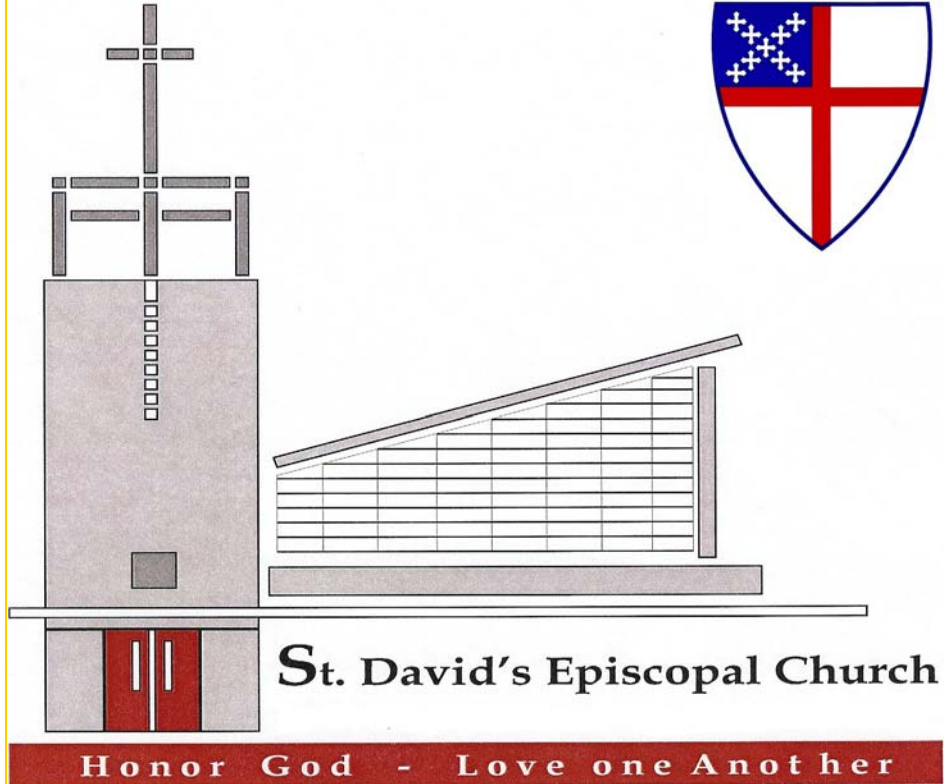


# THE MESSENGER

February 2012

[www.stdavidschurch.com](http://www.stdavidschurch.com)



## Kyle Smith, Senior Warden, 2012

Kyle G. Smith was the while in DC. He has served as acolyte co-ordinators, clerk of the vestry, lector, Laymen, and only boy, Eucharistic minister, vestry member and born to Wes and Joy has completed Education for Ministry Smith of Liberty Mis- through Sewanee, the University of the sori. Kyle graduated South.

with a major in classical antiquities and English literature from the University of Kansas in 1978 and received his law degree in 1981, also from the University of Kansas.

Kyle has two children from his marriage to Mary Smith, both of whom grew up at Saint David's. John Wesley is now married, lives in Lawrence and practices law in Topeka. Allison May is married and works at Hills Pet Food in the marketing division. Since 1988, Kyle has been a member of Saint David's, although he attended Christ's Church in Alexandria VA

In 2007, Kyle Smith was appointed executive director of the congressionally funded National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws in Alexandria VA. In 2008, Kyle Returned to Topeka and served as Legal Advisor to the Topeka Police Department until February, 2011 when he returned to the attorney general's office and the KBI, again as deputy director.

As Senior or "Rector's Warden" Kyle is the Senior Layperson in the parish and leads the Vestry in the absence of the Rector. Please welcome our new Senior Warden.



**Kirsten Goodman**  
**Director of Youth Ministries**  
**271-5144 or 580-7934**  
**kirsten@stdavidschurch.com**

**Miqra 2012** This year, 10 St. David's youth participated in Miqra, a weekend retreat that focuses on God's word. We read



the bible cover to cover in one weekend! Youth are able to sign up to read for one hour intervals round the clock. We had some great workshops this year: Parables, Women in the Bible, Theater as a

Ministry, "Two Words", and in the Arts and Crafts workshop, youth made their own Anglican rosaries. There is always plenty of time for games at Miqra and this year we played a life-size game of Clue, with staff acting as the suspects and the kids figuring out "who done it". It was a wonderful weekend.

Middle school youth were at St. David's



(Cory Martin, Will Loehr, Brogan Hoss, Nick Bernal, Rachel Hoffmans and Jack Palmer) and high school youth were at Grace

(Sydney Webb, Cara Wedeking, Andrea Blaauw and Julia Fruehwein).

### **Fat Friday Party**

Since Fat Tuesday is on a Tuesday, and we're going to be snarfing down pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, we've decided to have a Fat Friday party instead! So on Friday, February 17th, from 6:30pm—9:00pm, we're going to eat, drink, play games and get really goofy!!! And Aaron, there will be ice cream!



### **Middle school youth: mark your calendars for **New Beginnings, April 20-22!!!!****

New Beginnings is a weekend retreat for youth in grades 6-8. This year, it will be at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence. We will focus on the two greatest commandments: loving God with all of our heart, mind, and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves. The cost is \$50 for the whole weekend. Scholarships are avail-

# **Your Attention Please The Senior Warden**

---

Greetings from your new senior warden. "Senior" I know all too well but most the wardens I am familiar with run prisons, surely not the preferred example for running a church. And so, as my mother taught me decades ago, I looked it up. According to Merriam - Webster, "Warden" comes from the Middle English *wardein*, from Anglo-French *wardein, gardein*, from *warder* to guard. The idea of a ward of the court, a hospital ward, or even a prison, all contain the idea of someone having responsibility to protect, to guard, to make sure things are taken care of and run properly.

I am honored to have been selected as senior warden of Saint David's. I first started attending here in 1988 and soon found it was my spiritual home. As it should be, through good times and bad, 'dark nights of the soul' and joyous services, this place and these people have nourished and sustained me. So it really is an honor to be given responsibility to help look after this beautiful space and the people that make it a church.

Perhaps counter intuitively, I want to also acknowledge a debt to Fred Phelps. I fear that until his band of hateful heretics started picketing St. David's, I was guilty of treating my faith about as seriously as

I did my Rotary membership: a good thing and socially helpful but not really a critical part of my life. Only when we started reclaiming our corner with signs of God's love, and I experienced in person the obscenity and hate, did I feel that my faith demanded more of me. There was a connection with those who sacrificed so much more than I for their belief. That is when I started reviewing my faith and role at St. David's. Hopefully my faith would have deepened without such despicable instigation but I do believe their challenge of hate to what I believe is a God of Love propelled me to greater love and a recognition that I needed to do more. So while I have wandered along my path, sometime far from God and far from St. David's, I am truly happy to be home, and to have a role in all the wonderful work done here.

And I thank God that I am not expected to do it alone. Be it spiritual, structural, financial, educational or any other '-al', Father Don and all our staff, Earl Olsen, junior warden, Jim Edwards, treasurer and the rest of the vestry will continue to do the real work of the church. We are one body, just different parts with different roles. As I learn my new role, your help, suggestions and prayers are both appropriate and advisable. I will strive to keep Christ first in my thoughts and all of you in my heart.

Yours in Christ,

Kyle Smith, 785 506-2553 and  
[seniorwarden@stdavidchurch.com](mailto:seniorwarden@stdavidchurch.com)

Come Join the Fun!!

# OPERATION SOUP LINE

## BENEFITTING DOORSTEP, INC.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012  
AG HALL at 17<sup>th</sup> & TOPEKA BLVD.  
11:00AM-1:30PM

Adults \$8 ~ Children 5 & under free  
Tickets sold at the door  
Includes Chili, Vegetable Beef or Portuguese  
Green Soup/ Dessert & Beverage

Local Celebrity Servers  
Entertainment  
Silent Auction Theme Baskets

DELIVERY AVAILABLE ON ORDERS OF 10+  
ORDER BY FEBRUARY 23rd  
To order CALL 357-5341, FAX 232-4865  
or MAIL to Doorstep 1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> 66604

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St David's is to supply 5 desserts (pies, cakes or cinnamon rolls.)  
If you can donate a dessert or help the day of the event,  
sign up on the sheet on the narthex bulletin board.  
THANK YOU ST. DAVID'S

### Financials through Dec. 31, 2011

#### Income:

Pledged:	\$380,616.84
Non-Pledged:	\$ 21,211.00
All Others:	<u>\$192,663.58</u>
Total Income:	<b>\$594,491.42</b>

#### Expenses:

Operations:	\$271,700.73
Salaries & Benefits:	\$212,428.21
Programs & Ministries:	<u>\$ 24,550.88</u>
Total Expenses:	<b>\$508,679.82</b>

### 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!

## Just Us Grant Glenn

"Christianity for the Rest of Us" could have been a title for Father Don's address preceding our annual meeting. It happens to be the title of an important book written by Episcopalian Diana Butler Bass. It is a very positive book about how some mainstream Protestant congregations are growing at a time when most of the conversation is about how fundamentalist churches are making most of the headlines.

Our Thursday morning men's group read and discussed this book last year. There are many lessons that the congregations featured in this book can offer our St. David's family. In fact, before I had finished the book, I suggested to Father Don that we might write a few articles about this book and share its lessons and encourage others to "drink the water."

However, I was remiss in answering this minor call until I attended my first annual meeting in over a generation. My tolerance for any kind of politics is fairly low, and perhaps lowest for the "church" kind.

Father's Don message that we need to consider having two budgets, one for outreach, and one for ourselves, struck a strong chord with me. He suggested that congregations that make outreach a significant financial priority often find themselves with more income, because they attract parishioners that want to be part of something greater.

This message is not unique to Father Don's experience in Nebraska, where the parish devoted *half* its income to outreach. Rather, it is one of the key characteristics of the featured Protestant congregations that have grown in recent years.

The book has a great deal of Good News for those of us who have been won-

dering what lies ahead for our brand of faith. There is no magic pill, but the book is laden with examples of how average size congregations make a real difference in the lives of their congregants and often their communities.

We have all learned the lesson that a great congregation does not need a great building. Yet, we do have a wonderful building that has great potential for our future health, if only we can find the keys to unlock all of its doors.

While we may not know that our brand of faith is being threatened, many Evangelicals in America may see us as less than true Christians, because of our ability to question our faith and promotion of tolerance (among other things). This book can offer congregations like ours, not only hope, but the nuts and bolts of what we can do to survive and prosper in a time when we are far more threatened by the fundamentalist Christians and their elected minions, than the Huntoon and Gage Clan.

Many of my Thursday morning Brethren have placed their copies of "Christianity For the Rest of Us" in our library for your use. In the future, we hope to share a few of the book's lessons for those that may prefer the "Reader's Digest" version.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**5:30-7:00 P.M.**

**ST. DAVID'S PARISH HALL**

***THE ANNUAL TRADITION  
AND THE PANCAKES HAVE  
RETURNED!***



## NEWS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

At our January meeting, Sally Zellers from Safe Streets gave us valuable information about how we can stay safe in our homes. Her topic elicited many questions from the group. Her handout material was of great help and a reliable source for more information on the subject.

At our February meeting, Dave Kendall from Sunflower Journeys seen on KTWU will talk to us about "Religions."

The Mary and Martha Chapter of the Daughters of the King meets at 10:30 am on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, please call Diane Bernheimer at 232-1066 or Louise Marvin at 233-4532.

---

### DOORSTEP RETAINS UNITED WAY FUNDING

Doorstep's executive director, Lisa Clarke, announced at the January coordinator's meeting that Doorstep's funding request to United Way was \$60,770 and that United Way granted \$57,373. The funds are designated for food, dental help, prescriptions and rent/utilities. A number of agencies in Topeka did not receive funds for a variety of reasons but Doorstep met the necessary standards. With increased needs in the community, continued donations will be necessary but it is quite a relief to know the money will be available to Doorstep for 2012.

### Who are these people?



### Taking the PLUNGE

Scott Satterthwaite found himself in 30 degree water on a Saturday in January, but it was for a very good cause. Scott took the polar bear plunge for Special



Olympics as one of the many who dove head first into the icy waters of Lake Shawnee.

Scott indicated that he came out and noticed that everyone else was taking some back strokes, so not to be outdone, he dove back into the water and

"swam a little" before finally getting out. If you wonder about his dress, he and others attempted to look like crayons. Over \$27,000.00 was raised for Special Olympics. Good Job Scott... Well done. Are you warm yet?





## Rector's Ramblings

My 8th Annual Meeting at St. David's has come and gone and it was great! My thanks to everyone who attended, partici-

pated and added to the excitement of beginning another year.

Allison Malmstrom, Lynn Thompson and Meredith Williard join the Vestry for three years. Welcome! Kyle Smith was elected as the Senior Warden for 2012, the other officers of the Vestry were re-elected and are listed in this edition.

On February 18th the Vestry will meet and later the entire leadership and staff will gather for a couple of hours for planning the 2012 year. The Leadership work day is an opportunity to connect with the folks who make ministry happen at St. David's, the chairs of each of the Ministry Teams, the Members of the Vestry and our Staff. For me it feels like a family reunion of sorts. I truly admire and appreciate all this group does and to have them all in one place at one time is an extra special event.

Our strategic planning coordinating group had a tough time getting appointed and thus it is running behind our anticipated schedule. I think we may have underestimated the time it would take to get a group together to do this work, and then our consultants were involved in other projects. Truly the start date is not as important as the work itself and of course the results. So stay tuned!

A number of things are coming along in February and I hope you will take the time to transfer the information from this edition of the messenger, to your date book or smart-phone.

**February 5th** is our Confirmation Sunday. Only one service will be held at 9:30 A.M. and 12 folks will be confirmed.

Also on **February 5th** is our Super Bowl Party with Temple Beth Shalom. Please bring a snack or dessert and join us in the Parish Hall at 5:30 P.M.

**February 18th...** Leadership Work Day

**February 21st...** SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER 5:30-7:00 P.M. Enjoy delicious pancakes on this traditional fat feast the night before Ash Wednesday.

**February 22nd...** Noon and 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday services, Holy Eucharist and the imposition of Ashes.

**February 29th** (besides Brogan's birthday) begins our Lenten Wednesday program. Holy Eucharist at 5:30 with soup dinner and an educational program at 6:30 P.M. This continues on Wednesdays until Holy Week.

A very special Wednesday will be March 28th when we will host an Instructional Passover Seder with Rabbi Debbie Stiel. More on that soon.

St. David's is moving forward!

# PROJECT TOPEKA

Community Food Drive



## FEBRUARY PROJECT TOPEKA

February is **PROJECT TOPEKA** month when we fill the local food banks which probably emptied their shelves as they helped our citizens with Christmas and emergency food. Over the last number of years, the needs have increased a great deal so now is the time to step up and show those in need that we care.

## Parish Leadership, 2012

### Vestry

The Reverend Donald F. Davidson, Rector [frdon@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:frdon@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mr. Kyle Smith (14) Senior Warden [seniorwarden@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:seniorwarden@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mr. Earl Olson, (13) Junior Warden [juniorwarden@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:juniorwarden@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mr. Jim Edwards, Treasurer [treasurer@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:treasurer@stdavidschurch.com)  
Dr. Mary Hillin, Clerk [clerk@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:clerk@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mrs. Anne Hesse (13)  
Mr. Spencer Duncan (13)  
Mrs. Lynette Palmer (14)  
Mr. John Koepke (14)  
Mrs. Allison Malmstrom (15)  
Mr. Lynn Thompson (15)  
Mrs. Meredith Williard (15)

### Staff

The Reverend Canon Frank N. Cohoon, Rector Emeritus  
The Reverend Herman Page, Pastoral Associate [herman@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:herman@stdavidschurch.com)  
The Reverend Barbara Bloxsom, Assistant to the Rector [barbara@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:barbara@stdavidschurch.com)  
The Reverend Harry Craig, Deacon [harry@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:harry@stdavidschurch.com)  
The Reverend Annie Hedquist, Deacon [annie@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:annie@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mrs. Christy McMullen, Director of Financial Administration [christy@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:christy@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mrs. Donna Osborne, Director of Music [donna@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:donna@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mrs. Kirsten Goodman, Director of Youth Ministries [kirsten@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:kirsten@stdavidschurch.com)  
Mrs. Lisa Beebe, Parish Secretary [lisa@stdavidschurch.com](mailto:lisa@stdavidschurch.com)