



St. David's
Episcopal Church
Southfield

Staying in Touch

Connections

November 2024

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Imago Dei

When God made you in God's image, was it because God has a beautiful smile and dreamy eyes like you?

Consider that you're made in God's image because when you do good, you feel good.

And when you do bad, you feel bad.

Guilt, shame, regret—they all have their places in our hearts when we hurt, harm, and offend.

Joy, laughter, and contentment also have places in us, and are often rewards for doing the good and right thing.

Scientifically, sure it's evolution,

Theologically, it's God, it's God, it's love, in you.

Our most profound reflection of God is when we love God, ourselves, and one another

This is Christianity 101:

You were created in love, you do your best work out of love, and you will return to love.

Why are you a lover?

Because God is a lover—in whose image you were created.

Christians don't do good things to get to heaven, we do good things to say thanks to a loving God for giving us heaven.

I'm so proud to be your pastor—and walk with you who live so completely, in God's light.

†Fr . Chris





Maureen Mahar
Senior Warden

Senior Warden's Report

Greetings to all.

It has been a busy quarter and we are looking forward to an even busier time to come. With Thanksgiving and Christmas right in front of us, there is much to talk about. I'll start with what is happening with the vestry and go from there.

The vestry elections are next week and we have three wonderful volunteers to add to our experienced crew. Though we will be sad to say goodbye to Marilyn Greening, Mary Bensmiller and Alex Reinstra, we look forward to adding new members to the team. Please make sure to thank them for volunteering to serve on the vestry for the past three years. Ellen Boyes, Darryl Butler and Howard Rush have all agreed to run for the coming term.

In addition to losing three vestry members, Judy Walsh, our vestry clerk, has decided to move on from that position. She has been an invaluable asset to the vestry by providing insight and thoughtfulness to our conversations and deliberations for the past seven years. She will be sorely missed in this role, but you will surely see her participating in a number of activities around the parish. Thank you, Judy!

Also, I would like to thank Cindy Rush for volunteering to take on the role of vestry clerk for the foreseeable future. You'll notice that I have placed no time frame on this as, once we have them, it is really hard to let them go. We are really looking forward to working with her in the coming years (many, many years).

Next year will also be a time of great excitement for all of us as Father Chris prepares for his much-delayed sabbatical. As we have mentioned previously, St. David's has been awarded a grant by the Lilly Foundation to support Father Chris and the parish during the summer of 2025 while he is on sabbatical. We spent a great deal of time preparing our application for the grant and were thrilled to get the news that it had been awarded. The total amount of the grant is \$59,990. We have already received the money, and it is earning interest while we all make our final plans on how we will celebrate and participate in making connections during his absence.

While the bulk of the funds are set aside for his experiences, the parish will be getting a portion of the funds for our activities, as well as utilizing funds that we have been budgeting for over the past few years. We will begin firming up our plans after the first of the year. We will keep everyone posted on these plans as we move forward.

Thank you all for your support of your vestry and keep us in your prayers as we move forward.

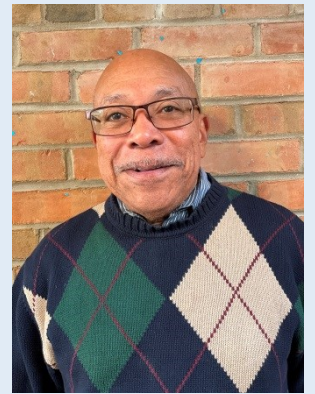
Maureen Mahar, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Vestry Property members: Alex Rienstra, Roy Romano, and Hampton Hanable

- ◆ Rocco has reported that some roof shingles are missing on the rear entrance side of the sanctuary. He will obtain an estimate to replace them from several sources. Martino Home Improvements made the last shingle repairs from wind damage last year

- ◆ Teddy’s Landscape was on-site last week to repair lawn damage from their mower in the Memorial Garden. Straw covers the areas of repair.
- ◆ A special thank you to Len Sackett for his initiative to winterize the Memorial Garden sprinkler system.
- ◆ Fr. Chris and I visited Contract Welding in Belleville, MI last week to inspect a donated 40’ steel container to be used as a self-contained gun buy-back one stop drop-off and cutup station. Work will have to be done to paint it, add a drop off station, add a partition for cut-up operations, and add electrical power—either self-contained or generator powered. It was delivered this week and sits in the rear parking lot.
- ◆ Lights in the Choir Room and Al Eppens office have been updated and replaced. They are now long lasting, energy efficient LED lighting with a Dimmer switch. The lighting colors are also adjustable.
- ◆ Kudos to Ray Litwinowicz who has taken the initiative to install a new emergency light driver in the fixture outside the office and the entire fixture is now working properly. Ray reported that he tested the other three emergency light fixtures (the ones with the little red indicator light) and none of them come on when the power is turned off. He will need to replace the driver module in those fixtures as well.
- ◆ A text vote appeal is now in the hands of the Vestry to approve removing the existing TV in Fellowship Hall. This proposal from Ray Litwinowicz, to replace it with a new larger 75” diagonal LCD TV as opposed to the projection style is more appropriate for the size of room it will occupy and does not require set-up like a projector type system.



Hampton Hanable, Jr.
Junior Warden

Hampton Hanable, Jr., Junior Warden



Advent and Christmas at St. David’s

Sunday, December 8, 10 am St. Nicholas Visit

December 15, 11:30 am Charity Cookie Walk & Christmas Carol Bingo Sunday

December 22, 10:00 am Christmas Pageant Tuesday

December 24, Children's Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 9 pm Choral Christmas Eve Eucharist

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am Lessons and Carols and at
11:30 am Christmas Caroling at St. Anne's Mead

Into Me See

by *Cindy Weeder Rush*

Over the summer I was asked if I would like to be the church archivist. My husband, Howard, was present. He just laughed. Is the sky blue?

Let's just say, I said yes. I am an amateur genealogist, a.k.a. a lover of genealogy. It doesn't even have to be my family. I am a researcher at heart and love to examine every fiber of our lives, always in awe of the beauty that weaves us together. God is a darn good seamster, and never makes a mistake.

I, along with Kitty Kenning and Judy Walsh, recently presented the history of St. David's. I think Fr. Chris saw the panic in my eyes when he asked one of the newer members of the church to tell the history of the church. Wait...what? "Don't worry. Kitty and Judy will help." Phew! Thank goodness!

I so enjoyed meeting with Kitty and Judy and hearing all the firsthand memories they have as longtime church members. In some ways it made me sad that I didn't find my way here sooner. I found myself wanting to be part of those memories. And I was so close, you know? Howard left St. David's when he went into the military. When he returned home, he (we) landed on the eastside. We thought it was SO far to come to Southfield. We found a church on our side of town and would visit St. David's only sporadically. I guess you could say, a stitch here and a stitch there. I didn't know it then, but God was weaving a fine thread of connection that he would eventually use to pull everything altogether. God doesn't make mistakes. We were where we needed to be at the time.

Over the forty-plus years of my marriage, I've known some of the people of St. David's and heard many more names and stories. It was fun to find pictures and put faces to names. The treasure trove of documents, pictures and newspaper clippings assembled by those who came before were a blessing. Story boards for each era were a huge help. An archivist loves a good timeline!

I learned that St. David's was started in 1952 as a mission church under St. James Church of Birmingham and held services at Oxford Elementary

in Berkley. This was the school Howard attended. The principal was Neva Schalm. Meanwhile, in Clawson, I was attending Paul A. Schalm elementary. I discovered that Neva was Paul's wife. I about fell off my chair! I mean, how could Howard and I not meet? God was sewing the patches of our quilt together long before we knew it. It's so amazing to find God's handiwork!

Sitting between St. John's in Royal Oak and St. James in Birmingham, the people of Berkley wanted an Episcopal Church close in their community. However, adequate land at a reasonable price was not available in Berkley. When the Southfield property was found, the Page Foundation provided a scholarship for students to conduct a survey of six square miles to assess the viability of building in this location. Divinity students, Herb and Eleanor Rowe, were assigned from Berkeley Divinity School in Connecticut. Clearly, the result of the survey was positive for building, but we'll leave the details for a future writing.



Four years later, in 1956, the first unit (parish hall and classrooms) of the church was built and the first service held on November 11. The church was designed to be built in stages. Seven years later in 1963 the current sanctuary was built and the first service held on October 20. And the rest as they say is history—which we'll be exploring!

continued on next page

What I thought would be a daunting task turned out to be enjoyable. Through this process I have learned so much about St. David's and most importantly, got to know Kitty, Judy and the people of St. David's more intimately. "Into Me See." In my writings, I try to share myself and revel in the goodness of God. As an archivist, I look forward to researching and sharing more about the people who built St. David's and connecting with the people who continue the work.

Thank you, for being open and seen. I would love to know your St. David's story and please feel free to reach out to me if you have pictures or other items to include in our archive.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Cindy Weeder Rush

Photos provided by Kitty Kenning and originally in an October 1954 issue of *The Record*, a monthly publication of the Diocese of Michigan.



Growth, Development and Cost of America's Gun Culture in Fifty Plus Years

By Gerald Paatrick Maloney

I was twenty-four years old when I was ordained a priest and assigned to Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Six Mile and VanDyke. The parish was primarily Polish and held some of the finest people I have ever known. On the negative side, I was totally unable to pronounce Polish surnames. Whether it was my thick Irish skull, I would not even come close. Some parishioners were amused, others thought I was really stupid, and few thought I was deliberately mocking them.

Since I did not speak Polish, some of my Polish classmates taught me a few phrases. Knowing these guys, priest or no priest, I could not trust they were not

Editor's Note: The first part of this article is a reprint, with the omission of a couple of paragraphs, of an article the author originally wrote in 1970 and that we published in *Connections* a couple of years ago. It serves appropriately as an introduction to the conclusion of article written in November, 2024 (see page 7).

teaching me crude or even obscene phrases, so I never tried them. In retrospect, I really did not have much to worry about. My pronunciation was so bad that no would understand me anyway.

After a few years, I was a passable surname pronouncer but that was as far as my attempt to become bilingual—I am sure that all the Polish speakers in my congregation were grateful when I gave up. I did hear a confession in Polish now and again and had no idea what the penitent was saying, but I decided that God knew more about Polish and forgiveness, so I decided to let it go and let Him take care of it.

As the youngest priest, I was given responsibility for the altar boys, an extremely high stress, low status job. One of the boys was named Joe and his parents were Irish born and, of course, he was my favorite. His parents were building a new house in Warren. Joe and his Dad would go every other evening to the building site, check out the progress and pick up nails that had fallen to the ground and drive them into the frame. They said they were strengthening the frame, but I think father and son were pretending that together they were building their family's home.

(continued on page 7)

Time for Tea

by Judy Walsh

Autumn is in full swing and brings cooler temperatures, changing landscape and early evening darkness. However, it is also time for cozy conversations, warm drinks and connecting with others. At St. David's, November means it's time for *The Rector's Tea*.

New friends (those who joined the parish in the past year), Vestry, Staff and Newcomers Committee members gathered at the home of Fr. Chris and Katie on Sunday, November 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another, enjoy light refreshments and share stories. Discussions covered a number of topics—from cats to high school, gun safety initiatives, history of the Episcopal church, and Lions football to homes and neighborhoods. Participants were fully engaged in many fascinating conversations.

Those in attendance included new friends: Pat Hardy, Kathy Smith, Doris Marino, Martin McElroy, Margie Hill, Keith Harris and Stacy Jackson. Old friends attending included: Fr. Chris and Katie, Fr. Steve Bancroft, Linda Taylor, Pat Tilley, Maureen Mahar, Judy Walsh and Harvey Colombo. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and it was a great opportunity to welcome new friends to our St. David's family. Thank you to Fr. Chris and Katie for hosting us in their lovely home.



Stacey Jackson and Keith Richards enjoying refreshments.



Kathie Smith and Katie enjoying a chat.



Newcomer Martin McElroy



Harvey, Keith, Stacy and Linda (old and new friends)



Pat Hardy and Kathie Smith in conversation.



Pat Hardy and Fr. Chris catching up.



Fr. Steve keeping us entertained.



Margie Hill smiling for camera.



Pat Tilley and newcomer Doris Marino.

Gun Culture *(continued from page 5)*

One day Joe forgot to take care of the trash so he had to stay home and finish his chores and his dad went on without him. He was burning trash in the alley when a kid on the other side of the alley found his dad's gun and wanted to see what would happen if he pulled the trigger. The bullet went into Joe's head and he was dead before he hit the ground.

When I heard what happened, I went directly to his parents' house to console them but when I got there, I was crying so hard that Joe's father had to console me. When I realized I was making a fool of myself, I went back to that huge, ugly, empty priest house and cried alone. I could not have cried harder if Joe was my son, which he was in a way for I had often wished he were. But he was not my son, and my life was soon back to normal but I have no idea how Joe's father managed to get out of bed every morning.

Two other Holy Name boys were shot in the next few years. One died, the other was wounded and severely impaired. All three of the boys were shot with guns their parents believed the sons would never find.

Gerald Patrick Maloney, 1970



I was naïve enough to believe that people would be so shocked by the shooting of these boys that the problem would be resolved. My friends and neighbors would find a solution. They were hard working middle class Polish Catholics, salt of the earth. They treasured their neighborhood and the children who lived there. They were my friends and neighbors, and most importantly, parishioners. Working together we would make their children and the neighborhood safe. This is what I thought and prayed for, some fifty years ago.

My prayers were answered but not in the way I wanted. No more children were shot in Holy Name parish. Mostly because the neighborhood declined rapidly until there was nothing left except crack houses. There were a number of reasons for the exodus of so many families, and one of them was the

shooting of the three boys. Who wants to move their kids into a neighborhood where children are shot.

But that was then and now is now. There are new killing fields now and the killing is more frequent and more terrible. No more stupid preteen boys with their dad's gun and a few bullets. They have been replaced by semi professionals who seek to kill groups of people for the sheer fun of it.

I remember when kids used to crawl under their desks to protect themselves from an atomic bomb. That dreadful fantasy is no more, but now there is an even more dreadful reality and that is the gunman who seems to act without warning or reason. The dreadful fantasy of atomic destruction has been replaced with the even more dreadful reality of murder by gunfire.

Yesterday we worried about preteen boys with their father's guns and a few bullets. Today, we worry about trained shooters with hundreds of rounds and sophisticated weapons designed to kill quickly and efficiently and all this with no other purpose than to kill human beings.

Efforts are being made to end the killing but success seems very far away. There is one effort that shows some promise, the gun turn in. People are invited to turn in their unwanted weapons. Then they are dismantled, displayed in front of the altar and ultimately destroyed. I believe that this is the type of thing that appeals to people of good will and should help.

This bothers me. Not because they are there in the holy place. They belong there and should stay there until we Americans can rework our attitudes and belief about the how, when, where and why of guns.

The last time I was at St. David's I saw the dismantled weapons in front of the altar. This bothered me and they should be bothering us all. We all should be bothered until we Americans can come up with a sensible, legal Christian way to own and use weapons. Most civilized nations do not have gun problems, but we do. What do we have to do to be numbered among the civilized?

Gerald Patrick Maloney, November 2024

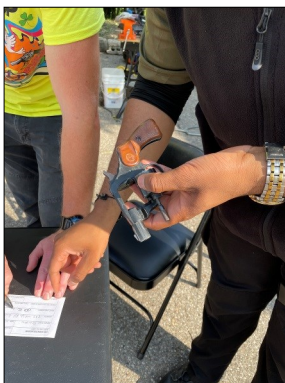
Photo Gallery

by Joanne Sackett

Gun Chop Event Church of the Messiah, Detroit



Volunteers get instructions before people come through with their unwanted guns.



The serial number is recorded for the guns.



Lines are drawn to show where to cut.



That's it for this gun!



Baptisms are always happy times at St. David's. I bet she'd like to play in the water



September 1
Our last outdoor service of the year.
Communion, the main focus of our outdoor worship.



A picnic buffet following our outdoor service.



Everyone enjoyed the meal and the comradery.



September 8
Welcome Back Sunday



Parishioners gathered for a meal on Welcome Back Sunday while listening to a presentation about Haiti given by Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews and Jan Ernst.

Volunteer Luncheon



Volunteers were treated to a delicious luncheon sponsored by the Vestry and catered by Country Oven of Berkley.

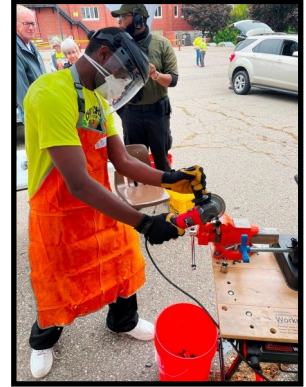
At left, Fr. Chris thanks all the volunteers.



**Gun Chop Event
at All Saints Pontiac**



Several members of our
gun chopping team



This young man was eager
to do his part in disposing
of unwanted guns.



It's Always Fun
Decorating our pumpkins



Glass Fusion Class
Parish members enjoy a fun
class in glass fusion creating
many great projects.





Parishioners participating in a skit about making choices.

What influences the decisions you make , , , . . . bad choices? . . . Or good choices?



All Saints Day
Lighting candles for lost loved ones.

**Welcoming Newcomers
Sunday, October 17**



Looking back and looking forward, we all have a lot for which to be thankful .

St. David's Episcopal Church

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Connections Newsletter Contacts
Fr Chris Yaw
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Amy Prather

Mitten Tree

November 24, 2024, to December 22, 2024

Daughter of the King, Sister of Bethany Chapter here at St. David's will be setting up the beloved Mitten Tree. We will be collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for our Mitten Tree project. The goal of this project is to provide warm winter accessories to those in need in our community during the chilly months ahead. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and spread warmth and kindness during this giving season.



A Rabbi, a Priest, and a Prophet Bible Study on the Book of Genesis

Zoom Bible Study with Fr. Chris and Rabbi Starr

We've been reading the Book of Genesis for years. How about studying it with folks who've been reading it for much, much longer? Join Fr. Chris and Rabbi Aaron Starr on Zoom at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 14, 21, and 28 for this three-session look at this foundational book. Members of both St. David's and Congregation Shaarey Zedek will attend—why not join us? Sign up in the Atrium.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Join Us for Fellowship and Spiritual Conversation
All men of the church are invited to join in the fellowship of our monthly Men's Breakfast! It's at **9 am on Saturday, December 7** at the Country Oven on 12 Mile (just east of Greenfield). Come meet new and old friends. You can sign up at the Ministry Hub in the Atrium or by contacting the church office.



Advent Coat Collection

Clean Out Your Closets to Prepare for Christmas

During the month of December St. David's will be accepting new and gently used coats for the needy. All sizes will be accepted. Taking the time to go through our closets to prepare for the busy December holiday can mirror our spiritual preparation for renewal at this pinnacle time of the year. Coats will be collected during the month of December and given to new Haitian immigrants. Thank you!



Newsletter Delivery

Connections is published on a quarterly basis with digital copies of the newsletter e-mailed in February, May, August and November. It is also available online on St. David's website: www.stdavidssf.org If you need a paper copy mailed to you, please request it from Amy Prather at (248) 557-5430 or amy@stdavidssf.org.

The Altar Guild Needs You!

Please consider joining the Altar Guild. Our members serve on a rotation, and your responsibility can be tailored to fit your schedule. You will grow spiritually, and gain a new understanding of the Liturgy. Your commitment is an offering of service to our St. David's family, that enriches our worship experience. Everyone is welcome to participate—men, women, couples. Please contact Diane Schoch or Anne Jeanette LaSovage for more information.

Come to Lansing with Fr. Chris on December 4 to Lobby for Gun Safety

Want to drive to Lansing with Fr. Chris on Wednesday, December 4 to lobby for gun safety? There are a couple of bills pending and legislators need to see our support. We'll leave together from St. David's at 7:30 am and return in the afternoon. Meals and instruction are provided. Let's come together to make our state safer. Sign up in the atrium. For more information, contact Fr. Chris at 313-585-4840 or or chris@stdavidssf.org

Last Chance to Lobby Before Legislature Changes