



The Dove

PUBLISHED FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January, February, March 2021



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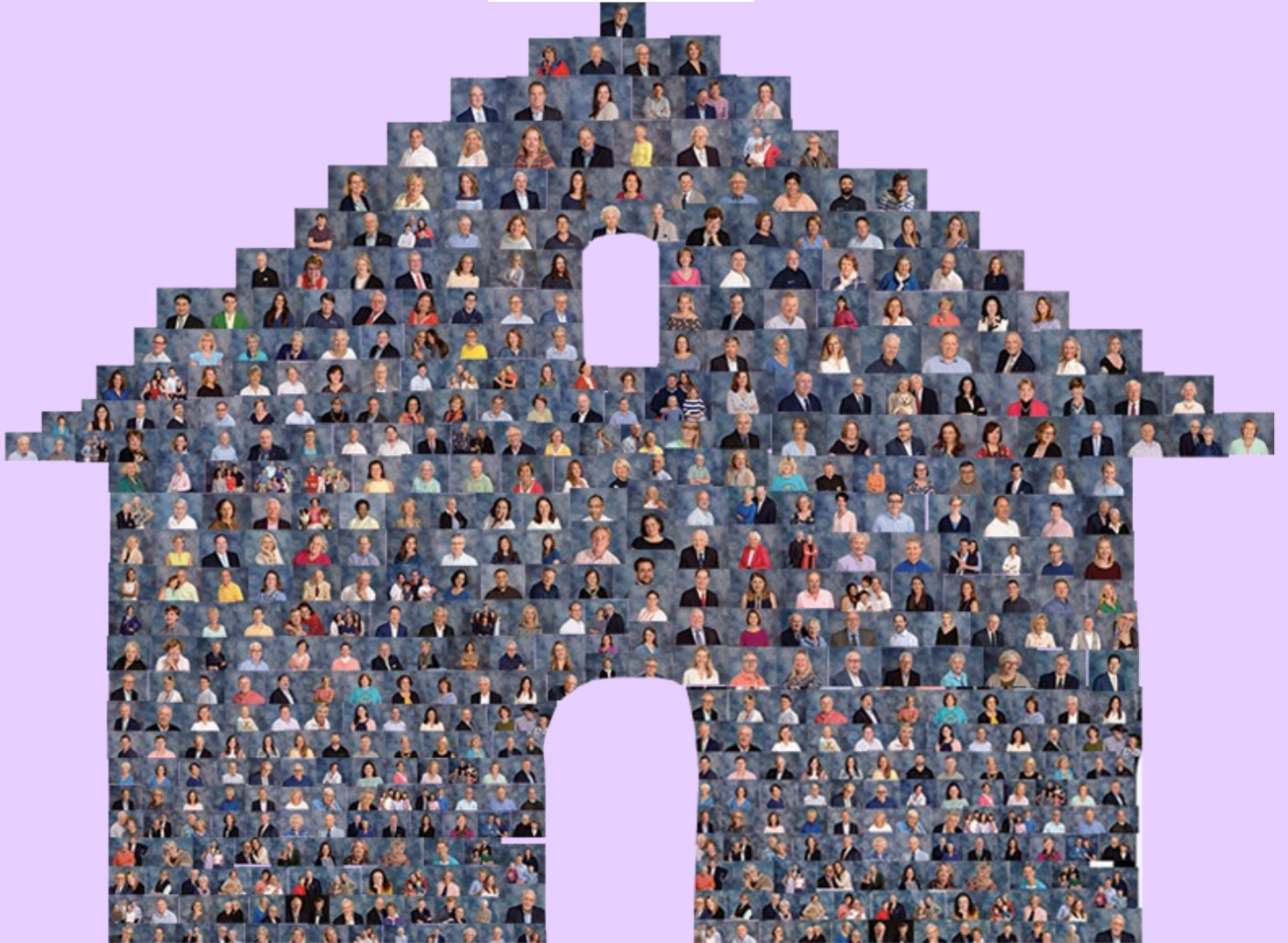
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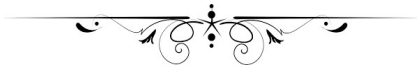
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TAKE HEART

BY REV. FRANK ALLEN

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



Dear People and Friends of St. David's,

I pray that you and yours are safe and well and that this new year is filled with hope and courage, with a return to more normal living and new opportunities in life and, most especially, with a deep sense of God's love filling our hearts and lives.

This year we, as a community, are focusing on the Way of Love. It is Jesus' way of life or invitation to life that is offered to everyone. We turn to experience the presence and love of God. We learn what it means for our lives. We pray to God and worship God in response to this great love we are coming to know. By our lives we bless others. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we go into the world as people of love. And, like Jesus' clear pattern in life, we rest before turning again.

This has been a most challenging year for all of us, but as a friend of mine says, we have received many 'ambiguous gifts' from God in this time of the pandemic. None of us would have chosen this epidemic and the pain, loss and suffering that has affected so many people, but God has brought gifts as well. We know so much more about our call to walk in the Way of Love, about the importance of gathering in community, and about our call to be lights in the darkness.

I hope this issue of the Dove gives you some good reminders of the love that is present in our lives and all that we have been able to accomplish together in this difficult time. I am thankful and proud of your courage and all that you have given for the good of others. I look forward to walking the Way of Love more and more with you all in 2021.

Grace and Peace and Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank".

Clergy

The Rev. W. Frank Allen | Rector

The Rev. Elizabeth Colton | Associate Rector

The Rev. Maurice Dyer | Associate Rector

The Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers | Assistant Rector

The Rev. Kenneth McCaslin | Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Alexander McCurdy, III | Associate Rector

The Rev. Edward Shiley | Associate Rector

The Rev. William Wood, III | Associate Rector

Staff

Leslie Robertshaw | Parish Administrator

Jo-Ann Funkhouser | Finance Manager

Maria Leal | Director of Children's Education

Lauren Machowski | Director of Communications

Dr. Clair Rozier | Director of Music

Dr. Elaine Sonnenberg Whitelock |

Associate Director of Music

Holly Vicki | Music Librarian

Diane Dowlin | Office Manager

Shannon Garland | Communications Assistant

Heather Sill | Parish Secretary

Roe DeRitis | Parish Secretary

Geoff Chamberlain | Broadcast Manager

Matt Grove | Property, Cemetery Associate

Chris King | Parish Custodian

Paul Smith | Parish Custodian

Bill Bireley | Groundskeeper

Josiah Pizzo | Groundskeeper

Judy Kriskker | Wedding Coordinator

Buff Barnes | Spiritual Direction

Margie Winters | Director of the Gift Shop

Margaret Biester | Head of School, SDEDS

Amy Van Sciver Darst | Asst. Head of School, SDEDS



THE WAY OF LOVE

Vestry Notes



Jim Dolan
*Rector's Warden,
Property*



Tom Johantgen
*Finance Warden
Finance, Stewardship*



Mona Kirby
*Junior Warden
Fellowship,
Communications*



Susan Barber
*Secretary
Outreach, Fellowship*



Jay Baldwin
*Outreach, SDEDS,
Communications*

Distinctly unpleasant and even traumatic experiences can bear unexpected fruit:

The loss of a job leads to a fulfilling and rewarding career change;
A devastating illness leads to a greater understanding of and deepening relationship with a loved one;
A flooded basement inspires a bright, clean “new” room to enjoy.

Each of these experiences can be considered an ambiguous gift – one that we might never have chosen but for which we are truly grateful. I have had a number of these gifts in my life, and while I never would have chosen them, they have made me a better father, husband, and friend, and perhaps a better person.

As terrible as the pandemic has been, on reflection, it has provided St. David's with some ambiguous gifts worth noting.

Though we would strongly prefer to worship together, limitations on the size of in-person gatherings have given us opportunities to use our creativity to extend our reach as a parish and to more broadly live into our mission to know God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known to others. Not only are our Sunday worship services livestreamed and viewed throughout the country and the world, but our small group offerings, including adult education and Bible study, also have national followings.

Similarly, the already impressive music program at St. David's has been invigorated and expanded through the use of technology to teach, rehearse and ultimately perform beautiful choral compositions, most recently at the Christmas Eve services. While nothing beats Christmas Eve at St. David's, the virtual performances by the musicians and choirs brought tears to my eyes.



Janet Helms
*Finance, Pastoral
Care*



Rod Kellett
*Property,
Discipleship, Family
Ministries*



Edie Lewis
*Fellowship,
Discipleship*



Sarah Schoettle
*Family Ministries,
Outreach*

Vestry Notes

To me, though, the most significant ambiguous gift of the pandemic for St. David's is the realization of how important St. David's is to us and to the community at large. The outpouring of generosity from members of our parish in recognition of the central role St. David's plays in supporting our partners in ministry, both locally and abroad, has been astounding. The UnFair!, which raised over \$136,000 for outreach, is perhaps the most public example, but parishioners have quietly donated tens of thousands of dollars to support parish ministries and those in need in the community at large.

Once COVID-19 is eradicated and the pandemic comes to an end, we will joyfully come together once again to worship and to enjoy each other's fellowship. Though let's not forget the ambiguous gifts the pandemic has brought to our parish. Let's continue to use our time, talents and treasure, and the lessons and skills we've been forced to learn in this past year, to touch the lives of our community and the world. Happy New Year!

Jim Dolan
Rector's Warden



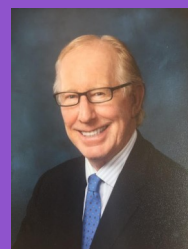
Betsy Spiegel
*Discipleship, SDEDS,
Family Ministries*



Mike Tredinnick
*Fellowship,
Stewardship*



Gillian Waldron
*Worship,
Discipleship*



Tom Watkins
Worship, Finance



Liza Whelan
*Pastoral Care,
Outreach*

Archives Corner

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST OF ST. DAVID'S, WRITTEN BY THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

JOHN LEWIS MONTGOMERY II (1929-2020)

Over the past several years the Parish History and Archives Committee members have learned to appreciate the heroic effort John Montgomery voluntarily exerted to preserve the St. David's Archival Collection enabling us to understand and share our story. We are grateful beyond measure.

In 2001, John assumed chairmanship of the St. David's Archives Committee and issued a status report. It states that the decision was made to deed our materials to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Also, John explains that, "The function of organizing material to go to HSP has turned out to be a one man job." He then set out and prepared "15.0 linear feet of materials, 30 boxes, 34 volumes and 15 flat files." After which John scanned copies of interesting originals being sent to HSP and housed them in more than 80 Archives Albums which we have in our Archival Library. I remember so fondly laughing together with John at coffee hour one Sunday when he said, with a twinkle in his eye, "You know, there's no index."

In a letter to The Reverend Win Welty, John stated that "The job of Archivist has been extremely challenging, but very interesting and personally rewarding." He had the vision to make an invaluable contribution to St. David's and the perseverance to make it happen. Two years ago I asked him if he would attend one of our summer talks so we could honor him. He thanked me and graciously said, "No." I tried.

This past fall John and Natalie told Frank that they wanted to give their antique silver communion set to St. David's. It is a beautiful five piece George IV service that the family had been using for Christmas greens. John explained, "It is highly likely that it belonged to The Reverend William Halsey, rector of St. David's, (1866 to 1882) and father of my Uncle Ned (who met Longfellow when he visited St. David's and who, himself, later became the organist.)" Frank, the clergy and the Altar Guild are thrilled with the gift and look forward to using it on special occasions.

In an email sent to me the winter of 2015 after a talk I had given on our church history, John explained his connection to Reverend Halsey whom he said is buried in the "lovely old section" of the Churchyard. The email went on to say, "I will be squeezed into that plot." It makes me smile to think of him happy there.

- Marianne Cook



Montgomery Files



Montgomery Silver

Stewardship

How many times have you heard it? Stewardship is about more than money. Stewardship is about time, talent and treasure—not just treasure. It has become a cliché. As Stewardship chair, I have written it many times, and frankly, I always picture the reader rolling his or her eyes. I bet if I could read your mind when you read that phrase, you are saying, sure, sure...but what you really want is my money. Excuse the honesty, but many times, you are right!

Therefore, this time at least I hope to deliver a different message—one that really focuses on time and talent. You are reading this shortly after Christmas, a Christmas that was very different from any Christmas in our lifetimes. Right before Christmas I read an article that I thought was very insightful about our lives at this time of year and in this time of pandemic. The author made the point that she was feeling sorry for herself as a mother with a young child and husband cooped up in a small Manhattan apartment. Then she caught herself, and realized that there were so many more people facing far greater challenges than she was because of the pandemic or otherwise. She suggested that instead of a hierarchy of grievances (her phrase), we need a hierarchy of compassion with those who suffer the most deserving the greatest compassion.

That made me think of Stewardship and St. David's. Compassion requires a little time and a talent for empathy. (Some of us have empathy in abundance but all of us have some capacity for empathy). There have been countless examples of compassion in our St. David's community in the last year. There are the public examples like the calling chain, the UnFair! and the direct outreach to St. James School and our own St. David's Episcopal Day School. The private ones are, I am sure, too numerous to count. We should be proud of our church community.

Moreover, the great thing about compassion is it is a renewable resource. The more you spend the more you have. Giving of ourselves creates psychic income that has a way of replenishing our capacity to give more. Caring for each other and our St. David's community is stewardship too. There certainly is hope that 2021 will be better, but we still have some road to travel. Until we get to the other side of this pandemic, let us put the Stewardship focus on compassion for each other, our church community and the world.

- Jeff Waldron



PLEDGING IS EASY!

Don't forget to fill out your pledge card! Cards should have arrived by now, but if you have not received one or need to request another, call our office at 610-688-7947. You can also pledge online by visiting our website at <https://stdavidschurch.org/giving>.

Discipleship

Experiencing the Way of Love

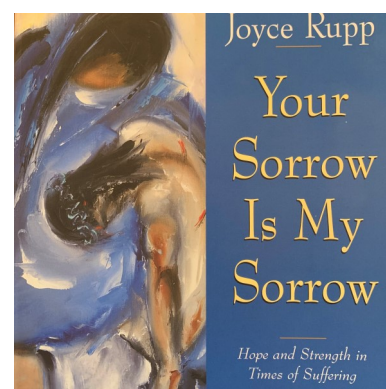
In the fall of 2020, many people participated in the Zoom Discipleship offerings, ranging from the active Center for Spiritual Growth programs—Centering Prayer, mindfulness meditation, and spiritual direction—to five weekly Bible studies, to Sunday morning Adult Forum and Coffee Hour, to monthly book groups. More than a dozen people joined a lively book discussion and conversations based on Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Love is the Way*, which proved incredibly timely around the election. In fact, the Wednesday evening programming was so successful after the completion of the Bishop Curry book that it transitioned into an Advent group focused on "Dwelling in the Dark Together."



Way of Love Wednesdays

Wednesdays | Starting February 17th | 7:30-8:30pm

For the 7 Wednesdays in Lent, Discipleship will offer two classes running during the 7:30-8:30 pm hour: Domenica Rafferty, a psychotherapist, pastoral counselor and parishioner, will lead a book discussion and conversations based on Joyce Rupp's book *Your Sorrow is My Sorrow: Hope and Strength in Times of Suffering*. This book relates the Seven Sorrows of Mary to our own sufferings and is a timely Lenten (and pandemic) meditation that offers compassion, comfort, healing, and companionship in the journeys of life. The Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers will lead a video-based program for discussion and reflection using the marvelous resources of the Work of the People, featuring interviews, music, poetry, and prayer.



New ways to engage Stations of the Cross

The Lenten devotional is already in the works and will feature something new this year! Parishioners will still find thoughtful meditations from parishioners and the clergy, but will also discover a wonderful Stations of the Cross resource at the end, featuring art and reflections from the arts collective, A Sanctified Art LLC.

& Spiritual Life

New Evening Bible Study

Tuesdays | Starting January 12th | 7:00-8:00pm

Even though St. David's has five active Bible studies, some parishioners have not found the right one for them, or are uncertain about jumping into one. Thus, a new Bible study is being formed, specifically for those who have never joined a Bible study, or are worried they don't know enough about the Bible to join one, or currently don't have a Bible study to attend. This practical, application-focused study will be parishioner-led and for those who need an evening study. Details to come in the *Catch Up with St. David's* Newsletter in January.



Experiencing the Way of Love in Lent

Sunday Coffee Hour | Starting February 21st | 10:30am

Last, but certainly not least, for the 6 Sundays in Lent, the Center for Spiritual Growth and the Discipleship Commission will be partnering to offer "Experiencing the Way of Love," a series of interactive and contemplative classes during the Adult Forum and Online Coffee Hour. This series will include classes led by the Theologian-in-Residence Dr. Ilia Delio, spiritual directors Gillian Waldron and Buff Barnes, mindfulness teachers Clayton Platt and Laurie Robinson, The Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers, and labyrinth guide Louise Haley. These interactive and contemplative offerings are based on the success of the series "Praying in the Way of Love" with spiritual director Amy Nobles Dolan, which were held in Advent.



THE WAY OF LOVE

Outreach

OUTREACH IN 2021

Firstly I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope that this New Year brings happiness and peace to each of you, your families and loved ones. The other day I was reflecting on 2020 with Frank and we said just how challenging last year was to the normal life of the church. One of the beautiful things about the very serious challenges that 2020 presented was in a sense that COVID-19 stripped away so much of what we thought made us who we are. The festivities and activities even the use of our space. Don't get me wrong, these things are indeed a part of who we are and how we live out our Christian life together, but when all of these things were taken from us, what was left?

What we have seen and experienced is that St. David's Church is a church that is defined by our outreach. We are defined by how we care for one another and for those in our wider community who need help or a steady hand to help keep in balance. St. David's church is a church that shows up and keeps showing up. It is truly a beautiful thing to watch and to be a part of. You all teach me so much about what it means to be a loving supportive presence in other people's lives, and I thank you very much for who you all are and all that you do.

There is still much ahead of us that God has yet to reveal. So what will outreach look like for 2021? I believe that 2021 will be a year to listen. This will be a year to listen to how God is moving in our community and in the world. 2021 will be a year to be responsive to how the spirit is calling us all to act! 2021 will be the year we welcome our Lord Jesus Christ to move in our lives and to use us to His glory. Listening and responding is tricky business, it has to be rooted in deep prayer above all else. We must hear when God is calling us to act, perhaps in ways that are familiar to us, but perhaps in ways that we couldn't have ever possibly imagined.

I'm calling outreach in 2021 a year of being "Called into Action!" I want to invite you all to join me in listening to God. And as God calls us to act, I want to encourage you all to keep showing up and allowing God to use us! Together with God we can change people lives and in turn change this world for the better.

You are all in my prayers.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Maurice Dyer



Pastoral Care

MINISTRY UPDATE

Pastoral Care, like all of our ministries, has had to reimagine some of its work and put some of its work on hold. A vibrant phone ministry began very strongly at the beginning of our sheltering in place. Over time, close to eighty parishioners have called other parishioners to check in and see if anything was needed. Initially there was some matching of parishioners willing to do errands with those who needed that service, but over time, most people have found their own solutions. One unexpected outcome has been a thorough update of our database, as we've corrected a lot of contact information! Some of our phone ministers continue to call those who have enjoyed these check-ins, and new relationships have been nurtured.

Most of our in-person ministries have been suspended. Eucharistic Visitors, Walking the Mourner's Path, Flower Ministry, St. David's Friends, Driving Angels and Caring Meals are all awaiting a safe time to resume. But other ministries, like the Needleworks Guild, have flourished! Seeking Hope and #JourneyingForward have managed to meet, either virtually or with very few people in attendance. And we are very pleased that our Twelve Step Groups have been able to meet under strict guidelines.

The faithful Stephen Ministers continue their individual ongoing ministries with their Care Receivers over Zoom and the phone. In addition, they have continued to meet for Group Supervision and Continuing Education. And finally, the Career Transition Ministry is transitioning itself into a new incarnation which we hope will be more broadly useful to all ages.

- The Rev. Elizabeth Colton



