

SAINT DAVID'S

Visions



The Mission of St. David's Church is to nurture all who are seeking to make the teachings of Christ meaningful in their lives so that our love and caring for one another through God extends into the community and the world.

May 2008

SUPER SATURDAYS

May 3

“Brake the Hunger Cycle Bike Tour”

**CYCLING! BACKYARD BBQ! LIVE MUSIC!
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES!**



Plant/Collectible Sale

May 10

9:00 am - 4:00 pm



TOP QUALITY!

**ANNUALS! HANGING BASKETS! PLANTERS!
VEGETABLES AND HERBS!**

**ANTIQUES! NEAR-ANTIQUES!
COLLECTIBLES!**





Rector's Reflection

We never know how God will act in people's lives. One of my biggest surprises lately is reading a recent publication entitled *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*. I rushed right out to obtain a copy of this book after I read a compelling review.

The book offers a glimpse into the inner life of a believer known mostly through her external works of mercy among the dying in Calcutta. This inner life, revealed through letters of correspondence between Mother Teresa and her confessors and superiors over sixty-six years, reveal that for the last nearly half-century of her life she experienced the absence of the presence of God. In religious terms, this is called 'the dark night of the soul.' Great believers of the past, including Saint John of the Cross, Saint Teresa of Avila and Martin Luther, among many others experienced lengthy bouts of agonizing doubts.

Doubt does not, therefore, cancel out faith. Our ability to doubt, question and wonder out loud where God is in the midst of personal loss is a mark of maturation. Researchers such as James Fowler capture the movement of faith maturation in their stages of faith. Mother Teresa revealed the highest level of faith: continuing to serve Christ by serving others while experiencing the absence of the presence of God. She placed her faith in Christ rather than placing her faith in her faith. 'Entrusting her soul to an invisible Savior, the world saw Christ in her even when she could not see Christ in the world.' (Bob Kellemen, reviewer of the book).

Sometimes when we read about or see the enormity of such a mature soul at work, we wonder how we could ever measure up in comparison. Certainly I am wondering about that as I read about Mother Teresa's life. To compare ourselves to her, though, is to miss the mark completely.

God is at work in each person's life, meeting him or her right where they are. Year in and year out, as we turn ourselves over to the Christ whom we may or may not see or experience, we grow into His likeness. God desires nothing more than a willing heart that can be shaped and molded over time.

It requires what Eugene Peterson (author) calls a long obedience in the same direction. This is what we do best in Christian community as we worship together and face toward the risen Lord to eventually receive the Pentecostal fire of his Holy Spirit. We do this in our believing, our doubting, in our serving and in our waiting.

Whether it is Easter or Pentecost you may be filled with the joy and power of the resurrection. You may find yourself still back in Lent as personal grief or loss surrounds you in a dark night of the soul. Wherever you are and whoever you are, do not lost heart. God is at work deep in your soul. Together in our knowing and our doubting, we still proclaim together: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

David +



"Joy Reigns" Third Service

We have temporarily put a hold on the third service because we are just not quite ready. There are so many pieces to put together that we want to make sure we have them all working superbly. We had hoped to get started with this praise-communion service on the first Sunday of May. Now, we are aiming for the first Sunday in June. The service time is still set for 5 pm in the church.

Whenever we begin, we will be offering a spirited communion service with our praise band "The Power and Light Company" providing plenty of joyful and powerful music. Stay tuned for further details and while you're waiting please offer prayers for the success of this service. Thank you.

Average Attendance

April 2007
81 (does not include 4/27)

April 2008
106 (includes Easter)

Notes From Sister Shane

Thank you all for your donations of cleaning products for the Food Pantry. Spring cleaning can be expensive, as you know. In May we are getting ready for picnics. Along with your donations of general food items, the pantry is asking for condiments like ketchup, mustard, relish, sauerkraut, pickles, and whatever else you put on your picnic plate. Help our families to enjoy Memorial Day.

The Women's Group is off and running – well, sitting, really – on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. We are a listening and sharing group, taking time to get to know ourselves and one another better. Bring a snack or a drink if you like, but especially bring your ears and your heart.

It's already the end of the school year. I can't believe the time has gone so fast. I want to thank my fabulous Teaching Committee – Ginny Bussey, Mary-Esther Arther, Joan Carpenter, Al Joseph, and Rodger Pisani – for their time, their honesty, and their support. I give thanks for David and his guidance. And I give thanks for all of you. I look forward to continuing with you next year on our journey to God's heart. May the Holy Spirit bless you this Pentecost, and every day.

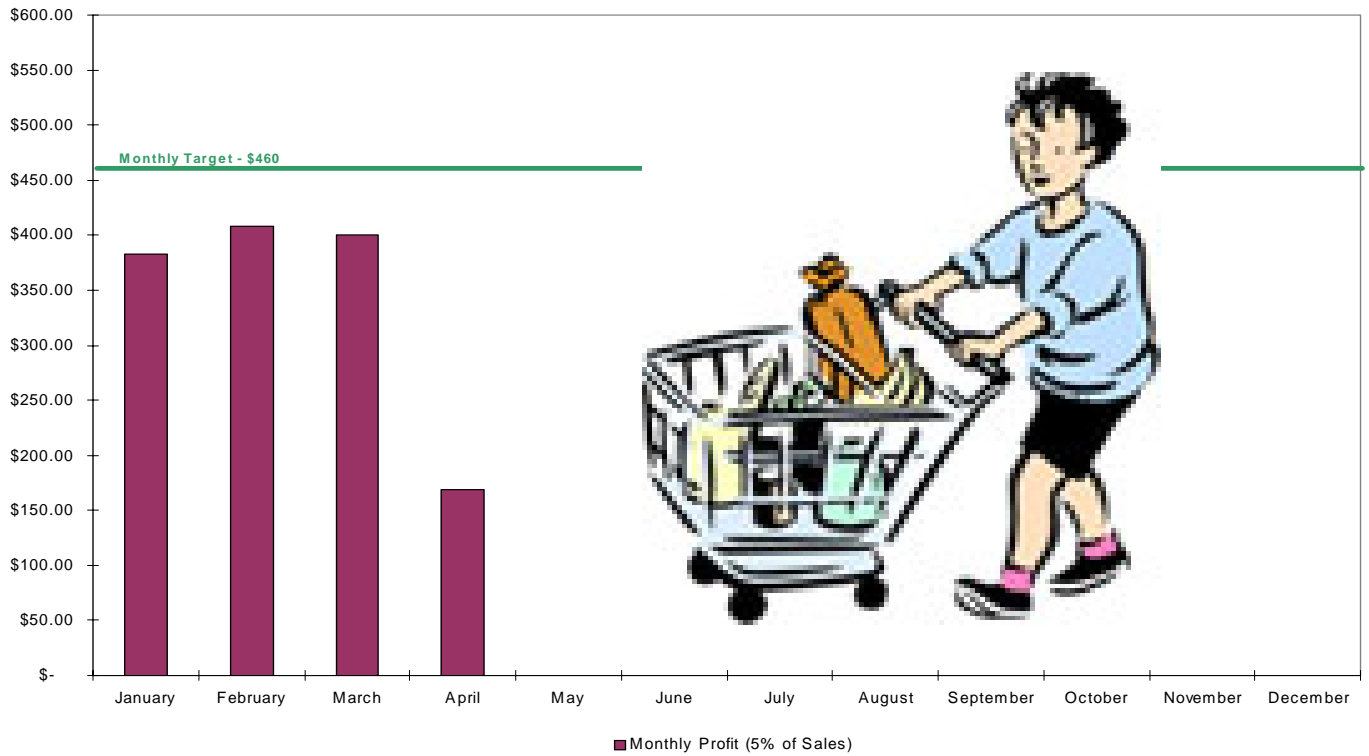


IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign up to help with the annual plant sale on the 10th. Just call JoAnn Hahn (973-492-0528) or Mary Stuart Hawk (973-263-8809). They will be delighted to hear from you!

THE ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SALE is a "go"! **ABSOLUTE GUIDELINES:** Collectible items must have an estimated value of at least \$20; Furniture must have an estimated value of at least \$50. Items will only be accepted on Thursday, May 8, 9:00-12:00 and Friday, May 9, 9:00-12:00. The committee members on duty will refuse inappropriate donations. All items must be priced! Nothing will be accepted before these dates! If you cannot meet these dates and/or have items too large for you to handle, please call Brian O'Connor (973-728-1474) to make alternative arrangements. Help is needed there too! Just call John Hitchings (973-283-4366), Brian O'Connor, or Marty Stanton (973-293-2886).



**Grocery Certificate Program 2008
(as of April 13th)**



Please support the Grocery Certificate Program

Our goal for 2008 is to raise \$5,500 – that’s \$460 per month, (which we get by selling \$9,200 of grocery certificates). As you can see by the graph, each month this year has fallen short of our budget. If we continue this trend, we will have a shortfall at the end of the year of \$800.

READER’S CIRCLE

A SEVERED WASP, by Madeleine L’Engle, is the discussion choice for May 5. Chris Snyder will be the leader. **BROTHERS: A NOVEL**, by DaChen, is the June 2nd reading selection. Growing up during the Cultural Revolution, two brothers negotiate the changes in China in recent decades and find themselves in opposing positions following Chairman Mao’s death. The paths of the estranged brothers converge at Tiananmen Square. David DeSmith will lead the discussion of this final reading selection before our summer respite.

MEN’S GROUP

- * Vincent Commoreto, an investment counselor with David Lerner Associates (and incidentally a cousin of Rodger Pisani), spoke to the Group in April. His discussion on REITs and municipal bonds was most interesting and informative. He can be contacted at 201-836-8700, ext. 2622.
- * There’s a special treat in store for the meeting on Monday evening, May 19 at 7:30 pm. Sister Shane will speak on her life journey - ALL members of the parish are invited.

T’AI CHI CHIH



The free practice sessions of this low-impact exercise and meditation program continue every Wednesday afternoon, 4:00 – 5:00 pm in Classroom 2.

Save the Date



Silent Auction And Beef-Steak Dinner Saturday October 18th, 2008



TO THOSE who met our commitment to St. Paul's Shelter in April - Norm Leser; Caroline Mossip; Judy Walker; Joanne, Sara, and Tracy Webb.

VESTRY NOTES

From the meeting of April 17 -

- * Voted unaniomously to continue Sister Shane's ministry with us for the school year 2008-2009.
- * Began consideration of the new commission structure and appointed a sub-committee.
- * There was further discussion of the worship teams. The committee will continue their work and report at the May meeting.

Sympathy

Our condolences and prayers are extended to Pat Crane on the death of her mother, Marilyn Backer. Word has been received of the death of Russell Hamil at his home in Pennsylvania. He and his late wife Margarete were active long-time members.

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism - DANIEL TRUXTON BUSSEY, April 5, 2008

EASTER EGG HUNT

THE GOLDEN EGG WINNERS:

Deanna Fanelli

Jacob Hurd



**Each Little
Flower That
Opens The Lord
God Made Them
All**



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME SUNDAY

April 13th



Kathy and Steve Kent; Jacob Hurd and Christine Rudolphi; Barbara and Matthew Zajac; Georgia VanDeVelde; Bonnie and Richard Hook; Norm Leser; Paul, Chastity, Jacob, Gabriella and Daniel Bussey; Karen Dunn (not pictured: Sandy Dunn and Dorothy Walker)



OUR "REMBRANDTS" RE-DO THE KITCHEN!



**Harry Barker
Herb Grieshaber
Mike Odian
Tom Synder**



THE BROOM AND RAKE BRIGADE!



**Harry Barker
John Hitchings
Steve & Kathy Kent
Brian O'Connor
Mike Odian
Tom Synder
Bob Ward**





THANK YOU, SISTER SHANE, FOR YOUR INSIGHTFUL ADULT FORUM PRESENTATION!



**THE FIRST HIKERS MASS OF THE SEASON!
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY AT MOUNTAINSIDE PARK IN POMPTON PLAINS!**



HEARTY THANKS TO THIS SMALL BUT MIGHTY GROUP - NORM LESER; RODGER PISANI; JOANNE, SARA, AND TRACY WEBB; JAYNE VERDONIK - WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS BOWL-A-THON. THEY PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION!

MAY 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Ascension Day 10 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	2	3 Bike Event
4 Ascension Sunday Easter 7 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Discovery Hour 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Youth Group 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 11:30 am Pastoral Care Team	5 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Book Group	6 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	7 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	8 10 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	9	10 9:00 am Plant & Collectible Sale
11 Day of Pentecost Mother's Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Merry Heart 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Youth Group 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour	12 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	13 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	14 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	15 10 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	16	17
18 Trinity Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Youth Group 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour 1:00 pm Thomas/Hengeveld Wedding	19 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Men's Group	20 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	21 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih St. Anthony's, Butler Hospitality Network	22 10 am HE/Healing 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	23	24
25 Pentecost 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Merry Heart 10:15 am Church School 10:15 am Youth Group 10:15 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Coffee Hour	26 Memorial Day (Office Closed)	27 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer	28 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 4:00 pm Tai Chi Chih	29 12:15 pm Noonday Prayer 7:30 pm Women's Group	30	31

St. David's Leadership Team

The Mission of St. David's Church is to nurture all who are seeking to make the teachings of Christ meaningful in their lives so that our love and caring for one another through God extends into the community and the world.

Bishop:	<i>The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith</i>	
Rector:	<i>The Rev. David J. DeSmith</i>	
Senior Warden:	<i>Linda O'Connor</i>	<i>Stewardship, Visioning Committee</i>
Vestry:	<i>Mary-Esther Arther (Treasurer)</i>	<i>Worship & Music, Pastoral Care, Stewardship, Finance & Budget</i>
	<i>Nancy Ward (Clerk)</i>	
	<i>Nancy Hammaker</i>	<i>Christian Formation Chair</i>
	<i>Robert Hengeveld</i>	
	<i>John Hitchings</i>	<i>Finance & Budget, Stewardship</i>
		<i>Technology & Systems, Visioning Committee</i>
	<i>Caroline Mossip</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Willing Hands</i>
	<i>Mike Odian</i>	<i>Christian Formation, Finance & Budget</i>
	<i>Marty Stanton</i>	<i>Stewardship, Visioning Committee</i>
Staff:	<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<i>Martha Ridsdale</i>
	<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Dr. Susan McAdoo</i>
	<i>Missioner for Youth & Families Ministries</i>	<i>Jayne Verdonik</i>
	<i>Seminarian</i>	<i>Sister Shane Margaret Phelan</i>
	<i>Sexton</i>	<i>Terry Armstrong</i>
	<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	<i>Erin Tufaro</i>
	<i>Vision's Editor</i>	<i>Mary-Esther Arther</i>

