



# The Dove

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

*April, May, June 2021*



## IN THIS ISSUE:

### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

HOW IT BEGAN &  
WHERE IT'S GOING

### **ARBORETUM**

A SPACE FOR SOLITARY  
MEDITATION & REFLECTION

### **THE GIFT SHOP &**

**ART GALLERY**  
AN INSIDE LOOK

### **WORSHIP**

EASTER:  
THE SEASON OF SEASONS

### **PROPERTY**

OPPORTUNITY FOR  
IMPROVEMENT

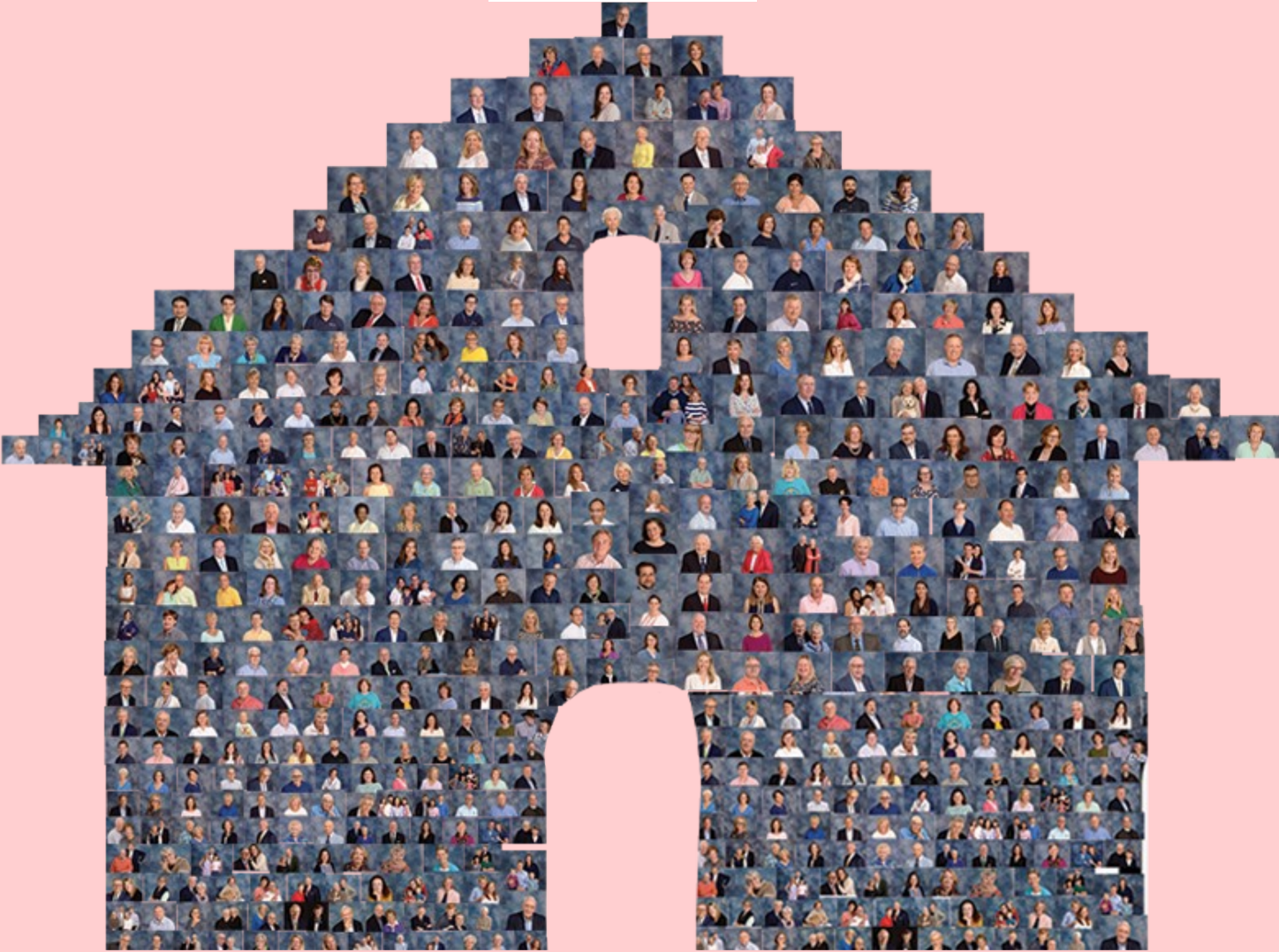
### **RECTOR'S WARDEN**

MINISTRY UPDATES DURING  
THE PANDEMIC





THE WAY OF LOVE





# LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

BY THE REV. FRANK ALLEN

*“A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.” John 13:34*



Dear People of St. David’s,

I pray that you and yours are safe and well and finding ways to pay attention to your life in God. This has been a challenging year in so many ways, but I am deeply thankful for your faithful commitment to St. David’s and our mission and ministry in COVID time.

This issue of the DOVE provides wonderful overviews of some of the important ministry we continue to accomplish, a look at Easter worship, and insights into ministries that have been ongoing for many years.

I hope that you will take time to read this issue and give thanks to God with me for the many ways God continues to be active in our lives.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. W. Frank Allen



## Clergy

- The Rev. W. Frank Allen | Rector
- The Rev. Elizabeth W. Colton | Associate Rector
- The Rev. Maurice A. Dyer, II | Associate Rector
- The Rev. Kenneth McCaslin | Deacon
- The Rev. Dr. Alexander McCurdy, III | Associate Rector
- The Rev. E. Edward Shiley | Associate Rector
- The Rev. William Wood, III | Associate Rector
- The Rev. Emily Zimbrick-Rogers | Associate Rector

## Staff

- Buff Barnes | Spiritual Direction
- Margaret Biester | Head of School, SDEDS
- Geoff Chamberlain | Broadcast Manager
- Amy Van Sciver Darst | Asst. Head of School, SDEDS
- Roe DeRitis | Parish Secretary
- Diane Dowlin | Office Manager
- Jo-Ann Funkhouser | Finance Manager
- Shannon Garland | Communications Assistant
- Matt Grove | Property, Cemetery Associate
- Chris King | Parish Custodian
- Maria Leal | Director of Children’s Education
- Lauren Machowski | Director of Communications
- Eileen Myers | Wedding Coordinator
- Josiah Pizzo | Groundskeeper
- Leslie Robertshaw | Parish Administrator
- Dr. Clair Rozier | Director of Music
- Heather Sill | Parish Secretary
- Paul Smith | Parish Custodian
- Holly Vicki | Music Librarian
- Margie Winters | Director of the Gift Shop
- Dr. Elaine Sonnenberg Whitelock | Associate Director of Music





# Vestry Notes



Jim Dolan  
*Rector's Warden,  
Property, Finance*



Tom Johantgen  
*Finance Warden  
Finance, Stewardship*



Mona Kirby  
*Junior Warden  
Fellowship,  
Communications*



Susan Barber  
*Secretary  
SDEDS, Fellowship*



Jay Baldwin  
*Outreach, SDEDS,  
Communications*

Although the pandemic has prevented the people of St. David's from gathering in worship and fellowship, God is still working through us to know God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known to others. To quote our Rector, we continue to do that "in a lot of different ways," albeit differently than we have in the past.

St. David's Episcopal Day School has had a terrific year under the leadership of Head of School, Margaret Biester. Students and teachers have made the most of their in-person schooldays together with no shutdowns or reported COVID-19 cases. Indeed, the word is out about SDEDS, which is fully subscribed with students for the Fall and has a significant waiting list.

Worship continues to be at the center of our religious life as a parish, and we have maintained our online presence even as we have opened up services for in-person attendance. Indeed, our online presence has broadened our reach as a church locally, nationally and even internationally. We owe our fellow parishioners Geoff Chamberlain, John Lewis and Doug Andreuzzi a debt of gratitude for leveraging our existing technological infrastructure to bring worship services to members of the parish near and far. As more people receive vaccinations and our operations open up, we will continue to make worship services at St. David's available remotely to parishioners who are unable to attend and to the greater community and world.

Our music program, which is a vital element to our worship experience, has adapted to these times as well. Through their leadership, creativity and technological savvy, Dr. Clair Rozier and Dr. Elaine Sonnenberg Whitelock have reinvigorated our choirs and have brought (nearly) live music back to our services.

While fellowship events have been few and far between due to restrictions on in-person gatherings due to the pandemic, we have had terrific attendance at our online offerings, including bible studies, Adult Education and Coffee Hours, both from members of the parish and prospective members here and abroad.



Janet Helms  
*Finance, Pastoral  
Care*



Rod Kellett  
*Property,  
Family Ministries*



Edie Lewis  
*Fellowship,  
Discipleship*



Sarah Schoettle  
*Family Ministries,  
Outreach*



# Vestry Notes

On Sunday, May 2nd, we will host an in-person and livestreamed Annual Meeting. At the meeting we will hear more about our mission and ministry over this past year. We will also be electing four new members to our Vestry: Alison Hastings, Leslie Lewis, Tim Roach, and Ian Wilcox . We encourage you to join us, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

As restrictions lift and we are given more opportunities for fellowship and worship together in the coming months, know that, although this past year has been difficult for us on many levels, God has continued to work through the people of St. David's to let Himself be known to us and to the wider world. I look forward to seeing you all (in person!) soon.

Jim Dolan  
*Rector's Warden*



Betsy Spiegel  
*Discipleship, SDEDS,  
Family Ministries*



Mike Tredinnick  
*Fellowship,  
Stewardship, Worship*



Gillian Waldron  
*Worship,  
Pastoral Care*



Liza Whelan  
*Pastoral Care,  
Outreach*



# Worship

**“THE LORD IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!”**

The season of seasons in the Church year is upon us with the annual celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. For at the very core of the Christian life is the promise and reality that God raised Jesus from the dead that first Easter morning. We celebrate because it means our sins have been forgiven and that the way to God is now open to everyone. We celebrate because it means that the shadow of death has been lifted from all people. Because Christ was raised from the dead, we believe that He has broken the hold and fear and reality of death forever and that our physical deaths have become a doorway to more life and love and adventure in God’s closer presence.



As Christians, we pay careful attention in our worship to the passion and resurrection of our Lord, beginning with Maundy Thursday, the last supper and Jesus’ command for us to love as He has loved us. It is a solemn occasion and a beautiful moment of worship as we ‘remember’ Christ at the table with the first followers and with us, sharing in the meal that both builds community and brings the very presence of Christ into our lives.

Good Friday worship is spare, simple and reflective, as we stand and kneel before the cross of Christ, connecting to His suffering on our behalf and marveling at God’s infinite love for us. We stand and kneel before the cross as a people in need of God’s forgiveness. We stand and kneel before the cross as a reminder that Christ has suffered as we have and will in our lives, giving thanks for the promise that we are never alone. We stand and kneel before the cross as a people who are loved in spite of ourselves.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the oldest liturgy we know of and is filled with readings and songs about God’s wonderful habit of saving us. It begins with a “new fire” as the sign of Christ’s Light coming back into the world after His Death and swells to the Easter Acclamation and Celebration. The liturgy itself is contemplative and moving.

The Day of Resurrection, Easter, comes with boisterous celebration at Christ’s resurrection and we always have special music, even at the 8 a.m. worship service. For even though the first Easter was quiet as Jesus’ followers were figuring out just what God had done, from our perspective, nearly 2,000 years later, we understand more fully and celebrate. For the next 50 days we celebrate Christ’s resurrection (as we do each Sunday through the year) in the presence and love of the Risen Christ who is with us always.

So, let me encourage you to join in on these most holy of days and know in the deepest recesses of your heart and soul how much you are loved by God. May we all be blessed to grasp again or for the first time the promise of the Christian life and the power of Easter.

- The Rev. Frank Allen



# Property

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

While the pandemic has caused many interruptions to our church community, one area of our church that has been hard at work has been our property team. Through the guidance and leadership of Leslie Robertshaw, Matt Grove and all members of the property commission, our property team has been maintaining our 40 acres and making significant improvements to all areas of our property. From increasing our connectivity speeds for livestreaming in the Chapel, to significant improvements to the arboretum and a thorough study of our stream and marsh lands, the property team has been identifying ways to improve the overall property experience for all members of our community.

The pandemic has allowed us to create new opportunities to use the property for worship and reflection in ways that we have not done in the past. As a result, the arboretum is in the process of a significant transformation. Recently we held an All Parish Work Day, which gave us the chance to do a general clean-up of the area and make significant improvements to the paths. New railroad ties and wood chips have been laid down to clearly mark the paths to allow a safer and more contemplative experience, and the addition of a beautifully crafted cross should not be missed. We hope that the improvements to the arboretum will give us more of a chance to use the area for worship and bring more visitors to our property.

There are a couple of other projects that are currently under consideration, which we are hoping to complete during this “quiet time” on campus. The projects under consideration are a re-paving of all parking areas and roads through both sides of our property and the connection of St. David’s Episcopal Day School to the Radnor Township sewer system. While these projects will cause some disruption to our campus, we deem them necessary for the overall wellness and experience of the property. Updates to these projects will be provided as they develop.

The property team has worked incredibly hard to keep our campus looking beautiful and to provide us with an opportunity to enjoy contemplative walks or a peaceful rest on a bench in the arboretum. As you see the team around the grounds, please thank them for helping to provide us with a beautiful property where we can take time to enjoy all the God has given us.

- Rod Kellett



# Arboretum

**WELCOME SPRING!**

*“For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them.”*

**Matthew 18:20**

The Arboretum is an outdoor worship space located between the graveyard, stream, the gardens and the bees. The stream runs through the Arboretum, providing a calming sound and space for reflection. Birds add a symphony of sound especially now as the space is coming alive. Sit on the benches and view the magnificent cross made by Digger Higgins. The benches and cross offer a peaceful gathering place.

The Arboretum is available for solitary meditation and reflection experiencing God’s work through nature or group gatherings using the benches or bringing your own chairs.

On Saturday March 20th, St. David’s held an All Parish Work Day to clean up the Arboretum and lay the 4/4 pieces of wood to outline the paths. Workers, including children, assisted with all aspects of the workday. There were many jobs for all the volunteers, which ranged from picking up sticks and raking leaves to drilling wood and hammering rebar as well as cutting pieces of wood to fit and delivering water. Parishioners turned out and accomplished so much!

The Arboretum is now in “spring mode.” Daffodils, lots of them, are coming up and will be a “riot” of color!

Come and enjoy **the revitalized Arboretum!!**

- Ellie Smith & Deb Geffken





# Men's Fellowship

## A FISHER OF MEN

**Our mission:** *St. David's Men's Fellowship is dedicated to creating opportunities for men to develop vital friendships, personal integrity, and profound Christ-centered growth.*

It is amazing to realize that after 20 years this group is still going strong. The first Men's Fellowship event was a breakfast in February of 2001. It all started with a simple request from The Rev. Frank Allen asking if we could do something for the men. Once we got started, Frank Allen gave us freedom to create and manage the organization ourselves. This is a great example of the parable of the mustard seed in action.

After that first breakfast a group of men came together, including myself, who met every Sunday for nine months to work out what the organization was going to do; and what it was going to be called. The issue of the name centered around whether it should be called a *Fellowship* or a *Ministry*. The question was, would we look like a country club or a spiritual group? In the end, we decided to call it a Fellowship, believing it would attract more men to join the group. What has happened over the last 20 years is that we gained more than any of us could have hoped for, both organizationally and spiritually.

It turns out that the church is the perfect environment to create a Men's Fellowship. By following the principles taught to us by Jesus, we have the best roadmap for success. He told us to love our neighbor as we would ourselves, to be forgiving and to be honest. I believe our strength comes from being a place where we can discover our gifts and use them for the betterment of the entire community. Additionally, the men's group is where we can be renewed and try again; where we can forgive and be forgiven; and where we can learn to be better men, better husbands and better fathers. The only requirement for admission is to show up.

Today, we have a core group of over 250 men. We have been hosting one of our major activities, the monthly Saturday Breakfast, for 10 months out of the year for 20 years working out to 200 breakfasts. The Men's Friday morning Bible Study started roughly around 2003 and have met every Friday since then amounting to over 884 meetings. We held the first Men's Retreat in 2004, which was filled with a weekend of personal and spiritual growth. We have conducted 16 retreats overall. I believe the important thing is not only that we have done these events, but that we are involved in many other aspects of the church, providing support and leadership.



This is an environment where we can build lasting friendships based on trust and personal integrity. A place where men can openly discuss issues that are important to their lives, support one another and be themselves, while having fun along the way.

In the future it will be the dedication of our members and the support of The Rev. Frank Allen and other clergy that will keep us strong.

- Michael Brent

# The Gift Shop and Art Gallery

*Where every purchase empowers and transforms lives*

The Gift Shop started more than two decades ago with an idea and a table laden with artifacts brought back from a mission trip to Uganda. Those items were sold and the profits were donated back to Uganda's children in need. In 1999, with \$5,000 in seed money and a prayer, that simple concept evolved into a tiny shop located under the steps of the Harrison Room; The Gift Shop at St. David's Church was born.

The Gift Shop, staffed by volunteers, is currently celebrating its 22nd anniversary and has grown exponentially in size and impact. Now located on the main floor of the church adjacent to the reception area, the shop helps provide a significant amount of funding for feeding, clean water, educational and medical initiatives through the church's international outreach programs in Cuba, Guatemala and Uganda.

Currently the only Christian gift shop on the Main Line, the shop offers crosses, Bibles and many other religious items. The Gift Shop also features a wide array of fair trade and popular brands, offering shoppers an expansive selection of gifts for all occasions. Merchandise is sourced from artisans around the world. [Savvyonline](#) has dubbed the shop "one of the best kept secrets on the Main Line."

In 2018, The Gift Shop branched out with the addition of The Art Gallery at St. David's. The gallery provides a juried exhibition of ever-changing fine art for sale. Profits from The Art Gallery also help to support the church's international outreach programs.

When you shop at The Gift Shop and Art Gallery, it is a triple win. The artisan is paid a fair wage, you or your gift recipient receives a meaningful gift and you help those in need around the world through the church's international outreach programs.

In addition to offering material goods, The Gift Shop is a conduit for World Gifts, an alternative giving program that allows you to make a direct donation to the church's outreach missions in your name or the name of a loved one, while giving the gift of hope to others. Donations may be made in the Gift Shop, as well as directly to the church's finance department or on the church's website.





# The Gift Shop and Art Gallery

*Where every purchase empowers and transforms lives*

To date, the Gift Shop, The Art Gallery and World Gifts have donated upwards of \$300,000 to our international outreach partners.

While 2019 was one the shop's most profitable years, the pandemic forced The Gift Shop to close its doors in early 2020. Since then the shop and gallery have responded with several reinventions including curbside shopping as well as online shopping, utilizing the church's givesmart software from The Unfair!

We look forward to expanding our online presence and reopening our doors for in-store shopping in the near future. With your continued support of these ministries, we can continue to realize our mission of empowering those in need and transforming lives.

To shop online, click on the following link <https://e.givesmart.com/events/iEU/>. For additional information or to volunteer in The Gift Shop and/or The Art Gallery, contact us at 484-580-8486 or [giftshop@stdavidschurch.org](mailto:giftshop@stdavidschurch.org).

- Margie Winters



