

Saint David's Episcopal Church

Gales Ferry, Connecticut



ST. DAVID'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GALES FERRY

2023 Annual Report

February 11, 2024

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MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION: TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

Saint David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry, Connecticut is a warm and caring parish, welcoming diversity in age, gender, race and background. We nurture the development of our children and youth, and we serve the people of southeastern Connecticut and beyond.

We are a parish of all ages and stages of Christian development, traveling together on a spiritual journey, offering many opportunities to foster a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to share that knowledge and love with all people.

We are an inclusive congregation in the mainstream of Episcopal tradition in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut's Southeast Region. Our Christ-centered faith is reflected in inspirational liturgy, sacraments, prayer and joyful music. We have a firm commitment to provide Christian education and growth opportunities for all.

Outreach is vital to our parish. We proclaim our faith through deeds of love by the generous commitment of our time, energy, gifts, prayer and financial support to make Christ known within our church, community, country and the world, as we become the people that God calls us to be.

VISION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENTS AND GOALS

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

Just as Jesus did, we welcome you no matter who you are, or where you came from. Jesus loved you regardless of your circumstances. We at Saint David's try to follow Jesus in his teachings about loving unconditionally. We will welcome you with open arms into our worship community.

SERVE FAITHFULLY

We give of our time and talents, as God has given to us. We hope to set an example of serving faithfully, not only in our worship community, but in the local, state, national and worldwide communities.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

We are committed to spiritual growth, and offer an abundance of formation opportunities for adults, youth and children. Rooted in the Holy Spirit, we provide a strong foundation, centered in our belief in God and the glory of the risen Christ.

AGENDA: ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 5, 2023

1. Call to Order – Jana Branson, Rector
2. Invocation
3. Presentation and adoption of the Rolls of the Members and Electors
4. Approval of Minutes of the last Annual meeting of February 6, 2022
5. Reports
 - a. Report of the Interim Rector
 - b. Senior Warden
 - c. Junior Warden
 - d. Treasurer
 - i. Review of 2022
 - ii. Presentation of the 2023 Spending Plan
 - e. Christian Formation
 - f. Other Ministries
6. Presentation of Slate of Nominees
 - a. Introduction of Nominees
7. Election of Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk, Vestrypersons
8. Election of Delegates to ECCT Convention
9. Election of Nominating Committee
10. Old Business
11. New Business properly brought before the meeting
12. Benediction
13. Adjournment

VOTING MEMBERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 11, 2023

MEMBER LIST 2023-2024

Adams, Dcn Ellen	Campbell, Robert	Day, Edward
Aiken, Richard	Carey, Charles	Day, Myra
Aiken, J. Leslie	Carey, Christopher	Dierman, Allan
Anderson, Joseph	Carlin, Mary Anne	Dierman, Linda
Anderson, Patricia	Carr, Lisa	Dierman, Marie
Atlixqueno, Alayna	Carr, George Jr	Dow, Ann
Beebe, Dale Ann	Carr, George III	Fallon, Diane
Bohannan, Bo	Cloud, Amy	Fallon, Hap
Briggs, Dorothy	Cosenza, Janet	Fialkosky, Ed
Bristol, Georgette	Crowley, Naomi	Fialkosky, Pat
Burdick, Pauline	Cue, (Buzz)	Flowers, Victoria
Burr, Anna Mae	Cue, Louise	Forbes, Steve
Cady, James	Curcio, Christine	Forbes, Susie
Campbell, Julie	Davis, Joyce	Foster, Kit

Foster, Jill
Good, Joan
Graf, Karen
Graf, Fred
Grondahl, Steven
Gurnee, George
Gurnee, Sonya
Gurnee, Robert
Hall, Raymond
Harding, Kent
Harding, Mackie
Hochdorfer, Joe
Hochdorfer, Teri
Hochdorfer, Jessica
Hochdorfer, Karissa
Hochdorfer, Ryan
Joiner, Maureen
Joiner, Brian
Jones, Raymond
Kirkpatrick, William
Ladd, Sarah
Landolt, Peter
Lathrop, Dorothy
Legg, Marty
Leone, Jacqueline
Leone, Leslie
Litwin, Steve

Lyon, John
Martelle, Clif
Martelle, Robin
Martelle, Sebastian
McIntyre, Bruce
McIntyre, Polly
McKelvey, Dennis
McKelvey, Susan
McLane, Michael
McNaughton, Marilyn
Miller, Constance
Morelli, Susan
Murphy, Nicole
Muskus, Claire
Nogacek, Kenneth
Nogacek, Melissa
Nogacek, Meghan
Nolan, Thomas
Nolan, Jane
Norberg, Paula
Olsen, Ruth
Olson, Jeannette
Peck-Llewellyn, Mimi
Ramos, Elizabeth
Ramos, Bayron
Reifeiss, Barbara
Reifeiss, Fred

Ripley, Anne
Schober, Albert
Schober, Maren
Sheffield, Flo
Shepherd, Edward
Shepherd, Kathy
Shukis, Chris
Shukis, Kimberly
St. Laurent, Diane
Stadnicki, Christine
Stadnicki, Scott
Stadnicki, Jennifer
Stadnicki, Andrew
Stryker, David
Stryker, Sharon
Urello, Pat
Urello, Pam
Wakim, John
Wakim, Anne
Weeks, Jeannine
Weeks, Paul
White, Jack
White, Eve
Ysewyn, Clark
Ysewyn, Reid
Ziolko, Jessica
Ziolko, John

ST. DAVID'S ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES 2023

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Jana Branson at 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Jana offered an invocation.

Ken Nogacek calls everyone's attention to the Voting Members for Annual Meeting

Pat Anderson moves to adopt the Rolls of Members and Electors as presented. Mike McLane seconds. All in favor motion passes.

Ken Nogacek asks for a motion to accept the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting as presented in the Annual Report. **Pat Anderson moves to accept the February 6, 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. Ed Fialkosky seconds. All in favor, motion passes.**

Rev. Jana indicates that any person who has provided a 2022 report is welcome to come to the podium to add additional comments.

Rev. Jana begins her Rector's Report. She indicates we will continue to live-stream the 10:15 service and she asks that anyone who is interested in learning to live-stream please let either Tom Nolan or Scott Stadnicki know and seek training from Scott Stadnicki. She discussed the method of communion and concerns of COVID or any illness. We are not yet ready to provide a common cup.

We have also added a sporadic Wednesday morning service which is a healing eucharist using eucharistic prayer C combined with a book study. The Wednesday service will continue on a sporadic basis so watch for announcements in the Epistle. There is also a team who takes communion to people who are homebound. She thanked the members of the team and also thanks to Christy Stadnicki who provides transportation to Paula Norberg. Rev. Jana discussed the various events that took place throughout 2022 such as blessing of the animals, serving at New London meal center and thanks the youth who have participated by making Shepherd's Pie and serving at the center, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas party which has continued as a drive-through outdoor version of the Christmas Party. Unfortunately, we were not able to carry out the annual Christmas Feast but many parish members helped at the New London Meal Center who opened for Christmas. School supply drive and coat drive was also mentioned. SOUPER Bowl Sunday will be next week, and the youth will collect funds to provide to the homeless hospitality center. We also have LICEAF, and when she asked for new board members and four people volunteered. Lisa Nogacek will be our board member on LICEAF. We are blessed to have parish members who have volunteered to take our donated food to the Ledyard food pantry each week. Our prayer chain continues with Maren Schober's lead. And finally, the CROP walk continues, and Jill Foster would love to have help promoting that fun and very meaningful event. Rev. Jana states she is very appreciative of our very generous donations during the capital campaign. We now look like we are open with the newly paved parking lot and the groups who have worked hard to keep the weeds down. And the air conditioning in the sanctuary helps to make it much more comfortable during the summer months so those who did not want to attend during the heat now attend.

Ken Nogacek, Sr Warden states it is always an honor and privilege to serve the parish as it has been for the past eight years. We would like to continue to rebuild the committees that existed prior to COVID so we can take God out to the community. Please pray on how you can help. If we all tithe our time which is 5 hours a week, we can accomplish so much. Thanks to Terri, Mimi and Hap for their time and service on the Vestry. We have one more 3-year opening on the vestry if anyone is interested, please see Ken or one of the other vestry members.

Scott Stadnicki, Jr Warden would like to echo what Ken said. This was his fourth year serving as Jr. Warden and it has been an honor. Thanks to Ken Nogacek and Ed Fialkosky for all the work they did to help organize the capital campaign and supporting Steve Forbes, Treasurer. We had the air conditioner installed. Bill Day and Jacqueline Leone were here every day during the installation. Jacqueline did all the research and obtained the quotes for the air conditioners. Scott discussed the parking lot paving and the prior condition of the parking lot. He points everyone to the outline in the annual report. The sound system was also updated by replacing speakers and the inside of the black box behind the pulpit. The controls can now be accessed remotely. Sam Whitmore was an outstanding contractor, and he guarantees his work and is available to help us when needed. The front doors were sanded down and repainted. And the door to the playground was replaced. Sprigs and Twigs did all the fall cleanup and now it is up to us to maintain the outside areas before the weeds are up to our waist again. If you see a weed pull a weed. If you have questions about weeding, please ask Jill Foster or Christy Stadnicki. There are still a few other projects under the capital campaign. We would like to replace all the parking lot lights. Ed Fialkosky has been working on the lighting project. There is also a plan to resurface the playground to help make it a weed-free area, replace the wood mulch with rubber mulch to make it even safer for the children.

Steve Forbes, Treasurer indicates the 2022 Treasurers report has been a real challenge. He offers

thanks to Madeline Wilson, Assistant to the Rector and Bill Day, Assistant Treasurer for all their support. The Capital Campaign was a huge success and Steve mentioned the amount raised and the number of loans outstanding. To balance the 2023 budget, we had to allocate \$40,000 out of the Rector Savings. If you remember, when Rev. Mark Santucci was here, we were able to bank away some funds in preparation for a new Rector. Looking ahead into 2024, we will be talking about that more and more this year. Jill Foster asks if there were any loans or funds received from the diocese towards capital improvements. Steve responds that he did apply for a grant, and we should receive some money this spring from the Diocese.

Diane St. Laurent states that Christian Formation was on budget. Although some of the children are taller than her, they still listen to her. They are willing to try and do almost anything. They are very positive, and she is amazed at the depth of their faith. Their relationship with God is enviable. Money collected from Souper Bowl Sunday will be used for the children to shop at Ocean State Job Lot to purchase items for the Homeless Hospitality Center.

Rev. Jana asks if there are any questions about any of the other reports or if anyone would like to add comments to their reports. Polly McIntyre states that we have a lot going on at St David's despite of COVID and she would like to state that Ledyard is a very Ecumenical place which LICEAF is one of and which Cindy and Mike McLane have been on for over 30 years. The CROP walk is another crucial ecumenical event. And Summery VBS has often been Ecumenical. She thinks it is important for everyone to realize how ecumenical Ledyard is and the parish members who are involved in all the ecumenical events. It is very nice to be a part of the community.

Mike McLane states that there is a resource here between himself, Cindy, and Pete who are willing to help you understand what it means and what they got out of the events they are involved in. Rev. Jana adds that there are many people here who have served for several years, and we should not ignore those resources available to us.

Jill Foster would like to echo what people have said but specifically the ecumenical groups. There is always more strength when more than one group is involved. There is a partnership, a fellowship, and growth through Christ and the world. There are many sitting here who are part of our parish who worked out how we as a Diocese on how we will work together and meet. Those things that used to be only one parish can be Diocesan wide. If you keep clicking on all the resources on the Diocesan website, you will learn all there is to learn. There is a tremendous number of resources available. There are also virtual options as opposed to in person.

Tom Nolan has a question for Steve Forbes, Treasurer. Steve highlighted the deficit between income and expenses, and he asks if it was an increase of expense or a failure to meet pledge income or a combination of both. Steve indicates most of it is a lack of income. Most of the expenses were right on budget but we were shy on income. Tom asks if 2023 is expense or income and Steve states that there is an increase in expenses, but we have that covered. Tom Nolan approaches the microphone, and he states that most people do not like to hear we are a church as well as a business. If we do not have income enough to cover the expenses, we are going to die. With the projections Steve has mentioned, we need to address the income and the expenses. Income can increase by both existing members giving more and we get more members to join. For those who can afford to increase their giving he asks we do so. The response to the capital campaign was tremendous, there was an emotional response. Normal general giving does not generate an emotional response. For those who

have friends, family, or new people moving into the area, please ask them to attend and join. We do not want to cut back on our important missions.

Ed Fialkosky indicates the capital campaign could not have been done without Bill Day, Jacqueline Leone. He adds that Rev. Jana has already been approaching people to join our church and we have plans to celebrate our 60th Anniversary.

Ken Nogacek, working together to achieve projects, let's all work together to get the parish hall cleaned up.

Presentation of the Slate of Nominees – Ken Nogacek, Sr. Warden:
The Nomination Committee consists of the Senior Warden, according to By-laws, as well as 2 members of the congregation elected at the annual meeting. This past year consisted of myself, Jeanette Olson and Jacquelin Leone.

We met in January of this year to discuss and solicit nominations for Vestry for 3-year terms. We also have a 2-year term that needs to be filled due to the resignation of Anna Mae Burr, another 2-year term that is the result of Teri Hochdorfer continuing one year beyond her 3-year term. We also have a one-year term from the resignation of Mimi Peck-Llewellyn.

We are pleased to nominate the following nominations:

Vestry 3-Year Term:

Chris Curcio
Lisa Carr

Vestry 2-Year Term:

Hap Fallon
Ed Fialkosky

Vestry 1-Year Term:

Jeanette Olson

The Following are nominated for one year Officer positions:

Senior Warden- Ken Nogacek
Junior Warden- Scott Stadnicki
Clerk- Nicole Murphy
Treasurer- Steve Forbes

Kent Harding motions to cast one vote for the slate of vestry and officers, Pat Anderson seconds. All in favor, motion passes.

Jeannette Olson is in the third year of her Diocesan delegate and Jill Foster is starting her second

year of her three-year term. Thank you both for your work. Rev. Jana asks if someone is willing to be an alternate to please speak with her, Jill, Jeanette or Ken Nogacek. The alternate is a one-year term. The convention is in the fall and is usually on Friday and Saturday.

Ken Nogacek, Sr Warden will be on the nominating committee, and he asks for two members to volunteer. Chris Curcio and Jacqueline Leone volunteer.

Rev. Jana states there is no old business from the 2022 Annual meeting. She asks there if there is any new business to be brought before the meeting. Hearing none she continues by announcing there will be a Lenten Study on Thursday evenings during lent. Eric Branson will be leading the Lenten Book Study which will be on the Stephanie Steller book "The Church Cracked Open". There is a sign-up sheet at the doorway to indicate your interest in participating. Amy Cloud adds that this study is a good opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to join in the study which is what she likes to refer to as the "Christianity Curious".

Rev. Jana closes the meeting with a benediction from the book of common prayer at 12:14 p.m. Meeting was officially adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Rector's Report 2023

2023 began with a Wednesday morning Eucharist Service and the last few weeks of our Book Study the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. Attendance was small, but the discussion was lively.

Sunday Services continued at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. with Sunday School in between. Fellowship through Coffee Hour continued after each service. We continue to have communion with regular wafers and a common chalice. Most parishioners prefer intinction at this time, due to residual concerns about COVID-19. In addition to Sunday School, our nursery for infants and toddlers resumed this year with well-known attendants. The adult discussion continued to meet between Sunday services.

Music has expanded this year to include more singers than last year and I believe that this has been done safely. The handbell choir has expanded a bit as well to include 2 non-members.

We continue to live-stream our Sunday Services each week. We had our sound equipment improved in 2023 using part of our capital campaign funds. This makes the in-person and the live-streamed services clearer and more enjoyable.

We lost 4 members this year due to various illnesses. 3 of the 4 were interred in the Memorial Garden, the other at Arlington National Cemetery.

During Lent we had a Soup Supper - Book Study each week using the book, "The Church Cracked Open" by Stephanie Spellers followed by Compline. This book about racism was quite controversial for St. David's, but we had a very good turn-out of 26-30 people each week. The discussions were emotional for some and educational for all.

The Wednesday night bible study resumed this year, led by lay person, Bill Day.

This fall we did another Soup Supper / Book Study on “Love Wins” by Rob Bell followed by Compline. We had a moderate turn-out for this, around 12 people.

During the summer we participated in Vacation Bible School with St. Luke Lutheran Church and the United Methodist Church in Gales Ferry. Attendance was good from local children.

I continued to serve on the LICEAF (Ledyard Inner-Church Emergency Assistance Fund) with 2 parishioners. I also served on the local ecumenical Faith-Based Community Action Sponsoring Committee.

Our pastoral care team to do pastoral visits with people in long-term care or who are homebound. We have fewer people in need at this time, and visits happen regularly. We also welcome 2 of our parishioners in nursing homes to church on a regular basis. One is transported by a parishioner and the other by a van service at her conservator’s request.

Submitted by The Rev. Jana Branson

Senior Warden Report 2023

As my 9th year as Senior Warden comes to a close, I would like to thank every member of the St. David’s for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve in this capacity. I am truly humbled.

Two months ago, the report I was working on looked completely different than it does presently.

We as a parish have done a fantastic job of improving our facilities. In addition to the improvements from 2022, this past year we improved our parking lot lighting. We also sealed the “Rose Window” We redid the roof over the Parish Hall where it was leaking as well. These will allow us to be able to use the facilities more efficiently as we move forward. There have also been many other improvements that I am sure Scott will speak about in the Junior Warden Report.

We had an excellent Stewardship campaign. I am happy to report we increased pledges by approximately 11%. This will help us again as we move forward.

I personally felt Jana was growing in her position as Rector and that she was committed to the growth of St. David’s. Therefore, I was completely caught off guard when she called me just after Thanksgiving and informed me that she was leaving and taking a position elsewhere.

Given only about a month to deal with her resignation was not the easiest position to put St. David’s in. I am very appreciative of her efforts to secure supply clergy through Easter with missing only a couple of Sundays in that time. I am also very appreciative of the three and half years she dedicated to our Parish. I feel she made some very positive contributions that should help us as we move forward.

I would like to thank the entire Vestry for the work they have done both before Jana's resignation and since she left. Every member has offered their help and support to me in this time of transition. For that I am very thankful.

I would like to thank the following members with expiring Vestry Terms:

Jeanette Olson, Jacqueline Leone, Kent Harding, And our clerk the past year Nicole Murphy. I have appreciated all their efforts and input over the time they have been members. While technically leaving the Vestry they have all offered to fill in for partial terms to assist in this time of transition. For this we at St. David's are very blessed.

As we move into a new normal for St. David's, (I.E. transition). I feel we are on a good path. God is guiding us and we will see where that guidance takes us going forward. As I have mentioned in prior reports it is the people who make the church, not the rector. We are blessed with wonderful people in this congregation.

The one thing I will say as we go into this transition is that it will take all of us to make it successful. I ask each of you to pray how God may guide you in your journey with St. David's and how you may help us as we move into this new era for our parish. Again, Thank you for your continued support and faith in me as the Senior Warden.

Faithfully submitted,
Ken Nogacek

Junior Warden Report 2023

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve St. David's as Junior Warden for the past year. I would like to thank everyone for trusting me with overseeing the health of our beautiful church.

Emergency Lights in Sanctuary , Long Cove Electric, February

The fire report us to be in violation of emergency exit lighting in the Sanctuary. The following work was performed by Long Cove Electric to satisfy this requirement in February.

- Furnish and install conduit, conduit supports, fittings, wire, cable, devices, switches, and appurtenances necessary to complete the installation of all work as defined below.
- Furnish and install new LED exit light with integral emergency lights above the west exit from church with remote emergency light head in the exit foyer.
- Furnish and install new LED exit light with integral emergency lights above the north exit from the church with remote emergency light head in the exit foyer.

Outside Lighting and Parking Lot Lights, Long Cove Electric, Summer
Correcting and upgrading the outside lighting to the building and parking lot was part of the campaign projects. The following work was performed by Long Cove Electric.

- The outside (6) wall lights were retrofitted with LED with integral daylight (dusk to dawn) sensor and safety guards on inside toggle switches.
- All outside pole lights were repaired and retrofitted with LED lighting. All poles lights are now on the same circuit and are controlled by a daylight sensitive timer.

Dove Window Repair in Sanctuary, Dragonfly Studios

The dove stained glass window over the altar in the sanctuary had a history of leaking during heavy rain storms causing water to trickle down the wall puddle on the mantal directory under the cross behind the altar. Dragonfly Studios was hired to install a plexiglass covering over the exterior of the window along with calking to prevent leaking. This work was performed in August, 2023 at a cost of \$2300.

Roof Repairs, All Brothers Inc, Fall

There were parts of the roof over the kitchen, parish hall, and storage closet that leaking and causing damage to the ceilings. Bill Day provided this description of the issues,

“The flat roofs over the Kitchen and the Storage Room (where chairs and tables are stored) had been leaking for quite a while. This roof was 14 years old and the best rubber material available rated for 50 years was used. The roof over the kitchen is not leaking but needs to be resealed along the seams to prevent leaks developing. The roof over the storage room has a number of leaks which have damaged the sheet rock ceiling in the closet in at least three large areas. This roof has four edges: two which drain over sides and two which are meet by slanted shingle roofs. Because these flat roofs are susceptible to holes being made, construction near them is not recommended, so when the flat roof is replaced these slant shingle roofs are also recommended to be replaced including the ridges. Four rows of these shingles have to be removed to install the fire and ice transition material so this is a small add. The flat roof has to be done when the installation can dry 24 hours with temperatures are above 40 F. A certain sourced for some of the leakage is blown off shingle caps in the ridge for these two slanted roofs which allows water under the shingles to invade the flat roof material. These cap shingles were incorrectly installed using too short nails (1 inch vs 3 inch). These caps are to be replaced during the planned installation with the correct length nails.”

We contracted All Brother Inc to repair the damaged parts of the roof. All costs of these repairs and future roof repairs were covered and will be covered by our insurance policy.

I would especially like to thank Bill Day, Al Schober, and Steve Forbes for their dedication and expertise on all thing mechanical and building related. Their dedication to St. David’s is amazing.

Faithfully Submitted,
 Scott Stadnicki
 Junior Warden

FINANCE MINISTRY

Financial Secretary 2023

IF YOU WANT A REPORT OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST. DAVID'S YOU MUST COMPLETE A PLEDGE FORM. IF UNSURE OF THE AMOUNT OF YOUR PLANNED CONTRIBUTION(S) LEAVE THE PLEDGE AMOUNT INFORMATION BLANK.

The church's accounting system keeps track of contributions by individual account numbers. The annual pledge form is the basis for assigning or continuing an individual's account number. This number is either their envelope number if envelopes were requested or a number between 200 and 399 if you do not request envelopes. Contributors lacking an account number are recorded as miscellaneous (#533) with available information entered as a memo line.

As most contributors do not request envelopes only 40 boxes (numbers 1 through 40) were purchased in 2023 of which 15 were discarded at year end. Only 40 boxes (numbers 1 through 40) were purchased for 2024 (22 boxes have been requested as of January 1, 2023).

Contributions to St. David's are locked away as received until counted. They are counted twice a month, approximately mid-month and end-of-month, and funds deposited the day of the count. The counters also prepare a spreadsheet report identifying the contributor and amount by account (envelope) number. At least two people must be present for the count. Generally, the treasurer (Steve Forbes) and I count. If either one or both of us is unavailable Ed Fialkosky and Bill Day filled in as needed. My thanks to both for their service.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kent Harding,
Financial Secretary

Treasurer's Report 2023

The year 2023 has been challenging financially, with income flow barely matching expectations, and expenses were less than budgeted was a blessing. Use of the building has fallen significantly compared to past years and this income is missed. To balance the budget and cover expenses, Rector Savings had to contribute \$36,000 which was less than a budgeted \$40,000.

The church's budget managed to meet all expenses in a timely manner, but expenses still exceeded income by \$3,198. This difference was significantly less than previous years, but it was generated by a Pledge shortage of \$7,422, consumed \$36,000 of Rector Savings and \$3,000 of capital reserve in checking. The budget for 2024 reflects these same stresses but only supports a full-time rector for the last six months of 2024. The 2024 Pledge budget is \$29,100 more than 2023 Pledge budget and to balance the budget we are depositing \$48,623 into Rector Savings to support future Rector hiring. This may change after our visit with Rev Hodapp on February 4th.

Expense category summaries for calendar year 2023 are presented in the following line items:

Christian Formation was below budget, primarily due to Diane's management and frugal use of materials.

Worship was under budget \$1,800. This primarily due to decreasing the cost of Worship Supplies, less tuning of the organ/piano, and less use of specialty musicians.

ProcessConFileClaimNumber_V2 was over budget \$400. Outreach Pass-Through, Saint Vincent Christmas party, and Rector's Discretionary are primarily donations from parishioners, above what is normally allocated by the vestry. The Rector's Discretionary fund is alms for the needy, to be disbursed by the Rector, and the need is there. The parish is encouraged to support these line items as part of their mission support.

Parish Life was over budget \$1,668. This is primarily due to expenses covered that were not planned for such as vestry retreat and parish dinners.

Pastoral Care was slightly under budget \$38.

Wider Church was on budget. This is the Diocese Pledge and reflects monthly round off differences between the Diocese and our books.

Facilities and Grounds was under budget \$12,446. This expense category is usually over budget except for 2020 and 2023 and reflects many expenses of which we have little control over such as heating and Property Liability Insurance expenses. However, the Diocese switched our insurance vendor to the Church Insurance Agency resulting in a smaller than expected increase in our building and liability insurance premium.

Payroll was under budget \$2,802. A portion of Robin's salary has been allocated to the Organist and Director of Christian Formation Salaries as they have accepted a number of Robin's responsibilities, such as youth music and bells.

2024: The 2024 budget supports two supply rectors a month, the first six months of 2024, and a full-time rector the last six months, our existing staff, incorporates the Diocese-mandated salary growth of 3.05% due to cost of living and meets our Diocesan commitment. The following budget for Parish Ministries is in the Narrative Budget format and, has been approved by the Vestry. Points of interest are:

1. The budget is balanced;
2. The basis of the income and expenses listed is: performance of the accounts in 2023 and known changes such as contracts: negotiated with Anderson Oil, Eagle Landscaping for snow plowing, and Diocese related expenses;
3. The budgeted pledge amount is based on commitments received;
4. The budget supports the Diocese's 3.05 % COLA guidelines for clergy and employees;
5. Outreach is budgeted at \$2,500 and Rector's Discretionary Fund is budgeted at \$1,200, but both accounts need to be increased as opportunity presents and the needs in the community are identified.
6. The ECCT Assessment is budgeted at \$24,396, which is 10% of our 2023 Operating Income.

7. The new rector planned for July arrival is assumed
8. Five years' experience;
9. Married with family requiring insurance; and
10. Housing assumed at \$30,000.

Saint David's Account Balances as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

Centerville Bank Checking - \$77,333
Centerville Savings - \$102,673 Restricted Funds- \$25,716 (Rector Savings)
Centerville Bank CD \$175,281 (Matures May 2024)

The following pages are the CY 2023 Budgeted and Actual Receipts and Expenses, the CY 2024 Budget, and the Restricted Fund CY 2023 Fund Balances.

Respectfully Submitted
Steve Forbes, Treasurer
Bill Day, Assistant Treasurer

ST DAVID'S CY 2023 INCOME

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 INCOME BUDGET

\$0

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
01-4070	Ash Wednesday Envelope	\$240	\$103	\$150
01-4080	Christmas/Thanks Envelope	\$1,200	\$133	\$1,200
02-4510	Discretionary Fund	\$1,200	\$4,663	\$3,000
01-4301	Vacation Bible School	\$350	\$101	\$100
01-4060	Easter Envelope	\$500	\$483	\$500
02-4501	Good Friday	\$100	\$115	\$150
01-4090	Initial Offerings	\$80	\$98	\$100
01-4120	Interest	\$162	\$84	\$100
01-4130	Miscellaneous Income	\$50	\$431	\$550
02-4505	Outreach Income	\$1,000	\$1,021	\$1,000
02-4505-003	St Vincent Xmas	\$500	\$0	\$500
01-4035	Plate	\$12,826	\$12,614	\$13,000
01-4035-001	Plate Restricted	\$5,000	\$200	\$7,000
01-4030	Pledges	\$251,105	\$243,682	\$272,782
01-4031	Pledges last year	\$100	\$1,290	\$1,000
01-4032	Pledges for Next Year	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
01-4050	Special Offerings	\$0	-\$29	\$0
01-4110	Use of Building	\$5,000	\$1,880	\$3,000
25-5025	Rector Savings Exp	\$40,198	\$36,000	\$0

TOTALS \$326,611 \$308,869 \$310,132

VARIANCE \$0

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
CHRISTIAN FORMATION (EXPENSES)				
01-5510	Church School	\$300	\$357	\$400
01-5520	Library	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-5521	Vacation Bible School	\$500	\$275	\$400
Jan-13	Nursery Supplies	\$0	\$17	\$30
01-5514	Youth Group	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-5540	Adult Education	\$200	-\$26	\$0
SUB TOTAL		\$1,000	\$622	\$830
WORSHIP (EXPENSES)				
01-5450	Worship Supplies	\$2,500	\$1,886	\$2,300
01-5460	Choir Activities/Supplies	\$300	\$609	\$500
01-5465	Hand Bell Activities/Supplies	\$200	\$276	\$300
01-5470	Organ/Piano Tune	\$1,300	\$938	\$1,300
01-5475	Specialty Musicians	\$2,225	\$1,250	\$2,225
01-5405	Organist Cont. Educ.	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUB TOTAL		\$6,525	\$4,958	\$6,625

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
OUTREACH & MISSION (EXPENSES)				
02-5925	Outreach Pass-through	\$2,500	\$50	\$2,500
02-5935	Outreach	\$2,500	\$730	\$2,500
02-5935-003	ST. Vincent XMAS	\$0		\$500
02-5930	Other Outreach Projects	\$0		\$0
02-5945	Rector's Discretionary	\$1,200	\$5,363	\$1,200
02-5950	Southeast Region	\$0		\$0
02-5940	Seminary Contributions	\$0		\$0
SUB TOTAL		\$6,200	\$6,143	\$6,700
PARISH LIFE (EXPENSES)				
01-5330	Office Supplies	\$1,400	\$1,360	1400
01-5340	Equipment Repair	\$100	\$0	100
01-5350	Postage & Mailing	\$140	\$246	250
01-5360	Copier	\$4,800	\$5,115	5500
01-5840	Fellowship/Receptions	\$200	\$308	400
01-5870	Parish Support	\$277	\$1,620	2000
01-5880	Communications	\$50	\$535	700
01-5890	Info Technical Support	\$3,000	\$2,855	3400
SUB TOTAL		\$9,967	\$12,039	\$13,750

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
PASTORAL CARE (EXPENSES)				
01-5240	Reimbursed Expenses	\$0	\$18	\$1,820
01-5810	Stewardship	\$250	\$294	\$250
01-5820	Audits	\$1,450	\$1,350	\$1,450
SUB TOTAL		\$1,700	\$1,662	\$3,520
WIDER CHURCH (EXPENSES)				
01-5910-001	Diocesan Pledge	\$27,627	\$27,395	\$24,396
SUB TOTAL		\$27,627	\$27,395	\$24,396

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2022 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2023 BUDGET
FACILITIES & GROUNDS (EXPENSES)				
01-5701	Trash Removal	\$1,422	\$1,457	\$1,450
01-5705	Snow Removal	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200
01-5710	Lawn Mowing	\$3,000	\$1,775	\$3,000
01-5713	Pest Control	\$1,175	\$1,157	\$1,175
01-5715	Safety Inspections	\$3,312	\$2,035	\$2,000
01-5720	Heating	\$12,450	\$7,285	\$8,442
01-5725	Electricity	\$9,458	\$9,700	\$10,200
01-5730	Telephone	\$3,020	\$3,032	\$3,100
01-5735	Water	\$1,867	\$1,644	\$1,700
01-5740	Natural Gas	\$1,910	\$1,417	\$1,700
01-5745	Maintenance & Repair	\$500	\$1,605	\$1,500
01-5750	Ground Maintenance	\$300	\$115	\$300
01-5755	Building Supplies	\$450	\$79	\$250
01-5760	Property Liability Insurance	\$15,176	\$12,353	\$15,000
01-5765	Capital Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-5775	Capital Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$0
01-5780	Cleaning Service	\$10,000	\$7,940	\$8,220
SUB TOTAL		\$68,240	\$55,794	\$62,237

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
PAYROLL (EXPENSES)				
RECTOR				
01-5210	Rector's Salary	\$65,713	\$65,713	\$29,461
01-5220	Rector's FICA	\$9,496	\$9,496	\$2,484.76
01-5230	Rector's Housing/Utilities	\$28,219	\$28,219	\$15,000
01-5232	Clergy Insurance	\$360	\$360	\$180
01-5232	Health Insurance 85%			\$4,693
Jan-32	Dental			\$341
01-5235	Clergy Pension	\$18,437	\$18,617	\$4,648
01-5237	Continuing Education	\$0		\$1,850
01-5290	Rector Sabbatical	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0
25-5025	Rector Savings			\$48,623
01-5440	Supply Clergy	\$1,500	\$552	\$2,400
PARISH COORDINATOR				
01-5310	Parish Coordinator	\$25,976	\$25,974	\$26,768
01-5321	Parish Coordinator Pension	\$1,280	\$1,392	\$1,338
ALL				
01-5380	Payroll Taxes	\$5,639	\$5,670	\$5,707
01-5801	Bank Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0

ST DAVID'S CY 2024 BUDGET EXPENSES

		CY 2023 BUDGET	CY 2023 ACTUAL 12/31/2023	CY 2024 BUDGET
PAYROLL (EXPENSES) CONT'D				
MUSIC				
01-5410	Organist Salary	\$25,373	\$25,373	\$26,147
01-5415	Dir of Bells/Junior Choirs	\$6,188	\$6,188	\$6,377
01-5420	Supplemental Music Staff	\$750	\$400	\$750
CHRISTIAN FORMATION				
01-5506	Dir Christian Formation	\$12,513	\$12,513	\$12,895
01-5512	Nursery Attendant	\$3,032	\$1,386	\$2,411
SUB TOTAL		\$206,076	\$203,453	\$192,074
TOTALS		\$327,334	\$312,066	\$310,132

ST DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2023 FUND BALANCES

	9/30/2023	Q4 Adjustments	Q4 Liabilities	Q4 Deposits	Q4 Withdrawals	Q4 Transfers	12/31/2023
Fund Description							
Altar Flowers - 4	\$2,054.05			\$ 583.00	\$ 673.83		\$1,963.22
Sanctolite - 5	\$1,576.25						\$1,576.25
Memorial Fund - 6	\$13,556.83						\$13,556.83
Memorial Garden - 7	\$1,181.17						\$1,181.17
Nursery - 8	\$368.21						\$368.21
Organ Fund - 9	\$1,600.00						\$1,600.00
Capital Projects - 10	(\$19,854.81)			\$ 235,095.67	\$ 35,450.00		\$179,790.86
Outreach Project - 11	\$2,277.06						\$2,277.06
Outreach Project Travel- 11-002	\$0.00						\$0.00
Furnishings - 12	\$1,499.39						\$1,499.39
Computer Fund - 13	\$85.05						\$85.05
Telephone Upgrade - 14	\$0.00						\$0.00
Bazaar - 15	\$112.00						\$112.00
Sabbatical - 16	\$4,648.00						\$4,648.00
YPF - 17-000 General	\$10,866.45						\$10,866.45
YPF - 17-001 Parental Escrow	\$0.00						\$0.00
YPF - 17-002 Church Escrow	\$0.00						\$0.00
Tag Sale -18	\$1,031.95			\$ 2,783.00	\$ 640.50		\$3,174.45
Capital Reserve - 19	\$4,963.94			\$ 8,810.97	\$ 2,000.00		\$11,774.91
Godly Play - 20	\$11.49						\$11.49
Thespians - 21	\$245.92						\$245.92
Sound System - 22	\$50.00						\$50.00
Bells - 23	\$492.00						\$492.00
Christian Formation - 24	\$3,016.52						\$3,016.52
Rector - 25	\$40,206.48			\$ 1,510.00	\$ 16,000.00		\$25,716.48
Music - 26	\$100.00						\$100.00
Various - 40	\$0.00						\$0.00
Various(AED) - 40-001	\$43.00						\$43.00
FUND SAVING ACCT TOTAL	\$70,130.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$248,782.64	\$54,764.33	\$0.00	\$264,149.26
					Restricted Funds in Putnam Bank Savings Account	\$120,649.26	
Capital Projects Liabilities- 10		\$31,500.00					
Capital Project Investments		\$175,000.00					

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nomination Committee consists of the Senior Warden, according to By-laws, as well as 2 members of the congregation elected at the annual meeting.

This past year that consisted of myself, Chris Curcio and Jacqueline Leone

We held discussions as well as email and text message discussions about the process. As well as held discussions with members of the parish who had expressed interest in becoming Vestry Members.

Additionally due to having open positions from prior resignations or from open positions that we had not filled in past elections we had two 2-year terms open as well as one 1-year term open.

We are happy to nominate the following candidates to our Vestry and for Officer/Executive committee members.

We are pleased to nominate the following nominations:

Vestry 3 Year Term:

Joe Anderson
Steve Litwin
Susan Morelli

Vestry 2 Year Term:

Kent Harding
Jacqueline Leone

Vestry 1 Year Term:

Nicole Murphy

The Following are nominated for one year Officer positions:

Senior Warden- Ken Nogacek
Junior Warden- Scott Stadnicki
Clerk- Chris Curcio
Treasurer- Steve Forbes

The following members are serving terms that have not expired:

Terms Expiring at annual meeting 2025 Ed Fialkosky, Hap Fallon

Terms expiring at annual meeting 2026 Lisa Carr

Jeannette Olson is nominated to a three-year position as a diocesan Delegate.

Faithfully submitted,
Ken Nogacek, Senior Warden

OTHER MINISTRIES

Lay Readers Report 2023

A total of 23 different people took part in various aspects of the lay readers' function: reading Scripture, leading the reading of the Psalms, and/or leading the Prayers of Intercession at the Sunday services. On Sunday mornings in the absence of a priest, Morning Prayer services are conducted by a lay reader.

This number was be augmented by many of the youth of the parish reading Scripture, leading intercessions and preaching during special services. The 10:15 (or the single 9:30) o'clock service was available live or recorded on Facebook. Consecrated elements were available for at home reception.

There were 6 Lay Eucharistic Ministers who at times during the year assisted the Priest during Communion. Several parishioners acted as a Lay Eucharistic Visitors to administer Communion from the consecrated elements to the homebound and those in nursing homes or hospitals. On any given Sunday morning as many as seven different lay persons took part in assisting in the conduct of services at Saint David's Church. All parishioners are encouraged to offer their services as readers.

LAY READERS ROSTER 2023

Pat Anderson	Joan Good	Mike McLane
Dale Ann Beebe	Jill Foster	Claire Muskus
Eric Branson	Kit Foster	Ken Nogacek
Pauline Burdick	Pete Hall	Christie Stadnicki
Lisa Carr	Kent Harding	Eve White
Amy Cloud	Pete Landolt	Jeannine Weeks
Bill Day	Jacqueline Leone	Clark Ysewyn
Susie Forbes	Polly McIntyre	

R. S. (Pete) Hall, Jr.

Altar Guild Report 2023

The altar guild had a tough year in that we lost our most senior and beloved team leader, Cindy McLane this year, and consequently, our long-time tireless helper & comedian, Michael McLane, who moved away to live near his daughter in NY. Unfortunately, we did not have enough people to

maintain the four groups, which makes everyone's schedule run nicely monthly. We now operate with three groups, which requires duty more than once per month.

On the other hand, we welcomed Janet Cosenza as a new member and team leader to our group, along with her mom, Dorothy Lathrop. She and her group have been a wonderful addition and support to the altar guild's work and goals. We especially appreciate her long-time experience doing this work at her former church in Ohio.

Over the last three years, we have worked well with Rev. Jana, who gave us lots of visuals to help us deal with the ins and outs of setups, and special services, during and beyond Covid. Jana was unique in her approach to prepping for the services, and we worked well together.

This year, we also welcomed two newcomers, who have been eager and willing to help and learn our duties, Sue Marelli and Nicole Murphy. We are grateful for their participation this past year.

For those who do not know, Lisa Nogacek & Polly McIntyre share the leadership duties for the Altar Guild in its support of the priest's preparation for our services.

All our members help us do a great job in this process and I want to thank them for their individual help with their groups, being willing to shift and help others, and always offering to help in case others happen to need it. They are Pat Anderson, Pauline Burdick, Janet Cosenza(& Dorothy Lathrop), Chris Curcio, Pat & Ed Fialkosky, Maureen Joiner, Sue Marelli, Nicole Murphy, Lisa Nogacek & Polly McIntyre.

Faithfully in Christ,
Lisa & Polly

Flower Guild - Annual Report 2023

Flowers play a quiet but important role in all of our services. The greens of Advent, the festive reds and poinsettias at Christmas, the bright spring blooms and lilies at Easter, even the dark absence of flowers during Lent ... all enhance the meaning of our worship. It is the Flower Guild's job to transparently make this all happen.

Over the years, Saint David's Flower Guild has played a major role in all types of church activities ... worship, weddings, funerals, and other celebrations. However, in recent years we have lost most of our key team members and the few of us left can no longer do in-house arranging every week. Fortunately, we have been able to supplement our in-house efforts with outside arrangements from our friends at Norwich Stop and Shop. While these arrangements are a bit more expensive and create some logistics problems in picking them up and getting them installed, they have nevertheless been an effective temporary solution our flower guild needs.

But for the long run, we are looking for and hoping to encourage new members to join our Flower Guild. You will be surprised that it is a lot of fun and not that hard ... flowers are beautiful no matter how you put them together. Polly McIntyre is a great teacher and will be happy to teach you everything you need to know. If you can't join our team, we hope that you will at least support our program by dedicating one week's arrangement in honor of your special birthday or anniversary.

You can do this by signing up on the flower chart in the gathering space or with a quick call to the church office. Our flowers on the average cost us about \$50.00 to \$60.00 a week but any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and come join us.

Joe Anderson

Counters Report 2023

Steve Forbes, Bill Day, Ed Fialkosky and I were the counters for 2023. We met at the church at the middle and end of the month to record all contributions received since the previous count. Of significant note is that the date recorded for the contributions was the date counted and not the specific Sunday date that those contributions would have been received as was the procedure for years prior to the virus. In January, 2023, a report of the amount pledged was sent to all pledging persons to confirm the recorded pledge was as they intended. Quarterly statements were transmitted to all pledging families which included the summary transmitted in early January 2023, for 2022 tax preparation purposes. Additionally, a statement was transmitted in early December showing the total amount contributed and any pledge balance outstanding. I expect to continue this practice for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kent Harding,
Financial Secretary

Saint David's Greeters & Ushers - Annual Report - 2023

This year we began having an organized list of ushers for the 10:15 service. Each Sunday, there is an adult and a youth usher. The duties of an usher include greeting visitors, passing out bulletins, collecting the offering and bringing up the elements for communion. The members of the Vestry are also encouraged to act as greeters.>

Thank you to Scott Stadnicki; Jolene and Kaylee Ramos; Ken Nogacek; Clark, Reid, Kellan and Grayson Ysewyn; Ryan and Karissa Hochdorfer; Jacqueline Leone; Bella, Gabe and Alayna Atlixqueno; Brian Joiner; Kirk Kirkpatrick; Jack White; and Ed Fialkosky for helping with this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane St. Laurent

Saint David's Music Director - Annual Report - 2023

The Music Director at St. David chooses the hymns for worship each week, plays the organ for all

weekly worship services and all special services. Music is chosen both for hymns and anthems to support the liturgical calendar, and the lessons of the day. There is a conscious decision on selection of all the music at St. David. If you'd like to know more about that, do not hesitate to ask. I am in my office most every weekday morning and would be happy to speak with you. We would welcome anyone interested in singing or ringing with us to please let us know. We would welcome your participation with us.

Anthems are planned well in advance and practiced each week. We have the "Voices of St. David", JuBELLee – a handbell choir, and a handbell quartet; all of which rehearse every week. In addition to those rehearsals, I do Sunday School music and welcome having the children and youth participate in worship whenever possible.

Twice each year the ringers and singers do a special musical presentation. In Advent we do an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, and on Good Friday we do The Seven Last Words of Christ. Both of these services include a string trio.

It's a pleasure to play for a worship service where people love to sing!

Blessings,
Jane Nolan

Saint David's Christian Formation Annual Report – 2023

It has been a busy year for the youth of Saint David's. A typical Sunday morning begins with Faith Through Music with Mrs. Nolan in the Parish Hall. We share the joy of music, and the students usually sing an anthem once a month during the 10:15 service. The students like the addition of musical instruments whenever possible. Reid Ysewyn is awesome on the drums.

After music, the youth divided into three classes. The students ages 4-9 went to the Bible Stories class to learn stories from the Old and New Testaments.

This year we added a third class consisting of two middle school students, Gabe Atlixqueno and Grayson Ysewyn. Lessons from the Virginia Theological Seminary were used with this class.

The older class, ages 12 and up, are called Confirmation + . The students used the book, *What is the Bible* by Rob Bell. The teachers report that using this book has led to many stimulating discussions.

The students in Sunday School are Bella and Gabe Atlixqueno, Arlie Carr, EV Flowers, Clark, Reid, Kellan and Grayson Ysewyn and occasional visitors.

The Sunday School classes were taught by volunteers including Alayna Atlixqueno, Amy Cloud, Bill Day, Kit Foster , Brian and Maureen Joiner, Polly McIntyre, Jeannette Olsen, and Diane St. Laurent.

There are often whole group learning sessions including Power Points to learn about St. Francis of Assisi and St. David of Wales.

The older youth participate once a month in what they call The Shepherd's Pie Ministry which is led by Maureen and Brian Joiner. They prepare pies for The New London Covenant Meal Center. The students are sometimes available to assist in serving the food as well. A special thanks to the Atlixqueno family and Pete Hall.

In July Saint David's participated in an ecumenical Vacation Bible School with St. Luke Lutheran Church and United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry. It was a busy and exciting time as we became part of the VBS program, *Hero Hotline*. Thanks to Christie Stadnicki, granddaughter Emma Carvalho, Clark, Reid, Kellan, Grayson Ysewyn and Jackie Leone for sharing in the fun. The congregation of Saint David's has been generous with donations of supplies and snacks.

The youth have had some social interactions this year as well. Using my backyard pool has offered us all a great time together.

This fall we collected school supplies which were donated to United Way and 180 pairs of socks were donated to the Homeless Hospitality Center.

Consulting with parishioners who are involved in Sunday School, I suggest the following schedule. During the transitional period ahead, we will have one service and the Sunday School schedule will be as follows:

The first Sunday of the month, there will be no Sunday School. Teachers and students will worship with the rest of the congregation at the 9:30 service.

The following Sundays, music with Mrs. Nolan school will go from 9:15-9:30. Sunday School will go from 9:30-10:10. Then teachers and students will join the worship service.

I believe we will have two Sunday School classes at this time.

Hopefully, this broken arm is really going to heal, and we can continue to explore new adventures.

Thanks to all who sent get-well wishes.

I do enjoy giving a Children's sermon each Sunday for all God's children.

Many thanks to the students, parents and parishioners who support the youth of Saint David's.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane St. Laurent

Siobhan Cady Nursery Report 2023

The Siobhan Cady Nursery, which had been closed since the pandemic occurred in the spring of 2020 reopened on March 9, 2023. We have been blessed to have nursery attendants who are well-known to us and are part of the Saint David's family. We regularly have 2 children attend nursery, 1 toddler and 1 pre-school aged.

The nursery is staffed from 9:00 a.m. through 11:30 to allow parents to drop off their children during Sunday School and through our family service.

Submitted by: The Rev. Jana Branson

Prayer Chain Report 2023

St. David's Church is blessed with a wonderful ministry of prayer. The St. David's Prayer Chain is a prayer ministry available to all church members. Through the phone tree is passed prayer requests for ourselves, families and friends. These prayer requests are prayed every day with frequent updates during the year to keep the requests current. If you have a special prayer request for yourself or someone you love, just call Maren Schober, 860-848-7066 to start it off through the phone tree. We have seen many answers to our prayers and we know that God will always do what is best in each situation and in His perfect timing. Praise be to God for His wonderful love and care of us and all those we pray for!

Members of the phone tree are Steve Forbes, Anne Ripley, Myra Day, Leslie Aiken, Jacqueline Leone, Diane Fallon, Diane St Laurent, Mimi Llewellyn and myself.

For more information, please call Maren Schober, 860-848-7066.

Please call me if you would like to serve as a caller on the prayer tree or if you wish to pass along a prayer request.

Maren Schober, chairperson

The Saint David's Women's Group Report - 2023

The St. David's Women's Group meets every Tuesday at 8 AM on zoom. If you want the link, email revmrskd@aol.com or me at deaconellen98@yahoo.com. We are presently reading An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. We do the book study on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and discuss The Upper Room the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We decide what we want to do when there is a fifth Tuesday. It is a great opportunity to share your personal spiritual journeys in a safe space.

If this is a bad time for you but you would like to do a book study on zoom speak to me and we will arrange something.

Deacon Ellen

Men's Discussion Group Report 2023

The men's group continues to meet via Zoom Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. We have 10 regular attendees. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you are interested just send an email to gkentharding@gmail.com. I will add your address to the contact list which I use to send the link each week.

Kent Harding

Memorial Garden Report 2023

Several volunteers work regularly to maintain The Memorial Garden year-round. Jill Foster has done monthly weeding, edging, pruning and general care, and she has also provided some seasonal replanting in and around the formal Memorial Garden and grounds. Within the Memorial Garden, Steve and Susie Forbes have been master brick-path weeders, Scott Stadnicki is hedge trimmer in chief, and Kit Foster has shredded the mountains of garden waste and leaves, from the grounds and garden, making natural compost to help conserve soil health and water in the Garden.

Craft Faire Report 2023

In March of 2023 Saint David's Episcopal Church had conceived the idea of an annual Art's and Craft Faire. The intent of the Fair was to establish the Church to members of the community that normally may not interact with the Church. Ideally community interaction with parish activities could lead to increased Church attendance,

Aside from the primary goal of the Arts and Craft Faire an added benefit to the Church was the potential for revenue independent of parish contributions. In April of 2023 a committee was formed and the Faire became a planned event that was executed October 21, 2023.

With minimum investment and inclement weather the event was a success creating positive exposure to members of the community not associated with the Church. The church created additional revenue with promising signs of increased community exposure and revenue with future larger scale events.

Stephen Litwin

Convention Delegates Report 2023

Episcopal Church in Connecticut 239th Annual Convention October 27-28, 2023

The cry went out, "Be of Good Courage — Ten Fortaleza — Gen Bon Kouraj", and we were and are! On two days in October the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) held its 239th Annual

Convention, the occasion when Episcopalians from all parishes and worshipping communities of the diocese gather for prayer and praise, listening, learning, and to conduct the business of the diocese. Lay delegates Jeannette Olson and Jill Foster and Clergy delegates Jana Branson and Ellen Adams from St. David's joined with hundreds of others to discuss, discern, and vote on resolutions pertaining to racism, transphobia, the budget of convention and clergy compensation while also celebrating with St. Mary's, Manchester and St. John's, Vernon as they concluded a merger. We also enjoyed worship on Saturday at Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, during which our bishop diocesan, the Rt. Revd. Jeff Mello delivered his annual address. During Convention breaks, we broke bread together, and the foyer was filled with enthusiastic and engaging exhibitors of ECCT ministries, opportunities, Episcopalian and global activities, books, resources, and beautiful bling. There too, round the coffee pots and fruit bowls were greetings and gatherings of this and that of our ECCT sibling faith journeys. ECCT Convention is a stimulating exchange, a dedicated inbreathing of sacred good will. Included below is information about the resolutions, the bishop's address, and links to further reading. Enjoy and be of good courage!

Resolutions

Resolution 4. Repudiating Discriminatory Legislation and Harmful Rhetoric Targeted at Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Non-conforming Persons.

Highly visible figures in government and media have called for legislation and policy discriminating against or diminishing transgender/non-binary persons, often citing Christian teaching as an authority for their efforts. Building on a resolution passed by the 234th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, the present resolution is grounded in the beliefs that all Christians are called to actively repudiate anything that diminishes, or harms, God's children and that discriminatory legislation and fear-based rhetoric are inconsistent with the Gospel of Christ.

Resolution 5. Appropriation of \$20,000 for Historical Analysis of Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) Endowments and to Support Congregations Desiring to Join in the Work of Racial Reparations.

In 2020, the 236th Convention overwhelmingly passed Resolution 7, which directed the bishops to create a task force as to reparations by ECCT in partial compensation for 400 years of discrimination and bias based on race.

A necessary step is to analyze the sources and value of financial gifts to ECCT to determine which, if any, may represent the financial gains derived directly or indirectly from either the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the labor of enslaved persons, the sale of enslaved persons, or other fruits of the bodies or labor of enslaved persons.

Resolution 6. Acknowledging the 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in the State of Connecticut and Creating an Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) Reparations Fund.

In 2020, the 236th Convention overwhelmingly passed Resolution 7, Acknowledging and Confronting Systemic Racism, White Supremacy, and Anti-Black Bias in Our Nation and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut: Continuing the Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. This resolution acknowledges and reaffirms that resolution, creates a Reparations Fund, and calls upon all congregations and members of the ECCT to reflect on, in a formal and communal way, the long

journey to achieve abolition of slavery in the State of Connecticut.

Resolutions 1 Budget of Convention and Resolution 2 Clergy Compensation

See the entirety of all 2023 ECCT adopted resolutions, election results, reports, and associated YouTube videos of these here:

<https://www.episcopalct.org/annual-convention/resolutions-passed/>

Bishop's Address

During his address, Bishop Jeff Mello highlighted five key areas of concern that came to light during his "listening" first year in our midst:

- a. The Episcopal Church in Connecticut at the Diocesan Level
- b. Advocacy/Justice and Reconciliation Work
- c. Ordained Vocations
- d. Lay Vocations
- e. Congregational Life, Support and Transitions.

These are clearly explored in the Bishop Jeff. W. Mello's address and are found in the Convention Worship Service link. Please go to the YouTube clip and participate with us in learning more of who each of us is and how we may courageously continue to build our faithful lives together in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/qQX3SHgIJIY?si=2u11NMaxMokL6JtE>

Want to see more of our ongoing life in ECCT? Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@ctepiscopal>

We, Jeannette, Jill, Jana, and Ellen, surely echo our ECCT siblings' and bishop's assurance that we have every reason to be a people of abiding hope, deep joy, and good courage.

Submitted in faith, Jill Foster and Jeannette Olson

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ANNUAL REPORT

Saint David's Capital Campaign status as of December 31st, 2023.

Dear Friends in Christ.

As you are all aware the recent capital campaign was an outstanding success. We set a goal of \$250,000.00 To cover all estimated costs with a small reserve built in. Only the parking lot exceeded the original estimate because of the high cost of product at the time. All other Projects either equaled or came in below estimates. Thanks to a lot of dedicated work by those involved.

Twenty-nine original pledges were received. Nineteen of those have already paid in the astounding amount of \$225,000.00 The remaining ten have chosen to amortize a portion of their commitment over the next few years. That leaves only \$35,000.00 Outstanding.

Additionally, Saint David's has received \$45,000.00 Cash as loans from Parishioners, which are to be amortized over 5 plus years. Principal and interest in the amount of \$15,525.00 has already been repaid.

There will be a surplus available to address issues such as the playground and some improved outside lighting. Effectively there will be no strain on future operating budgets to complete these commitments.

Pledges plus, rebates and grants.		
Pledges	\$260,229.00	
Plate	<u>2,128.00</u>	
Total Pledged	\$262,357.00	
Total Cash received to date.		
Pledges.	\$237,445.00	
Parishioner Loans	<u>45,000.00</u>	
Total cash received		\$282,445.00
Expenditures: Note!		
The following costs reflect the net of rebates and grants amounting to \$9,607.00		
Parking lot replace or repave.	\$122,600.00	
Sanctuary Heating & A/C.	104,295.00	
Sanctuary \$ Playground doors.	3,600.00	
Sound & Media	6,765.00	
Exterior lighting	<u>5,640.00</u>	
Total	\$242,900.00	
Loan repayment includes principal and interest.		
	<u>\$15,525.00</u>	
Total cash paid out:		<u>\$258,425.00</u>
Cash on hand		<u>\$24,020.00</u>

Thanks, and many Blessings to all for your generosity and cooperation.

Ed Fialkosky, Team Leader.

OUTREACH

Crop Hunger Walk Report 2023

The CROP Hunger WALK -- We did it!



What a BEAUTIFUL Day it was for the Gales Ferry Ledyard CROP Hunger Walk on October 15!

The Rev. Heidi, St Luke Lutheran, led us in prayer, Mayor Fred linked LICEF work, and Senator Osten spoke of region needs, Anne Stockton of Gemma Moran gave us a reality check and connected to neighbor/global similarities of CWS work. CWS Adam Smedberg was with us all the way, and so, beamed up with highlights of our outreach from our good leaders, Frank Denton and Ackie Harley, United Methodist, our teams set out along the road to witness God's love together: we care and will share to bring food to the table for all.

St David's Episcopal Team was 22 walkers strong. We are so glad of this witness. Several of us were walking for the very first time and made it all the way, 4.6 miles! Georgette B made it all way, first-time walker. Seasoned walker Chuck Carey came and kept our table staffed with good cheer, while Chris, the Wakims, Amy Cloud with Pandora were also first timers, and the Joiner/Ysewyns, Stadnickis, Forbes with Yoda, Fosters, Bransons, Mike McLane, Rick Aiken, and Janet Cosenza from afar, became numbered among the 127 witness walkers, workers, volunteers from Gales Ferry Fire Police and locals who gave support.



We met along the way our neighbor Teamies from Grace and St. James Episcopal Churches, and those from St. Luke, Ledyard Congregational, United Methodist, Troop 12 Boy Scouts, United Way/ Gemma Moran, and individuals who joined us on the day. See this great reel produced and shared by the United Methodist Church:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2788164657997893?s=yWDuG2&fs=e&mibextid=Nif5oz>



- **Thanks to your support** St David's Team walked and raised \$3000+ through 22 workers, walkers, and 62 donors
- Adding this to the sum of all the teams in the **2023 Gales Ferry CROP Hunger Walk, we totaled 127 walker/workers, raising \$22, 640+**
- We shared 25% locally with the Gemma Moran Food Center serving our region, and 75% to Global Church World Service

- **What is the CROP Hunger Walk?** These are community-led interfaith events that raise funds to end hunger and poverty locally AND around the world.

Our participation affects individuals and families in more than 35 countries. In some places, people walk up to six miles a day to get food and water.

- So, on our own CROP Walk here, we walk a 1-to-4.6-mile route through Gales Ferry
- It is a fact today that 1:9 people worldwide lack access to clean water and sufficient food.
- In Southeastern Connecticut towns, ours included, between 28-50% of our employed do not earn sufficient to meet a survival budget for food, housing, and medical needs
<https://alice.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/SoutheasternCT.pdf>
- It is impossible to avoid disaster, conflict, disease, and hunger where basic needs cannot be met

May those who hunger have food; May those who have food, have hunger for justice

Thanks everyone for joining this St David's outreach, in faith, Jill Foster

Next Meeting CROP Walk planning group open to all, April 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Rte.12, CT 06335
Gales Ferry Ledyard CROP Hunger Walk 2024 — October 20, 2024, 12:30 p.m.

New London Community Meal Center Report 2023

Saint David's continued its support of the Meal Center. Many of our long-time volunteers were no longer able to help due to age (80+) and safety concerns. We did not supply the shepherds pie and green beans as we used to do, although the youth of the parish did supply some shepherds pie they prepared in our kitchen. We still prepare the food items for the evening meal on the 4th Tuesday of the month. We serve those items provided, sanitize the dishes, silverware and pots and pans as well as clean the tables and chairs before leaving. As many as 24 different parishioners have volunteered during the year. Others are encouraged to also volunteer.

R. S. (Pete) Hall, Jr.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Event Report 2023

St. David's provided Christmas presents for 7 families and 19 children this year. The children ranged from age 2 to 16. Thank you for all those who participated by offering tech support, buying presents, and helping to sort and distribute them. Special thanks to Sprigs and Twigs who always carries the presents to Norwich for us.

Ellen Adams, Coordinator

School Supply Outreach Report 2023

In an ongoing effort to provide outreach to those most vulnerable in the community, we collect school supplies in late August and deliver them to a school whose population requires assistance. The people of Saint David's generously donate to this outreach.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane St. Laurent

Souper Bowl Sunday Report 2023

One part of the mission of Saint David's Episcopal Church is to serve God's people. This is accomplished in many ways.

The youth are involved in activities such as Soup-er Bowl Sunday. They make posters asking for donations of soup. Then they collect funds; some of which are donated to The Ledyard Food Pantry, and some are used to buy needed supplies for The Homeless Hospitality Center. The students purchase things as socks, hand warmers, hats, and gloves. It becomes a shopping experience to remember.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane St. Laurent

The Blessing of the Animals Report 2023

As we do each fall, we held an outdoor *Blessing of the Animals* service which was open to the greater community. It was another successful year, with most in attendance not being parishioners of St. David's, but are community members that return each year for this event. The uplifting service drew 30 people, 10 more than last year and was a great opportunity for fellowship and fun involving St. David's members and non-members alike.

Submitted by: The Rev. Jana Branson

Ledyard Food Pantry Report 2023

We at Saint David's are blessed with generous parishioners who make the world around us a better place. Each and every week, donations from our congregation are made to the Ledyard Food Pantry. Many thanks to all who donate and to Ed and Pat Fialkosky, who deliver the donations on a weekly basis.

Submitted by: The Reverend Jana Branson

Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Program (LICEAF)

Annual Report- LICEAF

St. David's Episcopal Church, Gales Ferry CT

The **Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund(LICEAF)** was created in the 90's by 6 churches in Ledyard. In the last couple of years, we have modified our Incorporation papers to be able to include more of the town's churches. Currently there are 7 churches involved with this 501(3)© entity which helps people falling through the cracks to survive troubled (financial) times. Each church has a priest/pastor on the Board and 2 Lay persons. Our 2 delegates are Polly McIntyre & Lisa Nogacek. When we get a permanent priest, he or she will automatically be a member of the Board, as was Rev. Jana.

We work with Ledyard Social services (the mayor & Ledyard Social Services Coordinator) who propose clients, people who are in trouble and need extra help in addition to all the social services in the area-like heating fuel, SNAP cards, access to the Food Locker, etc.-which are not enough, when in a critical situation. A onetime gift to a creditor from LICEAF for extra help is a once-a-year situation, and the applicants must be Ledyard residents. I say once a year, but few folks try to get help this way every year. The Mayor & Social Services Coordinator screen to avoid such situations. And some folks even try to pay it forward and give back when they are again standing on their own two feet.

In the past we have been blessed with a few large donations, which we are managing carefully, but the truth is that we usually spend twice as much as we receive in donations each year. This past year we took in \$16,580 in donations. During the year, we helped 16 households, spending \$25,272 on various needs, usually rents, car repairs, or beds, sometimes an electric bill.

Working ecumenically with our other Christian churches gives us a wonderful feeling of God's community trying to help those in need. It has been a pleasure to get to know the other church members, priests, and both the mayor and his coordinator of Social Services as members of the LICEAF Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Polly McIntyre & Lisa Nogacek