



St. David's  
Episcopal Church  
Southfield

## Staying in Touch

# Connections

November 2023

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### How do I pray more?

Here's a question I often ask myself:  
How do I pray more?

After all, Saint Paul says we should  
pray unceasingly, but we know that's  
impossible

Can you imagine: "Doctor please, not  
during brain surgery!"

Or,. "Dad! Not while you're driving!"

Okay, so maybe we can't pray all the  
time, but we can probably pray more.

The ancient church fathers and  
mothers knew that—and they  
developed something called the Jesus  
prayer, you may have heard of it, it  
goes like this:

*Jesus Christ, son of God, have  
mercy on me, a sinner.*

And they would pray this literally  
thousands of times a day.

I like to make up my own, which I'm  
teaching to you each Sunday morning.

It goes like this:

*Jesus Christ, son of God, may  
your will be done, through me.*

You can pray this prayer in the line of  
the grocery store, even while driving,

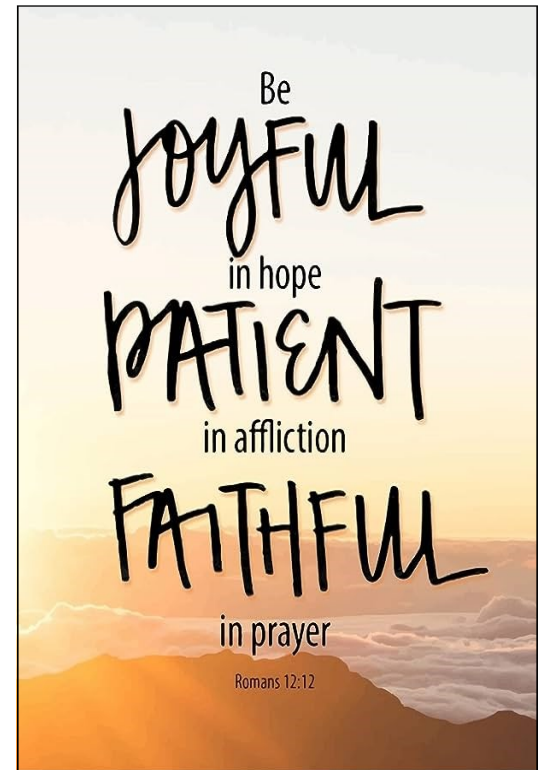
though probably not during brain  
surgery.

How can you and I pray more, and  
make God a bigger part of our lives?

It's not just good for ourselves, but it's  
probably good for other people too.

May you and I find much time during  
Advent to pray more.

†Fr. Chris



## Senior Warden's Update



**Darryl Butler**  
Senior Warden

Hello my family and friends of St. David's. This has been a great year here at our parish. We have seen many good things happen here and as you know my term is winding down. You will have a new Senior Warden in January. Here are a few things we as your Vestry have done.

We as a Vestry along with Fr. Chris will be having our second gun buyback. After the overwhelming success of the first buyback it was only fitting to have another one partnered with the city of Southfield.

The Vestry also ask our congregation to help with the funding of the repairs to our church organ and once again you all responded. We have what was needed to do the repairs so Al Eppens can continue to fill our church with the lovely music he has provided us with.

We also launched our "Legacy Fund". This is a opportunity for our congregation to leave behind what they can do our church can continue to do the work that we do for many years to come. A special thanks goes out to Marilyn Greening and Fr. Chris for their hard work on this.

In November we welcomed new members to our church family. This was a special day because it shows how we can continue to grow as a parish. Please feel free to invite and welcome new people to our church.

As I have stated previously I will be leaving the Vestry after my term is up in January. Since I have had the fortunate opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden we have seen many changes in our church. Gun buybacks, social justice displays, repairs in the church, continue helping those in need and new members and musicians are just a few of things we as a community have done. It has been a pleasure to serve all of you as the Senior Warden and I will continue to do what I can to keep our parish as it has always been, an all inclusive, welcoming, loving and giving parish family.

Thank you,  
Your Senior Warden  
Darryl Butler

## Junior Warden's Update



**Rocco Romano**  
Junior Warden

Hey there friends!

We are continuing to do a lot of work around the parish in 2023! Here's a list of items that I've been privileged to be a part of as the Lord continues to equip us for the important work we are doing here in Southfield.

We are making improvements to the main kitchen by creating better cabinet usage. The kitchen storage room continues to be cleaned out and reorganized. We will be receiving a new freezer for the Lighthouse program. It will be housed in the kitchen storage room as well. Also, we have finished cleaning and sealing the joints in the storage shed so it can be better utilized. We can now store non-kitchen items that have been housed in the kitchen storage room.

Jason Lozon, who attends the 8 am service, continues to refinish the wood doors in the main hallway.

The old and inoperative wireless microphone for the parish hall was replaced with a new system. It supports two microphones and operates on a modern frequency band. The system

provides a clearer sound with less interference. It will also connect to the sound system used for the outside service, which reduces the number of microphone cables. Thank you, Ray Litwinowicz and Ken Miller.

**Parking Lot Update:** We will continue to patch the asphalt parking lot along with our neighbor St. Anne's Mead since a replacement at this time is not affordable. Look for new patching this fall.

Thank you so much for your generosity regarding your time, talent, and treasure – we can't do the work without you!

Rocco Romano

## Spotlight on Newcomers

by John Hawkes

Howard and Cindy Rush have attended St. David's for about six months. Howard worshipped here with his family from 1971-76, when he left to join the Air Force. He was baptized in the Episcopal faith and then confirmed at St. David's. His parents are interred in our Memorial Garden.

On Memorial Day weekend, the couple attended the funeral service for Dee Bryant. They decided that our church was a beautiful place and said to each other, "let's stay." However, they agreed that one area of our property needed some improvement.

"We thought that the Memorial Garden needed a little more love," Cindy said. "Howard's father was an avid gardener and always had a meticulously groomed flower garden. We love gardening as well. I like putting my hands in the dirt although I'm not really into the planting part. I let Howard do that."

So, the Rushes contacted Father Chris and offered to give of their time and talents. Under the guidance of Jeanne Petersen, they planted some flowers and did some weeding and trimming of the grounds. Little did they know that Cindy was about to encounter a meaningful spiritual experience. She provided a story of what transpired next. Here are excerpts:

One day, I was alone in the garden amongst the many saints interred there, and I thought about my in-laws. In my quiet reflection time, I was suddenly aware of a loud bird. He was in the tree above where I worked. And he was persistent...cawing and cawing and cawing! Finally, I said, 'okay I hear you!' It was a crow. I went back to work on my hands and knees, pulling weeds and smoothing out the soil, when I found a quarter. My father-in-law was known for delighting children with his quarter tricks. He would hide quarters in different spots and make a game of finding them until the last quarter was found. Kids loved it! Of course, finding the quarter put a big smile on my face and I concluded that the crow was Dad.

When I was done working, I got in my car and wiped the dirt off the quarter. Then my jaw dropped. It was dated 2002....the year that he died!



## Haiti Outreach Update

By Janet Ernst



The Help for Haiti Fundraiser held at the Comedy Castle of Royal Oak was a fun filled evening AND we earned \$8,200 for our work in Mirebalais Haiti! Thank you all for your generosity. St. David's is one of seven churches that make up Haiti Outreach Mission. Founder and President of the organization is St. David parishioner, Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews.

The good news is that, amidst the violence and turbulence that is happening in Haiti today, our clinic in Mirebalais (a town in the Central Plateau, about forty miles from Port-au-Prince) has been able to stay open and see patients five days a week. The bad news is that we cannot get medicines and supplies to them and their options for obtaining medicine locally, or from the Dominican Republic are diminishing.



Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM.) has sent money to enable the clinic physicians to purchase some medicine locally—at a very inflated price. We have realized that the needs are so great that we cannot address them with the income we have now. Our current income comes from an annual \$4,000 seed money contribution from each church and from fundraisers sponsored by each church. We are able to meet the payroll (\$3,700 monthly) for the 14 employees in the clinic and some humanitarian projects requested by our two partner priests, Fr. Alphonse (Episcopal) and Fr. Romel (Catholic) but more needs to be done.

We have identified two projects that need to be done and have targeted these for a giving campaign,

**Project 1** is solar power installation in the clinic. Electricity is not functioning. There is a generator at the clinic but fuel to run it is very expensive—IF it can even be found on the black market. Many of the rooms in the clinic do not have windows which mandates the physician to examine patients by flashlight. Our dentist cannot use the drill or sterilizer when there is no power to run the compressor. Installation of solar power at the Catholic rectory during phase one of our solar power project has been a big success, so we know it can be done.



**Project II** is assistance in meeting the payroll of the teachers at St. Pierre School (Episcopal) and St. Louis School (Catholic). The teachers are usually paid from the small tuition that is charged for each child. Because of the civil unrest, parents cannot work and have not been able to pay the tuition. The teachers at St. Louis have not been paid their full salary in over three months. The priests are desperately trying to keep the schools open so the children are learning and not roaming the streets.

**If you can help with HOM's Targeted Giving Campaign by going to St. David's donation page, choose either Haiti – Solar or Haiti – Teachers.**

<https://giving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/ncs-1764>

Gratefully, Janet Ernst

## GUN BuyBack

co-sponsored by the Southfield Police Department and  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
16200 W. 12 Mile Rd. Southfield, MI

Turn in your functional firearms for **Target** or **Meijer Gift Cards**. There is no limit on the number of guns that can be turned in, but there is a \$300 maximum per participating vehicle. Firearms must be unloaded, with safety engaged and safely secured in the trunk of your vehicle.

Participants will provide identifying information and are asked to remain in their vehicles while law enforcement officers remove the weapons

### Domestic Violence and Firearms

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, I joined other advocates of ending gun violence as Attorney General Dana Nessel and the leaders of Moms Demand Action announced the introduction of similar bills in both the Michigan Senate and House to prevent domestic violence with a firearm. Attorney General Nessel said that annually in Michigan, approximately 70 people (mostly women) and 20 children are killed in acts of domestic violence. These bills protect domestic violence victims by preventing those convicted of domestic violence misdemeanor crimes from possessing, using, purchasing, or carrying a firearm in Michigan for 8 years. These laws would help to prevent firearm injury and deaths of victims of domestic violence and children. According to the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, if a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, the rate of homicide exponentially increases by 500%.

I have a friend who tells the following story of domestic violence. Her nephew and his wife had a very bitter divorce. He had their child every other weekend. One Saturday, he and his ex-wife got into a verbal fight as he was to pick up his child. His ex-wife's boyfriend and the boyfriend's mother joined the verbal fight. Her nephew went to his car, pulled out a handgun and killed his ex-wife, her boyfriend, and the boyfriend's mother. Her nephew says that he just snapped. What a tragedy! Without a firearm, this tragedy could not have occurred. Their child has lost both parents as her nephew will spend all his remaining years in prison.

**The House and Senate are considering bills that** would protect victims of domestic violence and lessen the abuser's ability to injure or kill their previous spouse or partner. Firearms and domestic violence are a dangerous combination. If you believe, as I do, that these bills are good public policy, please contact your Michigan Senator and State Representative.

David Detrisac  
PCO Firearm Safety Taskforce

Editor's Note: The preceding letter, provided to us by David Detrisac originally appeared in the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, Task force on Violence and is reprinted here by permission.

**Dec. 9, 2023**

**9 am – 1 pm**

**\$200**  
for Assault Rifles

**\$50**  
for other Long Guns  
Shotguns / Rifles/ Long Guns

**\$100**  
for Hand Guns

**Ammunition**  
is also accepted

**Donations**  
in support of this  
event can be made by  
check to St. David's  
Episcopal Church

or at

<https://iving.ncsservices.org/app/giving/ncs-1764>

[stdavidssf.org](http://stdavidssf.org)

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

### Spotlight on Newcomers (continued from pg 3)

Later, I googled ‘what does seeing a crow mean spiritually?’ It said that it means different things to different cultures. Native Americans view them as messengers between the living and the dead. My jaw dropped again. I am half native!”

Cindy was born and raised in Clawson. She was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic church. Howard grew up in Berkley. They met in Biloxi, Mississippi, where Howard was stationed, at the wedding of a mutual friend. Three years later, they married in Gulfport, Mississippi. After he got out of the Air Force, the couple moved to Sterling Heights. They have one son, Aaron, who is 28 years old and lives with his wife Esii, and their newborn baby girl named Josie in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

In 2018, after an extensive career in the automotive supplier industry and in sales and installations of office furnishings, Howard formed a company called NexTech Business Interiors with a showroom in Southfield where he serves as an Interiors Specialist. The company specializes in Innovative Workplace and Ergonomic Solutions for businesses.

Asked what they liked most about St. David’s, Howard said, “I like the way I feel after I walk in the doors—both of comfort and acceptance.” Cindy added, “I like that it’s a smaller church where people know your name and for the community atmosphere. Also, for the hymns that are sung. It’s the type of music that I was raised on. It feels like home to me.” Cindy joined the choir in September. Besides gardening, the Rushes are avid bicyclists. Cindy is into genealogy and has played piano off and on since childhood. Howard likes to paint and draw. Not surprisingly, South Carolina is their favorite travel destination.

For inspiration, Cindy relies on her “love of the Lord.” She said, “my mom taught me forgiveness and the saying, Now I lay me down to sleep...” Howard added, “when I came back to St. David’s, the first sermon from Father Chris said, ‘be careful of what you allow into your life.’ It struck a chord with me and was a special reminder. Now I just want to sit in a pew until I retire!”

We welcome Cindy and Howard Rush to St. David’s.

The year before I became a priest, I was ordained a deacon. As a deacon, I received absolutely no rewards, perks or benefits. However, two major obligations went along with the job, celibacy and reading the Roman Breviary. In my innocence and ignorance, I did not really understand how difficult both would be.

Now there already has been too much ink spilled in writings about clerical celibacy, or the lack thereof. So, I am going to concentrate on the Roman Breviary, a priestly responsibility, I also found too difficult.

The Roman Breviary is a prayer book especially designed for parish priests. The book is a stripped-down version of rituals, used by monks in monasteries, whose primary job is to worship and praise God. At its best, the ritual provides a small taste of the heavenly worship. There are vestments, candles, incense, two choirs facing each other singing alternate verses, chanted back and forth.

Now the Roman Breviary, compared to a Monastic Liturgy, is like a stripped-down Mercedes Benz, right down to the tires, then somebody walked off with three of them. The Breviary is a prayer book for parish priest written by someone who was not a parish priest.

Here are some of the problems:

1. The Breviary was written in Latin and was to be read in Latin. They said of Shakespeare that he had “...little Latin and less Greek.” I was exactly like Shakespeare, except I didn’t have any Greek. Many other priests had the same problem. Saying prayers in a language you do not understand, makes no sense.
2. The Breviary is anything other than brief. It took me an hour and a half, and that was if I just mouthed the words and did not use a Latin-English Dictionary.
3. It was designed to be prayed at eight different times throughout the day. This was not possible for a working priest. Shoving it all together and reading it between 10:30 pm and midnight, a common occurrence on a busy day, was practical, but not a good way to keep contact with God.
4. If you screwed up and fell asleep at 11:55, and missed the last few pages, it was considered a sin.

On the positive side, there are some really good jokes about the Breviary. Here are two.

- ◆ A story from the *Readers Digest*. A policeman sees a guy kneeling in the mud, in pouring rain, at 11:30 pm, reading a book by the light of his head lights. The officer checks it out then says, “Buddy, that’s gotta be a damn good book.”
- ◆ Fr. L.F., St. John’s Seminary, Class of 1964: “I never start saying my Breviary before 10:30 pm, so if I die before 10:30, I’ll have a really good excuse.

Now it was not my intention to gripe about the Roman Breviary. It was supposed to be a brief introduction to the *Book of Common Prayer*, a book that is really helping me, not only in my prayer life, but in the rest of my life as well. I think, however, that the BCP is almost unknown to the average Episcopalian.

I only started to pray the Book of Common Prayer about eighteen months ago, a time when I desperately needed peace, comfort and joy, and I found it in the BCP and. there is a lot to like about the BCP.

1. The English is beautiful. It is American English with a dusting of British panache tossed in.
2. The BCP was written by many different people at different times. The variety of styles is refreshing.
3. The prayers are definitely not spontaneous, and you know a bit of work went into composing them. Other times they sound like it just popped out of someone’s mouth.
4. Scriptures make up at least 80% of the book, but not just chapters and verses stacked upon each other. They are chosen to fit into the season, the day and the hour and they fit together beautifully.

But I am making a fool out of myself, just blabbering on. So, let’s get serious and say some prayers. Here are Collects, prayers for all the people, read at Compline, the final prayers of the day.

*O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day who work while others sleep. And grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other’s toil; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

It is definitely not a spontaneous prayer, but it is something I would never think of, much less pray over, but I should. It is a well-written beautiful prayer with an important message.

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, sooth the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. and all for your love’s sake. Amen*

I love this prayer and I love the guy who wrote it. I say guy, because it is definitely a man, a highly disorganized, enthusiastic, young man, who has no problem telling God what He should do and do quickly. I love this kid. He makes me think of myself when I was young.

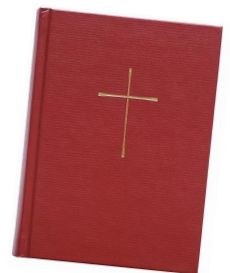
*Look down, O Lord from your heavenly throne, and illuminate the night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

This is definitely written by a man. An important man, and boy, doesn’t he know it. Probably a bishop or dean of a cathedral. He is not the humblest guy you will ever meet, but even the haughty have a right to pray.

*Be present O merciful God and protect us through the hours of this night, so those we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This was definitely written by a man, a plain-spoken older man who dislikes adverbs and adjectives. Get to the noun and the verb is his motto. He is a curmudgeon who has seen too many changes and challenges and never liked any of them. He is looking forward to meeting Jesus in person, and soon. A cranky old guy that I know well, but for the life of me, I cannot remember who he is.

These are four of the prayers from the Book of Common Prayer I hope to write again about the BCP. In the meantime, when you are waiting for the Sunday Service to start, pick up the BCP, open it to any of the prayers and read a few. If you get confused and make a mistake, like reading Christmas prayers in August, do not worry about it. God will be so pleased to hear from you, that He will definitely overlook any violation of a few rules.



# Photo Gallery

by Joanne Sackett



Ken and Betsy Wenzel, visiting from Florida, are welcomed by Kitty Kenning and Ken's sister, Judy Walsh



Al Eppens gives a "tour" of the organ.  
Photo by Cindy Litwinowicz



The children's garden is lovingly tended by Jeanne Petersen and Cindy Rush.  
Thank You!



Receiving communion at our outdoor service.



Our apple tree had plenty of apples this year.





The Ministry Fair highlights the many programs that are available at St. David's.



Some of our Church school children in class.



**Decorating Pumpkins** was enjoyed by young and old alike.



Gerry Maloney donated a beautiful chalice to the church.

Thank you Gerry!



All Saints Day  
Remembering our dearly departed



Connection Hour Class

Mary Bensmiller explains the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator)  
Thank you, for the informative and life-saving information, Mary!



Fr Chris interviews Rabbi Aaron Starr from Congregation Shaarey Zekek about the Israeli/Hamas war during our Connection Hour  
Photos by Felicity Thompson



## Ladies Night Out

*Amy Prather*

Our first ever 'Ladies Night Out' was a fantastic evening of delicious fondue at the Melting Pot of Troy. Not much can beat cheese or chocolate for dinner, but the women of St. David's sure know how to have a good time. The conversation and companionship was superb, far surpassing the dinner! We're looking forward to our next night out and hope you will join us for a Christmas Lights Tour on Friday, December 15 (see details below).



## Christmas Lights Tour

**Who:** Ladies of St. David's and their lady friends or family (over 18)

**What:** Private Party Bus Christmas Light Tour

**When:** Friday December 15 at 6 pm

**Where:** We will meet in the parking lot at St. David's

The tour will visit multiple destinations including but not limited to: Downtown Rochester, Campus Martius, Beacon Park, The Berry Gordy Mansion, The Fisher Building

Cost: \$55 per person this includes bus rental and gratuity, pizza dinner and a goodie bag! Payment must be made in advance, can be paid by cash, Venmo, or PayPal. Registration due by 12/5/2023.

- ◆ We will play games and enjoy a night of stress-free entertainment!
- ◆ Don't forget to wear your ugly Christmas sweater for a chance to win a prize!!
- ◆ BYOB! Feel free to bring a small soft sided cooler or Playmate style cooler, thermos or to go cup.
- ◆ Water will be provided.



Questions? Contact Amy in the parish office. 248-557-5430

## St. David's Episcopal Church

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[www.stdavidssf.org](http://www.stdavidssf.org)

Connections Newsletter Contacts

Fr Chris Yaw  
Edna Buday  
Amy Prather



### New Building Projects Coming: Support Loose Change Sunday! December 10

*Bring Your Loose Change!* In keeping with a long-time (albeit pre-COVID) tradition, we're inviting you to bring your loose change to church once a quarter as we continue to build for the future. We'll put these funds into our building fund as we continue to care for our campus in life-giving ways. Thank you for being such generous people!



### Advent and Christmas at St. David's

#### Sunday, December 3, Advent I

With St. Nick, Christmas Carol Bingo (11:30 am)

#### Sunday, December 10, Advent II

Singing the Psalms (11:30 am)

#### Sunday, December 17, Advent III

Christmas Pageant/Charity Cookie Walk

#### Sunday, December 24, Advent IV, 10 am

(no 8 am service)

#### Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service—An African Christmas

#### Sunday December 24, 10 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
Choral Prelude at 9:30 pm

#### Monday, December 25, 10:00 am

Christmas Day Eucharist

#### Sunday, January 7, 11:30 am

Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's Mead

### 2023

#### Reverse Advent Calendar for our Food Pantry

Let's help families in our community with a special box stocked with essentials—this may be a new tradition or one that you are continuing. We will provide empty boxes for you to take home to fill and return after Advent. Boxes will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 26 or Sunday, December 3. You will find a list of suggested items in each box. This is great activity for the whole family. Children may enjoy shopping and filling the boxes and even decorating the outside of the box.



#### 'Shining Our Light' - Stewardship 2024

St. David's has some ambitious plans for 2024 and we need your help. This year's stewardship campaign is called 'Shining Our Light' and we're calling on all of us to ask the Lord how we can help shine the Light of Christ through our parish to love and help our community. Please prayerfully consider your 2024 pledge.

#### Newsletter Delivery

*Connections* is published on a quarterly basis with digital copies of the newsletter e-mailed to you in February, May, August and November. It is also available online at St. David's website: [www.stdavidssf.org](http://www.stdavidssf.org) (select Media, then Newsletters.) Paper copies will be mailed ONLY to parishioners who request them. To request a mailed paper copy, please contact Amy Prather at (248) 557-5430 or [amy@stdavidssf.org](mailto:amy@stdavidssf.org).