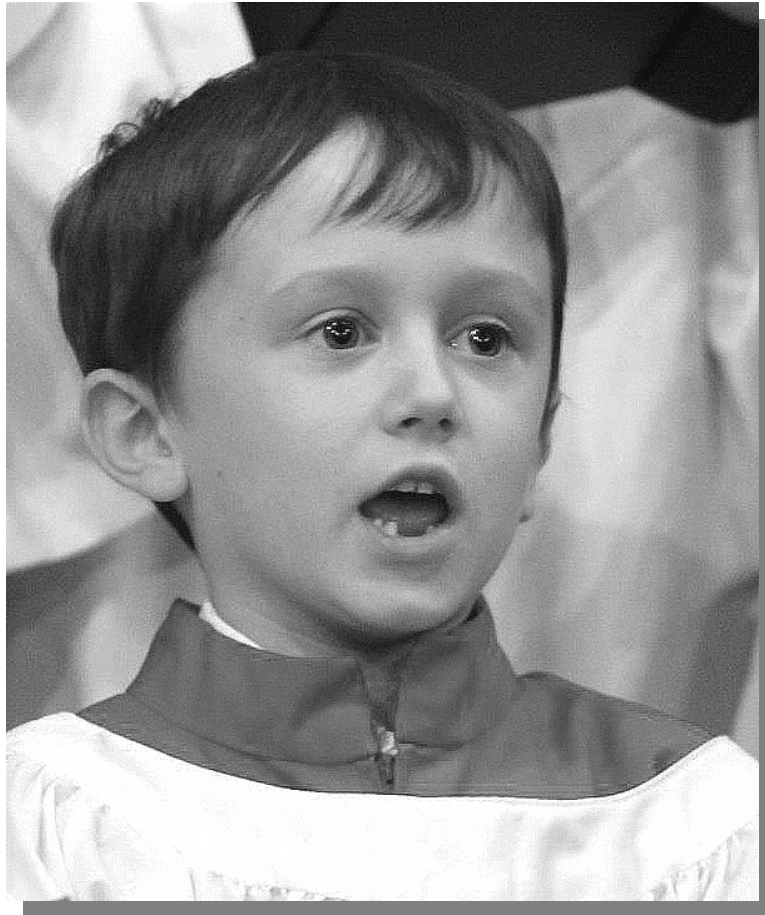
140

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Thru 12/31/11

	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$274,351	\$281,000
Plate	\$8,679	\$17,400
Total	\$283,030	\$298,400

Download or view **this month's** pictures. These pictures and more in **color**, from this web site <http://www.zangzing.com/stdavid/jan-2012-nl>



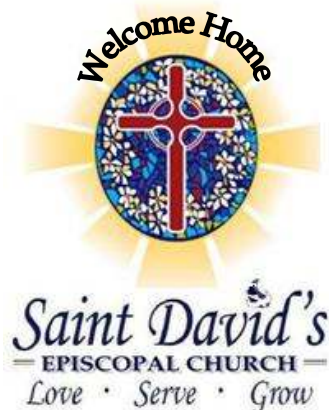
What Do You Think?

*Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent;
For this is God's house.
Before the service, speak to the Lord,
During the service, let the Lord speak to you,
After the service, speak to each other.*

Perhaps you have seen this sign as you enter the Sanctuary. As you probably know, we have people all over the place on this issue from: "Nobody really pays attention to this sign anyway," to " This sign really limits a sense of openness and friendliness that has always been a part of St. David's." What do you think? Let us know.

From One Parishioner:

I appreciate that sign but I have heard that not everyone does. Let me tell you what Sunday Worship means to me. My service does not begin with the opening Hymn. Prior to that, I use some time, about 10 or 15 minutes, to pray and reflect on the previous week, the week ahead, the things that I have done or should have done, the things going on in my life, and the people around me. I thank those who promote the quiet times before the first Hymn as it really nourishes my spirit. I regret if my need for a rich and full quiet time creates any kind of hardship for others and pray that their equally important need to connect with others in conversation will be fully met at a different time and space.



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GALES FERRY, CT 06335