



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

July 2021

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My friend Todd has a personal trainer.

Three times a week, he stops by the gym and is put through a rigorous workout that includes all sorts of exercises that condition and buff his body into the kind of frame he desires. Todd is a very smart, busy man who relies on his trainer to put together the right kind of program to help him grow and develop.

One day after a workout I asked Todd, “Does your trainer show you a lot of different kinds of exercises that are more effective than the ones the rest of us do?” “No,” said Todd, “the main reason I have a trainer is not because of what he teaches me, but of how he pushes me. I know how to do all the exercises, I just need help doing them.”

Isn't this spiritual life a bit like this?

We're finally in the 'green season' of the liturgical year—this season after Pentecost. And during this time we will hear a lot of stories and parables from Jesus, many are taken from the agricultural context so familiar to the original audience, which point to the idea of growth—and the importance God puts on the development and advancement of our spiritual lives.

It's been said that the faith life of the average North American Christian has developed little since Sunday School. Polls that test biblical literacy seem to support this (my favorite: one in ten



Christians believe Joan of Arc was Noah's wife). This sense that our spiritual lives should take precedence over the development of our physical bodies or our careers is not widely shared both in the culture or in the Church.

It is poignant that Jesus did not spend much time showing us how to be physically fit or how to climb the corporate ladder. He commended us to pay the highest attention to our spiritual lives—knowing this would lead to the most fulfilling and satisfying life of all.

So do we need a personal trainer? Or some other regimen that allows us to take our spiritual lives as seriously as we take the development of other areas of our lives? What might a concrete step toward deeper discipleship look like? Is summertime a good time to experiment?

As your pastor – a reminder that regular visits to the spiritual gym are recommended, and personal trainers are always on hand to assist.

†Fr. Chris

Gatherings for “Dedication” and “Celebration”

By Edna Buday

The pictures tell this story! A very special thanks to Joanne Sackett for all the photos provided here.



After several years of planning and fundraising, St. David’s parishioners, friends and community leaders gathered on Sunday, June 6 for worship and for celebration.

There was much joy and excitement in the air as we prepared to celebrate the multi-year construction project which was designed to enhance our ability to serve the needs of our worshipers as well as help us better welcome the many community groups who have utilized our space such as Alcoholics Anonymous (for more than 60 years), Parents of Murdered Children, food-insecure families, and our homeless guests from the South Oakland Shelter.

Following the worship service, Mistress of Ceremonies Lori Pinson, introduced Senior Warden Ellen Boyes who offered introductory comments with a warm welcome to all.

Many special guests came to offer their best wishes and congratulations. We heard from two of our former senior wardens, Gary Meier from Dayton, OH and Mark Schneider from Chicago, IL. Both had served as senior wardens during the planning stages of this major renovation. Other guest speakers included, Ryan Hertz, President and CEO of Lighthouse; Ken Siver, Mayor of the City of Southfield; Jim Borland (AA); Jane Collins, Exec Director of St. Anne’s Mead and Canon Jo Ann Hardy from the Diocese of Michigan who brought greetings from Bishop Bonnie Perry.

The service of dedication continued with prayers offered by Fr. Chris, Junior Warden Ray Litwinowicz and vestry member Ken Miller and concluded with the blessing of the church building.

Guests were then offered tours and refreshments, and were entertained by St. David’s newly formed Gospel Band in its debut performance (see page 4 for a story on the new band).





July 4th at St. David's

Another beautiful day and another celebration! On Sunday, July 4th, a festive Eucharist was held on the back lawn of our church to commemorate the birth of our nation. Following the morning worship service, parishioners enjoyed a picnic lunch while being entertained by St. David's Gospel Band—a wonderful time for fun, food, and fellowship!



For more photos on both of these events, see page 6 or visit St. David's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stdavidssouthfield/media>

St. David's Gospel Band

by John Hawkes



There has been a musical enhancement to our in-person Sunday worship. On Sunday June 6, the St. David's Gospel Band made its debut performance during our Renovation Dedication service. The ensemble is designed to provide a contemporary sound addition to some of our hymns, particularly ones in the LEVAS books, sung on Sunday mornings.

Of course, this is not our first attempt at incorporating more contemporary music into our worship. Before the pandemic, Father Chris arranged several Sunday noon services based around contemporary music by artists such as The Beatles. And our music director George Cullinan has regularly performed contemporary songs during our 10am worship.

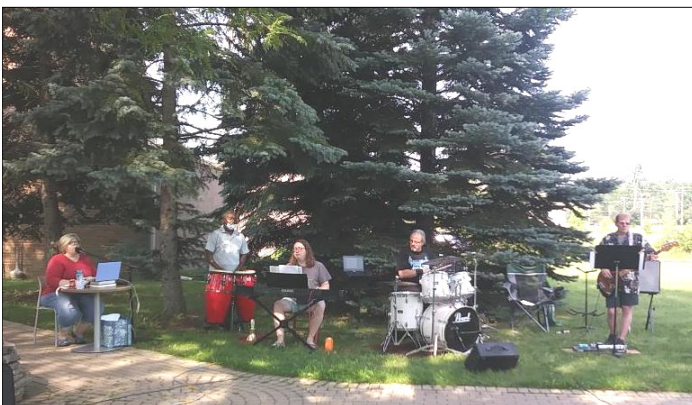
At the July 4th Independence Day service, the Gospel Band accompanied soloist Ellen Boyes on a few patriotic hymns: "O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee." In addition, they performed with Ellen on the recessionary hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Choir member Ken Miller has accompanied the choir and George on bass during Sunday services for about two years now.

"Father Chris and I have kicked around ideas to introduce more modern music into our services for a while now," Ken began. "Now with the addition of Mike Stutso as a drummer we are able to take it a little further."

Mike, our Deacon in training, has played drums since the age of 13. He has also played in various local bands. The most recent one was called the Horse Cave Trio. Mike and George had previously performed together when both attended Holy Cross Episcopal in Novi. Mike joined the choir while George was the church's organist and choirmaster.

Ken also played in some bands after high school but has not been in any bands for the last 23 years. Both Ken and Mike agreed about why they are not interested in getting back into the bar band scene. "To play on a Saturday night until 1:30 in the morning, then have to pack up your gear and not fall asleep until 4 am, only to have to get up at 7 am to go to church..." Mike and Ken agreed that at their age, the lifestyle is just too difficult.

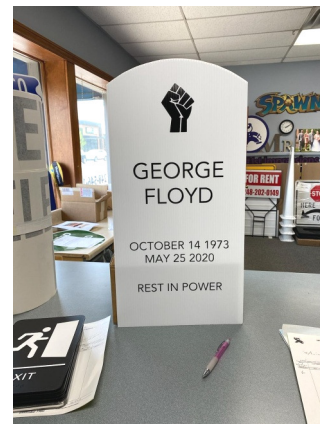


In addition to Ken, George and Mike, Manju Freeman plays congas in the Gospel Band and Father Chris has joined in on percussion and acoustic guitar. Ken mentioned that the group is interested in adding a rhythm guitar player. He also indicated that a small group of choir members may accompany them on some selections. Ken added, "we want to keep the traditional hymns, not replace them. And we do not want the ensemble to become a Christian rock band or adopt a megachurch style of performing. It's not going to become a rock concert."

Racial Equity Group Update

by Darryl Butler

Our **Racial Equity** group continues to meet once a month. An August date will be announced soon. Right now we are working on a memorial that will be placed on St. David's back lawn sometime in August as a tribute to those people of color whose lives were lost at the hands of police brutality. We will have books in place giving a brief history of each victim. Shown at the right is a mock up of the first headstone. The Memorial "*Remember Them*" will be dedicated on Sunday, September 5, following the 10 am worship service.



Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sacred Ground

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of *Becoming Beloved Community*, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people.

Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

To learn more about these classes, go to the website shown above.

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The **Sacred Ground** video/discussion classes at St. David's will be meeting for our last session on **July 22**. This is the end of our ten-lesson sessions. Deborah Davis and I have enjoyed facilitating these sessions so much we will start the series again in September. So if you would like to take this journey with us, or to repeat the series again, please let us know by contacting Darryl at bigslimdb@gmail.com

Photo Gallery *by Joanne Sackett*

Dedication of St. David's Renovation

June 6 2021



Senior Warden Ellen Boyes



Former Sr Warden Gary Meier



Former Sr Warden Mark Schneider



Ryan Hertz, Director of
Lighthouse & SOS



Mayor Ken Siver
City of Southfield



Jane Collins, Exec. Director
St. Anne's Mead



Jim Borland representing AA



Canon Jo Ann Hardy,
Diocese of Michigan

Thanks be to God!
Fr Chris giving thanks and
preparing to bless our newly
renovated building!





Fr. Chris' Remodeled Office



Our New Chapel



New Food Pantry

The new Gospel Band really added to the celebratory atmosphere



Mass on the Grass
July 4 2021



St. David's Episcopal Church

16200 W. 12 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48076-2959
248 557-5430

www.stdavidssf.org

Do All the Good You Can

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.
At all the times you can. To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.

~ John Wesley



Buy a Brick—Bridge the Gap

The campaign to “Buy a Brick—Bridge the Gap” was officially launched on June 6 to help fund the 2021 budget gap. The initial goal of 50 pledges for \$500 per brick to be paid between June 6 and December 31, 2021 has now been surpassed with over 60 brick purchases. If you would like to help make a difference, please consider a pledge to this campaign. Thank you! [Here's the link to make your pledge.](#)



Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the preparation, planting, and maintenance of the gardens this year.

AA at St. David's A Note from Jim Borland

We are pleased to announce that the AA groups will resume in-person meetings in mid-July. Please contact AA of Greater Detroit for specific meeting days and times, (248) 541-6565 or <https://www.aaferndale.org/meetings/>

As always we at the Southfield Group of AA are extremely grateful to ministry at St. David's for all of years (63) that they have hosted our meetings. In-person meetings play a very large part in our recovery program and we couldn't be more excited regarding the mid-July return.

With hearts overflowing with Gratitude!

Jim