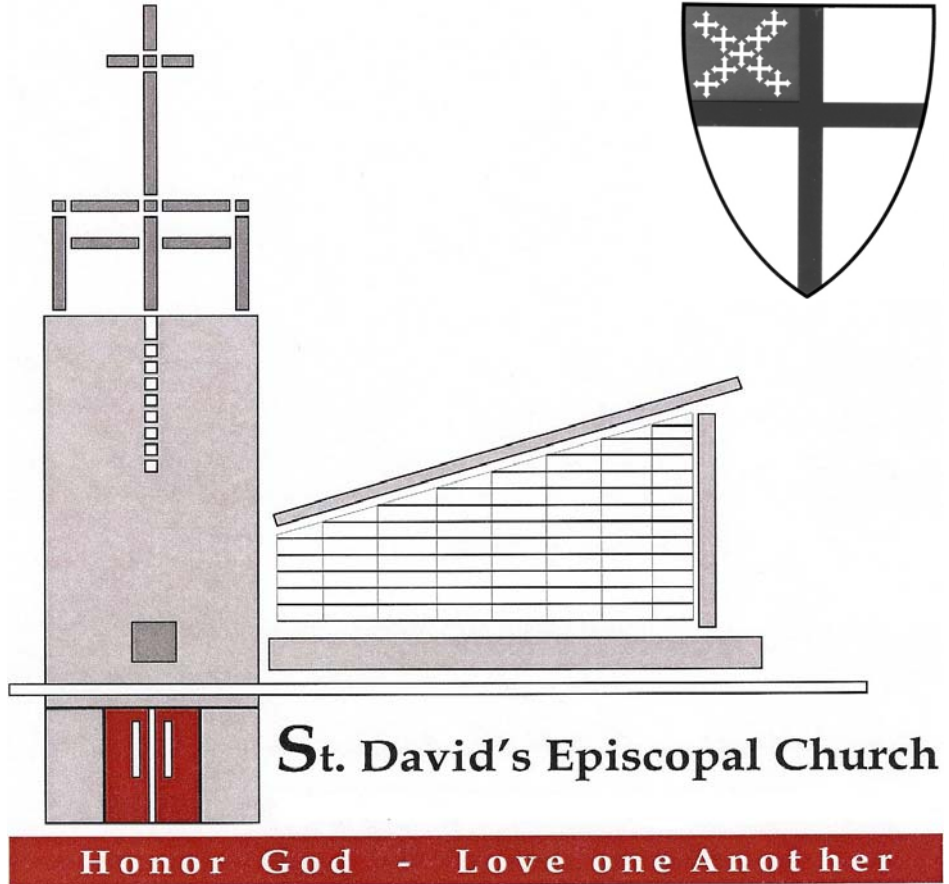


THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2010

WWW.STDAVIDSCHURCH.COM



What's Up Doc?

As you know, I made a couple of decisions recently to try to bring our cash-flow and our expenses into balance. Rectors are servant executives in that it is our job to both serve our people, work with the Vestry, supervise employees and manage the day-to-day operations of the parish. Sometimes the position can be a juggling act, but most of the time it is pretty fun and generally never boring. I am deeply committed to the people and mission of St. David's Church: "Honor God, Love One Another." I am also committed to the aims of the larger church in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, and the Episcopal Church USA.

Now, getting back to the nitty gritty that was best expressed by Marcia Kemper at a recent meeting of the Vestry Finance Committee: "if you do not have the money, you cannot spend it." I have no intention of amending the budget, but if the pledges do not change from promises to reality, then we do not have the funds to pay our bills and action must be taken. As I stated above, I will do all I can including the recent decision to close the church one day per week, and send this edition of "The Messenger" out on-line only. No doubt there will be more cuts down the road.

(go to page 2)

Rector continued.

There is no joy in taking these steps, but we all must live within our means. I have every belief that we will right our current shortages and be able to return to a full work week by the time that Marcie and I return from Colorado.

Speaking of Colorado, I must have been really confused when I wrote last month's article as I listed the wrong dates. Here they are, some now past:

From July 22-24 I served as one of the Spiritual Advisors for the Heartland Cursillo held at St. Mary's University in Leavenworth. I would love to see some of our people sign-up for Cursillo, a wonderful way to put your faith train on track.

From July 25-30 I attended a course on Appreciative Inquiry with the Reverend Dr. Rob Voyle a psychologist and priest originally from New Zealand. Dr. Voyle spoke at St. David's at a Diocesan Congregational Development program a few months ago. The training was held at the Trinity Conference Center in West Cornwall, CT. The weather was beautiful and the setting and food amazing. Oh, the course was great too.

From August 16-September 6, Marcie and I will be in Colorado enjoying as many train events as possible. I will also be doing some writing as I explained last month. I apologize for the confusion of the dates.

Finally, I want to share with you a letter I received recently from one of my National Guard Chaplains currently serving with a multinational force in Djibouti, the Horn of Africa. Chaplain (Captain) Potter is our full-time Chaplain for the Kansas National Guard and is currently serving with the 2/137th Combined Arms Battalion (the oldest unit in the Kansas Guard).

—
Bon soir mes amies ! or Good evening my friends!

It has been right at 45 days in country. Everyone is settling into a routine at camp. The weather is starting to gradually cool down. Yesterday it was 113. Yes, I wrote that correctly. It is starting to cool down. There are several soldiers in the battalion that have a healthy sense of humor like me. When we see each other on camp our new tradition is to share a "how hot is it?" joke about Djibouti. Are you ready for it? Ahem. It's so hot in Djibouti, that McDonald's coffee is considered a cold beverage. Johnnie Carson would be proud I'm sure. Feel free to write back and share any of your favorite "how hot is it?" jokes. We are starting to get short on material. Either that or we've been out in the sun too long.

Work is steady. Depending on the week I have 10-22 pastoral counseling sessions. I am leading a Bible study on Wednesday nights. We are going through the gospel of Matthew. The group has grown beyond our battalion. Several sailors and Marines are also attending. After 40 minutes of digging into Scripture, we go around the circle and share praises and prayer requests. We then make time to pray for each other. Each person will pray for the individual on his or her left and commit to pray for that person the rest of the week. Our prayer time has been a great blessing for the group. This little Wednesday night group has grown into a family and we are supporting each other through our time away from home.

The camp chapel has adopted an orphanage in Djibouti City. Service members can take a shuttle into town to volunteer time there. Darrell, [SSG Darrell Anthony] my chaplain assistant, and I went to the orphanage last month. The kids ranged anywhere from 6 months to 8 years old. *(continued next page)*

Rector continued...

They had a field day with the velcro patches on my uniform! It was a challenge to bring everything back that day. The nuns then escorted us to the kitchen. Each child had a bowl of oatmeal and grits for dinner. Darrell definitely had the advantage on me in the feeding department. His kid couldn't stop eating. My kid kept sliding down in his high chair. In all fairness, it may have been operator error on my part. The Army didn't give me a training manual for this at mob station. Later, I changed a very dirty diaper. Wow. I haven't done that in a long time and it clearly showed. Later we set all the kids down in their cribs for a good night's sleep. It was evident that they didn't want us to leave. The babes just wanted someone to keep holding them, hugging them, and loving them, like every child does. Each of them deserve an equally loving father and mother who will shower them with affection. I pray that God will make that happen. While it was sad to leave, it was a great reminder to see how the Church is meeting a real need in this community. The orphanage would not run without the nuns and several French missionaries who volunteer their time.

Thanks again for the letters, care packages, and email. May God strengthen you to accomplish His divine will!

John

This gives me one more chance to say how much I appreciate the support of this parish in sharing me with the soldiers and airmen of the Kansas National Guard. It is an honor to serve these amazing people who put their lives on the line for our freedoms. There are very few reserve chaplains that still serve in parishes because their home churches either

fire them or force them to retire. I thank you for allowing me to serve our nation. Remember, in my absence you are welcome to call the church office and get an appointment with Mtr. Barbara as she is the priest in residence. My thanks to Mtr. Barbara, Fr. Herman and Deacons Harry and Annie for your support.

Blessings everyone,

Don+



Junior High Youth Group at recent Lock-in.
Who Needs Sleep?

Office Hours
Through Labor Day
Monday-Thursday
8:30 AM— 4:00 PM
Appointments with Clergy or
staff by appointment.

Parents of Pre-K through Middle School Students, Please Send Me an Email



NEWS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Summer time is busy and full of fun but the Christian Education Ministry for Youth (CEM) is already planning for the 2010-2011 Sunday school year. In order to make the upcoming year awesome, we need your help now for about 3 minutes.

In the age of "everyone is always busy" and "almost no one likes going to meetings", communication can sometimes be tricky. On the other hand, since practically everyone reads email or sends text messages at least occasionally, there really isn't an excuse for not staying in touch!

How can we make communication better? Please send me an email at Connie.Wold@cox.net. By sending me an email, I will have your email address. I will not send jokes or chain mail. I won't give your email address to anyone without your permission. What I will do is know you have kids and that you may care about children's issues, changes, Sunday School events etc. at St. David's. I will know how I can reach you if I need to tell you something. Sometimes I'll ask your opinions on issues even if your kids don't attend Sunday School. Actually, you don't have to wait to be asked. I'm interested in everyone's opinions on everything.

So, that's the scoop. Join the communication loop today!

Thanks for caring...

Connie Wold, Chair
Christian Education for Youth

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Just so you'll know/in case you don't: The Christian Education has the sole focus of Sunday Morning Christian Education. Connie Wold serves as Chair of the Ministry group. Ronda Hoss serves as Vestry liaison. High School Christian Education is led by Kirsten Goodman, St. David's Youth Coordinator.

Linn Gentine from the Kansas Children's Discovery Center spoke to our group at the July meeting. She brought with her diagrams of the proposed new center and stressed how fortunate Kansas is to have the Children's Discovery Center in such close proximity to the Topeka Zoo and other activities geared to children. The Center should be operational by next summer.

Our own Carol Ballentine will give a presentation on the Anglican Rosary for our August meeting. The meeting will take place in the parlor off the sanctuary. The Daughters are planning a tea for our September meeting and are encouraging any who are interested in joining the order to come to learn more about the Daughters of the King.

A retreat is being planned for October 2 at Atchison, KS. More information will be available as the time draws near. Those interested in attending the retreat may contact Nita Piercy at 233-6262.

Mother Barbara Bloxsom continues to lead the Bible study group on Tuesdays at 12:30 in the study of St. Luke. Please come and join us for a lively discussion.

The Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King meets at 1:00 on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, please call Barb Waters 272-3067 or Louise Marvin 233-4532.

WE NEED YOU
Please make sure your pledge is
Up to Date
We are depending on you!
Thank you!



Kirsten Goodman
Youth Coordinator
271-5144 or 271-4483
kirsten@stdavidschurch.com

Trip to the Fun Center

On Saturday, August 14th, we are having a Combined youth group (that's middle and high school kids) trip to the Sports Center at 6545 SW 10th St. It's both to celebrate a last fling with summer and to kick off the new school year. We'll have a potluck at the pavilion, and kids will get an activity card allowing them 2 activities of their choosing. For this, Kirsten will require an R.S.V.P to make sure everyone gets a card. Please let Kirsten know if you plan to attend by calling 785-217-4483 or email kirsten@stdavidschurch.com. We hope you'll be able to come!

Fundraisers for trip to Chicago scheduled

The Serf Auction is a way for parishioners to get some help from our youth. During the month of August, look for silent auction forms in the Narthex. Kids are offering everything from babysitting to computer work. We'll have the silent auction through September 5th. On the 12th, we'll announce the winners and begin making specific arrangements. All of the proceeds from the Serf Auction will go towards the Youth trip to Chicago in 2011.

Senior Prom

As part of our high school Christian Ed, the high school youth group chose Fellowship as one of their projects. To that end, we are inviting the parish to the Senior Prom Saturday night, September 25th. Dance the night away music from the big band era, the 50's and 60's in our own Parish Hall decorated from Prom Night. There will be refreshments provided and served by the sr. youth group. Invitations with more details will be mailed in August.

Night at the Drive-in

On Saturday, October 9th, join us in the Parish Hall for a Night at the Drive-in. Travel back to the days of a Saturday night at the drive-in, complete with a double feature, a great concession stand with lots of goodies including a popcorn and cotton candy! We'll be collecting canned

August Doorstep CANNED MEAT & TUNA

In August, Community Ministries is collecting canned meat and tuna for Doorstep. There are collection containers located near the office and next to the entrance by the parking lot. **Please remember that Doorstep continues to need the support from its member congregations. Poverty does not take a summer vacation!**

In addition, other non-perishable foods such as macaroni and cheese, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, etc. are **always** welcome. Doorstep can't use flour or any kind of ground meal because they attract bugs.

Many thanks for your continued support!

The Shepherd's Center of Topeka

Our own Alice Johnston will be presenting a program on her mission trips to Kenya in 2009 and 2010. It is entitled *Help Sew a Brighter Future*, scheduled for Friday, September 3, 2010, at 9:15 at 3033 SW MacVicar. The Malaika Mums making bags will be the feature topic, but she will also include discussion of the education of their children, environmental concerns, drip gardens to raise fresh vegetables, the grant recently received by CTC to start an HIV/AIDS clinic, etc.

Registration is required and the deadline is August 27th. There are registration forms at www.shepherdscentertopeka.org or call the Shepherd's Center of Topeka at 267-0248. There are also forms in the office. First time guests get 1 Friday free so this is a good time to hear Alice and to check out the many and varied programs the Shepherd's Center has to offer! More information is on the bulletin board in the front hall.

Men of St. David's

Yep - Eleven men of St. David's are looking for "YOU" to be a blessing to our Thursday Morning Breakfast Group. We meet in the conference room at church at 7am Thursday mornings. We begin with a prayer -- end with a prayer at 8am.

We bring our own roll, donut, toast, etc., there will be coffee available. Come on over and bless the eleven of us with your sharing.

Thanks, Men of St. David's Breakfast Meeting.

Thoughts of Christmas on your mind? (or just cooler weather??!)



Parish Life is planning a Christmas Bazaar
(featuring crafts and baked goods)
(and breakfast)

on **Saturday, November 6, 2010**

This event will be **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Everyone in the Parish is invited to participate and each Ministry group is invited to host a booth. Funds raised will go to various Parish programs and charities.

Diana Allan has generously donated a quilt to raffle and we hope to have it displayed in the near future.

Please contact Barb Waters (at 272-3067 or watersrptgtopeka@aol.com) for more information, and to find out how YOU can help by either donating craft items, baked goods, jams or candy.



CHRISTMAS for DOORSTEP



It probably seems a long time until Christmas but for Doorstep it is time to plan for the Christmas Store where 250 qualifying families will do their shopping. As usual Community Ministries is suggesting one particular item for St. Davidians to contribute. **We are suggesting children's pajamas sizes 24 months-5T and sizes 6-16. There never seem to be enough to go around by the last day of the shopping. New items are preferred but gently used and clean pjs are also acceptable.** Later on in October and November special Christmas boxes will be available for your donations but if you want to shop early and leave them at the church, use the collection boxes at the parking lot entrance and the entrance by the office. Your response last year was terrific and most appreciated. **Please, do not gift wrap anything!**

If you want to donate other items, here are suggestions: **Men**-boxer shorts L, XL, XXL; aftershave and cologne, alarm clocks and small radios, jeans, flashlights, tools, gloves and watches. **Women**-underwear M, L, XL; cosmetics and jewelry, larger size bras, jeans and PJs. **Children**-jeans and clothing sizes 6-16, pajamas as noted above. **Toys-no stuffed toys, please.** Puzzles, back packs, board games, baby dolls, soccer balls, footballs and basketballs. **Miscellaneous for children**- school supplies, books, coloring books and crayons, batteries (AA and AAA) CD players and girls jewelry. **Health kit items**-towels, washcloths, shampoo, combs, soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste and razors. **Household items**-quilts and blankets (full and queen,) sheets, toasters, hand mixers, dishes, pots and pans, glasses, etc.

St. David's Episcopal Church
3916 SW 17th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 861
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Financials through **June 30, 2010**
These figures DO NOT include any fire
related monies

Income:

Pledged:	\$182,019.74
Non-Pledged:	\$6,725.95
All Others:	\$47,161.17
Total Income:	\$235,906.86

Expenses:

Operations:	\$135,009.55
Salaries & Benefits:	\$101,756.23
Programs & Ministries:	\$14,045.12
Total Expenses:	\$250,810.90

Publication Deadlines

"ATT" & Bulletin
Wednesday Noon of each
week

"Messenger"
the 20th of each month

On-Line:
Information can be placed on
the web anytime!

**Financial
note:**

**Please remember
to make out a
separate check for
your
capital campaign
contribution.
Thank you-
Christy**