



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

February 2023

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Preparing for Lent: An Invitation to Fast

Fasting is a rather misunderstood spiritual discipline.

It appears several times in Scripture and was practiced by David, Isaiah, John, Jesus, and Paul. These days fasting is back in vogue for health reasons—both physical and mental. And while fasting can be practiced for personal reasons, as we head into Lent, we see that the fasting our faith invites us to do is not rooted in ourselves.

Here's how the prophet Isaiah talks about it: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Theologian Scot McKnight takes it a bit further, defining fasting as, "a natural response to a grievous, sacred moment" In other words, it is what we naturally do in some instances: when a spouse dies, a child goes into the hospital, or we lose our jobs. These grievous, sacred moments frequently accompany a loss of appetite as our

attention shifts to matters of such gravity that we simply forget to eat. We already fast, says McKnight, we just don't call it that.

Now that Lent is nearly upon us, and the challenge to partake in fasting (the Episcopal Church recommends members fast on this day and on Good Friday), McKnight has provided a good blueprint to challenge us to fast not for ourselves, but for others—for whom I am paying attention; i.e. Syrian earthquake victims, Haitians without a government, those suffering from suicidal thoughts, anxiety and depression, and the many families who regularly visit our food pantry as they struggle for life's basics. These are grievous events and invite us to shift our attention, be moved by what moved Jesus, and to have our hearts broken with what breaks God's heart. This, of course, may cost us our appetite.

So as we head into Lent, perhaps we can be challenged to be more compassionate, overtaken by care and concern for others, swept up in meeting the needs of another?

Let's not fast to get.
Let's fast to give.

†Fr . Chris



Lenten Offerings—Our Year of Connections 2023



Shrove Tuesday, February 21

Come join us for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday! Jim Kenning and his crew of Christian Service Brigade volunteers will be serving many different kinds of pancakes with syrups, at bargain prices! Just \$3 per child, \$5 per adult or \$15 a family. Tuesday, February 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your friends!

Ash Wednesday, February 22

As in past years, we will offer a ‘drive thru’ option for those wishing to don ashes to begin this penitential season. The drive thru will be open from 7 am to 6 pm. We will ‘ash’ you as you enter the driveway. Or come to one of our in-person/zoom (streaming live to Facebook) services at 12 noon and 7 pm in the church.



Lenten Fish Fry and Taizè Service Friday, March 10

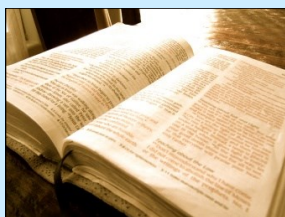
Join us for a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 10! Chef Audrey Humphrey and her crew are preparing fried fish, seasoned french fries, and cole slaw—all for an affordable price. Fish fry is from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Taizè worship begins at 6:30 pm (see next page). Bring a friend!

Lenten Devotional Booklet

We'll be giving out a free booklet called “Living Well Through Lent”. It's a daily devotional for each of the 40 days of Lent (Fr. Chris is a featured author). You can pick one up in the Narthex on Sundays or from 10 am to 3 pm M-F.

Renew Your Faith During Lent: Sunday Afternoon Class Begins February 26

For 5 weeks in Lent you're invited to explore your faith in a new class called Renew. It's an introduction to the Christian faith suitable for preparation for baptism, confirmation, reception into the Episcopal Church and reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Classes meet Sunday afternoons from 1 to 2:30 pm. Contact Fr. Chris to sign up at chris@stdavidssf.org



Lenten Connection Hour Classes: Who Is Jesus?

It's a perennial question surrounding the most famous man who's ever lived. This Lent we'll approach this question from a number of angles: scripture, worship, history, spiritual experience, and contemporary theology. Our teachers are Fr. Steve Bancroft, Jonathan Tostige-Ruthberg and parish musician Al Eppens. Join us on Sundays February 26 through March 26 during the 11:30 am Connection Hour in the Parish Hall.

Week 1 - Who Is Jesus? Through Church Worship with Al Eppens

Week 2 - Who Is Jesus? Through Spiritual Experience with Jonathan Tostige-Ruthberg

Week 3 - Who is Jesus? Through Scripture with Fr. Steve Bancroft

Week 4 - Who Is Jesus? Through Church History with Fr. Steve Bancroft

Week 5 - Who Is Jesus? Through Contemporary Theology with Fr. Steve Bancroft

Lenten Offerings... (continued)

Prepare for Holy Week with a Mini-Retreat with Bishop Bonnie

Contemplating Holy Week: Saturday, April 1, 9 am to 12 noon

Join our bishop as she addresses our Lenten question: who is Jesus? and gives us insight into how we can better understand Holy Week. Contact the church office to sign up. The retreat is free, seats are limited, and a \$10 donation is appreciated. It will be held on Saturday, April 1, the day before Holy Week begins, from 9 am to 12 noon in the St. David's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 16200 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI.

Connection Envelopes

Look for a special marked white envelope, either mailed to you or available in the Narthex. Please add your contributions through the Lenten season as you are led.



Our Lenten Taizè Service

by Alfred John Eppens

On Friday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m., St. David's will host a beautiful Taizè service for the season of Lent. By its very nature, Lent is meant to be a time of quiet introspection—a self-examination of our lives. It is a time to pray, and a time to listen for God's response to our prayer.

Within the midst of our overly noisy and busy lives, it is difficult to take the time to do this, and our Lenten Taizè offers just such an opportunity.

The word Taizè is French, and refers to a small village in central France. In 1940, a young man, who came to be known as Brother Roger, arrived at the village, and established a small community of monks. Their communal life was to be one of work, prayer, song and silence. In time, pilgrims were drawn to the community for spiritual refreshment and renewal. Today, the Taizè monastic order includes 100 members, both Catholic and Protestant, from thirty countries around the world. Each year, tens of thousands of people, mostly young, flock to this village to share in this ecumenical community's way of life. The visitors are encouraged to live out the Christian gospel in a spirit of joy, simplicity and peace.

The Taizè community developed a unique musical genre, involving short, simple songs which are repeated in a prayerful manner. Often these songs feature quiet instrumental variations during the singing. This is interspersed with brief readings and periods of silence, and it all takes place in an intimate candle-lit setting. We are pleased to once again welcome St. David's own violist, Gabe Hartmark, to enrich the musical portions of the service.

Please consider deepening your Lenten preparation for the miracle of Easter by joining us for this wonderful opportunity. I'm sure that you will be inspired and touched by the unique nature of our Lenten Taizè.



Spotlight on Newcomers

by John Hawkes

After looking at several churches in the area, Frida Hanable and Hampton Hanable Jr. discovered St. David’s in 2022 and began attending our services last March. “We found St. David’s to be the most alive, vibrant and welcoming church by far,” Hampton said. “We enjoy the endearing and precise services, the caring demeanor of Father Chris, and the friendliness of the congregants.”

Frida and Hampton were both members of St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Detroit. Hampton was a member of the Vestry and a Lay Reader for more than 20 years.

Hampton is originally from Virginia. He was born in Richmond and raised in Petersburg. He is a cradle Episcopalian having been christened at St. Paul’s Protestant Episcopal Church and confirmed at St. Stephen’s Protestant Episcopal, both in Virginia.

Frida is from Tanzania, an East Africa country, and has lived in the United States since 2000. She attended Lutheran schools and worshiped in the Lutheran faith in Tanzania. She has two grown children who still reside in Tanzania. Currently, Frida works for a senior living company caring for Dementia and Alzheimers patients.

Hampton is a retired automotive Mechanical Engineer, having worked for both GM and Ford. He has one daughter who is a nurse in Atlanta and a 13-year-old granddaughter.

In his spare time, Hampton enjoys working on restoration projects. He is working on a basement restoration at their Redford home, and also is restoring a Ford Thunderbird vehicle. With retirement, Hampton would like to do some traveling beginning with a trip to Africa in the Spring of 2023.

Hampton has also participated in the weekly St. David’s Bible study sessions on our Zoom channel. When asked about a verse that inspires him, Hampton quoted the words, “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” which has dozens of reference/s in the Bible but is probably best represented in Lamentations 3:23.

We welcome Frida and Hampton to St. David’s.



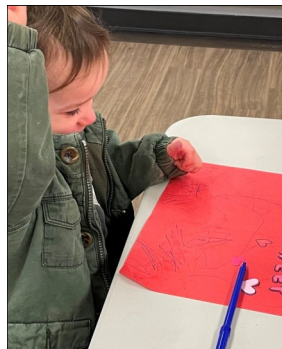
Hampton Hanable Jr.



Frida Hanable



Sending our Love to our neighbors at St. Anne’s Mead
Photos by Joanne Sackett



3-In-One Oil

by Gerald Patrick Maloney

I was a mama's boy and my mother was highly religious and extraordinarily pious. It kinda spilled over onto me and as a boy I spent too much time thinking about God when I should have been playing baseball and flirting with girls.

I fancied myself a boy-theologian and at nine I could explain both the Trinity and the Dual Nature of Christ better than most priests. The Trinity was like 3-In-One Oil, and Christ had two natures, divine and human, just as Superman had a human nature and a Kryptonian nature.

With such insight I was obviously destined to be a priest or better yet, a Monsignor or a bishop, perhaps even a cardinal and, if the Church Universal could get it together, they might realize that a nice Irish-American boy could be a better pope than any Italian.

Things fell apart when I found out 3-In-One Oil had nothing to do with the Trinity. It was a lubricant that every dad had in the garage to oil his kid's bike. It got its name because it came in a three ounce can.

If this was not bad enough, a few months later I discovered that Superman did not have a second nature but was just a Kryptonian pretending to be human. I was devastated. Then things got even worse when I discovered that Superman did not even exist. At that time I gave up all desire to be a theologian and any hope about becoming pope.

Now all these years later, for some strange reason, I have an overwhelming desire to write an essay on the dual nature of Christ. This could be a dangerous move. It has not been that many centuries since amateur theologians were burned at the stake for heresy. Could it happen to me? If so, given my denominational history, it is interesting to speculate who would have the honor of starting the fire, a member of the Anglican community or a member of the Catholic community. Perhaps members of both communities could light the fire simultaneously, the first ecumenical execution, and a step forward in interdenominational cooperation.

Now I have great respect for interdenominational cooperation but I do not respect it enough to become either the burner or the burned because of a theological misunderstanding. So I proclaim loudly and clearly that

I am a strong believer in the Nicene Creed and I believe that Christ is both man and God but I do not know how he pulls it off and nobody else does either.

But I like to play around with the idea of Jesus as a young guy, early twenties, little more than a boy. He is good looking enough but would never make it as a movie star. He plays on a softball team, right field. He is an OK player, definitely not a superstar but he is lucky and good enough. It is Tuesday evening, game night, and at end of the day Jesus is covered with dirt and sweat and stinks to high heaven but all the guys are laborers and smell the same so no one notices or cares.

He is a natural comedian and a world class trash-talker and the guys like him and the way he keeps up the chatter. It is the bottom of the seventh and it has been a boring game. His side is losing, one to zip. Jesus is at bat, two outs, two strikes and a guy on first. Everyone is waiting for him to strike out so they can go to the bar. Then he hits the ball over the wall and into the weeds. Jesus is hot-dogging it as he rounds the bases. Guys on his side are high-fiving him and pounding him on the back. The guys on the other side are booing and hissing but they are good friends and good sports so they soon come over to shake his hand.

As he stands there between home and third, angels appear and bow down before him and chant the thrice holy hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might”

Behind them are the prophets, the patriarchs and the just of Israel, their heads covered and eyes cast down as they join the chant.

“Heaven and earth are full of your Glory.”

Then the Gentiles, the blessed of every nation, race, color and creed, join the Heavenly Liturgy, singing

“Hosanna in the highest.”

The Forgiven ones and the Pardoned Ones kneel and chant

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

And all bow down and adore him for He is God and the Son of God, Second Person of the most Holy Trinity.

But Jesus just stands there, a grin on his face, for He is Man and the Son of Man and he just hit a home run, won the game for his team and the other team will have to buy the beer tonight. And you have to love the kid.

Kids' Club Connection

By Judy Walsh

Our after-school tutoring program is now in high gear. Students from our neighborhood school, Vandenberg World Culture's Academy, are connecting with St. David's, and it's a win-win for all involved. Vandenberg is a magnet school for English Language Learners. Students speak 29 languages from 27 countries.

Late in Spring of 2022 we initiated the program with a trial run. Vandenberg families participated in a 6-week, after-school tutoring program at St. David's. With a group of eight volunteer parishioners, we supported K-5 students with homework and helped reinforce academic skills. Students, families, Vandenberg teachers and parish volunteers saw progress and committed to expanding the program in the Fall of 2022.



We returned for the 2022-2023 school year in October. With the help of Vandenberg art teacher, Julie Wolf and other staff, ten students were identified and enrolled in the "Kids' Club." A core group of eight to ten volunteers, including Carmen Piggins

from Bishop Bonnie's staff was assembled.

Students arrive by 3:30 pm and are signed in/out by parents who can wait on site or return for pick up at 4:30 pm. We provide a small snack and drink for students upon arrival. Tutoring is typically one-to-one or in small groups. Students bring homework/ Chrome Books to each session and volunteers supplement learning with additional books, games and other resources. Teachers requested literacy skills be the focus for all students.

Connecting and making a difference in the community is key to this outreach project. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and a robust partnership with Vandenberg, we are positively impacting students and families in our own neighborhood.



Vandenberg Students at St. David's

Meet Your 2023 Vestry

Photos by Joanne Sackett



Darryl Butler, Senior Warden



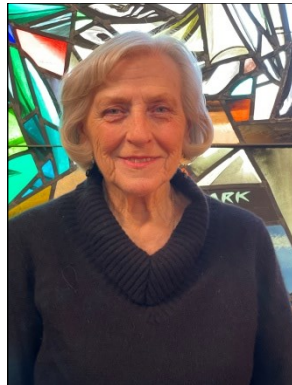
Rocco Romano, Junior Warden



Judy Walsh, Clerk



Mary Bensmiller



Marilyn Greening



Audrey Humphrey



Ken Miller



Alex Rienstra



Rita Spiller



Pat Tilley



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Connections Newsletter Contacts
Fr Chris Yaw
Edna Buday
Amy Prather

Worship and Learn

Wednesdays at 12 noon During Lent

Why not make more worship part of your Lenten discipline? Come in-person or via zoom streaming to Facebook Wednesdays during Lent at 12 noon in the church? Dates include: February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.

Tuesday Lenten Lunchtime Bible Study of Matthew

Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1 pm we will be spending 6 weeks studying the Gospel of Matthew, which is the Gospel we hear from most in 2023. If you've never studied the Bible, or if you're a veteran, you are welcome! Begins February 26 and runs through April 5.



St. David's Annual Meeting January 29, 2023

Photos by Joanne Sackett

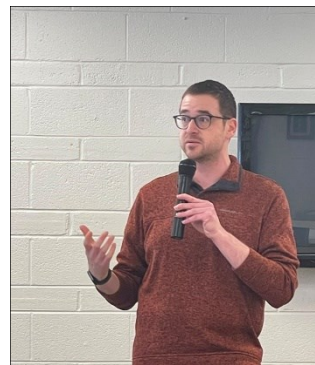
2003 Vestry Goals

- Building Community with Giveaways
- Install Connection Boards
- Launch Nursery Assistant Program
- Start St. David's Youth Group
- Implement Planned Giving



Fr. Chris presiding at 2003 Annual Meeting. Shown at right is our new parish administrator, Amy Prather and her husband Andy.

The Connection Hour



Lighthouse staffers Russell Estill (left) and Max Glick (right) talk about meeting the needs of their clients in the South Oakland area. In addition to providing their food pantry outreach, social workers will be on hand to help clients with other needs using the western most classroom in the Corner Fellowship Hall for their office.



On January 15, The Rev Barry Randolph spoke to us on the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. (photo by Steve Ernst)